

**FLORENCE-DARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
November 19, 2024  
4:30 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ershela Sims  
Leroy Robinson  
Hood Temple  
Meredith Taylor  
Missy Jay  
Clint Moore  
Paul Seward

**ABSENT:**

Kevin Etheridge

**OTHERS ATTENDING:**

Jermaine Ford  
Travis Gleaton  
Debbie Cheek  
Luegina Mounfield  
Rhonda Johns  
Tyron Jones  
Karen Lee  
Andrew Golden  
Kim Lutz  
Sheryl Love  
Dwayne Brockington, Chr. FDTC  
Educational Foundation  
Minta Ferguson & Brad Smith,  
McMillan, Pazden, Smith Architects,  
Via WebEx

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Florence-Darlington County Commission for Technical Education was called to order at 4:30 p.m., by Dr. Ershela Sims, Chairwoman, who stated the media had been notified.

**II. INVOCATION**

Mr. Tyron Jones delivered the Invocation.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Dr. Taylor that the minutes of the September 24, 2024, be approved. The motion carried.

#### **IV. BUILDING AND LOING-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Mr. Chris Taylor, Director of Facilities and Special Projects for a project update. Mr. Taylor gave a Power Point presentation reviewing FDTC's projects beginning with the central energy plant cooling tower upgrades. He stated that the Health Science roof replacement and façade restoration has been completed and restoration work has begun to the façade around the building windows and should be complete by February. The city in conjunction with Duke Energy, is also converting the electrical lines above the street to below the street for their street scaping projects. Mr. Taylor noted that the 400 Building demolition had been completed. Some landscaping and the addition of sidewalks have been added. The 200 Building Project is underway with the replacement of the Dust Collection System and removal of the booths. The project has also included painting and new lighting for the area. He also noted that the SiMT Conference Center's Operable Partition Project is underway and should be completed on time (March 20<sup>th</sup>) and under budget.

Other projects in progress: Life Safety and Security Improvements, HSC Elevator Modernization; Exterior Signage and Wayfinding, SiMT Fountain Rehabilitation; SiMT RTU-26 Replacement, 7000 Building 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor AHUs and VAV, Cosmetology – 4 HVAC Units, HSC 4 HVAC Rooftop Units, and Standardization of Materials and Colors.

#### **V. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Dr. Robinson**

##### **1. Financial Report as of May 31, 2024**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Debbie Cheek, Vice President of Finance and Administration Chair of the Finance Committee for the Finance Committee Report. Dr. Cheek referred the Commissioners to the financial statement. Dr. Cheek noted that this statement was through November 12<sup>th</sup> this time instead of the normal October 31<sup>st</sup> due to the timing of the differential billing implemented for Spring. This timeframe did not allow for the revenues to reflect in the current statement. Dr. Cheek stated that the revenue was comparable to the same time last year. Also, Dr. Cheek noted that FDTC will be receiving \$2.4 M from the State. Dr. Cheek stated that cash on hand: cash from the operating account is \$14,007,820 M, the investment account is \$19,155,604, cash – restricted debt service is \$12,326,958, and the bond payoff amount is \$7,747,804. This allows 8 months of cash reserve.

Dr. Cheek stated FDTC had a recent bond review. S&P Global raised our rating from "BBB" to "A" and a state outlook. This upgrade is due to the college's demonstrated management discipline that has restored fiscal balance leading to an improvement in cash along with a reduction in debt.

## **VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – Dr. Taylor**

### **A. Action**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Meredith Taylor, Chair, Academic Affairs/Student Services Committee, who stated that the Academic Affairs Committee met prior to this meeting, to review FDTC policies.

#### **1. Approval of Policies**

Dr. Taylor stated that the following policies were reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee. In past years, the Florence Darlington Technical College Area Commission approved each of the policies included in the packet for today's meeting. For FDTC to comply with SACSCOC guidelines for policies and procedures, the College must review all policies and procedures regularly and continuously. Because the FDTC Area Commission approves FDTC Policies, the process we need to use to bring us into compliance is to request that the FDTC Area Commission review the FDTC policies and note the date of review and/or revision. The policies presented today represent policies that only need review. At future meetings, there may be policies that need revisions, including changes in red and a final draft, or new policies for your consideration for approval, disapproval, or further work by the staff. The outcome of the review of policies by the Academic Affairs Committee of the FDTC Area Commission will be presented to the full FDTC Area Commission by the Committee Chair or designee as a consent agenda item at the next meeting of the FDTC Area Commission.

Dr. Taylor stated that the Academic Affairs Committee approved the following policies and recommended that they be submitted to the entire Commission at today's meeting for approval. A motion from the Academic Affairs Committee was made, seconded by Ms. Jay, that the listing of Policies 50-04 through 70-50 be approved as submitted. (Full policy listing attached.) Upon no discussion, the motion carried.

Dr. Taylor stated that the Academic Affairs Committee approved the following listing of Policies 40-27 through 70-42 and recommended that they be submitted to the entire Commission. Chairwoman Sims asked for a second motion and if any discussion. Commissioner Temple had some concerns with Policy 30-27 Affirmative Action Policy Statement wording as written. After discussion, Policy 30-27 will be updated and will be brought back for review at the March 25, 2025 Area Commission meeting. A motion was made by the Academic Affairs Committee and seconded by Mr. Seward, with the exception of Policy 30-27, to approve the listing of Policies 40-27 through 70-42 as submitted. The motion carried.

