



**Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Board of Governors
Meeting of August 19, 2025
100 College Drive, Logan, WV
Logan Campus, Building C, Room 428
Via Zoom
6:00 p.m.**

To join via ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/98679947799?pwd=56VzqQdPu0SeLOBS2VUb2gOV8AJSWa.1>

Meeting ID: 986 7994 7799

Dial-in Only: 1-646-876-9923

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Sonya Porter, Chair; Brent Tomblin, Scotty Dingess, David Gresham, Katie Endicott, Mary Phipps, Chris Gray, and Brayden Williamson

Board Members Absent: Anna Adkins

Also Attending: Interim President, Dr. Corley Dennison, Jennifer Dove, Recorder, Carolyn Long, Velva Pennington, Chief Finance Officer, and Debbie Dingess, Chief Human Resources Officer,

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

Board of Governors Chair, Ms. Sonya Porter, declared a quorum present and convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. Finance Report

Ms. Velva Pennington, Chief Finance Officer, provided the following financial update:

- New fiscal year has begun and work on last year's audit and financial statements are underway. The final audit is expected to occur next week. An accurate number regarding gain/loss will be available once the financial statements are complete.
- First financial aid statements are scheduled to be dispersed in September and recording of financial aid revenue will begin later this month.
- Loan disbursements will come in two disbursements: one in late September and one in mid-October.
- Aid and refunds will be dispersed every two weeks through November.
- In an effort to more closely monitor budgets, 50% of operating budgets have been released. The remaining 50% will be released based on incoming revenue.

- The college currently has 175 days of operational cash on hand.
- The college's daily operating cost is approximately \$77,566.93.
- Southern collected 92% of the 2025 tuition and fees budget. Interest income is 117% of the budgeted amount due to high interest rates.

3. President's Report

Interim President Dennison provided the following update:

- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit is November 17th and 18th. The site team consists of two college presidents. Southern will not know anything official the day the visit is over. The team will have 30 days to submit a report to the Institutional Action Committee (IAC). Due to the late date of the visit, Southern will likely not be on the January agenda. This could mean the report will not be heard until the May meeting. An anticipated resolution to the HLC issue could be in June.
- Great Teachers is an annual event where faculty all over the state gather to learn best practices in teaching and learning. Chancellor Tucker has allocated money to Southern so that every faculty member at Southern can participate in the Great Teachers workshop. Facilitators will be on campus to present. Possible dates to host this event would be Governance Day(s) and Professional development days. The first session could tentatively be November 7th.
- Legislature passes the 60+60 bill. This bill requires all institutions to create common pathways in certain subject areas such as business, education, engineering, etc. All institutions would have the same 27 hours of general education courses in those specific pathways. Courses in those pathways would also have the same course numbering. The state has contracted with Student Ready Strategies to assist with this process. The anticipated date of full implementation is fall of 2027. Southern will have a team that will participate in these state meetings.
- Institution is facing a challenge of a slight decline in enrollment from last year and last year was a slight decline from the year before. Dr. Dennison explained the difference between Headcount and FTE. The FTE number is what Southern bases its budget from. It is not time for concern, but Southern will have to be more prudent with spending and look at ways to make the institution more efficient. Two campuses have been closed. We are currently reassessing the space at the Lincoln site, and working to increase enrollment on our Williamson campus.
- Two committees have been formed: Financial Planning Committee led by Ms. Velva Pennington, Chief Finance Officer and the Strategic Enrollment Committee led by Ms. Teri Wells, Interim Chief Student Services Officer. Both committees will make regular reports to Cabinet regarding ideas of how to operate more efficiently and increase enrollment.
- One contributing factor in the enrollment decline is the Great Demographic Cliff, which is the declining number of 18-year-olds. The U.S. Census Bureau expects this to last until the late 2030's. High School graduates including private schools has dropped to just under 18,000 in West Virginia. This number is expected to drop to approximately 14,000 in mid-2030's. The college going rate is approximately 48% which would mean you would have approximately 7,000 graduates for 21 institutions in West Virginia.
- In an effort to increase enrollment, Southern will focus on returning adults, as well as, micro-credentials. Micro-credentials can be credit or non-credit. Micro-credentials for credit have a process to go through to be created where the non-credit can be put in place more quickly. However, the non-credit may not qualify for financial aid where the credit side would.

- Need to adjust the academic calendar to include enough 8 week and 7-week classes to accommodate enrollment mid-semester.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Reschedule October 21, 2025, BOG Meeting

MOTION: Scotty Dingess made a motion to move the October Board of Governors meeting to October 28, 2025.

ACTION: The Motion was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

5. Action Items

MOTION: Scotty Dingess made a motion to table 5.1. June 17, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, 5.2 June 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, and 5.3 July 21, 2025 Special Board minutes.

ACTION: The Motion was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

5.4 Request for Approval to Release for 30-day Comment Period

5.4.1. SCP-8600, *Board of Governors Operational Guidelines Policy* And SCP-8600.A, *Board of Governors Operational Guidelines*

MOTION: Brent Tomblin made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors grant approval for distribution of SCP-8600, *Board of Governors Operational Guidelines Policy* and SCP-8600.A, *Board of Governors Operational Guidelines*, to Southern's constituents and the Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education for the required 30-day public comment period.

ACTION: David Gresham seconded the Motion. The Motion was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

5.4.2 SCP-2XXX, *Anti-Nepotism Policy* and SCP-2XXX, *Workplace Conduct and Professional Expectations Agreement*

MOTION: David Gresham made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors grant approval for distribution of SCP-2XXX, *Anti-Nepotism Policy*; and SCP-2XXX.A, *Workplace Conduct and Professional Expectations Agreement*, to Southern's constituents and the

Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education for the required 30-day public comment period.

ACTION: Scotty Dingess seconded the Motion. The Motion was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

5.5 Request for Approval to Release for Additional 30-Day Comment Period

5.5.1 SCP-1200, *Social Media Policy*

MOTION: Scotty Dingess made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College Board of Governors grant approval for distribution of SCP-1200, *Social Media Policy*, to Southern's constituents and the Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education for an additional 30-day public comment period.

ACTION: Brent Tomblin seconded the Motion. The Motion was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

6. Informational Items

6.1 Succession Plan

Dr. Dennison presented the Succession Plan to the Board. Since April 7, 2025, The West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Council) has placed Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College under an emergency order. This order places the President under the direct control of the Council rather than the Board. As such, under this order, should the President not be able to perform their duties, the Chief Academic Officer shall assume the role of Acting President. Should the vacancy be for an extended period of time (a month or longer), the Board Chair shall notify the Council of the vacancy and follow their guidance regarding replacing the President. Should both the President and Chief Academic Officer be incapacitated and unable to serve, then the Chief Student Services Officer shall serve as Acting President. This Succession Plan shall remain in effect as long as the emergency order is in place. The emergency order is currently set to expire on April 7, 2027 or until such time Council repeals the order. A new Succession Plan will be created when the emergency order is lifted.

6.2 The next regular Board of Governors meeting will be held October 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

7. Executive Session under Authority of WV Code § 6-9A-4 for the following:

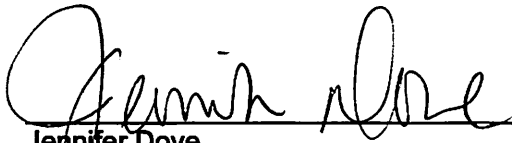
Chair Porter invited a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session. Scotty Dingess moved that the Board of Governors enter an Executive Session pursuant to West Virginia Code §6-9A-4 to discuss the draft report for HLC and the results from the Annual Board of Governors Self Evaluation. David Gresham seconded the motion that was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed. Chair Porter declared the motion adopted and the Board then met in an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Following deliberations, Brent Tomblin moved that the Board rise from Executive Session and reconvene in open session. Scotty Dingess seconded the motion that was adopted by 5 in favor and 0 opposed. The Board took no votes nor made any decisions during the Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Porter declared the meeting adjourned.

Sonya M. Porter, Chair

**Sonya Porter, Chair
Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College
Board of Governors**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Dove", written over a horizontal line.

**Jennifer Dove
Executive Assistant to the President
and Board of Governors**