



**AIKEN COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL
AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION**

**January 8, 2024
5:15 p.m.**

**President's Conference Room 102
Ashley Little Administration Building
Aiken Technical College**

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

**NOTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT**

ROLL CALL

Commission Present:

Mr. Joe Lewis
Mr. Bill Windley
Ms. Keyatta Priester
Ms. Teresa Haas
Mr. Mike Uhle
Mr. Charlie Hartz
Ms. Jennifer Curtis
Mr. Alvin Padgett
Mr. King Laurence
Mr. Paul Hanna
Dr. Dorian Newton

Also Present:

Dr. Forest Mahan
Mr. Andy Jordan
Ms. Sylvia Byrd
Ms. Mechelle English
Mr. Chad Crumbaker, J.D.
Ms. Nikasha Dicks

INTRODUCTIONS - Mr. Joe Lewis

Mr. Lewis introduced two new Commission members. Mr. Paul Hanna, Director of Human Resources & Volunteer Services at Aiken Regional Medical Centers, was appointed on November 9, 2023. Dr. Dorian Newton, Deputy Director of Site Training at SRNS, was appointed on December 1, 2023. The Commission welcomed Mr. Hanna and Dr. Newton. All Commission seats are now filled

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

Mr. Alvin Padgett motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Bill Windley seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the October 16, 2023, minutes.

2. December 15, 2023 Special Meeting

Dr. Dorian Newton motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Keyatta Priester seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the December 15, 2023, minutes.

A. Administrative Services - Mr. Andy Jordan

1. Capital Projects Update

Summary of Issue: Multiple maintenance and renovation projects continue on campus. HVAC updates are complete and the College is integrating Johnson Controls for climate control. The 900 building roof project is complete. The Aiken County Board of Appeals recently approved two new monument signs, redesigned with the new branding for each entrance of the College. The Monument signs will be installed in April. The Learning Commons area (former Library) is undergoing a significant renovation. The Student Success Center and Testing Center in the 700 building will be relocated to the new Learning Commons in the 1000 building. The renovations include fresh paint, flooring, furniture, window filming, and lighting upgrades. The Learning Commons should be ready to open in mid-February. The new 700 building IT Suite and Data Center buildout is going well and will have improved cooling and a backup generator. The IT Suite will also have new paint and carpeting. The Welding & Grinding Lab updates are awaiting approvals from the SC Office of the State Engineer and the Commission on Higher Education to move forward with the project plan. The College will coordinate with the Aiken County Career and Technology Center to allow ATC students to use the Career Center welding facility this summer. The College held a 700 building architect and engineer kickoff meeting in November, and the design meetings are ongoing. In December, the College chose the site for the new two-story Nursing building. The site is ideal for retention ponds, visibility, future expansion, and defined separation from the new ACPSD Career Center. The 100 Administration and 300 buildings will eventually be demolished to make way for green space. The Nursing Building Committee meets with the architects again next week to review potential floor plans. Once designs and engineering are finalized in the next several months, budget approval will be the next phase. When the weather is warmer, the College can arrange for the Commission to tour the campus to view all the projects.

Action Taken: None taken.

B. Advancement - Ms. Mechelle English

1. College Mascot

Summary of Issue: Ms. English reviewed the history of ATC's mascot, which the College discontinued ten years ago. Coming off the 50th anniversary and new College branding, the College would like to reintroduce the knight mascot for promotions, branding, revenue, and campus morale. The College has a Mascot Committee that is working with World Design Marketing to design the new mascot costume and logo for promotional items and sportswear. Ms. English shared the design and examples of the logo.

Action Taken: None taken.

C. Academic and Student Affairs - No Report

D. Human Resources - No Report

E. Office of the President - Dr. Forest Mahan

1. Legislative Update

Summary of Issue: Dr. Mahan thanked Commission members who attended the January 4 dinner with the Aiken County Legislative Delegation. Mr. Alvin Padgett complimented Dr. Mahan on the State of the College presentation. Dr. Mahan reviewed the Governor's proposed State budget for FY25. Overall, the budget was favorable for the SCTCS. The SCTCS hopes the legislature approves more recurring dollars than the Governor proposed. If the State adopts the full amount of recurring dollars (\$20 million), the State would ask colleges not to raise tuition. Colleges are somewhat concerned because tuition has not increased in the last three to four years. The System request included \$50 million for electric vehicle training institutes, \$8 million for needs-based funding, and \$10 million for nursing initiatives, among other requests. The College continues to monitor enrollment and fees to maintain a healthy financial position.