## **2. Information**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Luegina Mounfield for review of the Paralegal Program. Dr. Mounfield stated that the Paralegal Program will be merged into the Criminal Justice Program and a teach out of the program. Due to not meeting some of the state's standards, we will be transforming that program and it will become a pathway in the Criminal Justice Program. Dr. Mounfield stated that she will be bringing more information in the future. Dr. Mounfield stated that the student will receive an Associate Degree with an emphasis in Paralegal.

## **VII. EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Ms. Sheryl Love, Executive Director, FDTC Educational Foundation. Ms. Love stated that Educational Foundation has crossed the \$3 M mark. Ms. Love stated that the Educational Foundation's Legacy Ball will be Thursday night, November 21<sup>st</sup> and hopes to see you there. At this time the current revenue is \$130,000 and tickets are still available. The Educational Foundation have plans underway to launch an \$100 M Campaign over the next 5 years.

## **VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **3. Action**

1. None

### **4. Information**

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Ford, President, for his update.

Dr. Ford distributed the College's 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Commission for review.

Dr. Ford distributed the Legislative Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Dr. Ford stated that these are priorities for funding that we are going to request this year; one of the larger requests is for growing of our healthcare to meet the needs of the growing need for healthcare workers.

Dr. Ford also distributed to the Commissioners updated pocket fact reference card for the current enrollment information.

Dr. Ford stated that recently we held our Principals & Counselors Breakfast on October 17, 2014 and Senator Reichenbach was a speaker.

Dr. Ford recently completed the Aspen Institute and the areas that were focused on were strategic enrollment, centralized advising, and effective teaching and learning.

Dr. Ford stated that CODA Accreditation Visit for Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant Programs was held recently and we are awaiting their report.

Dr. Ford participated in the South Carolina Hospital Meeting. The meeting was held to address the needs of the state.

Dr. Ford stated that in partnership with PDRTA, our marketing department did a promotional video and that will be out soon. Also, you will see the advertisement on some of the PDRTA buses.

Dr. Ford recognized our Marketing Department for winning several NCMPR Awards. They received bronze for category notes/cards/invitations, bronze in television/video paid ad category, silver in academic catalog/class schedule category, and gold in the website category. This is a national organization.

Dr. Ford reviewed the agencies, chambers and boards that he participates in:  
1) SC Works Pee Dee Board, 2) McLeod Healthcare Board, 3) Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce Board, 4) Florence County Economic Development Partnership Board, 5) Darlington County Economic Development Partnership Board, 6) 2025 Rotary Club of Florence.

Dr. Ford stated that on November 1, 2024, the Florence Chamber of Commerce held its Fall Community Breakfast Education and Workforce Update. Dr. Ford was Invited to be a keynote speaker along with Dr. Fred Carter, Francis Marion University. Dr. Ford stated that he was excited to share the good things that FDTC was doing within the community.

Dr. Ford noted that the Cheney Brothers were expanding in Florence and they were holding an event on December 4, 2024. Also, please note on your calendar that the FDTC Christmas Celebration will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at Osbornes.

## **IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **A. Action**

1. None

### **B. Information**

#### **1. Update**

Dr. Sims requested that the Commissioners please go ahead and complete the Agency Head Evaluation Survey in order to complete President Ford's evaluation.

Dr. Sims stated that she and Karen Lee, board secretary, attended the ACCT Leadership Conference in Seattle on October 22-26, 2024, with President Ford. Dr. Sims stated that she had the opportunity to attend the pre-conference workshop on Effective Board Governance and several other relevant meetings interacting with trustees from across the United States with discussions on best practices.

## **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Sims requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters regarding the potential campus expansion in Hartsville. No final decisions will be made in Executive Session. Dr. Sims asked that Dr. Cheek, Mr. Taylor, and Ms. Love remain for Executive Session. Also, joining in Executive Session Ms. Minta Ferguson and Mr. Brad Smith with McMillan, Pazdan, and Smith.

A motion was made by Ms. Jay and seconded by Dr. Robinson to go into Executive Session. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Temple, seconded by Dr. Robinson to return to regular session. The motion carried.

Upon return, Chair Sims stated that the meeting was now reconvened in open session. Following the discussions held in the Executive Session, the Commission will proceed with a vote on actions related to the campus expansion in Hartsville.

Dr. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Temple, that the Area Commission authorize President Ford and the FDTC leadership team to initiate fundraising efforts to support the planned expansion of the Hartsville campus. The motion carried.

Dr. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Temple, that the Area Commission grants an exploratory review of potential land options for the Hartsville campus expansion in partnership with a qualified land realtor. The findings and any proposed sites will be presented to the Area Commission for review and consideration before final decisions are made regarding the location of the new Hartsville campus or any final offers. The motion carried.

There being no further business, Dr. Sims requested a motion for adjournment.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Seward, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary, Dr. Meredith Taylor

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Date Approved