

**TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY
AREA COMMISSION MEETING
September 21, 2021
Beaufort Mather Campus**

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Randy Dolyniuk, Chairman
Sheree Darien, Vice Chair
James Boozer, Sec./Treasurer via Zoom
Dr. William Small
Heath Duncan
Rick Toomey

COMMISSIONER ABSENT

David Smalls

GUEST

Mary Lohr, Esq.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Gough, President
Mary Lee Carns, VP for Institutional
Advancement
Sasha Bishop, Dean for Learning of Learning
Support
Jennifer Ridenhour, Executive Director for
Human Resources
Via Zoom:
Janis Hoffman, VP for Administrative
Services
Nancy Weber, VP for Student Services

The September meeting of the Area Commission for the Technical College of the Lowcountry was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 9:00 in the Boardroom on the Beaufort Mather campus. A Zoom option was published on the agenda. Prior to the meeting media were notified and provided with the agenda. An email address for public comment is published on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER and CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Dolyniuk called the meeting to order at 9:05 and called for a motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Dr. Small made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Duncan. Motion carried. Mr. Dolyniuk then called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The Consent Agenda consisted of the Minutes of the August Commission meeting. Dr. Small made the motion which was seconded by Dr. Toomey. Commission vote was unanimous and thus so ordered by Chairman Dolyniuk.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gough introduced Jennifer Ridenhour, Executive Director for Human Resources. Ms. Ridenhour fills the position vacated by the retirement of Ms. Sharon O'Neal. Ms. Ridenhour was most recently Vice President

for Human Resources at the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation based in Columbia. She is a graduate of Winthrop University and resides on St. Helena Island.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Sasha Bishop was the guest speaker. Ms. Bishop is Dean of Learning Support and the SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) Institution Accreditation Liaison for the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Ms. Bishop provided an overview of the functions of the association. SACSCOC is the accreditation agency for all higher education institutions in the Southern states. It serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices primarily among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Latin America and other international sites approved by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees that award associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees. SACSCOC is guided by six core values:

- Integrity
- Peer Review/Self-regulation
- Student Learning
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Accountability
- Transparency

To gain or maintain accreditation with SACSCOC, an institution must comply with the standards contained in the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* and with the policies and procedures of the Commission. SACSCOC applies the requirements of its Principles to all applicant, candidate, and member institutions, regardless of type of institution (public, private for-profit, or private not-for-profit). Accreditation is based on a Peer Review process. Ms. Bishop explained the accreditation process is an ongoing, institution-wide process punctuated by a full review every 10 years and a 5 year report between full reviews in addition to ongoing substantive change reporting (i.e. new programs and new instructional sites). The Technical College of the Lowcountry will be up for reaffirmation in the year 2025. The reaffirmation time line and next steps are detailed in her presentation which is attached to these Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time, Mr. Doylniuk called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the sole purpose of receiving legal information issue pursuant to Section 30-4-70 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Acts. Mr. Boozer made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Darien. Commission vote was unanimous and thus so ordered by Mr. Dolyiniuk.

The Commission remained in Executive Session for 30 minutes at which time Mr. Dolyiniuk called for a motion to return the General Session. Dr. Small made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Darien. Motion carried.

GENERAL SESSION

Upon return to General Session, Mr. Doylniuk stated that the Commission received information relative to a personnel issue during the Executive Session; there were no decisions made nor votes called for.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gough informed the Commission that the College must appear before the Joint Bond Review Committee for approval to move forward with the sale of the rental properties. He believes this is the last requirement to be met and the College will list the properties as soon as approval is received. The JBRC review is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5.

VP Carns reminded the Commission of the upcoming *VIP First Look* at the Culinary Institute on Wednesday, November 3 beginning at 4:30. Invited are stakeholders and investors, the Legislative Delegation, and Governor McMaster. There is a *Faculty/Staff First Look* brunch planned for Friday, November 5. Ms. Carns also announced that the *Chef's Table* event on November 11 is sold out. The Grand Opening of the Culinary Institute of the South is scheduled for 11:00 on November 18.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Dolyiuk announced the October meeting will be a Commission planning meeting. The date is Tuesday, October 12 beginning at 9 and adjourning about 3 pm. The Commission will review *Data Insights* and the executive summary from *Ins and Outs* to inform their discussion. They will also review Policies and the Commission By Laws.

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ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mr. Dolyniuk adjourned the September 2021 meeting of the Technical College of the Lowcountry Area Commission at 11:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Cullen

APPROVED:



Randy K. Dolyniuk
Chairman



Sheree Darien, Vice Chairman

Attachment A

SACSCOC Accreditation

SASHA BISHOP
DEAN OF LEARNING SUPPORT
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION LIAISON



SACSCOC Accreditation



PURPOSE



DELIVERABLES



TIMELINE

Benefits to Accreditation



Immediate



Forward-thinking

Immediate

- Financial aid funding
- Transfer of credits
- Employment

"The goal of accreditation is to ensure that institutions of higher education meet acceptable levels of quality. . . In order for students to receive federal student aid from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) for postsecondary study, the institution must be accredited by a "nationally recognized" accrediting agency . . ."

-U.S. Department of Education

Forward-thinking

- Demonstration of accountability
 - Opportunity to take stock
 - Motivation to assess and improve
- “Accreditation by SACSCOC signifies that the institution*
(1) has a mission appropriate to higher education,
(2) has resources, programs, and services sufficient to
accomplish and sustain that mission, and
(3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives
that are consistent with its mission and appropriate
to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it
is successful in achieving its stated objectives.”

*-Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), [Principles of
Accreditation](#)*

*“The membership expects its peers to dedicate themselves to enhancing the quality of their
programs and services within the context of their respective resources and capacities . . .”*

-Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

Peer Review

- SACSCOC is the institutional accrediting body for colleges/universities in the southeast (primarily)
 - Member institutions develop, amend, and approve accreditation requirements.
 - Accreditation is based upon a peer-review process
-

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Components of Accreditation

Compliance with Standards

- Decennial Review
- Fifth Year Interim Report

Substantive Change Reporting

- New Programs and Sites
- Site and Program Closures

Compliance with Standards

Ranging from the simple:

10.2. The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies. (*Public information*)

To the complex:

7.1. The institution engages in ongoing, comprehensive, and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that (a) focus on institutional quality and effectiveness and (b) incorporate a systematic review of institutional goals and outcomes consistent with its mission. (*Institutional Planning*) [CR]

Core Requirements

- 17 standards that establish a threshold of institutional characteristics essential to accreditation.
- If a member institution is judged by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to be out of compliance with a Core Requirement, it must be placed on a sanction.

Core Requirements

- “The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published **mission** specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education.”
- “The institution employs an adequate number of full-time **faculty** members to support the mission and goals of the institution.”

Core Requirements

- “The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for **student achievement** appropriate to the institution’s mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success.”
- “The institution provides adequate and appropriate **library and learning/information resources**, services, and support for its mission.”

Compliance with Standards

- Governing Body
- President
- Faculty
- Library/Learning Resources
- Student Services
- Administrative Services

Decennial Reaffirmation & Fifth Year Report

DECENNIAL

- All standards (73)
- All Core Requirements (17)
- On-site visit

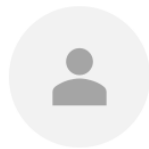
FIFTH YEAR

- Subset of standards (21)
- Subset of Core Requirements (5)
- On-site visit in some cases

Fifth Year Referral Report



8.2.A - STUDENT LEARNING
OUTCOMES (EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS)



12.4 STUDENT COMPLAINTS



14.4 - REPRESENTATION TO OTHER
AGENCIES

History

- 1978 – TCL’s accreditation (as Beaufort Technical Education Center)
- 1997 – Approved to offer Distance Education programs
- 2014 – Most recent reaffirmation

Reaffirmation Timeline



Next Steps

