

**Minutes of the Meeting
Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission
August 11, 2026**

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

Dr. Melissa Batten, Interim President
Cathy Myers, Administrative Coordinator

Members Absent: None

Guests: Ellen Black, Dr. Becky Boone, Dr. Lori Heafner, Nicole Hyman,
Amanda King, Dr. Kelly Perritt, and Jackie Snyder.

Media: Adam Benson, Post and Courier

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Commission held its regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the President's Boardroom (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 Hucks recognized former Chairman Branyon for his 15 years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Area Commission, noting that he is the longest-serving Chairman in the Commission's history. Chairman Hucks presented Mr. Branyon with a plaque in recognition of his distinguished service and contributions to the Commission. Chairman Hucks then entertained a motion to designate Mr. Branyon as Chairman Emeritus. ***Dr. Farrar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott and unanimously carried to designate Mr. Branyon as Chairman Emeritus.***

(Vote 8 yes 0 no) M/S/C

Chairman Hucks called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and requested acceptance of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the June 16, 2026, June 24, 2026, and July 27, 2026, meetings. ***Mr. McMillan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Branyon, and unanimously carried to accept the agenda and to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026, June 24, 2026, and July 27, 2026, meetings.***

(Vote 8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

Updates

Budget Status Update:

Interim Vice President Ellen Black presented the budget status report ending July 31, 2026.

Capital Projects and Major Renovations:

Dr. Batten and Interim Vice President Black provided updates on current capital projects and major renovations totaling \$66,730,401.

Conway Campus:

- Marilyn Murphy Fore Health Professions Training Complex Renovation: Project awarded to Chancel Construction. Completion is expected April 2027.
- Automotive Building Expansion: Construction began on January 5, 2026. Delays in supply of construction materials have moved the substantial completion date to mid-August 2026.
- Marine Technology Center: Construction began in late December. Contractual date of substantial completion is March 2027.

Enrollment Update:

Interim President Batten reported that the current Fall 2026 overall headcount is 8,203 students, with an overall FTE of 5,401.3. Enrollment trends remain very positive compared with the prior year and the Technical College System as a whole. HGTC's enrollment is currently up 3.5% on a day-to-day basis, compared with a 3% increase for the Technical College System as a whole.

Loris Site

Vice President Heafner highlighted the College's expansion in Loris, noting that 12 dual-enrolled CNA students will begin classes this fall at the McLeod Health Site, providing an opportunity for students to begin a health care career pathway while still in high school. The College is also offering general education courses, including biology, English, and psychology, increasing access to HGTC for students in that area. This expansion reflects the College's commitment to meeting students where they are and responding to the needs of the communities it serves.

Foundation Report

Due to the absence of newly elected Foundation Chair, Martha Lewis and Foundation President and CEO, Ms. Detzler, the Foundation report was received as submitted.

President's Cabinet Report:

- Interim President Batten's report was received as submitted.
- Interim Vice President Black's report was received as submitted.
- Vice President Boone's report was received as submitted.
- Vice President Heafner's report was received as submitted.
- Ms. Hyman reported on current media coverage, noting a total of 619 media hits, including news and social media mentions. She further reported that 12 media alerts were distributed. Advertising value of \$5.6 million - monetary value of media coverage received. Additionally, she announced that the college launched the ABILITYWorks Workforce Readiness Program for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- Dr. Perritt's report was received as submitted.
- Vice President Snyder's report was received as submitted.

Faculty Assembly:

The Faculty Assembly report was received as submitted in the absence of Faculty Assembly President, Professor Chowning.

Information

Upcoming Events:

Dr. Batten invited members of the Area Commission to attend the upcoming HGTC All-College/Welcome Back meeting to be held on August 18, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. on the Conway Campus.

The South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) will be hosting a New Trustees Training in Columbia on September 9, 2026.

Joint Meeting/Awards Luncheon for the Presidents' Council, State Tech Board, and South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners will be held on September 22, 2026, in Columbia.

The Area Commission Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at Sea Captain's House in Myrtle Beach at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Branyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and/or contractual arrangements/negotiations.

(8 yes 0 no)

M/S/C

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Mr. Branyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cohens and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 2:17 p.m. No action Taken.
(8 yes 0 no) *M/S/C*

There being no further business, Mr. Branyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cohens and unanimously carried that the Area Commission adjourn at 2:18 p.m.
(8 yes 0 no) *M/S/C*

Robert P. Hucks, II., Chairman

Orrie E. West, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy L. Myers
Administrative Coordinator

Date: _____