

STCC Board of Trustees
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
B19/Forum

Present: Committee Chair Dr. Trustee William Dávila, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez (via zoom), Trustee Anthony Moore, and Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown

Also attending: Dr. John B. Cook, President; Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs

- I. **Call to Order:** At 5:02 p.m., Committee Chair William Dávila called the meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Trustee Anthony Moore and Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown. Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez joined at 5:04 via zoom.
- III. **Operations & Programmatic**

Grants – Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs

An overview of all grants, including the number of grants awarded annually since 2020, was shared with the committee. This included detail on the number of Full-Time and Part-Time grant-funded employees (18 Full-Time and 48 Part-Time positions). Specific to Federal grants, and with uncertainty regarding a freeze, VP Thuot shared that FY25 total amounts to \$6,018,884, with the amount of \$3,458,215 still to be dispersed. Trustee question: how many of the positions are student facing? Response: most, including TRIO Student Support Services, HSI STEM positions including advisors, as well as via a federal Title V award that is focused on student supports. Also, the Cyber Center of Excellence, with two Full-Time staff, has \$3 million in total federal funds that support operations.

Also highlighted: how “Supplemental Instruction (SI)” is funded by way of the HSI STEM grant. A video, that included faculty and students, describes the value and impact of this support which is similar to an embedded teaching assistant.

Early College – Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Aligned with STCC’s Strategic Goal 1: Lead the Educational Ecosystem, provided a presentation about Early College at STCC. This included a distinction between Dual Enrollment (students can earn 12 free college credits), and Early College, which offers significantly more credit accumulation, and brings a pathway focus to the planning. Headcount/Credits data provided for Early College school partners: Veritas Prep Charter High School, and Springfield Empowerment Zone (High School of Commerce and affiliates).

IV. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook

a) Personnel Report

Briefly noted, including detail provided to committee specific to hiring, separations and retirement. Note from president was that most comings and goings are part-time employees. Going forward for the interim, Advancement will be oversee by Vice President of Administration and Sustainability.

b) Federal Funding Considerations

With the uncertainty of the changes from the new Administration, Dr. Cook referred to emails/communications included in the meeting packet, that capture campus and student communication, and that approach will continue as information is available. The potential loss of Pell Grants was a large concern, and there are many conversation taking place in Massachusetts, including with legal counsel; good to confirm that Pell Grants remain in place. student having an Advisor; in addition, here in MA DEI is embedded in everything that we do. Noted that an all-College Town Hall is scheduled in March 26.

c) Quantum Innovation Hub/ Supply Chain Accelerator

Also shared was presentation generated by The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) about the Pioneer Valley Quantum Innovation Hub (PVQIH)/ Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator (QSCA). As highlighted: "the QSCA will be located in the Springfield Technology Park, housing cutting-edge equipment essential for crating and commercializing quantum components." Dr. Cook described how big a deal quantum has the potential to be, and the role STCC has been playing in the development and investment in this sector, including workforce pathways. In addition, Dr. Cook highlighted the different technologies noted in Slide #5, a visual map in Slide #7, and an early feasibility in a 20,000 sq. ft. facility layout. For clarity, Dr. Cook noted that the approach would be for the college, like the Cyber Center project, to be the "fiscal" on helping stand-up the accelerator in partnership with the Assistance Corporation, but would not be the entity to run the business unit.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

[MOTION 2025-02] Sabbatical Leave – Professor Brian Candido

Included in the packet are copies of supporting documents for a Sabbatical Leave request from Professor Brian Candido.

After discussing details of the request, Trustee Anthony Moore moved to recommend the full Board approval of Motion 2025-02, seconded by Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, and unanimously approved via roll call.

[MOTION 2025-03] STCCAC Re-Appointment – Kelly Fellner
[MOTION 2025-04] STCCAC Re-Appointment – Timothy Sneed

As a recap and in benefit of new Trustees, Dr. Cook provided information about the process of naming and re-appointing Members of the STCCAC Board. Included in the packet is a copy of the ACTS of 1994 and of the STCCAC Bylaws containing detailed information regarding Community entities responsible for voting on naming/re-appointment of Board Members.

After discussing details of re-appointments, Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown moved to recommend the STCC Board of Trustees approval of Motion 2025-03 requesting re-appointment of Kelly Fellner, seconded by Trustee Anthony Moore and unanimously approved via roll call.

Trustee Tonia Butler-Perez moved to recommend the STCC Board of Trustees approval of Motion 2025-04 requesting re-appointment of Timothy Sneed seconded by Trustee Anthony Moore, and unanimously approved via roll call.

Looking Ahead: Tenure Recommendations at the April Committee Meeting

VII. Next meeting date and time: Monday, April 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment (Roll Call) – Committee Chair Dr. Dávila called to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m., Motion moved by Trustee Anthony Moore, Seconded by Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown and unanimously approved via roll call.

Respectfully submitted by
Nanette Flores