

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board of Trustee Regular Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee
Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Student Trustee
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee
Bill Johnson, Trustee
Anthony Moore, Trustee
Norman Roldan, Trustee

Unable to Attend: Dr. William Dávila, Secretary & Trustee
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee
Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President
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 5:03 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Michael Knapik, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Student Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Trustee Laurie Martin, Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee Bill Johnson, Trustee Anthony Moore, and Trustee Norman Roldan. Eight Trustees present constitutes a quorum.

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

Board Chair Knapik welcomed Trustees, Cabinet Members and those from the public present.

III. Approval of Minutes

a) Board of Trustee Regular Meeting – Monday, January 27, 2025

Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Laurie Martin, and after no further discussion, unanimously approved.

IV. Committee Reports

a) Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting, held on February 3, 2025

In the absence of Committee Chair William Dávila, President Cook referred to the February 3rd Committee on Internal and External Relations report. A grants outlook discussed and in particular federal grant funding; also an overview of Early College Partnerships described. Lastly, context for three motions moved by the Committee on Internal and External Relations (including appointments to the STCC Assistance Corporation); requesting approval of the Full Board.

Trustee Bill Johnson called for a motion to approve the February 3, 2025 Committee on Internal and External Relations report, seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan, and unanimously approved.

The Board moved on to approve the following motions:

[Motion 2025-02] Sabbatical Recommendation – Professor Brian Candido
Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the sabbatical leave request from Brian Candido, Professor and Chair of Computer Technologies Department as described on the motion and supporting documents. Approval seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, and unanimously approved.

[Motion 2025-03] STCC Assistance Corporation Re-Appointment – Kelly Fellner
[Motion 2025-04] STCC Assistance Corporation Re-Appointment – Timothy Sneed
Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve both Motions 2025-03, and 2025-04, seconded by Trustee Norman Roldan, and unanimously approved.

b) Audit Committee & Committee on Ways and Means, held on February 20, 2025

As noted on the agenda, the reports for the February 20th Audit and Committee on Ways and Means will be presented at the March 24th Board of Trustees meeting. However, Committee Chair Laurie Martin offered preliminary thoughts regarding the excellent report presented by the Auditor and commended the great job done by the Finance Department.

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

a) Spring Semester Enrollment

Included a snapshot of registration day #99 comparing head count and registered credits from the 2025 Spring semester with 2024 Spring Semester at the same point in time.

Large, double-digit increases of continuing students is a strong indicator free community college impact. Discussed the difference between registered/confirmed credits; the total year over year percentage shows an increase of 20.4%. When comparing registered credits between Day and DCE, registered credits for day sessions declined -7.2% versus an increase of 46.1% of registered credits for (adjunct) sections.

b) Quantum Outlook

Dr. Cook provided an update on all-things quantum, including a recent Boston Business Journal article about the company QuEra and its “unicorn status” given \$200 million in recent venture capital obtained. Also reviewed was a slide deck developed by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, which provided detail about a Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator to be located in the Tech Park (STCC Assistance Corp). Also included was an initial preview of equipment/technology as well as layout for a 20,000 sq. ft facility.

Chair Knapik expressed appreciation, including the compliment of this work with the new Cyber Center of Excellence at Union Station; this is the STCC legacy, and good to be in the spotlight for Western Mass.

c) Federal Grant Funding

Presenting a key item from the Internal/External Committee; media inquiries on what or if any federal grants have been frozen. At this time, no federal grant funds impacted by executive orders or actions. Reviewed was outstanding grant funds, as well as number of employees supported. With the current level of uncertainty, noted that TRIO grant is pending renewal.

d) FY 2026 Budget Development/Planning

Brought forward for the full Board, a briefing of the FY26 Budget Process & Perspective as presented to the Committee on Ways and Means at their February meeting. Dr. Cook walked through the timeline, multi-year scenarios and impact of enrollment scenarios. In addition, spoke of the assumptions not yet considered in the multi-year scenario, such as state appropriation, tuition and fees currently capped per legislation, and the fluctuation of full and part-time salaries based on enrollment. Many internal conversations; administration continues to be vigilant with fiscal management.

e) Campus Communication & Legislative Delegation Engagement

The approach to legislative engagement this cycle will be individual; President Cook meeting one-on-one with area state representatives and senators to discuss priorities (copy included in the meeting packet).

Regarding communications, Dr. Cook discussed upcoming “Pizza with the President,” where each semester students are invited to an open forum. Also: March will include an All-College Town Hall, and there was a recent public television interview that included the HCC president.

VI. New Business/Old Business

February 21, 50th Anniversary Celebration/STCC TRIO Program

Referencing 1960s: Dr. Cook referenced his remarks including this era of durable policy including the first Higher Education Act which provided access to federal financial aid

February 28, UMass Leadership & Community College Leadership meeting

Continuing conversations about Bachelors pathways.

VII. Chair's Report – Chair Knapik

Chair Knapik thanked Trustees for their comments; we continue to do the work with support from Springfield Legislators, and Congressman Neal. Good to hear about the important things STCC is doing.

VIII. Campus/Program Tour

Campus tours will resume at the March 24 meeting.

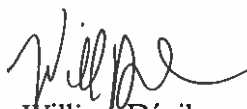
IX. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, March 24, 2025

X. Roll Call & Adjournment

At 6:06 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Norman Roldan moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Laurie Martin, and unanimously approved.



Michael R. Knapik
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees