

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Regular Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee
Dr. William Dávila, Secretary & Trustee (joined at 5:09)
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee (joined at 5:01)
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee (joined at 5:20)
Bill Johnson, Trustee
Anthony Moore '15, Trustee
Norman Roldan, Trustee
Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Unable to Attend: Zoya Plunkett-Brown '25, Student Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President
Dr. Renae Gorman, MCCC/STCC Chapter President
Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Andrea Nathanson, Vice President of Administration and CFO
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Michael Knapik called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Michael Knapik, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Anthony Moore, Trustee Norman Roldan and Trustee Jeff Sattler. Seven Trustees present at the time of roll call constituting a quorum.

Joined after roll call: Trustee Laurie Martin at 5:01, Trustee William Dávila at 5:09 and Trustee Samalid Hogan at 5:20.

II. Welcome Remarks, Trustee Michael Knapik, Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

Board Chair Knapik welcomed Trustees, Cabinet Members and general Public present at today's meeting and promised to offer more information at the Chair's report section.

III. Approval of Minutes

a) Board of Trustee Regular Meeting – Monday, November 25, 2024

Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee Bill Johnson abstained and after no further discussion, approved by nine Trustees.

IV. Committee Reports

a) Committee on Facilities and Capital Improvement meeting, held on January 13, 2025

Committee Chair Jeff Sattler referred to the January 13th Committee on Facilities and Capital Improvements report included in today's meeting packet. Highlights include update of facilities planning, notes on the progress of the School of Health and Patient Simulation (SHPS) relocation project, and an overview of the various funding sources available for investment in facilities and capital improvements. Committee Chair Sattler shared his recommendation for quarterly project tours.

Dr. Cook highlighted the value and importance of this still new committee, that brings a focus to infrastructure, and as a reminder, was created via the most recent Trustee bylaw revision process. Also shared that the School of Health/Scibelli Hall-Building 2 groundbreaking event is tentatively scheduled for October 2025.

Trustee Bill Johnson called for a motion to approve the January 13, 2025 Committee on Facilities and Capital Improvements report; seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, and unanimously approved.

V. Presentation:

Wage Equity: MCCC (Massachusetts Community College Council) STCC Chapter

Dr. Renae Gorman, Professor and Program Coordinator of the Physical Therapist Assistant Department & MCCC/STCC Chapter President (also member of the "Day" Contract bargaining committee).

A presentation shared with the Trustees that centered on wage equity for all MCCC (Massachusetts Community College Council) faculty and professional staff, in an effort to create awareness and to ask for Trustees' support and advocacy. The ask is to bring full time faculty salaries in line with faculty salaries from the state of CA (+70%), and other state examples including New York where described, stating that the cost of living in MA has reached California's.

Data presented offered that across Massachusetts, current full time salary is \$68,324, compared to other states that average a full time salary of \$89,170 (adjustment to match: +30%). Highest comparisons include NY with an average full time salary at \$102,730 (adjustment to match: +50%) and CA with an average full time salary at \$116,689 (adjustment to match: 70%).

Dr. Gorman noted that community colleges in MA serve students with the highest needs and with the increase of enrollment after the launch of free community colleges, CCs are under-resourced and understaffed; with wage equity, MCCC Faculty and Professional Staff can afford to stay in their roles. Dr. Gorman invited Trustees to review the information attached to the links included in the slides shared in the meeting packet.

Not part of the agenda item, Dr. Gorman used the occasion to also offer comments about administration, including the presidential evaluation.

VI. President's Report – Dr. John B. Cook, President

a) Spring Semester Enrollment Outlook

Regarding Spring Semester enrollment, Vice President Kemp presented comparative data from spring semesters 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 based on Registration Day 66. As noted, enrollment increases have grown of late due to free community college, highlighting a positive 24.3% year-over-year percentage change for continuing students. Attributed in part to the improved enrollment process, which includes auto-packaging of financial aid (previously a manual process), and augmented individualized student services. As of Day 66: 5,031/Headcount and 46,155/Registered Credits (compared to SP24: 4,194/HC, 39,085/RC) – noting that the numbers are not final, the last day of add/drop is today (1/27/2025), and we still have Spring II/Flex Term that starts in March.

VP Thuot shared program enrollment by School, including a comparison between SP2024 and SP2025 headcounts for a selected group of programs:

School of LAPS: Business Administration +30%, General Studies -19%, Human Services/Social Work +36%, and Teacher Education +17%. Highlighting that the decrease in General Studies, a good thing, is attributed to students having the option of selecting a more focused pathway such as Health Sciences.

