

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
February 4, 2010

Members Present

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Ms. Cindy Mosteller
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Neal Workman

Members Absent

Mr. Hood Temple

Other Commission Members Present

Mr. Jim Sanders

Staff Present:

Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Lucy Fort, Intern
Ms. JoAnn Gardner
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Ms. Erin Konkle, Intern
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. T. Michael Raley
Ms. Edna Strange

Guests

Dr. Barbara Buckner, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Mary Ann Byrnes, University of South Carolina
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC-Upstate
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC-Columbia
Ms. Stephanie Frazier, S.C. Technical College System
Dr. George Hynd, College of Charleston
Dr. Debbie Jackson, Clemson University
Ms. Karen C. Jones, Winthrop University
Mr. Bobby Marlowe, College of Charleston
Mr. Kenneth J. Martin, Coastal Carolina
Ms. Beth McKinnis, Clemson University
Dr. Martha Moriarty, USC-Beaufort
Mr. Jason Ockert, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Cynthia Port, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Michael Roberts, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Dennis Smith, Clemson University
Dr. Harvey Varnet, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of Minutes

a. December 3, 2009

Dr. Horne requested a motion to accept the Minutes of December 3, 2009, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough), and the Committee **voted to accept unanimously the Minutes as distributed.**

b. November 20, 2009

Dr. Horne requested a motion to accept the Minutes of November 20, 2009, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Mosteller), and the Committee **voted to accept unanimously the Minutes as distributed.**

2. Consideration of New Program Proposals

a. B.F. A., Theatre Arts, Concentrations in Acting, Design & Technology, and Physical Theatre, Coastal Carolina

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Mr. Martin. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Workman) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Ms. Mosteller asked Mr. Martin about the need for the program, especially in the concentration of physical theater. She asked more specifically whether there are employment opportunities available in South Carolina. Mr. Martin responded that employment opportunities are strong in the field of physical theater, in part due to the great impact and influence Cirque du Soleil has across the world. He also mentioned that many great actors of television, film and stage fame have achieved success through the physical theater field. He explained that physical theater is simply another avenue into acting and presentational theater. He told the Committee that South Carolina holds many employment opportunities due to the large number of theaters, especially on the coast.

Mr. Scarborough asked what the tuition costs would be for the program. Mr. Martin answered that this program does not require an increase in tuition or fees. Dr. Morrison added that the chart found in the Staff Analysis represents theoretical costs. She continued by explaining that absent new money from the state, the Committee and staff should not emphasize too strongly the numbers found in the chart.

Ms. Mosteller asked whether Coastal's proximity to Wilmington, N.C., provides a draw for the program. She continued by asking whether Elon is a campus with which Coastal wants to be compared. Mr. Martin responded that Elon has a slightly different program, but overall the campuses and program environments are similar. He also answered that Coastal continues to make connections with contacts in Wilmington, but that the proximity to Wilmington will not be a substantial draw for students, primarily because the program is not targeted to film actors.

Dr. Horne asked for clarification regarding the time required for a student to attend the San Francisco Circus Center. Mr. Martin explained that a student majoring in this degree program with a concentration in Physical Theater would spend his/her last full year as a resident at the San Francisco Circus Center. Dr. Horne asked about the type and frequency of contact that Coastal will have with students during that last year. Mr. Martin explained that one

of the professors from the department will make at least two visits at the semester break and at the end of the year for the student's final program.

Dr. Horne asked how Coastal and the individual students will handle the cost of living in San Francisco. Mr. Martin explained that the Circus Center will aid students in finding affordable housing. He added that the theater community is a resource in finding housing as well.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts with Concentrations in Acting, Design & Technology, Physical Theatre at Coastal Carolina, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that (1) no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested; (2) a signed copy of the memorandum of understanding between Coastal Carolina University and the San Francisco Circus Center be provided to staff prior to program implementation; and (3) the notification of termination for the concentrations in Acting/Directing and Design and Technology offered currently under the existing program leading to a B.A. degree in Dramatic Arts be submitted immediately upon approval of the proposed program.

b. B.A. , Sociology, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Varnet. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Varnet told the Committee that USC-Beaufort is continuing to build its degree programs. He explained that providing a standard program like Sociology is a part of the natural evolution of a new institution. He added that many classes which will make up the curriculum of the degree program are already being offered on campus.

The Committee discussed a phrase used in the fifth line of the first full paragraph on page four of the Program Proposal: "Regional population growth has created a 'critical mass' of students who are entitled to the local opportunity for pursuing their studies." The Committee discussed the use of the word 'entitled.' Dr. Horne described her interpretation as one that if students live in a more rural region, then they should be provided the same educational opportunities as students who live in an urban setting.

Dr. Horne expressed concern that the determination of need for the degree program as obtained by a local survey seemed anecdotal. She asked Dr. Varnet whether any other attempts were made to determine the need for the degree program. Dr. Varnet answered that he did not know. Dr. Horne commented that she was in support of the PASSPORT program USC-Beaufort has with the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

Dr. Horne asked for clarification as to a student's portfolio. Dr. Varnet explained that the University encourages all students to keep a record of their work in a portfolio.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at USC-Beaufort's North (Beaufort) and South (Bluffton) campuses, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

c. B.S., Computational Science, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Varnet. It was **moved** (Workman) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Varnet described this proposed degree program as an ambitious one which has the potential to raise USC-Beaufort's academic profile. He referenced a five-year \$575,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that will support the development costs of the new degree program. He explained that the proposed degree program brings together computer science, computation, and simulation and modeling. He added that local employers are interested in the data mining approach of the degree program and the degree program, if approved, would be one of five in the nation.

Ms. Mosteller asked Dr. Varnet to speak on the mission of USC-Beaufort and how it directs the future of the University. Dr. Varnet responded by stating that USC-Beaufort's mission is region-focused. The institution seeks to serve four counties and enlarge the opportunities of students in this region. He explained that because USC-Beaufort is a relatively new institution, it is not seeking to offer graduate programs at the present. Dr. Morrison added that it is one of the comprehensive teaching institutions in that region and that it has been growing slowly, adding new programs as enrollment increases.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Computational Science to be offered on the North (Beaufort) and South (Bluffton) campuses of USC Beaufort, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

d. B. S., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, USC-Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Byrnes. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Workman) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Byrnes described the degree program as having grown from two different impetuses. She referenced a National Council Research report, *Bio2010*, which called for colleges and universities to use an integrative approach to science and mathematics learning in preparing undergraduates for life and chemical sciences. Dr. Byrnes also explained that a 2008 external review of USC's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry recommended that the University offer a Biochemistry degree due to the prevalence of biochemists on the faculty roster. She also added that S.C. has seen a rapid increase in biomedical and biotech companies and therefore employment opportunities will be present in the state for the graduates of the proposed degree program.

Dr. Horne asked for clarification of two paragraphs on page two of the Staff Analysis referencing enrollment numbers. She asked whether the internal students who switch from Chemistry and the Biological Sciences to the new degree program must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher after 30 hours of completed coursework. Dr. Byrnes answered affirmatively. Dr. Horne then asked about the admission requirements for freshmen. Dr. Byrnes explained that a student could not be admitted to the degree program as a freshman since he/she would have to have completed 30 hours of coursework for admission.

Dr. Horne asked about the consequences to a student enrolled in the proposed degree program who fails to maintain a GPA of 3.25. Dr. Byrnes answered that the student would be able to remain in the program as long as the student meets the University standards for satisfactory academic progress. Dr. Byrnes added that the program is geared towards the high performing student. She stated that most students will recognize the rigor of the program by the curriculum and will decide whether the degree program is a good match for them.

Ms. Mosteller asked about articulation with Midlands Technical College. Dr. Byrnes responded that many courses taken in the second year of an associate degree would transfer to the degree program at USC. Dr. Morrison added that the new transfer and articulation web portal, SCTRAC, would be able to map courses taken from Midlands Tech to the proposed degree program at USC.

Dr. Horne referenced point number two under the heading Admissions on page three of the full program proposal. She asked Dr. Byrnes what a student's options are if he/she is removed from the degree program. Dr. Byrnes answered that a student would be able to switch to the general Chemistry or Biology degree without any loss of credit.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at USC-Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

e. B.A., Commercial Music, USC-Upstate

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Dowell. It was **moved** (Workman) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Dowell explained that the arts are flourishing in the Upstate while focus on and interest in the music industry are also widening. Dr. Dowell described USC-Upstate's mission as a metropolitan university which meets the needs of the I-85 corridor, including Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Greer. Dr. Dowell added that currently no other similar program is offered in the Upstate.

Ms. Mosteller asked about the differences between the proposed degree program and the B.S. in Music with emphasis on Business at Lander University. Dr. Dowell described Lander's program as focused on music and business, while the proposed degree program focuses on performance as well. Ms. Mosteller also asked about the differences and similarities between the proposed degree program and the B.A. in Music Industry at Francis Marion University. Dr. Dowell explained that the degree programs are similar, but the geographic distance between the two institutions provides opportunity for USC-Upstate to offer a similar program.

Dr. Horne clarified that a minor in business is a strongly recommended option for students in the degree program. Dr. Dowell concurred and added that students will gain not only theoretical business information but also practical know-how specifically for performers in the music industry. Dr. Horne asked whether USC-Upstate would aid the students in finding business opportunities. Dr. Dowell referenced the strong career services division of the University.

Dr. Horne recognized the need for a correction in the fourth paragraph on page two of the staff analysis. The second bullet point should read: “- Complete four courses of Commercial Music Theory and Aural Skills or their equivalents with grades of C or better.”

Dr. Horne asked Dr. Dowell how USC-Upstate will know whether the program is a successful one. Dr. Dowell responded that USC-Upstate will track students' employment after graduation. She explained that many accreditation agencies require this type of tracking. Mr. Workman and Mr. Sanders asked about the response rate of the employment survey. Dr. Dowell answered that it is 76%.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Commercial Music at USC-Upstate, to be implemented in Fall 2010 on the Spartanburg campus, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

f. M.A., Writing, Coastal Carolina

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Mr. Ockert. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Mr. Ockert explained that this degree program is unique because it is a writing program for multiple disciplines. He continued by saying that Coastal is excited about blending different types of writing through the disciplines.

Mr. Scarborough commended the program, citing poor writing abilities found in all areas of society. Mr. Ockert added that M.B.A. students might be interested in the program as well.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Writing at Coastal Carolina to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

g. M.S., Ph.D., Photonic Science and Technology, Clemson

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Jackson and Dr. Smith. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Smith first commented on the market need for this program. He mentioned that there are over 200 light-based companies along the I-85 corridor between Atlanta and Charlotte. He told the Committee that globally it is a \$400 billion industry, with projections by 2015 to be a \$1 trillion industry. Dr. Smith reported that this degree program would be only the second one in the nation and the 32nd in the world. He added that Clemson has the expertise and the infrastructure to support this degree program through its Center for Optical Materials Science and Engineering (COMSET). Dr. Smith told the Committee that Clemson currently has a Center of Economic Excellence in Photonics and that this degree program would constitute an educational component of the CoEE program.

Dr. Jackson explained that photonics is the use of light for communication or energy conversion. Prompted by Ms. Mosteller's interest, Dr. Smith told the Committee that two start-up companies have been created out of COMSET. He reported that one of the companies,

Tetramer Technologies, is focused on the development and production of an ultra-fast optical switch which is the fastest conceivable mode to process information.

Ms. Mosteller asked whether there were any environmental or human safety dangers in this type of science. Dr. Smith answered no and explained that telecommunications is near infrared, which is close to visible light.

Dr. Horne asked Dr. Smith to explain the need for the program. Dr. Smith explained that there are many optical centers across the U.S. and they might have some overlap with photonics, but the Clemson program would be the second degree program solely focused on photonics and photonic materials. He cited the growing market and industry and further explained that currently there exist engineering degrees with specializations in photonics. The Ph.D. in Photonics would distinguish graduates in the growing photonics industry.

