

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AREA COMMISSION
June 1, 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

Absent:

James S. Stuckey, Jr.

Staff:

Elissa Swicord, Executive Assistant

Administration**Present:**

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

Absent:

Paige Brown

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 April 6, 2026 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poston and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Business Affairs: Ms. Coker reported that there were no changes to the financial aid report. The majority of the county and state money has come in. A small amount of student revenue will be added. Overall, the college has spent \$7.6 million and taken in \$8 million. Preparation for the annual audit will begin in June and July. She reminded the group that half of summer is recorded on this year's budget and half will be included in next year's budget. Workforce Pell funding should be available soon. Mr. Poston inquired about changes to the original Pell funding. Ms. Coker shared that original Pell grants will not change as far as she knows. Workforce Pell grants may alleviate the shortfall of SCWINS (state) funding.

Academic Affairs: Dr. Campen reported that summer courses began the previous week. Late start classes will begin June 8. The new Workforce Innovation Lab ribbon-cutting will be held on June 8. The new space, housed in the library, features a 3D printer, heat press, VR technology and other equipment. Short-term trainings will be held for the community.

Student Affairs: Dr. Dubose shared that a record number of 265 graduation applications were processed for this year's ceremony and 200 graduates participated. She thanked the commissioners for their participation. She told the group that last year's summer enrollment was 396 and the current number for this summer is 368. She feels confident that number will increase.

Workforce Development: Mr. Staggers reported that the new EMT class has received approval from Public Health and is scheduled to begin on July 13 pending funding. The class has been condensed to under 15 weeks in order to qualify for expected Workforce Pell funding guidelines. The first FCI-Williamsburg CDL cohort is slated to begin in July with 4 students. He expressed enthusiasm for the new workforce lab and plans to teach two classes – plotter and HTV.

President's Report: Dr. Lee expressed thanks to all who made graduation a success, especially Dr. Dubose and the Facilities crew.

Legislative Report: Redistricting was tabled. Budget work continues. The college has asked for funds to construct a CDL training pad and to repair the existing lot that has been damaged by CDL training. Funds have also been earmarked for the expansion project. SCWINS funds have been increased. These are all contingent on final approval.

Expansion Report: Requests for proposals will go out soon to architects and engineers. A camera system has been installed at the hospital property due to trespassing and vandalism. A trespasser was recently severely shocked while trying to remove wiring. Mrs. Williams asked about the findings from DHEC regarding the buried fuel tank. Dr. Lee stated that the tank was removed and no leakage was found. She also told the group that the college received a \$25,000 donation from McLeod Foundation to be used for nursing and this will be a yearly contribution. She commended Dr. Anderson for her exceptional leadership in the nursing department and shared that she is on several boards and is well-respected in her field which helps the college make connections. She shared that Alan Abernethy is no longer with MUSC-Black River and the college will miss his support and friendship there but we still have a strong relationship with the hospital. Mr. Abernethy now works with McLeod so that will be a good link, also. The college has applied for a Rural Health Transformation Grant and Mr. Abernethy wrote a strong recommendation before he left Black River.

She encouraged the commissioners to attend the ribbon cutting on June 8 and the banquet on June 18.

Upcoming Activities

June 8 – Workforce Innovation Lab Ribbon Cutting 11 am WTC Library

June 18 – Employee Recognition Banquet

July 3-4 - Independence Day Holiday (college closed)

SCATCC Report: Ms. Green reported that the group met on May 17 and 18 for a retreat in Columbia. They learned that for technical colleges are currently seeking presidents. Lobbyist Daniel Boan gave legislative updates and said that there should be a decent increase in recurring and non-recurring funds. The budget is not expected to be finalized until after the June 9 primary. The group discussed the proposed budget, strategic planning and bylaws. They also had a tour of the Scout Motors facility in Blythewood. The facility plans to hire 4000 employees with an anticipated start date in 2028. The next meeting will be held on September 22 jointly with technical college presidents and the state board.

NEXT MEETING

Due to the Independence Day holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Approved:

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman

Elissa Swicord, Recorder