

STCC Board of Trustees
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, November 3, 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; Gladys Franco, Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development; Traci Wolfe, Interim Assistant Vice President of Advancement; and José Rivera, Chief of Police & Sr. Director of Public Safety.

- 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 (Chair Knapik attending Ex-Officio).
- III. **Division Outlook & Perspectives**

Information Technology: Mary Kaselouskas, Vice President & Chief Information Chief

VP/CIO Kaselouskas shared details specific to existing IT policies, revisions, and the ongoing importance of annual IT policy review to ensure compliance with state law, federal regulations, and PCI DSS requirements. Highlights included detail specific to Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources Policy, Electronic Communications Policy, Password Policy; and Information Security Awareness Training Policy. Noted there is a Software Evaluation Committee members that meets to assess software, including for security concerns and implications (example discussed – Uwill - online mental health services offered to students, and implications for HIPPA safeguards).

Academic Affairs / Recent Grant Awards / Workforce Development Overview: Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Gladys Franco, Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development.

Re-introduction to the Committee of the Workforce Development division, including a set of recent grant awards, and the difference between credit and “non-credit” which has to do with availability of federal financial aid. Workforce Development lives within Academic Affairs, and Assistant Vice President Gladys Franco reviewed examples of the work, grant awards, and rebound in registrations.

Specific to career pathways, Workforce offerings, because they are short-term, have a particular importance and help people get hired. Also described was the effort to have Workforce students continue into STCC/credit pathways and degrees in support of career opportunities.

In FY 2026 - 14 initiatives awarded a total of \$3.3 million in grants (all sources) with one example being the Commonwealth Corporation Competitive Trust Fund award of \$500k over three years to support CompTIA certifications.

Marketing and Communication / Housing Agreement Case Study: Traci Wolfe, Interim Assistant Vice President of Advancement

An example of STCC going “viral,” Interim Assistant Vice President of Advancement Traci Wolfe shared recent social media reactions to the Elms College/STCC housing agreement announcement - 62,156 impressions. Students need to be full-time at STCC and they do have the option to live at Elms through the Summer.

Campus Police / Clery Annual Security Report: José A. Rivera, Chief of Police & Sr. Director of Public Safety.

Chief Rivera was invited by the Committee Chair to provide a brief overview of the Annual Security Report – “Clery Act” is a annual disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, signed into law in 1990. STCC Campus Police work as needed with Springfield/City Police and Massachusetts/State Police. When asked what stands out – the STCC has, and maintains a very low crime rate. This report is disseminated via email to Campus Community and Students.

IV. President’s Perspective: Dr. John B. Cook

a) Federal Outlook

Discussed SNAP/campus email communication, and referenced the ongoing federal government shutdown.

b) Quantum Outlook

A very exciting announcement taking place – more will be shared very soon.

c) Spring Semester 2026 (Open Registration begins November 17)

Expecting to know more on how we’ll do with retention, once Spring registration begins. Reminder – STCC Health Career Exploration Night is November 13th with Trustees welcome.

V. New Business/Old Business

Reminder: Dental Assisting Pinning Ceremony, scheduled on December 18, at 6:00 p.m.

VI. Next meeting date and time: February 2, 2026

VII. Adjournment – Committee Chair Dr. Dávila called to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m., moved by Trustee Butler Pérez and seconded by Trustee Sierra.

Respectfully submitted by
Nanette Flores