

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AREA COMMISSION
March 2, 2026 12:00 noon
Room #236A

Area Commission

Present:

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman
Henry M. Poston, Vice-Chairman
S. Christine Green, Secretary-Treasurer
Harmon Cooper, Jr.
S. Lide Howell
Gertrude P. Williams
James S. Stuckey, Jr.

Administration

Present:

Dr. Patty Lee
Missy Coker
Edgar Staggers
Martha Burrows
Paige Brown
Dr. Alexis Dubose
Tyrone Thomas
Dr. Darrin Campen

Staff:

Elissa Swicord, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Poston called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and Chairman Gardner presided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Green made a motion that the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Williams and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Business Affairs: Ms. Coker reported that financial aid has not been pulled for the spring semester and would be going out later in the week. County funds in the amount of \$388,000 have been received this week and are not reflected in the current statement. Approximately 61% of the budget has been spent and 72% has been received. All tax documents have been distributed. She and Dr. Lee will go before the JBRC on March 24 for the next step in approval for the hospital building expansion. Mr. Thomas and the Facilities staff have ordered lumber to secure the building which will be delivered on March 4.

Academic Affairs: Dr. Campen reported that a Career Fair is scheduled for March 26. Advisory board meetings for Industry and Technology will meet after the event. New accessibility guidelines go into effect on April 24. The Academic Affairs department is working closely with faculty to make sure the college is compliant.

Student Affairs: Dr. Dubose shared that enrollment is up 5.7% from last spring. This is the result of hard work by many employees. Commencement Exercises have been scheduled for May 15. Lots of applications are being processed.

Workforce Development: Mr. Staggers shared that the EMT class that began on February 16 had 24 applicants but only 5 students enrolled. A screening exam is being used to ensure enrollment of strong candidates with a high possibility of completion.

Public Information: Mrs. Burrows shared that the Foundation is having a 5K race fundraiser on May 9. The race will begin and end at Unity Park in downtown Kingstree. The Foundation is working in partnership with the town. Sponsorship packets will be available soon. The entry fee is \$40 and includes a t-shirt. Participants can run or walk. Children 12 and under can participate for free (no t-shirt).

President's Report: Dr. Lee shared that she met with our delegation and Dr. Gilda Cobb-Hunter at the Legislative Luncheon at the State House on February 25. On February 26, she met with the CHE Council of Presidents to discuss common goals. One topic was the state budget. The House Ways and Means sent their budget proposal in on February 22 but the Senate had issues with a House bill on income tax reduction. The House passed a Campus Safety Bill that would require colleges to develop and implement comprehensive safety programs for students. A Student Mapping bill has been passed by the House to create efficient emergency responses on higher ed campuses. Additionally, the House Student Physical Privacy Act allows withholding of state funds if students are allowed to use a bathroom or locker room that does not align with their biological sex. It also requires at least one single user bathroom in every building on a campus. The House has also proposed an across the board 2% increase for all state employees. All of these bills still need to be addressed by the Senate.

She also discussed the hot topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This can be a helpful tool if used properly. Colleges need guidance and collaboration to navigate the challenge.

She and Ms. Coker will meet with the JBRC on March 24 and the SFAA on March 31. After these approvals, the next steps will be to put out bids for architects and construction companies. The House has passed a bill requiring state and local officials to build all tax-payer funded projects using U.S.-made steel and iron. This could affect the cost of the project.

Upcoming Activities

March 14	SAT Testing
March 19	WTC Retiree Luncheon 12 pm 236A
March 26	Job Fair and Advisory Committee Meetings
April 3	Good Friday (college closed)
April 6-10	Spring Break
April 10	Spring Break (college closed)
April 17	High School Math Competition
April 22	Employee Wellness Screening
May 9	WTC Foundation Miles & Mortarboards 5K
May 13	Nursing Pinning Ceremony
May 15	Graduation

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Approved:

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman

Elissa Swicord, Recorder