

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustee Annual Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Michael Knapik, Chair & Trustee
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vice Chair & Trustee
Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee
Anthony Moore, '15 Trustee
Norman Roldan, Trustee
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee
Caleb Sierra, Student Trustee (joined at 5:09)

Unable to Attend: Dr. William Dávila, Secretary
Laurie Martin '90, Alumni Trustee
Bill Johnson, 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 5:02 p.m.

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Michael Knapik, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee Anthony Moore, Trustee Norman Roldan and Trustee Jeff Sattler. Seven Trustees present at roll call constituting a quorum. Trustee Caleb Sierra joined the meeting at 5:09, after roll call.

II. Welcome Remarks – Trustee & Chair, Michael Knapik

Board Chair Michael Knapik welcomed Board Members, Administrators and General Public.

III. Approval of Minutes

o **Board of Trustee Meeting– Monday, June 23, 2025**

Chair Knapik called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23rd Board of Trustees. Before final approval, Trustee Butler Pérez referred to the Presidential Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee Report indicating that she did not use the term “disapproval” of the process [Presidential Evaluation]. She instead recalled saying that she is “confused with the process, and that the process is not clear and lacks transparency”. Moving forward, Trustee Butler Pérez also suggested having Trustee Dávila in his role of Board Secretary, review and edit the minutes.

Suggesting also that future meetings should be recorded to avoid "missing pertinent and important points and because I [Trustee Butler-Pérez] have had to correct the minutes on three (3) different occasions". Trustee Butler Pérez was reminded by Trustee Sattler and Chair Knapik that minutes are distributed in advance, for an opportunity to submit edits before the meeting.

Board Chair Knapik noted that minutes reflect Board actions, motions and are not meant to be a transcript. Trustee Butler Pérez reiterated wanting more detail included.

Trustee Tonia Butler called for a motion to table the minutes, seconded by Trustee Samalid Hogan, and approved with three "No", and five "Yes"

IV. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports

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

Dr. Cook welcomed the new Dean of STEM, Dr. Miah Dreger, and the new Dean of the School of LAPS, Dr. Mary Lou Vredenburg. Also welcomed leadership team members and representatives of Shared Governance who joined Trustees and Cabinet Members for a pre-meeting gathering.

o Fall Semester & Institutional Outlook/Updates (presentation)

With an excerpt from the STCC Strategic Plan referring to sustainability, Dr. Cook brought up six focus key points framing this new academic year, demonstrating "Where We Are; Where We Are Going". Shared also is a recap on Quantum computing initiatives pointing out the three pillars of the Pioneer Valley Quantum Innovation Hub. Starting with the Quantum Computing Complex housed in Holyoke. Followed by the Quantum workforce pathways, highlighting the Quantum Training Academy supported by STCC/QuEra/and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Concluding with the Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator, a physical facility to be located at the Tech Park, with \$40M earmarked in Mass Leads Act.

On Federal grants, Dr. Cook shared as a follow-up to campus emails, that the TRIO grant was renewed, however, the fifth year of Title V and HSI grants were discontinued. Also, "Workforce Pell," federal financial aid for short-timer training was included in the federal budget/bill that was passed. Dr. Cook offered examples of "Workforce Pell" already at STCC - credentials already embedded in the Health Science degree (EMT, CNA, etc.) will likely now be able to stand-alone as credentials eligible for a Pell grant. The criteria for Workforce Pell eligibility as noted in the presentation are: "programs between 150 and 600 clock hours (8 to 15 weeks of instruction); industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations; with 70% completion rate". Another example, with possibilities in the STEM area, includes STCC currently offering non-credit Basic & Advanced Drinking Water Treatment (77 hours) and Drinking Water Distribution (37 hours) – although combined, those trainings are below the 150 hour threshold. Getting these to meet the criteria of at least 150 hours will take a bit of work. Chair Knapik asked about, how much would it cost to develop these programs. Dr. Cook referred to the article included in the packet regarding Workforce Pell indicating that although the bill passed, implementation will come with

guidelines not yet issued.

Dr. Cook also shared with Trustees a 10-Year Comparison. Comparing data from Fall of 2016 with Fall 1 2025 (TBD Fall 2 counts); showing current higher numbers for both headcount and credit, considering that Fall 2 (flex term most recently added) has not yet been calculated; the substantial increase of online sections from 8% to 40%; this due to the reimagination of online sections during COVID, with the incredibly helpful assets of the Instructional Designers team from the Center of Online and Digital Learning (CODL), now known as the Center for Innovation in Teaching & learning (CITL). Also mentioned two major capital construction within the decade, Building 19 (\$50M), and currently Building 2 (\$50M+)

Also discussed preparation for the NECHE 5th year progress report. In Standard Four: Educational effectiveness and the Success of All Students, under 4.3: *The institution regularly and systematically collects and analyzes its mission-appropriate data and uses this data to identify areas for improvement and develop realistic plans to address those areas.* To illustrate how we use data, Dr. Cook shared a slide on Fall 2024 Retention: comparing MassReconnect vs. Matriculated Students. Data shows a 20 percentage points increase of retention for both part-time and full-time students since MassReconnect (25yrs and older). Also shown data for On-Time Credit Accumulation showing that in 2024 STCC went above average with 42% (with an average of 34%).