School of SHPS: Health Information Technology with an increase of +21%; Health Sciences +38%, and Surgical Technology +40%. Also included in this group is the new program Foundations of Nursing with a SP2025 headcount of 200 – although there is no comparison data as of yet, but included to highlight the significant enrollment number and with potential for growth.

School of STEM: are Cybersecurity trending +24%, Energy Systems Technology +36%, Engineering and Computer Science Transfer +6%, and Optics and Photonics +64%. Based on significant growth in programs, VP Thuot shared the hiring of new faculty in STEM and in SHPS.

Moving to the topic of course modality, VP Thuot shared numbers/percentages of fully online vs face-to-face course sections per School, noting that face-to-face component sections includes Hybrid. Data shows that face-to-face component sections have increased in LAPS and STEM, yet in SHPS there is no change in ratio of face-to-face sections. Overall across Schools, out of 1,154 course sections, 469 (41%) are fully online, and 685 (59%) are Face-to-

Face component, +154 sections compared to SP2024.

To conclude VP Thuot presented comparative data for evening classes. Noting that all Schools have increased their offering of evening sections. Highlighting as an example for the School of LAPS the number of students enrolled in evening classes (as of Day 66 of enrollment) increased +42% (248 SP24 compared to 351 SP25).

b) FY 2026 Budget Development & Timetable

Vice President Nathanson presented an overview of the FY26 budget planning and timeline. Included in the timeline are the topics of discussion at upcoming Committee on Ways and Means meetings, ending with anticipated approval of a balanced budget at the May 19, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

As a recap of the process used for a number of years, VP Nathanson discussed the major elements from the FY25 budget. The major revenue budget elements: State appropriation (56%), Student revenue (39%), Other Trust Fund revenue (2.5%), and Reserves (2.5%) (not expecting to need/request reserves in FY26). Considerations also discussed were the major expense categories: Full time faculty and staff salaries (49%), part time salaries (15%), operational and utilities (20%), other expenses (8%), and STCC/Facilities and IT (8%). Also included in the meeting packet as an example is a much more detailed budget from last year.

In line with budget planning, Dr. Cook pointed out to the article included in the packet titled Gov. Healy pitches \$2.5B higher ed infrastructure plan, announcing the largest proposed infrastructure investment towards capital improvements of public universities and community colleges.

c) Outlook (TBD): Federal/US Department of Education consideration

Will keep the Board informed of any changes.

d) Accreditation/NECHE: establishment of “5th Year Report” Working Group

Included in the meeting packet, a copy of the memo from Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs, to Shared Governance Council members regarding the NECHE “5th Year” Report and Steering Committee. STCC is submitting its 5th year report in Fall 2026. The memo contains a time line and next steps of the process.

e) Shared Governance Actions

Dr. Cook shared with the Board, approval of two operational recommendations reviewed and moved forward with consensus by the Shared Governance Council:

- Approval – Policy on Credit for Prior Learning (Operational)
- Approval – Student Commencement Regalia Policy (Operational)

VII. New Business/Old Business

a) Trustee comments: Participation / December ACCT Governance Leadership Institute (at Holy Cross).

Trustees William Dávila, Anthony Moore, and Tonia Butler Pérez attended the ACCT/GLI. Trustee Moore shared the value of meeting Trustees from other institutions and of learning about the role and responsibilities of Trustees. Trustee Dávila shared about the strong advocacy organization. Trustee Butler Pérez realized that all institutions are going through same issues, and noted that it helps to talk things out with others. Concluding that she is proud to be a member of the STCC Board.

b) Trustee feedback/suggestions to Chair: Presidential evaluation process to be used for 2025

Trustee Butler Perez: asked that prior to final evaluation, the full Board discuss the presidential evaluation, and noted “John is doing a good job.” No other Trustee feedback; Chair Knapik will have the Presidential Evaluation from last year (final, including tools used, and self-assessment) sent to each Trustee.

c) Preparation/Logistics for February ACCT Legislative Summit/ Washington DC

VIII. Chair’s Report – Chair Knapik

Thank you to tonight’s presenters.

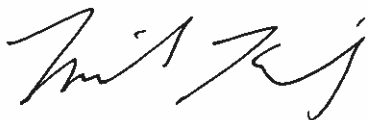
IX. Campus/Program Tour

Reminder as noted on the agenda, upon conclusion of the meeting, Trustees are invited to an informal tour of the Library (quorum likely remains and tour is open to the public); the Board will not reconvene to otherwise adjourn.

X. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025

XI. Roll Call & Adjournment

At 6:21 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Norman Roldan moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler-Pérez, and unanimously approved.



Michael R. Knapik
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees