

**FLORENCE-DARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
September 19, 2023  
4:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ershela Sims  
Paul Seward  
Kevin Etheridge  
Leroy Robinson  
Hood Temple  
Clint Moore  
Meredith Taylor

**ABSENT:**

Missy Jay  
Wanda James  
William Fleming

**OTHERS ATTENDING:**

Jermaine Ford  
Tyron Jones  
Karen Lee  
Andrew Golden  
Kim Lutz  
Terry Dingle  
Andre Boyd  
Tressa Gardner  
Mary Kelley  
Ashu Anumolu  
Heather Dunham  
Ty Stone  
Dorian Clark/Isaac Wenger  
Lightcast -WebEx  
  
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 Mr. Dwayne Brockington, Chair, FDTC Foundation and Mr. Will McLeod, Vice Chair FDTC Foundation. Dr. Sims welcomed Bob Sloan from the Morning News.

**II. INVOCATION**

Mr. Terry Dingle delivered the Invocation.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Mr. Moore that the minutes of June 27, 2023, be approved. The motion carried.

### **IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Chairman Sims recognized Dr. Ford, President, to introduce and recognize the special guests. Dr. Ford requested a moment of silence for Professor Steven Weingartner, who passed away earlier this month. Mr. Weingartner had been with the college for 18 years and taught marketing, management, and business courses. A memorial will be held later on this fall. Dr. Ford state that he would like to give some special thanks to the following staff. First, Dr. Ford thanked Dr. Andre Boyd for assuming the role of Interim Vice President of Student Services as the national search was conducted for a permanent Vice President. Dr. Travis Gleaton was offered and accepted the position and will begin October 1, 2023. Dr. Ford thanked Ms. Tressa Gardner for assuming the role of the Interim Site Director of the Lake City Campus at the Continuum for the past year. Dr. Ford welcomed Mary Kelley, who assumed the role of the Lake City Campus Director. Also, Dr. Ford thanked Dr. Rebecca Harris-Smith, who served as the Interim Dean of Nursing. Dr. Harris-Smith was not able to join us today. Dr. Ford welcomed our new Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Ms. Asha Anumolu, who will be leading the Nursing and Healthcare Programs. Small tokens of appreciation were given and pictures taken with the recipients.

Dr. Ford introduced Ms. Heather Dunham, our new Dean of Admissions. Ms. Dunham joins FDTC from the Governor's School of Math and Science and is a 2010 graduate of Florence Darlington Technical College.

Dr. Ford introduced Dr. Ty Stone, Interim Vice President of Business Affairs. Dr. Stone joined FDTC temporarily to help Dr. Debbie Cheek, Controller and Acting Interim, to help with the overload of responsibilities of the two positions. Dr. Stone has done an analysis of our business area to address the needs of the Business Office, Bookstore, Purchasing, and the Facilities Department. Also, Dr. Stone did an analysis on the bond that is due this month and she will be sharing that with you.

Dr. Ford noted that last year upon completion of the Strategic Master Plan, an annual report would be done. Lightcast did an economic impact analysis for FDTC. Mr. Dorian Clark and Mr. Isaac Wenger via WebEx gave an update of their analysis. The report consisted of three different analysis: 1) operations and spending impact, 2) student spending impact, and 3) alumni impact. This supported approximately 4400 jobs with \$166 million-dollar impact in the area. The study was done during the 2020-21 year. Dr. Ford distributed the 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Commissioners for review. The annual report will be shared with the legislative delegation and the community.

**V. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. Action
  - 1. None
  
- B. Information

- 1. Financial Report as of August 31, 2023

Chairman Sims recognized, Dr. Ty Stone, Interim Vice President Business Services for an update. Dr. Stone referred the Commissioners to the financial sheets for highlights of the unrestricted revenues and expenditures for the month ending August 31, 2023. The student tuition and fees are up \$1.4 M over this time last year. The Continuing Education revenue is up \$450,000 and the state appropriation is up \$1.2 .M over this time last year. The expenses are up due to personnel compensations and positions being filled. The total expenses are up \$876,000 over this time last year. Last year this time we were at \$5.25 M and increased this year to \$6.1M. Dr. Stone stated that if we stay on this course the college should have a surplus of \$1M by the end of the year.

Dr. Stone referred to the Balance Sheet and noted that as of August 31, 2023, the cash and cash equivalents balance are \$28,689,899. The accounts receivable is over \$11 M and total assets is over \$40 M. The total liabilities for the college are \$66,990,294 and the total net position of the college is \$18,356,802, which is equivalent to a 6.2 months cash reserve.

**VI. FOUNDATION UPDATE**

- A. Action
  - 1. None
  
- B. Information

Dr. Sims recognized, Ms. Sheryl Love, Executive Director of FDTC Educational Foundation, to give an update on the Foundation. Ms. Love stated that they have gotten the first year behind and many things have been accomplished. The first has been getting the finances in order. The finances will be up by three times the amount of the prior year, which exceeded the 10 percent goal. A strategic plan has been developed for the Foundation. Ms. Love stated that the Foundation provided a large number of scholarships this year for students. Ms. Love stated that the Foundation's audit has been completed with no findings. Ms. Love stated that the first alumni event will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Linwood Edwards Law Firm. She noted that 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will begin on November 14<sup>th</sup> with the Family Day (the prior fall pig picken) with family and children activities. The next day, November 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Community Day. College employees will be volunteering for volunteer work in all three of our counties. Following on November 16, 2023, the Inauguration for Dr. Ford will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the SiMT. Ms. Love stated that later on that evening FDTC will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with a Gala and hopes that all will be able to attend this exciting event. Please save the date.

**VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Action**

1. None

**B. Information**

Dr. Ford gave an update on Fall Enrollment, which shows that student enrollment is up 16.5% compared to the 2022 enrollment and our FTE is up 12.1%. Dr. Ford stated that we have 3,099 students.

Dr. Ford stated that Dr. Gleaton will begin on October 1, 2023, as the new Vice President for Student Services.

Dr. Ford noted that we have a Strategic Enrollment Management Report for 2022-2027 and distributed it to the Commissioners for review. This is a comprehensive plan that shows our goals and where we want to be in the future. This will be distributed to our Legislative Delegation and community partners.

Dr. Ford showed FDTC's 2023 Year in Review Video that was produced by our Marketing Department highlighting the progress that the college has experienced this past year.

Dr. Ford reviewed the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. He reviewed the list of speakers that are confirmed for the Inauguration ceremony and extended an invitation to the Commissioners to participate.

Dr. Ford stated that the NASCAR Darlington Raceway Hauler Parade was held at the FDTC Main Campus on September 1, 2023, and a large crowd was in attendance.

Dr. Ford has been accepted into the Aspens Presidents Fellowship. This will give FDTC the opportunities to be eligible for large scholarships for the college.

Dr. Ford reviewed the Employee Engagement Survey results with the Commission.

**VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**A. Action**

1. None

**B. Information**

1. Dr. Sims distributed the Committee Listing for Commission review. Please confirm with Dr. Sims if you will accept your assignment. Also, the 2024 meeting dates.
2. Dr. Sims reported that at the next meeting on November 7, 2023, the Commission will complete and review the board's self-assessment. This is a requirement by SACSCOC. The survey will be distributed prior to the meeting for completion and will be administered by the ACCT.

3. Also, if you are available, please attend the Inauguration Ceremony. You will need to be arriving by 9:00 a.m. for robing and assembling for the procession.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Upon return from Executive Session, a motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Ms. Taylor to return to regular session. The motion carried.

Dr. Sims stated that discussion was held on the usage and designation of the Ready SC Building that is located on the main campus. The building has been designated for storage the past few years. It has been requested to reverse the storage designation back to classroom usage.

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Mr. Etheridge, to reverse the Ready SC Building designation of storage back to classroom designation. The motion carried.

Dr. Sims stated that discussion was held in regards to a presentation by the S.C. Charter School on the Workforce Centers of Excellence at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Upon receipt of the proposal and discussion, Dr. Sims requested a motion from the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Mr. Seward, to receive and accept a feasibility study as it relates to the Adult Workforce Center of Excellence at Florence-Darlington Technical College and letter of intent. The motion carried.

## **I X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Seward, seconded by Mr. Etheridge, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary, Dr. Meredith Taylor

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Date Approved