

September 20, 2022

**ORANGEBURG-CALHOUN TECH AREA COMMISSION
VIA ZOOM or OCtech Executive Board Room**

September 20, 2022

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

**John Shuler, Chair
Margaret Felder-Wilson
Jacqueline Shaw
David Rickenbaker
Lawrence Weathers**

OCtech PRESENT:

**Dr. Walt Tobin
Williette Waring Berry
Kim Huff
Cindy Garrick, Secretary**

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

Commission Chairman John Shuler called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He advised Commission members that area media had appropriately been notified under the Freedom of Information Act and that the meeting notice was posted.

Commission Chairman Shuler asked if there was a motion to approve the September agenda.

*Commissioner Rickenbaker made the motion to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Weathers seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Commission Chairman Shuler asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting.

*Commissioner Weathers made a motion that the minutes of the August 16, 2022, meeting be approved as presented.
Commissioner Rickenbaker seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Shuler reported much discussion was conducted at the September meeting; however, no motions or decisions were made.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Walt Tobin

Dr. Tobin said our SACS reaffirmation is in 2026, which means they will vote in December 2026 to affirm our accreditation. The draft report must be completed by December 2025 and submitted in March 2026. One of the standards referenced is that the Area Commission Board must periodically assess itself as a body. Based on the assessment, if you all identify some area of improvement or change, we must show evidence that change occurred. We must have multiple years of assessment. Dr. Tobin recommended that we do the assessment on a calendar year basis so that by the time we enter 2025, we will have three years' worth of data. We will add the assessment to the calendar every September or October. SACS is looking for information and action now.

At Fall Convocation last week, we recognized faculty and staff who've done exemplary work and that we can demonstrate objectively that they have impacted the college.

- Faculty of the year was Billy Etheridge-Dean of Business, Computer Education, Public Service
- Faculty of the year for Teaching and Innovation Excellence was Sherisse Jackson- Advance Manufacturing Instructor
- Staff of the year was Dayna Smoak – Business Manager for the college

We will invite them to the next meeting so you can meet them.

We have a mascot, Otus the Owl. We have a student who will serve as our mascot. The faculty, staff, and students chose the name of the mascot.

AACC has been slowly rolling out the Google career certificates. We are going to roll it out ourselves. A press release is going out this week announcing this partnership. This partnership allows Orangeburg-Calhoun residents to take on jobs in the digital economy. Salaries are between \$50K and \$75K, and they can work from home. This training is free. Project Management, Data Analytics, IT Support, and User Experience in designing websites in the first cohort, we will evaluate how it goes. In this cohort, we will accept 35 students and evaluate how it goes. Google and AACC have Fortune 500 companies that will hire these employees. Along with Piedmont Tech and Florence Darlington Tech, we have partnered with the League of Innovation. The League of Innovation is to find additional funding for us.

TRMC had a town hall meeting on the partnership with MUSC. As part of the transition, the college has a seat as an advisory board member. It was me, but I have asked Stefanie Gadson Brown, Dean of Health Sciences, Healthcare Prep, and Workforce programs, to serve in that capacity.

Lastly, to review our legislative priority for the system next year. Recurring Funds of an additional \$23.2M (typically we receive 3.5% of that amount), Lottery Tuition Assistance \$51.1M, SCWINS/Workforce Scholarships & Grants Funding \$95.0M, Equipment for high-demand job skills training of \$20.0M and \$2.0M for ready SC project funding.

In addition to the system request, I want to focus on the college's request. I attended a conference last week that focused on manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles. There is still a lot of economic development prospect activity about battery manufacturers coming to Orangeburg. I don't know how it will pan out, but I have asked the delegation for an additional \$12.0M on top of the \$8.0M we got last year for the new manufacturing building. I will shift the focus a little to the manufacturing of batteries, the installation and maintenance of charging stations, and the maintenance of electric vehicles. We have three programs to support those three items. The initial response from the delegation has been good (Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and Senator Bradley Hutto). Commissioner Chair Shuler asked if we would need to establish EV training, and Dr. Tobin concurred. We are considering tearing down the building on the far left of the campus next to the T-building and constructing a building. We are early on in the process and exploring possibilities. Commissioner Rickenbaker asked if he had received input from Calhoun County. Dr. Tobin said he had discussed this with Representative Russell Ott and he was on board.

