

**FLORENCE-DARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
January 30, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ershela Sims
Paul Seward
Leroy Robinson
Hood Temple
Clint Moore
Meredith Taylor
Missy Jay
Wanda James

ABSENT:

William Fleming
Kevin Etheridge

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Jermaine Ford
Tyron Jones
Terry Dingle
Travis Gleaton
Debbie Cheek
Karen Lee
Andrew Golden
Kim Lutz
Sheryl Love
Brantlee Haire
Robin Poston, Harper, Poston,
Moree, CPA
Bob Sloan, Morning News

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Florence-Darlington County Commission for Technical Education was called to order at 4:30 p.m., by Dr. Ershela Sims, Chairperson, who stated the media had been notified. Chairman Sims welcomed Bob Sloan from the Morning News.

II. INVOCATION

Mr. Terry Dingle delivered the Invocation.

III. SPECIAL THANK YOU AND RECOGNITION

Chairwoman Sims recognized President Ford for a special recognition and thank you. Dr. Ford asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Heather Dunham, who passed away during the holidays. Ms. Dunham had been with us in the role of Director of Admissions. Please keep Ms. Dunham's family in your prayers.

Dr. Ford introduced Ms. Brantley Haire, Human Services Program Director and faculty, to give a special thank you. Ms. Haire thanked the Commission for their service to the college, community, and the Commission's passion for education. Ms. Haire stated that on behalf of the faculty and staff she wanted to extend a thank you for their support of Dr. Ford's vision of providing all full-time employees with the bonus and how much it was appreciated.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Dr. Robinson that the minutes of November 7, 2023, be approved. The motion carried.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Dr. Robinson

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Ford, President, who stated that he was happy to announce that after a ten-month long search, Dr. Debbie Cheek is the new Vice President of Finance and Administration.

A. Action

1. Bonds

Dr. Sims recognized Dr. Robinson, Chair of the Finance Committee for the report from the Finance Committee. Dr. Robinson stated that the Finance Committee had met prior to this meeting and one of the issues discussed was in reference to the bonds' maturity in the spring of this year and after discussion, it was decided it was in the best economical interest of the College not to cash out at this time. Dr. Robinson stated that no action is needed at this time. The Finance Committee received a detailed 2023 Audit Report and that will be reported out.

B. Information

1. Financial Report as of December 31, 2023

Dr. Sims recognized Dr. Debbie Cheek, Vice President of Finance and Administration for a financial update. Dr. Cheek referred Commissioners to their packets and stated that revenues were ahead of expenditures. December's month end is \$ 2M ahead of last year. Our revenues are approximately \$4M ahead of previous years. The expenditures are \$1.9M ahead of last years.

Dr. Cheek referred Commissioners to the Balance Sheet. Dr. Cheek stated that cash is \$27,556,204 which is about 6.5 months of reserve.

2. Independent Audit Report – Robin Poston of Harper, Poston, & Moree, CPA

Dr. Sims recognized Ms. Robin Poston of Harper, Poston, & Moree, CPA for an update of the 2023 Independent Audit Report. Ms. Poston stated that the College received a no modified or clean opinion audit with no significant findings.

VI. FOUNDATION UPDATE – Sheryl Love

Dr. Sims, Chairwoman, recognized Ms. Sheryl Love, Foundation Executive Director, for an update. Ms. Love stated that the FDTC Employee Giving Campaign was going very well. To date raised is \$18,000 with 74 employees giving. She is looking to be ahead of last year's numbers. Ms. Love stated that they have also received a clean opinion audit with no findings for the Foundation. Ms. Love stated that the Gala was a success and thanked all who participated. She was excited to announce that the Gala had netted \$135,000 this year and looked forward to next year. The date for the Legacy Ball has been scheduled for November 21, 2024 and looks forward to seeing you next year. Ms. Love noted that the Foundation has several Spring events planned with the Baseball/Softball teams and participation with the FDTC Day of Giving on April 24th.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Action

1. Academic Approval Policy Defining Credit Hours Awarded for Courses

Dr. Ford referred the Commissioners to their packet to review the Policy Defining Credit Hours Awarded for Courses. This is preparation for our upcoming SACSCOC visit for our 10-year reaffirmation visit in 2025. This is a policy that we need to have on file for the College. This is a policy defining how we award our credit hours and is based on the state's policy.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Jay, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the Academic Approval Policy Defining Credit Hours Awarded for Courses. The motion carried.

B. Information

Dr. Ford gave a brief update on some of the highlights from the past year. He noted that we have been able to start some of the construction trades programs. With the \$10M that Representative Lowe was able to help with, we have expanded our electrical and HVAC programs. The plumbing program has been initiated.

Dr. Ford reviewed some of the Fall events with the Community Day, Family Day/Pig Pickin, and the Inauguration. Dr. Ford provided a video recap for the Commission. Community Day Tee Shirts were distributed to each Commissioner.

Dr. Ford state that our Spring enrollment headcount was up 5.7% and FTE was up 5.1% compared to last year. Dr. Ford distributed the Spring enrollment information pocket Cards for reference.

Dr. Ford distributed the 2024-25 Legislative Strategic Priorities pocket card to the Commissioners and reviewed with them. This has been given to our legislative delegation.

Dr. Ford participated with Chip Munn on his podcast “Coffee with Cool People”

Dr. Ford stated that on January 12th, Spring Kick-off was held by the college. The theme was “Moving Forward”.

Dr. Ford will be attending the ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. He has meetings scheduled with Representative Clyburn and Representative Fry. Also, the Technical College System will have time scheduled to meet with our federal delegation.

Dr. Ford stated that he will be attending tomorrow (January 31st) the SC Association of Technical College Commissioners Day of Learning and Legislative Luncheon in Columbia.

On March 7, 2024, we will hold FDTC’s Annual Awards Dinner and extend an invitation for you to attend if your schedule permits.

Dr. Ford stated that from a previous Florence Chamber meeting, the issue of support for our Florence Airport. Please support the Florence Airport with your travel needs so as not to reduce the flights through Florence.

Dr. Ford introduced Dr. Travis Gleaton, Vice President for Student Services. Dr. Gleaton joined FDTC this Fall. Dr. Gleaton gave a brief update on his journey and experiences.

Dr. Ford gave Birthday well-wishes to Dr. Robinson’s wife Tammie and Commissioner Missy Jay for their past January Birthdays.

VII. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

A. Action

1. None

B. Information

1. Dr. Sims stated that the Academic Committee Affairs Committee met on December 8th and reviewed the SACS Project Plan. The plan was distributed to the Commissioners. This will show the timeline for the SACS reaffirmation visit. Dr. Taylor is the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and will keep the Commission updated.

2. Dr. Sims noted that the committees are back meeting as necessary and the Long-range and Building Committee will be next meeting to review the Hartsville Plans once Dr. Ford receives the information from the architects.

3. Dr. Sims reviewed the article referencing the CHE President retirement and the unspent scholarship monies. Dr. Sims referred Commissioners to the article in their packets.

4. Dr. Sims reviewed the dates for the Commissioners Board Retreat for feedback and after discussion, it was decided that the retreat will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Sims, Chair requested a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jay, that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. The motion carried.

Upon return from Executive Session, a motion was made by Mr. Seward, seconded by Dr. Robinson, to return to regular session. The motion carried.

Dr. Sims stated that from the discussion in the Executive Session, there were no actions items that will need approval by the Commission.

There being no further business, Dr. Sims requested a motion for adjournment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Seward seconded by Dr. Robinson, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Dr. Meredith Taylor

Date Approved