

September 7, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Betty Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**From:** Dr. R. Lynn Kelley, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Consideration to Revise Mission Statement for  
South Carolina State University**

**Background**

In keeping with the current policy on mission statement approval, South Carolina State University submitted a revised mission statement for staff review on November 4, 2005. Staff determined that the proposed revision did not meet policy requirements in several areas and returned the statement with suggested changes. South Carolina State University resubmitted the revised statement on December 10, 2005, with most of the suggested changes incorporated. Staff determined that the revised mission statement still did not meet the requirements of Section 59-103-15 2(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (as Amended) which defines degree offerings for each sector of higher education in South Carolina. The section states:

(2) Four-year colleges and universities

(a) college-level baccalaureate education and selected master's degrees which lead to employment or continued education, or both, *except for doctoral degrees currently being offered* (italics added);

Act 359 explicitly categorized South Carolina's public institutions into four sectors, one of which is the four-year colleges and universities. At the time of the enactment of this legislation (Act 359), and subsequently, South Carolina State University was the only institution in the four-year sector authorized to offer a doctoral degree. The currently approved mission statement reflects the unique status of the Ed.D. in Education Administration at South Carolina State University.

South Carolina State University resubmitted the proposed revision on May 17, 2006, for Commission review. The Commission staff has communicated to South Carolina State University that the proposed mission statement would be acceptable if the appropriate section on course offerings, which reads “and programs at the master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral levels,” was revised to reflect the limitation of doctoral programming to a doctorate in educational administration, in order to be consistent with the legislative limitation placed on doctoral programs in the four-year comprehensive teaching sector.

The language of Act 359 is precise concerning the appropriate role of institutions in each sector in offering levels of academic degrees. Since South Carolina State University as a four-year institution is limited to offering degrees at the baccalaureate and masters level with the exception of one degree at the doctoral level, to approve the proposed change in the mission would be inappropriate given the expressed will of the General Assembly found in Act 359.

### **Recommendation**

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing withhold commending to the full Commission the proposed revised mission statement for South Carolina State University and require that South Carolina State University amend its mission statement so that it conforms to state law.

Encl: Copy of current mission statement  
Copy of proposed revised mission statement