STUDENT SERVICES— Sandra Davis SACS visit/ Dr. Tobin reported

September mini-session classes started last week, and registration is continuing for our October minis. Constitution Day observance was yesterday.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - Williette Berry

Faculty completed their last Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Session with CORA Learning last week during Fall Convocation. The topic was Equity Root Cause to Improve Outcomes for Men of Color. The Deans and I are now discussing incorporating what we learned into our courses by implementing **Culturally Relevant Teaching** across all curriculums.

Current vacancies:

Vacancy	Status	Additional Notes
Librarian	Posted/Apps forwarded for review	Position available 1/1/2023
Instructional Designer	Posted/Apps forwarded for review	
Admin Assistant-Nursing	Interviewing	
TDR Instructor	Interviewing	
Nursing Instructor	Interviewing	Offer made, declined
Engineering/Mechatronics	Interviews completed	Offer pending
EIT Faculty-TGP	Offer made	N Raulerson-ESD 10/10/22
Admin Assistant-HS/Health Prep	Offer made	L Smoak-ESD 10/3/2022
CNA-TGP	Posting pulled for review	
Speech Instructor	Not currently posted	
PTA Instructor	Not currently posted	
Administrative Assistant Arts & Sciences	Not currently posted	

In addition to the HVAC Certificate (approved last month), State Tech has approved the following:

- Advanced EMT Certificate
- Advanced Welding
- Introduction to Engineering

BUSINESS – Kim Huff

On the Financial Report in your packet, we are two months into the fiscal year (July and August). Enrollment and tuition for the Fall semester are below what we budgeted. We are using HEERF funds to offset that shortage. August is down a little this year compared to last August. We have already received 88% of our State appropriations for the year—\$ 5.1M of \$5.8M.

Continuing Ed is doing well for the first two months of the year. They are showing revenue over expenses of \$20K. We have opened our new account at the State Treasurer's Office. We transferred funds last week to set up an account, and there should be bump in investment income. State is earning over 2% vs. under 1% from other investment options. We are somewhat restricted as to what investments we can choose. We need to determine how much to transfer to the State Treasurer's Office.

HEERF started between \$7M and \$8M, and we have used a significant amount of the funds over the last two years. We are down to the last million of the HEERF funds.

Four Projects in Process:

1. Digital Sign - Earlier this year, you approved \$75K for the digital sign out front. The cost is \$102K for professional services and easy display replacement. Commissioner Rickenbaker asked who would be responsible for keeping the sign updated. Kim responded that Dr. Sandra Davis assumed this responsibility.
2. Machine Tool renovation in Building T – bids are due next week, and we hope they are within the budget for the project.
3. Building S Student Commons Area - the architect is working on drawings, and we hope to have them sent to State Engineering next week for review. I will bring it back to you for approval.
4. Building K architect working on drawings. The construction phase will take approximately one year to complete, so we will need to find a place for these classes and two labs to go. We estimate starting construction next summer.

*Commissioner Rickenbaker made a motion to approve up to \$105K for the sign.
Commissioner Felder-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

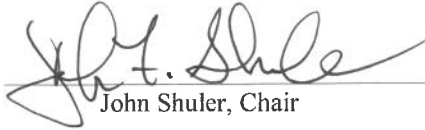
September 20, 2022

Commission Chairman Shuler asked if there was a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Commissioner Shaw made the motion to enter into Executive Session.

Commissioner Felder-Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,


John Shuler, Chair


Cindy Garrick, Secretary