

**SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2017**

ITEM: Request for Approval to Distribute the Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments for 30-day Comment

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: *RESOLVED*, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors grant approval for the distribution of the Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments to Southern's constituents for a 30-day comment period.

STAFF MEMBER: Robert E. Gunter

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) new Open Pathways 10-year cycle, Southern has entered its Year 4 Assurance Review process. The HLC conducts an Assurance Review to determine whether an institution continues to meet the criteria for accreditation. An ongoing process of the Assurance Review is to reexamine the institution's Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments.

On February 23, 2017, a memo was issued to all Southern employees providing an opportunity to review the current mission statement and institutional commitments and provide suggestions for change to the Strategic Planning and Financial Review Committee Chair, Carol Howerton, via e-mail on or before Friday, March 10, 2017. The suggestions received were presented to the Strategic Planning and Financial Review Committee during a special meeting on April 6, 2017. Following review of the comments received from constituents, the Strategic Planning and Financial Review Committee concurred that the current Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments reflect the appropriate mission of the institution and should remain as is without modification. Therefore, the Committee forwarded its recommendation to retain the current Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments to the Executive Council for review and consideration for approval. On April 6, 2017, the Executive Council approved the Strategic Planning and Financial Review Committee's recommendation as submitted and advanced it to the President's Cabinet for further review and consideration for approval. At its April 11, 2017, the President's Cabinet reviewed and approved the Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments as presented.

Based on the deliberations and recommendations of the aforementioned governance bodies, the staff requests that the Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments be advanced to Southern's constituents for a 30-day public comment period.

Current Mission Statement and Institutional Commitments as Approved by the Board of Governors on June 18, 2013:

Mission Statement

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College provides accessible, affordable, quality education and training that promote success for those we serve.

Institutional Commitments

As a comprehensive community and technical college, Southern is committed to providing:

1. Developmental and pre-college level education for those who lack the necessary academic background for direct entry into college-level courses.
2. Programs of study leading to the associate in arts and the associate in science degrees which can be effectively transferred and applied toward the baccalaureate degree.
3. Programs of study in career and technical fields leading to a skill-set certification, certificate degree and/or the associate in applied science degree for entry into the workforce.
4. Workforce development, continuing education and training programs that support the needs of employees and employers and serve as a mechanism for economic development.
5. Support services that assist students in achieving their education and training goals.
6. Community interest programs and activities that promote personal growth and cultural enrichment.

Comments Received Regarding Mission Statement:

1. After pooling the faculty senate about the mission statement, we recommend the mission statement stay as is. (Susan Baldwin, Faculty Senate Chair, 03-09-2017)

Comments Received Regarding Institutional Commitments:

1. The Student Services Unit recommends number one (1) under Institutional Commitments be modified

from: Developmental and pre-college level education for those who lack the necessary academic background for direct entry into college-level courses.

to: Co-curricular education for those who lack the necessary academic background for direct entry into college-level courses. (Allyn Sue Barker, Interim Vice President for Student Services, 03-09-2017)