- o Advancement: Greer Scholarship (New) & W. Fenton '72 Gift (Sustaining)

Included in the meeting packet, a brief write-up of the new Greer Scholarship founded in honor of Douglas Greer with an initial gift of \$5,000. Also mentioned, the W. Fenton '72 Gift, with a sustaining annual gift of \$10,000.

- o Outlook from Divisions:

i. Vice President M. Kaselouskas, Information Technology

VP/CIO Mary Kaselouskas provided updates on completed major IT projects. Including upgrades such as the replaced core switch (illustrated on the slide); the main UPS a brand-new power supply; updated print management solutions; and upgrades to Windows 11.

The next slide speaks to the FY26 outlook covering a list of major initiatives such as the Blackboard Ultra upgrade (a 1.5-year long project) CRM for admissions, and the move of student information ERP system going through cloud readiness, amongst other projects. Other information included in the slide are description of who and what is supported in each area: infrastructure, applications, and user support. Also listed are challenges such as the awareness of constant security challenges. Noting also that we are starting to see the effects of increase in prices due to increasing tariffs.

The final slide outlines the new IT 5-year Capital Plan categorized by each area: Infrastructure, Applications and User Support. Including the budget amounts allocated by Fiscal Years, starting from FY16 through FY30. Noting that depending on timing, we can rollover funds from one FY to the next.

Student Trustee Sierra asked, what does the CRM for Advisors look like? In response, Mary explained that IT builds the infrastructure and securities needed. In regards to categorizing Advisor, this piece is determined by the VP of Academic Affairs.

ii. Vice President D. Kemp, Student Affairs

VP Darcey Kemp highlighted enrollment data for registration day #160, comparing data from the same point in time for the fall of 2024 with this fall's numbers. For total headcount the data is divided by new and continuing students, noting in particular a strong 24% increase of continuing students. Whereas, the numbers for new students in both years are very close, with a slight decrease of -1.2%.

VP Kemp proceeded to provide a deeper dive into the New Students data. Noting a significant increase of applications with a total of 9,003 compared to the 7,333 from the fall of 2024. Further breaking the data in new student types, VP Kemp highlighted that not all new students are FTF (first-time first-year). Out of a total of 2832 new students, 1774 are FTF. Other "New" students' types are Transfer in, readmitted, non-matriculated, and returning grad.

VP Kemp also spoke about the expansion of residential living opportunities, with the addition of an Elms College partnership. We currently have 11 students at AIC and 16 students at Elms, giving students who live on these campuses access to all of their amenities.

iii. Vice President C. Thuot, Academic Affairs

To start, VP Chis Thuot shared a list of Titles and names of Academic Affairs Leadership members. The next slide highlights headcount data for the top five highest enrolled programs, comparing current (Fa25) data with the numbers from last Fa24, including also the percentage change. Health Science, Applied Psychology, and Advanced Manufacturing have all increased by an average of 34%. In reference to the 7% of increase in Nursing, VP Thuot noted that the Nursing program is capped, yet the 7% increase reflects students enrolled in the Accelerated Nursing Program. In regards to the +140% change for EMT, VP Thuot informed that the State is now funding free EMT.

iv. Vice President A. Nathanson, Administration & Sustainability

VP Andrea Nathanson's FY26 financial outlook includes an important update on State Funding. The FY26 State budgeted appropriation was less than the STCC Budget by \$200K. However, as noted in the slide, the State "supplanted" with Fair Share funds (also known as the Millionaires' fund) to cover the difference. When combined, we expect state funding above \$1M from the budgeted amount. The risk moving forward is that the appropriation sets a base. VP Nathanson went over Tuition and fees as budgeted with a conservative assumption for 110,000 credits total in Fa25 & Sp26. With a net income projected at +\$850K. Highlighting also that higher enrollment impacts adjunct salaries amongst other expenses. Highlighted also is the impact of potential risks direct and indirectly tied to federal policies and funding.

To conclude, VP Nathanson spoke about the SHPS relocation, highlighting that the \$50M+ project is on target and on budget. The construction crew is expected to arrive on campus in late fall 2025. The ground-breaking event is tentatively on the Winter of 2026.

VI. Chair's Report – Chair Knapik

Chair Knapik express appreciation to each of the Vice Presidents for their valuable presentations, acknowledging also that none of this work is easy. Great to have the voice and reflection of the Student Trustee and of all Board members. STCC is placed in a strong position in the community with 49% of students residents of Springfield. Ultimately, it is all about students.

VII. New Business / Old Business

- a) MOTION 2026-01 – Transfer Scholarship Funds to Foundation
Trustee Norman Roldan moved:
That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22, Chapter 15A, authorizes the transfer of scholarship fund balances held by the college to the STCC Foundation in the amount of \$174,031.

Seconded by Trustee Samalid Hogan and unanimously approved via roll call.

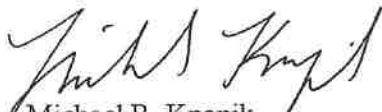
VIII. Campus/Program Tour

Will be continued at the October Meeting

IX. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025

X. Roll Call & Adjournment

At 6:29 p.m., Chair Knapik called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Norman Roldan moved the motion, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak Sposito and unanimously approved via Roll Call.



Michael R. Knapik
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees



Dr. William Dávila
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees

