

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AREA COMMISSION
August 3, 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.

Staff:

Elissa Swicord, Executive Assistant

Administration

Present:

Dr. Patty Lee
Dr. Darrin Campen
Missy Coker
Dr. Alexis Dubose
Tyrone Thomas
Edgar Staggers
Martha Burrows
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 Mrs. Williams and carried unanimously.

2026-2027 BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Coker reported that there is no finalized state budget at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Business Affairs: Ms. Coker reported that the majority of 2025-2026 student financial aid has been dispersed – 2.3 million dollars in federal funds and 1.4 million dollars in state funds. Pell funds can be drawn until September 30. Corrections to FAFSA in order to request Pell funds must be made by September 15. The state budget is still not finalized but we are assuming that the proposed two percent increase for state employees will be implemented. The college budget will be adjusted as needed. Ms. Coker also stated that she had not received the county budget. Several commissioners expressed concern because they read in the Kingstree News that the college's millage allocation has been cut for the upcoming year. Dr. Lee stated that a 2010 court order set the college's allocation at 12 mills. She and Mr. Gardner agreed to look into this matter. Ms. Coker ended her report by saying she hopes to have a finance meeting to set the budget before the September Area Commission meeting.

Mr. Thomas told the group that water leaks are prevalent throughout the buildings after the weekend rain storms. The facilities crew is working to fix these issues.

Academic Affairs: Dr. Campen reported that a new mechatronics instructor, William Dyson, has been hired. Mr. Dyson previously worked at F.E. Dubose Career Center in Manning. The Department of Education has given financial aid approval for our partnership with FCI-Williamsburg to provide associate degree classes at the prison. Prison official will meet at the college on Thursday to discuss plans.

Student Affairs: Dr. Dubose shared that the final enrollment count for summer was 390 – a few shy of last year's total. Fall enrollment looks promising. Several orientations have taken place with over 200 new students on campus to tour, meet with advisers, and begin the registration process. Fall classes begin on August 24. Ms. Green inquired about an FCI graduation. Dr. Dubose said that the next cohort will finish at the end of the fall semester.

Workforce Development: Mr. Staggers reported that the new EMT class has been delayed due to funding issues. He is hopeful it will begin in two to three weeks. The first Advanced EMT Paramedic class is scheduled to begin on August 17. He is hopeful that Apprenticeship Carolina funding can be utilized. The first FCI-Williamsburg CDL cohort is slated to begin soon with four students. Two students have completed the necessary paperwork and permits and two students are in the process of completion. He shared last year's CDL statistics. For the first three quarters, the program had 44 enrolled, 43 completers, and a 100% licensure rate for the 41 students who tested (two students pending). The college is waiting to see if our CDL pad project has been approved by the state legislature. This \$350,000 project will allow construction of a new pad on campus and repair the damage done to the existing parking lot. Once completed, students will be able to test on campus and third-party sites can pay to test here as well.

President's Report:

Legislative Report: Dr. Lee shared that she has been following the budget process closely but there has been no resolution and little transparency.

Expansion Report: Original preliminary plans for the expansion project called for an auditorium at the new site. However, it may be more feasible and cost-effective to transform the current building into an auditorium and conference rooms. Senator Sabb allocated one million dollars in the current state budget but it may get cut. Mr. Poston inquired about Representative Clyburn's previous promise of support. Dr. Lee shared that the college has not heard anything from Clyburn's office since the original pledge of three million dollars several years ago. Mrs. Williams asked if the USDA might have available funds. The group discussed potential help with interior and/or wiring costs. Mrs. Williams will contact the USDA Area One Director Nickie Toomes to see what they can offer. Architects and engineering bids are due tomorrow. There has been a lot of local interest from firms in Summerville, Florence, and Sumter.

The commission will hold officer elections next month. Dr. Lee asked the commissioners to complete a self-evaluation survey as a SACSCOC requirement.

Upcoming Activities

August 7	Last Day of Summer Classes
August 18	Late Registration – Fall
August 19	Nursing Pinning
August 24	Fall Classes Begin
September 7	Labor Day (college closed)
October 22	Taste of Williamsburg

SCATCC Report: Ms. Green reported that the next SCATCC meeting will be held on September 22 and will be a joint meeting with the college presidents.

NEXT MEETING

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Approved:

Johnny M. Gardner, Chairman

Elissa Swicord, Recorder