

STCC Board of Trustees
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
B19/Forum

Present: Committee Chair Dr. William Dávila, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, and Trustee Caleb Sierra

Not able to attend: Trustee Anthony Moore

Also attending: Dr. John B. Cook, President; Board Chair Michael Knapik, Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs

- I. **Call to Order:** At 5:00 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: Committee Chair William Dávila, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, and Trustee Caleb Sierra.
- III. **Division Outlook & Perspectives**

**Academic Affairs: Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs
& Student Affairs: Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs**

VP Darcey presented context and data specific to enrollment (headcount, credits, First Time First Year students by Springfield High Schools). On headcount and registered credits, data was divided by student type: New Students & Continuing Students; with numbers of headcount and registered credits, on day 174 of fall registration, across fall semesters from Fa21 through Fa25. Notable, when compared to the Fa24, HC data for Fa25 is already higher by approximately 14%, and RC is higher by 20%. Noting that the Fa25 data is not yet final, as fall enrollment is ongoing through early November.

On FTF by Springfield High School VP Kemp went over the numbers, with the highest percentage of students (23.8%) coming from: Homeschool, GED/HiSet, or HS unknown (adult). This data helps to inform strategies. Trustee Dávila asked if the data from the group labeled Homeschool, GED/HiSet and Unknown be broken down for future reference. Trustee Butler Pérez was surprised that only 131 students are from Springfield Central HS, was expecting more. Dr. Cook reminded the Committee that only about one-fifth of STCC students are younger than 20 years of age.

VP Thuot focused his presentation on programs and by modality. Compared by Fa24 and Fa25 the following programs indicate increase enrollment: Business Administration from the school of LAPS; and from the school of STEM: Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering Technologies, and Quantum Adjacent Programs. Noting that Quantum adjacent programs includes a set of five programs in STEM which concepts and skill trainings that have various overlap and connection.

On the Fa25 modality focus, the School of LAPS continue to have the highest percentage of online sections with 58%. STEM and SHPS have the lowest percentage of online sections due to the labs and clinic requirements that can only be held in person. Also highlighted the number of evening sections being offered, with STEM having the largest amount of evening sections

(71/99). This was followed by a discussion of success rates by modality in the top-10 enrolled courses, highlighting that success is measured as a grade of C or better. VP Thuot pointed out that for Academic years 2021-2023 success rate for online versus onsite throughout all programs is close to equal with 74% for online, and 73% for onsite. Remarking the quality of STCC's online courses by acknowledging the investment on a great team of Instructional Designers. Trustee Dávila asked if there are more B's and A's in one or the other? VP Thuot will certainly look into this data. The Board Chair asked about the other end, when a student gets a D or below, how do we track this. VP Thuot shared that this is precisely why we focus on gateway courses, and use data to improve. An example of this was the most recent studies on developmental math, leading us to the implementation of Math pathways. Related, Darcey added that satisfactory academic standing is a 2.0 GPA. To assist students below that threshold, support teams from across Student Affairs have a whole series of resources that result in a success plan.

VP Thuot spoke about the discontinued federal grant support for Supplemental Instruction Program for FY26 – the amount \$85,240. If Trustees recall, Professor Brian Candido, Cybersecurity, gave a presentation to Trustees on the topic of Supplemental Instructors (SI) not too long ago. SI are embedded mostly in gateway classes to provide support in-class and outside class. SI will be carried to the end of this semester (Fa25).

To conclude, VP Kemp spoke about a list of behavioral and mental health services, currently operationalized by the college, after losing about \$50,000 in grant funding. The list includes: Uwill which provides students free access to teletherapy with a rating of 9.62/10; Urise and online instructor-led wellness events and programs; Counseling services; Disability Services; also Training and Events such as stress relief week events, etc. Students access these services through an application process.

IV. President's Perspective

a) Federal Outlook

Recently question about whether and if there was an impact to the packaging and awarding of Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Federal Work Study (FWS) Funds – as of the meeting, no change, and STCC has drawn down our allocation. In regards to other grants: Discontinued Title V – we have no option to appeal; HIS-STEM – the request for reconsideration denied.

b) Personnel Report

From the personnel Report, Dr. Cook noted Trustees met the two new School Deans at the September meeting.

c) News

On October 7th, STCC hosts the Massachusetts Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development to announce a set of grant funds, which includes an award to STCC.

A ceremony to celebrate a housing agreement with Elms College is also upcoming.

This year the Allied Health Careers Exploration Night is scheduled on November 13, from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

V. New Business/Old Business

[Motion 2026-02] Recommend to the full Board, appointment of Michael Vedovelli to the STCC Assistance Corporation Board of Directors.

Committee Chair Dr. Dávila, called for a motion to:

MOVE: That the Springfield Technical Community College Committee on Internal and External Relations pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 273, Section 125 Acts of 1994, recommends to the STCC Board of Trustees, to approve the appointment of Michael Vedovelli to the Springfield Technical Community College Assistance Corporation Board of Directors.

The motion was moved by Trustee Sierra, and seconded by Trustee Butler Pérez

VI. Next meeting date and time: November 3, 2025

VII. Adjournment – Committee Chair Dr. Dávila called to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m., moved by Trustee Butler Pérez and seconded by Trustee Sierra.

Respectfully submitted by
Nanette Flores