Central Carolina Technical College
Area Commission Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2026
5:30 p.m.
President's Conference Room
Main Campus

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Paul Napper, Chairman
Christopher Lee, Vice Chairman
Bobby Anderson, Secretary
Robert Kolb
Abram Ludd
Tracy Powell
Robbie Powers *(virtual)*
Ray Reich
Thoyd Warren

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Meagan Kuhlman
André McBride
David Sanders

COLLEGE STAFF:
Jennifer Wilbanks, President
Cheryl Allen-Lint, Vice President for Business Affairs
Lisa Bracken, Vice President for Student Affairs
Misty Hatfield, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Trevon McClary, Chief Human Resources Officer
Jason Tisdel, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Diana Reardon, Administrative Coordinator President's Office

The meeting was held in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 4, Title 30, Code of Laws of South Carolina.*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – Paul Napper

Upon the establishment of a quorum, Chairman Paul Napper welcomed everyone and called the May 14, 2026, Central Carolina Technical College (CCTC) Area Commission meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Napper welcomed the new Lee County Area Commissioner Dr. Tracy Powell.

2. INVOCATION

Chairman Napper delivered the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Paul Napper

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the minutes of the March 12, 2026, Area Commission meeting as submitted. A **motion** was made by Mr. Anderson and **seconded** by Mr. Reich. There was no further discussion. The minutes were **unanimously approved**.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Paul Napper

4. A. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to approve, object, or remove for discussion, any of the following items in the Consent Agenda:

4. A. 1. President's Report

4. A. 2. Institutional Advancement Report
a) In the News

4. A. 3. Academic Affairs Report

4. A. 4. Student Affairs Report

4. A. 5. Human Resources Report

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the Consent Agenda as submitted. A **motion** was made by Mr. Lee and **seconded** by Mr. Ludd. There was no further discussion. The consent agenda was **unanimously approved**.

5. APPROVAL OF NEW PROGRAM – Jason Tisdel

Mr. Tisdel proposed a new program addition for Diagnostic Medical Sonography which was provided in the materials booklet.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Associate Degree in Applied Science program will consist of five semesters and 73 credit hours. The program is designed to prepare students to become competent, entry-level sonographers. Through a combination of classroom instruction, laboratory practice, and clinical experiences, the program supports workforce development and helps meet the healthcare needs of the region. Courses will be offered during the day in a face-to-face format and will be housed in the new facility planned for the Kershaw Campus. A needs assessment was conducted in collaboration with the three major hospital systems serving the four-county region, and responses were received from MUSC and Prisma Health. The average annual salary for diagnostic medical sonographers ranges from $67,000 to $85,200, and a recent study identified a total of 120 job postings for diagnostic medical sonographers within the four-county region. The college will also look at potential grant opportunities for equipment needs.

The following proposed motion was requested:

"The Area Commission approves the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree, as shown for implementation at Central Carolina Technical College, effective Fall Semester, 2028."

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to approve the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree. A **motion** was made by Mr. Warren, and **seconded** by Mr. Anderson. The **affirmative vote** was unanimous.

Dr. Wilbanks reminded commission members, on April 13, an email was distributed requesting a vote on a curriculum change involving the Medical Assisting program. The commission approved the request electronically. To formally document the action, commission members were asked to ratify the approval. The curriculum change involved closing the existing Medical Assisting Diploma program and establishing a Medical Assisting Certificate program. The change reflects a reduction in the number of credit hours required; however, the curriculum and content of the program remain similar and adhere to the local workforce needs.

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to ratify the closure of the Medical Assisting Diploma program and the addition of the Medical Assisting Certificate program. A **motion** was made by Mr. Kolb, and **seconded** by Mr. Reich. The **affirmative vote** was unanimous.

6. FINANCE UPDATE – Cheryl Allen-Lint

6. A. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF 4/30/2026

Ms. Allen-Lint referenced the financial statement as of April 30, 2026, included in the materials booklet. She reported that total revenues were $28,157,074, representing a 2% increase over the prior year's total of $27,693,007. The increase was primarily attributed to higher credit tuition revenue resulting from increased tuition rates. County revenue reflected a decrease compared to the same period last year because Sumter County had released approximately $600,000 in previously withheld fiscal year 2022–2024 funding during the prior year. The college remains on track to receive its anticipated county funding from Sumter County this fiscal year. State appropriations increased by approximately $889,000 due to additional funding provided by the state for employee health insurance and cost-of-living adjustments. Auxiliary revenue also increased by approximately 9%, primarily due to increased Slingshot program revenue generated by student enrollment.

Total expenditures were $22,103,027, compared to $21,766,511 for the same period in the prior year. Salary and benefit expenditures increased by approximately $269,998 as the college continued filling vacant positions, with 15 positions remain vacant. It was noted recruitment efforts are ongoing, with some positions proving more difficult to fill than others. Expenditures for supplies decreased by approximately $83,000 compared to the prior year. Remissions and exemptions exceeded the budgeted amount due to changes in the SC Workforce and Industrial Needs (SCWINS) scholarship program, which resulted in the college providing additional dual enrollment tuition waivers for students.

6. B. CASH AND INVESTMENTS AS OF 4/30/2026

Ms. Allen-Lint referenced the cash balances as of 4/30/2026 which was provided in the materials booklet. Cash balances as of April 30, 2026, totaled $16,442,531.07, representing a decrease of approximately $2.2 million (13.4%) from the prior year's balance of $18,645,464.10. The decrease was primarily attributed to the completion of the Academic and Student Services Building project, as the college no longer receives state capital funding associated with that project. It was also reported that the college’s certificate of deposit interest rate with First Community Bank increased to 3.75% for the 3-to-5-month term.

6. C. PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Ms. Allen-Lint reminded the group of the college increased tuition and fees for fall 2025 by 2% and spring 2026 by an additional 1.4%. The two increases were due to the limitation of the first increase from the SC Technical College System (SCTCS) in May 2025, that allowed a maximum of a 2% increase in tuition. Later, the system office approved colleges to increase their tuition to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) rate of 3.4%. For the upcoming academic year, the college recommends a 3.6% tuition increase, consistent with the HEPI percentage approved by the SCTCS State Board. The proposed increase would generate approximately $442,118 in additional tuition revenue and would increase the tuition rates as follows: In-county from $201 to $208; Out-county from $235 to $243; and Out-state from $342 to $354. In addition, the college proposed a new $35 activity fee, which is projected to generate approximately $245,000 annually. The additional revenue would support the expansion of student activities and programming through Student Affairs. Dr. Wilbanks shared, with the proposed tuition increase, the college's tuition rates will remain in the middle range when compared with tuition charged by the other technical colleges.

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the increase in tuition for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 as presented. A **motion** was made by Mr. Lee and **seconded** by Mr. Ludd. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the $35 activity fee for FY 2027 as presented. A **motion** was made by Mr. Reich and **seconded** by Mr. Anderson. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. D. FY 2027 BUDGET

The proposed FY 2027 budget forecast was presented, including actual revenues and expenditures for FY 2025, the FY 2026 budget, actual results as of April 30, 2026, and the proposed FY 2027 budget. The proposed budget includes a 3.6% tuition increase, the newly approved student activities fee, and a $240,000 increase in county appropriations. Ms. Allen-Lint explained while the millage rates in Sumter and Kershaw counties remain unchanged, the college anticipates increased funding due to higher property valuations. The proposed budget also assumes a 2% increase in state appropriations to support anticipated state-funded salary adjustments.

On the expenditure side, the proposed budget includes a 3% salary increase for employees, adjustments to department chair compensation, a $150,000 increase in adjunct faculty compensation, and funding for four new positions. Additional expenditures include increased funding for software-as-a-service implementation costs and an increase in the budget for remissions and exemptions from approximately $569,500 in FY 2026 to $1.5 million in FY 2027 to reflect anticipated program needs. Additional work is being completed to assess funding with the new year.

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the FY 2027 Budget as presented. A **motion** was made by Mr. Lee and **seconded** by Mr. Warren. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

6. E. FY 2027 CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET

Ms. Allen-Lint presented the proposed FY 2027 Capital Projects Budget for approval. The proposed budget includes projected revenues of more than $100 million and projected expenditures of approximately $72 million, representing the estimated costs over the life of the capital projects. Projects include an initial $15 million budget for the Early College project, which has been submitted to the State Capital Budget Office for approval, a $25 million budget for the Kershaw County expansion project, including a $5 million increase from the prior year, and a $5 million budget for the Lee County project, which is also pending State Capital Budget Office approval.

Ms. Allen-Lint also reviewed the proposed capital expenditures, which include funding for the M300 Round renovation project, Clarendon Campus exterior improvements, the M700 parking lot renovation, and the Lee County project. In addition, she noted the budget for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center (AMTTC) expansion project had been consolidated into a single line item totaling approximately $16.39 million.

Chairman Napper entertained a motion to **approve** the FY 2027 Capital Projects Budget as presented. A **motion** was made by Mr. Reich and **seconded** by Dr. Powell. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

7. ENROLLMENT UPDATE – Lisa Bracken

Ms. Bracken reported Spring semester enrollment ended at 2,688, representing a 3% increase in headcount. She also highlighted continued positive trends for fall enrollment, which remains up 22.3% compared to the same point last year, while summer enrollment has declined by 11.4% to 1,340 students. The decrease is attributed primarily to the reinstatement of the Drop for Non-Payment process, which drops students with unpaid balances. It was also noted many students had exhausted their annual SCWINS funding during the fall and spring semesters, leaving gaps in funding for summer courses and contributing to unpaid balances that resulted in some students being dropped from enrollment. Students who failed prerequisites or were placed on academic suspension are also dropped during this time. Ms. Bracken explained the Drop for Non-Payment process allows students time to resolve financial aid or payment issues before classes begin, while also improving class availability and ensuring seats are available for students who are prepared to enroll. Ms. Bracken shared the recent change to the Scholars Program eligibility requirements, removing the requirement students graduate from a high school within the four-county service area, provided they are residents of the district, thereby expanding access for more local students.

Recruitment efforts continue to show positive engagement across the service area. The annual Come See Me Day hosted 256 students from 11 high schools representing all four counties, while the inaugural Skills Exploration Expo (S.E.E.) attracted 189 attendees, including 107 prospective students and several on the spot admissions. An upcoming Adult Education application event will continue efforts to assist prospective students with on-site admissions. Commissioners also discussed the college's student population, noting nontraditional students continue to make up the majority of enrollment while recruitment of recent high school graduates remains steady. The discussion highlighted the ongoing perception among some parents and high school counselors that four-year institutions are the preferred path after graduation, despite growing demand for technical education and workforce credentials. To strengthen partnerships and increase awareness of the college's programs and facilities, Ms. Bracken shared plans to reinstate the annual guidance counselors' breakfast beginning next year.

8. DIRECT REPORT’S UPDATE

Ms. Bracken provided commission members with a handout highlighting the TRIO Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Performance Report for 2024-2025. She noted that after several years of building the program, it successfully met all four of its federal performance objectives for the first time during the current grant cycle. Ms. Bracken shared the program, established in 2022, is the only TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program in South Carolina and remains eligible for grant renewal when the current funding cycle ends in August 2027. There is no update on whether the federal government will announce a renewal process for the TRIO Veteran Upward Bound grant. Ms. Bracken also recognized the college's Testing Center for achieving national certification, making it one of only four nationally certified testing centers in South Carolina and the only one in the Midlands. This designation reflects the center's high standards and is expected to enhance opportunities to attract additional testing vendors, generate revenue, and serve students and professionals from both within and outside the college's service area.

Mr. McClary reported on the employee appreciation event held on April 16, which featured food trucks on campus as a way to recognize and thank employees. Due to the positive response and strong participation, the college plans to make the event an annual tradition. Mr. McClary also recognized the graduation of 11 participants from the college's eight-month Leadership Academy. The program included 16 leadership development sessions featuring guest speakers from higher education, and participants completed team projects that have been approved for implementation at the college. Ms. Hatfield noted the Foundation helps support funding for these events.

Ms. Hatfield reported the college was awarded a $200,000 SC Nexus grant, which will provide scholarships of up to $2,000 for students enrolled in Welding, Line Worker, Cybersecurity, and other programs aligned with the energy and grid resilience workforce. She also shared a 90-second Jobs Explained video, produced in partnership with SCETV, which is designed to make manufacturing careers more relatable and engaging for younger audiences.

Mr. Tisdel highlighted two of our welding students who recently participated in the South Carolina Technical College Welding competition. Chandler Johnson, a first-year student from the Kershaw campus, placed first in the T-Joint for Vertical and Overhead Positions category. Brooke Johnson represented our Advanced Pipe Welding program in the 6G Pipe Welding category. Although she did not place, she represented both the college and program well.

Ms. Allen-Lint provided an update on several capital projects. She reported the state has approved the expansion of the AMTTC, and the next step is to issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) to select an architectural firm. She also shared that the Kershaw project has received a state project number and is scheduled to be presented to the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) at its June meeting. The college is still awaiting a state budget number for the Early College project. Additionally, Ms. Allen-Lint announced that the property adjacent to the AMTTC has been officially deeded back to the college.

9. COLLEGE REPORT – Jennifer Wilbanks

Dr. Wilbanks thanked the members of the commission who attended the graduation and pinning ceremonies. A total of 330 graduates participated in the commencement ceremony. She also thanked Mr. Kolb for attending the all-day New Commissioners Training in April and welcomed Dr. Tracy Powell, our new Area Commissioner from Lee County. In addition, Dr. Wilbanks expressed her appreciation to Ms. Allen-Lint and Emily Broadway for coordinating a successful Active Threat training for college employees in partnership with law enforcement agencies from the City of Sumter and Sumter County.

Dr. Wilbanks reported on the changes to the college's use of SCWINS scholarship funds. She explained, beginning with the summer semester, SCWINS funding has been limited to certain high priority programs, which align with the state's high demand list. It will also include tuition for dual enrollment students. The college had previously expanded the use of SCWINS funding to additional programs, with the exception of arts and sciences, by utilizing remaining COVID-19 relief funds; however, continuing that practice would result in a projected funding shortfall of close to $1 million. Dr. Wilbanks noted scholarship eligibility will continue to be monitored and expanded if funding allows. The college has updated its marketing, website and scholarship information to clearly reflect the revised eligibility requirements for future students.

Dr. Wilbanks provided an update on the college's state funding, reporting the current budget includes $12 million for the Technical High School/Early College project and $1.69 million for renovations to the AMTTC. She noted these allocations remain subject to change but stated that the college is currently well-positioned compared to its peer institutions.

Dr. Wilbanks shared an update on a transportation improvement project in Camden involving Daniel Roberts and the Patel family to install a traffic signal on Highway 521 near the Kershaw Campus. The project is intended to improve safety for students, employees, and the surrounding community, with construction expected to begin this summer and be completed by the end of August.

Dr. Wilbanks reported on recent county budget presentations, noting positive discussions with both Lee and Clarendon counties. She shared Lee County has been supportive and verbally agreed to continue funding the Scholars Program after initially placing the allocation on hold, with official confirmation still pending. She also reported she is working with Walt Ackerman and Clarendon County officials on a long-term strategy to restore county funding following a reduction of approximately $70,000 in the previous fiscal year. Dr. Wilbanks and Mr. Tisdel also presented to McLeod Health leadership on the college's current academic programs and the planned Kershaw expansion. McLeod Health expressed its support for the college's continued growth and future initiatives.

Dr. Wilbanks reported the college hosted a luncheon with local utility and line worker industry partners to support the development of the new Line Worker program at the Clarendon Campus. Following the event, additional discussions with community partners generated offers of support for the program, including the potential donations with utility poles, construction of the training yard, and potential scholarship opportunities for future students.

Dr. Wilbanks shared a team from the college and Liberty STEAM will tour Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Early College and Health Science Simulation Center on May 18. They will also tour Greenville Technical College's campus in early June.

Dr. Wilbanks reported on her and Ms. Allen-Lint's budget presentation to Sumter County Council. The college currently receives funding through a 4.2-mill allocation and has requested an increase to 4.5 mills, which would provide approximately $100,000 in additional annual funding. She noted the county conducts a reassessment every five years, and the college is awaiting the outcome of its funding request. In closing, Dr. Wilbanks shared a video featuring a current Scholars Program student, put together by the marketing division, which was presented to Sumter County Council as part of the college's budget presentation.

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Paul Napper

Chairman Napper welcomed our new Area Commissioner, Dr. Tracy Powell, who represents Lee County. He also shared the presidents at Northeastern Technical College and Florence Darlington Technical College have recently resigned.

Chairman Napper asked Mr. Reich to provide an update from the selection of officers nominating committee. Mr. Reich, who chaired the committee, served alongside Mr. Kolb and Mr. Warren. He reported Mr. Anderson decided to step down as Secretary. The committee recommended the following slate of officers: Chairman – Paul Napper; Vice Chairman – Chris Lee; and Secretary – Meagan Kuhlman. Chairman Napper opened the floor for additional nominations. After hearing no additional recommendations, the proposed slate of officers was **approved** by unanimous vote.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Paul Napper

There was no need for an executive session.

12. OTHER MATTERS – Paul Napper

Mr. Anderson shared he has decided to step down from serving on the Area Commission after approximately 26 years of service. He will continue to serve until his replacement has been appointed by the Legislative Delegation. Chairman Napper and Dr. Wilbanks expressed their appreciation for Mr. Anderson's many years of dedicated service to the commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Paul Napper

There being no further business, Chairman Napper entertained a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Lee to adjourn the Central Carolina Technical College Area Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobby Anderson, Secretary Diana Reardon, Recording Secretary