

**Minutes of the Meeting
Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
April 22, 2026**

Members Present: Joe T. Branyon, Jr. John G. Cassidy
 Fedrick D. Cohens Richard F. Elliott
 Robert J. Farrar Robert P. Hucks
 J. David McMillan
 Dr. Marily Fore, President
 Cathy Myers, Administrative Coordinator

Members Absent: Orrie E. West (Excused)

Guests: Dr. Becky Boone, Shannon Detzler, Attorney Henrietta Golding, Dr. Christina Fieber, Harold Hawley, Dr. Lori Heafner, Nicole Hyman, Dr. Cynthia Johnston, Amanda King, Dr. Kelly Perritt, John Sawyer, and Jackie Snyder.

Media: None

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission held its regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the President's Board Room (107) on the Conway 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.

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 February 10, 2026, and March 12, 2026, meetings. **Dr. Farrar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hucks, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda and to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, and March 12, 2026, meetings.**
(Vote 7 yes 0 no) **M/S/C**

President Fore introduced Henrietta Golding, Attorney at Law, Dr. Christina Fieber, Director of Academic Services and Dr. Cynthia Johnston, AVP for Recruitment and Engagement as our guests.

President Fore announced the retirement of Vice President Harold Hawley effective June 30, 2026, and wished him well on his future endeavors.

Dr. Fieber gave an overview of the college's AI initiatives. In under 12 months, HGTC moved from the development of the Artificial Intelligence Committee to state level

Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
Page 2
April 22, 2026

recognition and a developing institution-wide AI strategy. The South Carolina House of Representatives passed a formal resolution declaring March 30-April 2, 2026, as AI Week and specifically recognized HGTC's leadership in responsible, equitable AI adoption across our region. The college has applied for inclusion in the Complete Colleges America AI Summit and if selected will join peer institutions from across the country to share strategies, learn from leaders in the field, and shape the national conversation on AI in higher education.

Dr. Johnston gave an overview of E-Sports. The College officially launched Gators Gaming, an esports club for students to enjoy the popular trend among colleges.

Updates

Budget Status Update:

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

Capital Projects and Major Renovations Update:

Vice President Hawley provided updates on current capital projects and major renovations totaling \$66,730,401. Every project is on time and under budget.

Conway Campus:

- Marilyn Murphy Fore Health Professions Training Complex Renovation: Project approved by the SFAA on February 11, 2026. Awaiting state engineer's approval of drawings to bid. Project completion is projected for April 2027.
- Monumental Signage: The City approved two signs, and a third sign approval is pending.
- Automotive Building Expansion: Construction began on January 5, 2026. The contractual date for completion is June 22, 2026.

Grand Strand Campus:

- Speir Building Renovation: Project approved by SFAA on February 11, 2026. A feasibility study by Quackenbush in early May and project timeline developed thereafter.

Georgetown Campus:

- Marine Technology Center: Construction began in late December. Completion scheduled for March 1, 2027.

Campus Master Plan:

President Fore gave an overview of the Conway Campus Master Plan as well as the Conway Campus Marilyn Murphy Fore Health Professions Training Complex.

Enrollment Comparison Update:

Summer 2026 enrollment reflects an overall headcount of 3524 and an overall FTE of 1852.8.

Commencement Update:

Commencement will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Coastal Carolina University HTC Center. There will be two ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Commissioners are to arrive at 10:00 a.m. and report to the LeForce Suite. A catered lunch will be provided for the platform party.

Action

Appointment of Nominating Committee for the Election of Officers:

Chairman Branyon appointed a nominating committee for the Election of Officers at the June meeting consisting of David McMillan, Chair, Fedrick Cohens, and Rick Elliott.

Contracts and Agreements:

Vice President Hawley and Vice President Heafner brought forth for approval all academic consortia agreements and contracts for goods and services exceeding \$25,000 annually. ***Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. McMillan, and unanimously carried that the Area Commission approves all academic consortia agreements and other contractual agreements. Mr. Hucks abstained from voting.***
(Vote 6 yes 0 no) M/S/C

Financial Institutions and Annual Report on Investment:

In keeping with current college policies that the Area Commission annually review the investment programs and financial institutions, Mr. Hawley brought forth for approval a list of the college's financial institutions and investment programs. ***Mr. McMillan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cohens, and unanimously carried that the Area Commission approves the financial institutions and investment programs of the college as outlined. Mr. Hucks abstained from voting.***
(Vote 6 yes 0 no) M/S/C

Fall 2026 Tuition Increase:

Mr. Hawley brought forth for approval a request to increase fall tuition by 3.43%. HGTC currently has the most affordable tuition in the state and has not raised its tuition since summer 2023. ***Mr. Hucks made a motion, seconded by Mr. McMillan, and unanimously carried that the Area Commission approves a Fall 2026 tuition increase of 3.43%. For in-county students, the tuition cost per credit hour will increase by \$6.00 from \$175.00 per credit hour to \$181.00 per credit hour.***
(Vote 7 yes 0 no) M/S/C

Policy Update – 8.10.1 Intellectual Property Rights

Dr. Heafner brought forth for approval revisions to the Intellectual Property Rights policy. The recommended revisions update the policy language to ensure consistency with recent state-level changes. ***Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr.***

Cassidy, and carried that the Area Commission approves changes to Policy 8.10.1 Intellectual Property Rights.
(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

President's Report

President Fore reported on Bill S.863 Culinary Arts Management Degree. This Bill updates South Carolina's higher education law to allow technical and comprehensive colleges to offer an Applied Baccalaureate in Culinary Arts Management. The degree must be approved by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education. The Bill received a favorable report from the Senate Education full committee.

A funding request letter was sent to Mr. Barry Spivey, Horry County Administrator requesting continued investment from Horry County to (1) sustain the Bucksport workforce and community resilience initiative and (2) to expand similar programming into the Loris community on the McLeod Hospital property.

Foundation Report

Ms. Detzler announced Ms. Jackie Park as the new accountant for the Foundation. Additionally, she announced the Southwest Splendor event held at the International Culinary Institute was a huge success with 160 attendees. The Foundation raised over \$80,000.

President's Cabinet Report:

- Vice President Batten's report was received as submitted.
- Interim Vice President Boone reported that preparations are underway for the upcoming EMT accreditation site visit.
- Vice President Hawley's report was received as submitted.
- Vice President Heafner's report was received as submitted. Additionally, she announced HGTC looks forward to participating in the Myrtle Beach Classic as an opportunity to connect with community leaders, business partners, legislators, and visitors while highlighting the college's commitment to workforce development and higher education in our region.
- Ms. Hyman reported on current media coverage, noting a total of 524 media hits, including news and social media mentions. She further reported that 37 media alerts were distributed. Advertising value of \$8.2 million - monetary value of media coverage received.
- Dr. Perritt's report was received as submitted. Additionally, she announced that preparations are underway for the College's 60th anniversary celebration.

- Vice President Snyder's report was received as submitted. Additionally, she reported that the Human Resources Department is undergoing restructuring to incorporate cross-training initiatives.

Faculty Assembly:

The Faculty Assembly report was received as submitted.

Executive Session

Dr. Farrar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cohens and unanimously 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

Mr. Hucks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cohens and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 2:42 p.m. No action taken.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

There being no further business, Dr. Farrar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hucks and unanimously carried that the Area Commission adjourn at 2:43 p.m.

(7 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Tommy Branyon, Chairman

Orrie E. West, Secretary

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

Date: _____