

**Minutes of the Meeting
Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
November 4, 2025**

Members Present: Joe T. Branyon, Jr. Fedrick D. Cohens
Byron P. David Richard F. Elliott
Robert J. Farrar Robert P. Hucks
Orrie E. West

Dr. Marilyn Fore, President
Cathy Myers, Admin Coordinator

Members Absent: John G. Cassidy (Excused)
J. David McMillan (Excused)

Guests: Dr. Melissa Batten, Charles Boykin, College Attorney,
Professor Tony Chowning, Harold Hawley, Shannon Detzler,
Branden Haselden, Dr. Lori Heafner, Nicole Hyman, Amanda
King, Rollie Meyers, Dr. Kelly Perritt, John Sawyer, Jackie
Snyder, and Dr. Dan Wysong.

Media: None

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission held its bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the President's Board Room, Conway Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

A written notice was provided to all media in Horry and Georgetown Counties advising the date, time, and place of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Branyon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked for acceptance of the agenda and approval of the August 12, 2025 minutes. ***Motion by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cohens, and carried to accept the agenda and approve the August 12, 2025 minutes.***
(7 yes 0 no) ***M/S/C***

Chairman Branyon welcomed Mr. Rick Elliott as a new member of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission.

President Fore also extended a welcome to Commissioner Elliott. Additionally, she welcomed Mr. Charles Boykin, College Attorney. Professor Tony Chowning, new Faculty Assembly President, Rollie Meyers, Interim Chief Information Officer, AVP Dan Wysong, and AVP Brandon Haselden, Interim Co-Chief Academic Officers.

Updates

Budget Status Update:

Vice President Hawley reported on the current budget status report ending September 30, 2025. Mr. Hawley also acknowledged the college gratefully received a bequest of \$130,000 from the estate of former Area Commissioner Benedict P. Rosen.

Capital Projects and Major Renovations Update:

Mr. Hawley reported on the current capital projects and major renovations.

Conway Campus:

- Renovation of the MJF Health Training Complex – Project was submitted and is pending JBRC/SFAA approval in January. Completion of project is expected in April 2027.
- Renovation and Expansion of Cosmetology Labs in Building 600 – Project complete.
- Monumental Signage for Highway 501 – Timeline to be established after design work is complete.
- Automotive Building Expansion - Construction expected to be completed in late 2026.
- Repair/Replace Roofing – All phases of the project to be completed by December 2025.

Grand Strand Campus:

- Renovation of Speir Building – Phase 1 package submitted in October to be reviewed by the JBRC in January 2026 at which time college will solicit architect.
- Replacement of Sidewalks – Obtained County Transportation Committee approval. Civil firm is developing construction drawings and cost estimates. Timeline to be established after drawings are complete.

Georgetown Campus:

- Marine Technology Center – Construction project awarded to Monteith Construction. Construction to begin December 2025 and expected to be completed in January 2027.

Enrollment Comparison Update:

Vice President Batten reported as of Fall 2025, the College's overall headcount is 8,920, with a corresponding full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of 5,688.1. This represents an increase of 1,030 students compared to Fall 2024, when the overall headcount was 7,980, an increase of approximately 13 percent. Dr. Batten further announced that among the technical colleges, HGTC experienced the largest year-over-year percentage increase, with a 13 percent gain compared to the prior year.

AVP Haselden also reported on the enrollment for Workforce Development classes.

Action

Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report:

Vice President Hawley announced the College received an unqualified audit opinion and there was no audit findings for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. ***Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Mr. Cohens, and carried that the Area Commission approves the results of the independent auditor's report and corresponding financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.***
(Vote 7 yes 0 no) M/S/C

President's Report

President Fore presented to the Horry County Transportation Committee and secured a funding allocation of \$196,950 for sidewalk improvements at the Grand Strand Campus.

A letter was submitted by President Fore to State Legislators requesting financial support for the establishment of a new Technology, Computing, and Engineering Institute on our Conway Campus.

Dr. Fore reported on the AbilityWorks Workforce Development proposal, which is an educational program that supports the Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IDD) Community with job related training. This program is designed to partner companies, community organizations, and educational agencies together to tie specific skillsets needed for a company to retain engaged employees.

President Fore shared the details of the FY2026 Legislative Priorities for the South Carolina Technical College System.

Additionally, President Fore shared a copy and gave a summary of "The Economic Impact" of the SC Technical College System.

Foundation Report

Georgia Pacific is making a donation of \$5000 to the Electronics Engineering program. Ms. Detzler along with Dr. Heafner attended the Workforce Development Symposium.

Information

President's Cabinet Report:

Vice President Batten reported the Esports/Gaming Student Club was officially launched. The college hosted the 2025 Emerging Leaders: Student Life Conference

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sponsored by the SC Technical College System for students from the 16 technical colleges.

- Vice President Hawley's report stands as written.
- Vice President Heafner's report stands as written. Dr. Heafner attended the South Carolina Chamber Annual Summit held at the Isle of Palms.
- Ms. Hyman provided an update on current media coverage, reporting a total of 944 media mentions across news outlets and social media. During the period, 30 media alerts were issued, with the estimated monetary value of coverage reaching \$5.8 million.
- Mr. Meyers' report stands as written.
- Dr. Perritt's report stands as written. The Marketing team continues to work on the "Spark" campaign with plans to roll out soon and help promote Spring and Fall enrollment in 2026.
- Vice President Snyder's report stands as written. Human Resources Team members attended training on new telecommuting policies and procedures in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2025-31.
- Academic Affairs report stands as written. A smooth transition from Dr. Wilbanks to the Interim CAOs, AVP Dr. Wyson and AVP Haselden. Academic Affairs welcomed 15 new full-time faculty this Fall. Dual enrollment growth increased to 1968, a 23% increase since Fall 2024. HGTC RN students achieved a 96.85% passing rate on the NCLEX exam, exceeding the South Carolina state average of 92.17% and the national average of 87.35%. The LPN students achieved a 100% passing rate exceeding the South Carolina state average of 91.14% and the national average of 87.40%.

Faculty Assembly:

Professor Chowning's Faculty Assembly report stands as written. Additionally, Professor Chowning shared that Gregory Soloman, a paralegal student, was recently highlighted by the American Bar Association as they celebrated 50 years of approving paralegal programs.

Upcoming Events:

Grand Strand Legislative Reception, February 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in Columbia.

Executive Session

Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Mr. Cohens and carried to go into Executive Session for purpose of discussing personnel matters, and or contractual arrangements/negotiations.

(Vote 7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

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Motion by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Ms. West and carried to come out of Executive Session. No action taken.

(Vote 7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cohens and carried that the Area Commission adjourn at p.m.

(Vote 7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Tommy Branyon, Chairman

Orrie E. West, Secretary

**Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy L. Myers
Administrative Coordinator**

Date: _____