Action Taken: None taken.

2. College Activities

Summary of Issue: Dr. Mahan is attending the January 11 Transfer Agreement press conference with Clemson, the University of South Carolina, and the SCTCS. There is a Presidents' Council meeting on the same day. Dr. Mahan and Mr. King Laurence will go before the State Joint Bond Review Committee for the ATC-ACPSD land lease approval for the new Career and Technology Center to be built on the ATC campus. Pending the JBRC approval, the College and ACPD will go before the State Fiscal Accountability Authority on January 30 for the final lease approval. Once approved, the College and ACPD can move forward with planning the groundbreaking.

As Mr. Jordan mentioned earlier, the College chose the site for the new Nursing building, which will integrate into the campus growth up the hill. The College expects to break ground on the new Nursing building by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

As Mr. Jordan noted, when the College finishes the Library renovations, the ATC Testing Center and Student Success Center will move from the 700-800 building to the new Learning Commons in the Library. The 700-800 building redesign will create new space for the Student Enrollment Center, Advancement, Administrative Services, and Human Resources. The 100-200 Administration building will slowly empty and eventually be demolished for green space. The College could still dedicate new green space to Ashley Little.

On January 30, Mr. Jee Hang Lee, the national Association of Community College Trustees CEO, will visit ATC for a campus tour and a lunch with Commissioners, Executive Staff, Marketing and Communications, and students. The President's Office will send details on Mr. Lee's visit and the lunch.

On January 31, Dr. Mahan and Commissioners will attend the SC Association of Technical College Commissioners Day of Learning and Awards Luncheon in Columbia. The SCATCC will recognize Dr. Mahan as CEO of the Year, and Mr. Padgett and Mr. Windley for ten and fifteen years of service on Commission, respectively.

Dr. Mahan, Ms. Priester, and Ms. Jennifer Curtis will attend the ACCT Legislative Congress from February 3-7 in Washington, D.C. The group will try to meet with Senator Lindsey Graham. Senator Graham added a \$1 million earmark for the new Nursing building, pending federal budget approval.

Due to the weather, the College will close tomorrow, January 9, along with the ACPSD and other Aiken County offices.

Dr. Mahan reminded the Commission about the January 21 MLK Jr. Community Celebration. The College partners with USCA to coordinate the event. Ms. Nikasha Dicks spoke about the event. The event is free and includes a service fair of community organizations and recognition of student essay award winners.

The College received positive media coverage at the January 4 Aiken County Legislative Delegation Dinner, where Dr. Mahan discussed the new Career Center. The College contacted *The Aiken Standard* to correct some facts in the story. The paper quickly made the corrections. The College will share renderings of the new Career Center and Nursing buildings once finalized. Mr. Padgett complimented Dr. Mahan on the presentation to the Delegation.

Action Taken: None taken.

3. Upcoming Events

- January 21, 2024 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, USCA Convocation Center
- January 31, SC Association of Technical College Commissioners Meeting, Columbia
- February 12, 2024 - Commission Meeting
- February 27, 2024, 5:30 p.m. - State of the College Dinner with Aiken County Council
- March 11, 2024 - Commission Meeting
- April 8, 2024 - Commission Meeting
- April 30, 2024 - ATC Commencement, USCA
- May 13, 2024 - Commission Meeting
- June 10, 2024 - Commission Meeting

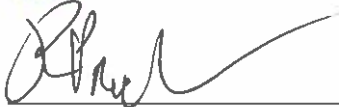
F. Executive Session - Mr. Joe Lewis

1. There was no Executive Session

Mr. Charlie Hartz made the motion, seconded by Ms. Priester, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Mr. Joe E. Lewis, Chair



Ms. Keyatta Priester, Secretary



Date Approved



Date Approved

