

March 8, 2022

**ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECH AREA COMMISSION
VIA Zoom/OCtech EBR**

February 18, 2022

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

**John Shuler, Chair
Jacqueline Shaw
Katie Hane
Margaret Felder-Wilson
Leroy Morant
Lawrence Weathers
David Rickenbaker**

OCtech PRESENT:

**Dr. Walt Tobin
Williette W. Berry
Dr. Sandra Davis
Kim Huff
Coretta Downing, Secretary**

**Tresa Milligan-Mueller, Faculty Council Chair
Donna Bennett, Staff Council Chair**

GUEST PRESENT:

Dionne Gleaton-T&D

Chair John Shuler called the meeting to order at 4:29 pm. He reminded Commission members that area media had appropriately been notified under the Freedom of Information Act and meeting notices posted.

David Rickenbaker made a motion that the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting be approved. Jackie Shaw seconded, Approved.

David Rickenbaker made a motion to approve the February agenda. Leroy Morant seconded the motion. Approved

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Dr. Tobin reported that the Commission Association meeting is on March 2, 2022.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DR. WALT TOBIN

The South Carolina Technical Association held its annual meeting a few weeks back. There was a legislative reception, and I spoke with Gilda Cobb-Hunter about the OCtech plan and budget requests for next year. Our Commissioners who received awards for continued service were Jackie Shaw, David Rickenbaker, and Lawrence Weathers.

Legislative Update -There are plans to offer a 2+2 BSN degree to students with ADN degrees. Dr. Tobin spoke to David Sutherland, Regional Medical Center CEO, who is supportive of the idea. Our faculty can teach 300 and 400 level courses. There is one limitation, 25% of faculty must have a Ph.D. to offer the BSN degree. The first step is obtaining approval and submitting additional information to SACS. It is in the early planning stages, and there is much work to be done.

The House Ways and Means Provisio Committee did not discuss the guaranteed transfer. I spoke to Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter about putting it back as a provisio for next year to standardize guaranteed transfer in South Carolina at two and four-year institutions. We were one of five colleges to receive funds from the \$1.6 million grant from the State Department. The other colleges are Piedmont, Northeastern, Central Carolina, and Technical College of the Low Country. We will use our funds to support and provide greater oversight to the Early College program and provide services to those students. In addition to Deborah Cooper-Davis, we will hire a Dean, Interventionist, Counselor, and two support people. We will also add a Career Academy (Career Pathway) and Advanced Academy (9th-grade students who will graduate high school with an AA degree). We want to offer five different pathways (two in Health Sciences). This pathway will allow our students to enroll directly into a health studies degree program at MUSC. MUSC is partnering with Technical Colleges to offer this program for \$20,000. It allows high school students to enter directly out of high school without the one-year wait. There are also three pathways for Advanced Manufacturing (Electronic Instrumentation, Mechatronics, and Engineering Graphics). These students would be about a year short of earning a degree right out of high school. These funds will cover salaries, tuition, and books for three years. We will begin marketing this very soon.

SCTEA is this weekend, February 17-19, 2022. If anyone is interested in attending, let me know. There are three Educators of the year: Staff- Connie Gleaton (Physical Plant employee and graduate of OCtech), Faculty- Tamara Miles (English Instructor and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Program Coordinator), and Administrator-Kathy Hightower who will be retiring shortly after 43 ½ years of service.

OCtech Foundation: Bob Sabalis is the new chair of the foundation. He is a retired professor from MUSC. John Ansley will be the vice-chair. He is an ENT at Carolina ENT. Marcus Johnson with Orangeburg Nissan, Todd McElhone with Pioneer Fam, and Pat Hughes, former OCtech Nursing Instructor and an OCtech graduate.

The goal for Continuing Ed is to generate 10% more revenue than expenses. They are currently more than 10% ahead of revenue halfway through the year. They have really done a good job.

Based on the Area Commissioner Retreat Survey, we need to discuss the Strategic Plan and review the draft. There is no scheduled date for the Retreat yet.

ACADEMICS – WILLIETTE BERRY

Williette stated that applications for the temporary grant position are under review. We hope to start interviewing in the next two weeks. Spring Convocation was last Friday, February 11, 2022. We had our normal college updates and divison meetings. I hosted a session on Estate Planning, and Kendra Pitts-Haigler hosted a session on Mental Health.

STUDENT SERVICES – DR. SANDRA DAVIS

Dr. Davis stated additional spring late start mini session classes started on Monday of last week. There are also classes that will begin on March 14, 2022. Students will be on spring break the week of March 7, 2022. We will start summer and fall registration on March 14, the day students return from spring break.

BUSINESS – KIM HUFF

Kim Huff noted that FTE numbers are still down, and we were really down last year due to the pandemic. FTE is down more than headcount, causing a significant revenue shortfall in our tuition. We have \$234K of contingency funds that have not been allocate and can be used to offset the shortfall. We received approval to carry over HEERF funds for an additional year, which will help next year's budget. We will need to cut expenses or improve enrollment for next year. Continuing Ed is showing more revenue than expenses.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- 1) Machine Tool program- The State allocated \$2M for the project to move to Building T. We will use the funds for mechanical upgrades and to purchase new equipment.
- 2) Digital Sign – We are consulting with an architect to develop specs. We may be able to use the existing brick base.
- 3) Building K- Renovation, HVAC and Mechanical upgrades. CHE approved a couple of weeks ago. We are still waiting for approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee. Their scheduled meeting for February was canceled and the next meeting is scheduled for the end of March.

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4) Building S – Student Commons area- all kitchen equipment has been removed. We are planning to use this space for offices and create a new Learning Commons Area downstairs.

ACTION ITEMS

Kim Huff – Renovation of T Building- \$2M Kim asked the commissioners to approve the use of State funds (up to \$100K) for renovations.

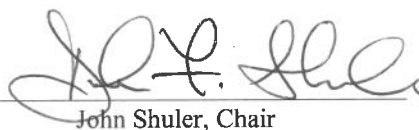
Lawrence Weathers made the motion to approve the use of State funds for the expenditure. Leroy Morant seconded the motion. Approved.

Approve HVAC Certificate Program - 33 credit hours/9 courses HVAC is embedded in the IET program. We used sample curricula from other colleges to develop the program.

David Rickenbaker made the motion to approve. Leroy Morant seconded the motion. Approved.

Leroy Morant made the motion to adjourn. Lawrence Weathers seconded the motion. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Shuler, Chair



Coretta Downing, Secretary