

**Minutes of the Meeting
Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
February 10, 2026**

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

 Dr. Marily Fore, President
 Cathy Myers, Administrative Coordinator

Members Absent: Byron P. David (Excused)
 J. David McMillan (Excused)

Guests: Dr. Melissa Batten, Dr. Becky Boone, Professor Tony Chowning,
 Shannon Detzler, Brandon Haselden, Harold Hawley, Dr. Lori Heafner,
 Nicole Hyman, Amanda King, Dr. Kelly Perritt, and Jackie Snyder.

Media: None

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission held its regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Herman C. Jones Conference Room on the Grand Strand Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

In accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, written notice of the meeting , including the date, time and location, was provided to all media outlets in Horry and Georgetown Counties.

Prior to the call to order, dedication ceremonies were held for the Orrie E. West Conference Room, the Y. Melvin Nobles Conference Room, and Joe Thomas Branyon, Jr. Street. These ceremonies recognized the significant leadership, service, and contributions of these individuals to Horry-Georgetown Technical College and the broader community. Members of the Commission, College leadership, and guests were in attendance.

Chairman Branyon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and requested acceptance of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting. ***A motion was made by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Cohens and unanimously carried to accept the agenda and approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting.***
(7 yes 0 no) ***M/S/C***

Chairman Branyon expressed his appreciation for the honor of naming Joe Thomas Branyon, Jr. Street in his recognition.

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Updates

Budget Status Update:

Vice President Hawley presented the budget status report ending January 31, 2026.

Capital Projects and Major Renovations Update:

Mr. Hawley provided updates on current capital projects and major renovations:

Conway Campus:

- TEC Building Construction – The project package has been submitted to JBRC/SFAA and is anticipated to be considered for approval in March 2026.
- MJF Healthcare Training Complex Renovation – Phase II was submitted to JBRC for approval on February 4, 2026. Project completion is projected for April 2027.
- Monumental Signage (Highway 501) – Mozingo-Wallace Architect has been engaged to begin design work. Encroachment approval has been received from Santee Cooper.

Grand Strand Campus:

- Speir Building Renovation – Phase I was submitted on October 30 for JBRC review on February 4, 2026. Upon approval, the College will proceed with soliciting architectural services.

Georgetown Campus:

- Marine Technology Center – Construction began in late December, with completion anticipated in March 2027.

Enrollment Comparison Update:

Vice President Batten reported that Spring 2026 enrollment reflects an overall headcount of 8497 and an overall FTE of 5327.7.

New Compensation and Classification Structure

Vice President Snyder provided an update regarding the implementation of the new compensation and classification structure.

Action

Mid-Year Operating Budget:

Vice President Hawley presented the proposed 2025-26 mid-year operating budget for approval. The College projects an annual revenue stream of approximately \$77,023,276 based on actual fall enrollment and projected spring enrollment. A budgetary surplus of approximately \$2,000,000 is projected by the College. ***A motion was made by Ms. West,***

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seconded by Mr. Hucks and unanimously carried that the Area Commission approves the 2025-26 mid-year operating budget as presented.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

College Mission Statement:

Interim Vice President Boone presented the College Mission Statement for annual reaffirmation. As part of the College's Institutional Planning, the Mission Statement is reviewed annually to determine whether revisions are necessary. Following this year's review, the College Cabinet recommended no changes. ***A motion was made by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cassidy and unanimously carried that the Area Commission reaffirms the College's Mission Statement as presented.***

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

President's Report

President Fore reported meeting with representatives from McLeod Health Loris, who have committed to providing space for HGTC in partnership with HCS, at their facility with an anticipated start date of Fall 2027.

She also shared that she continues to engage with legislators to secure funding support for State Tech priorities and the proposed Conway Campus technology building.

President Fore discussed two House Bills sponsored by Representative Tim McGinnis: H.4737, which addresses training for new college and university board members, and H.4739, which focuses on college safety training programs for students.

Additionally, the College received a SC House Resolution recognizing the rising importance of AI and proclaiming that, during the week of March 30–April 2, 2026, Horry-Georgetown Technical College will celebrate AI Technology under the theme “Empowering Innovation with AI.” The initiative will raise awareness of ethical and practical AI applications, encourage collaboration and experimentation, and recognize innovative ideas that advance student success and institutional effectiveness. The Resolution also declares March 30 through April 2, 2026, as “AI Week” in the State of South Carolina and encourages all citizens of the Palmetto State to learn more about this critical technology.

President Fore further announced that the College will receive \$2 million in federal funding secured through Senator Lindsey Graham to support Imaging Sciences.

Foundation Report

Ms. Detzler reported on several new community partnerships supporting student success initiatives. She announced a collaboration between the HGTC Foundation and HTC, with HTC designated as a new HGTC Pantry Community Partner. As part of this partnership, HTC will contribute \$3,000 annually. Ms. Detzler also reported the establishment of a partnership with Lowcountry Food Bank to provide quarterly fresh food distributions on the Grand Strand Campus. Additionally, she shared that the College has partnered with Palmetto Goodwill Industries to assist students in need by providing \$25 clothing vouchers to support appropriate attire for job interviews.

Ms. Detzler presented a request for Board approval to name the Dental Assisting Lab in memory of Pamela Lord Moyers, who served as a professor at the College for 17 years. Ms. Moyers was a founding leader behind the development of the Dental Assisting Program, and her dedication and commitment were instrumental in establishing and growing the program. ***A motion was made by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cassidy and unanimously carried to move forward with naming the dental assisting lab in memory of Pamela Lord Moyers.***

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

President's Cabinet Report:

- Vice President Batten's report stands as written.
- Interim Vice President Boone's report stands as written.
- Vice President Hawley's report stands as written.
- Vice President Heafner expressed her sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs, noting that she is honored by the confidence placed in her leadership. In addition, she announced the names of the faculty members who successfully completed their portfolios and were advanced to the rank of Professor effective January 5, 2026.
- Ms. Hyman's report stands as written.
- Dr. Perritt's report stands as written.
- Vice President Snyder's report stands as written. She reported the college welcomed Dr. James Winebrake, President of Coastal Carolina University, as the guest speaker for the C2Lead Leadership Development Session, where he shared insights from his leadership journey. Additionally, she announced the college achieved 92.6% of our diversity goals for hiring and promotions set by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission.

Faculty Assembly Report:

The Faculty Assembly report stands as written.

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Turf Bowl Competition:

HGTC students placed 13th out of 80 teams in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America National Turf Bowl. The team was the highest-scoring two-year program in the national competition.

Executive Session

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

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Motion by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cohens and carried to come out of Executive Session.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Motion by Dr. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Cohens and carried that the Area Commission authorize the College accessing up to \$3 million from the fund balance to cover the SCWINS deficit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2026.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hucks, seconded by Ms. West and carried that the Area Commission adjourn at 2:36 p.m.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Tommy Branyon, Chairman

Orrie E. West, Secretary

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

Date:_____