

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AREA COMMISSION
April 6, 2026 12:00 noon
Room #236A

Area Commission**Present:**

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman
 S. Christine Green, Secretary-Treasurer
 Harmon Cooper, Jr.
 S. Lide Howell
 James S. Stuckey, Jr.

Absent:

Henry M. Poston, Vice-Chairman
 Gertrude P. Williams

Staff:

Elissa Swicord, Executive Assistant

Administration**Present:**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and presided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Green made a motion that the minutes of the March 2, 2026 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooper and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Business Affairs: Ms. Coker reported that spring financial aid has been gone out. Over \$789,000 in federal funds and over \$606,000 in state funds have been awarded (\$1.4 million total). More will be distributed over the next few months in smaller increments. Student revenue will be reflected in the May statement. County money has not posted. Overall, nothing out of the ordinary was reported. An audit of financial aid came back clean.

Academic Affairs: Dr. Campen reported that the Career Fair was successful with 20 businesses/industries contributing and 135 participants including students and community members. The Business and Industry Advisory Board met after the event. The college is applying for several grants and we hope to have good results from these in the near future. He will be attending the AACC Conference next week. Additionally, Dr. Campen will attend a workshop regarding information to strengthen pathways for military learners on April 17.

Mrs. Brown shared that the SAT college entrance exam was offered on campus on March 7 with 19 students registered. Most of these students were from surrounding areas and were given information about WTC programs. She met with the county's high school guidance counselors on March 24 to share important updates and get feedback on how WTC can best serve our dual enrollment students. The college will host a SC Governor's School camp for middle schoolers this summer.

Student Affairs: Dr. Dubose shared that summer registration will begin on April 13. Commencement Exercises have been scheduled for May 15. A record number of 265 graduation applications are being processed. Mrs. Swicord will send an email reminder regarding commissioner participation for commencement.

Workforce Development: Mr. Staggers shared that 31 high school students received certification in OSHA 10 and Forklift Training and nine employees from Pierce Machinery also received this certification. Mr. Staggers is condensing the EMT course to under 15 weeks in order to qualify for Workforce Pell funding. The next EMT training and a new Advanced EMT class are to begin in July. The federal prison has received funding for CDL and HVAC training and plans are underway to begin classes.

President's Report: Dr. Lee shared several legislative discussions that could affect the college:

- The Student Privacy Act would require every state college, university, and K12 public school to make students use the bathroom according to their gender at birth. The current proposal would withhold 25% of state funding to institutions that do not comply. She added that our new facility will have single-user restrooms throughout the building.
- The House introduced a bill requiring the CHE to establish a board orientation program designed to address the responsibilities of new commission members. The bill states that the orientation program and training must include at least six hours of education and instruction for the new commission members, which may be completed in one block or broken up over the course of a fiscal year.
- Trident Technical College has requested to offer a BA in Culinary Arts. The Senate amended this request to include ALL technical colleges. This has been sent to the governor.
- The House Ways and Means has proposed having state lottery vending machines that could generate an increase of \$3.4-\$9 million in revenue.
- There has been a lot of discussion on data centers and their massive energy and water usage.
- The Abandoned Building Act could offer WTC some tax credits.
- The current budget projections look favorable for higher education.

She and Ms. Coker met with the JBRC on March 24 and the SFAA on March 31 and got approvals at both hearings. The next steps will be to put out bids for architects and construction companies.

She shared her excitement over the recent federal prison funding update. The college has been providing classes there for five years and we are looking forward to expanding our offerings to CDL and HVAC.

The college continues to aggressively seek grant opportunities including ones from Lindsay Graham, US Talent Search, Physicians' Charity Care, McCleod, MUSC, and Duke Energy.

Upcoming Activities

April 10	Spring Break (college closed)
April 13	Summer Registration Begins
April 15	Guat A Taco Food Truck on Campus 11am-2pm
April 17	High School Math Competition
April 21	SCATCC New Commissioner Training
April 22	Employee Wellness Screening
May 9	WTC Foundation Miles & Mortarboards 5K
May 13	Nursing Pinning
May 15	Graduation
May 26	First Day of Summer Classes

SCATCC Report: Ms. Green reported that the group met on March 4. Lobbyist Daniel Boan gave legislative updates and encouraged them to read legislative updates weekly and share with fellow commissioners. Dr. Stacy Moore from York also addressed the group and shared that Workforce Pell funds have been approved for use beginning in July. Enrollment is up at SC technical colleges across the board. New trustee training will be held on April 21. The SCATCC retreat will be held May 17-19. The CHE invited SCATCC and four-year college trustees to a meeting on March 11. The lengthy meeting addressed policy, strategic planning, and the importance of knowing stakeholders and keeping their trust.

NEXT MEETING

Due to graduation on May 15, the next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Approved:

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman

Elissa Swicord, Recorder