Mr. Scarborough asked about the economic development impact of this degree program for South Carolina. Dr. Smith referenced one example. He stated that photonics will have an impact on automobile design and development and that there will be many optical components in future generations of automobiles. Dr. Morrison asked about the industry of photonics and how it might connect with the aerospace industry, in particular Boeing. Dr. Smith explained that the aerospace industry drove the photonics industry and that the development and use of the ultra-fast optical switch was driven by the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Jackson added that the economic development component of this degree program is “housed” in the Photonics Center of Economic Excellence. The infrastructure to support research in this area is provided through COMSET and a newly erected research facility in Anderson, the Advanced Materials Center.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Photonic Science and Technology at Clemson, to be implemented in Fall 2010 and offered on the Clemson campus and at the Clemson Research Park Advanced Materials Research Laboratory in Anderson County, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

3. Consideration of Amendment to Existing License to Add New Program

a. A.A.S., Allied Health Sciences, Remington College

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Eshleman. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval.

Ms. Eshleman explained that this degree program is closely tied to the associate degrees offered at Remington College. She added the College specializes in allied health fields. She also stated that the Remington College representatives were not in attendance because of a miscommunication about the meeting schedule.

Dr. Horne suggested that this item not be placed on the consent agenda of the March 4, 2010, CHE meeting in light of the absence of Remington College representatives. She stated that she would like to ask a few questions of the College representatives, in particular about their default rate information. She also expressed a desire to see more recent default rate information.

Ms. Eshleman explained that she had received information from Remington College regarding its high default rate. She told the Committee that the College cites the poor economy as the main driver of the increasing default rate, the College is working actively to contain the growing default rate, and it has hired additional staff to conduct follow-up and counseling with students about their loans. Ms. Eshleman also reported to the Committee that the U.S. Department of Education has a default management program with which the institutions are required to comply.

Dr. Morrison asked Ms. Eshleman to add the 2008 default rates. Ms. Eshleman responded that 2008 data is not available. She explained that obtaining and reporting default rates is a protracted process. She further added that the delay is caused by the various reviews the data has to go through before being finalized.

Ms. Mosteller commented that she has known students at similar institutions who were very surprised at the amount of money they owed upon graduation. She asked if there are specific facts and figures that students should be informed about in writing at the inception of the loan. She asked if S.C. has the authority to require that more information be made known to the students of these institutions.

Ms. Eshleman responded that colleges do have the responsibility to share information with students when they apply for financial aid. She added that CHE staff have developed and placed on the CHE website information for students about costs of education and financial aid. She stated that she believes that, in many cases, schools provide information but students do not comprehend it.

Ms. Eshleman added that CHE staff would discuss other ways to communicate information to students via the website, possibly creating a spreadsheet comparing the pricing of non-public as opposed to public institutions.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the existing license of Remington College-Columbia Campus to offer at its existing Columbia site a program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Allied Health Sciences for implementation in April 2010.

4. Consideration of New Consortium Agreement, Lowcountry Graduate Center

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. George Hynd. It was **moved** (Workman) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Hynd explained that the Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC) has been in operation for about five years. He used the metaphor of a research park where faculty and business leaders come together to develop new products and create new businesses. He applied the metaphor to the Lowcountry Graduate Center, describing it as the analog of a research park in the educational arena. He described the LGC as a place where individuals could gain educational degrees but also connect with businesses and industries to increase professional development.

Dr. Hynd explained that the revised Consortium Agreement represents a new organizational structure that will allow for a faster response in meeting the needs of the community. He added that the new structure incorporates a 30-member Advisory Council.

Mr. Scarborough applauded the revised Consortium Agreement, especially the necessary details of organizational structure that are included. He suggested that the Consortium Agreement be amended by March 4, 2010, to allow for a representative of the CHE to be appointed by the CHE chair to the Lowcountry Graduate Center Governing Board to serve non-voting *ex officio*. He added that he believes the Committee would also like to keep the CHE seat on the Advisory Board as well. Ms. Workman and Ms. Mosteller moved and seconded the recommendation with the addition of the amendment as presented by Mr. Scarborough.

Dr. Hynd asked if the Committee would want the same individual to serve on both the Governing Board and the Advisory Council. Ms. Scarborough responded that it is not necessary and that perhaps two different people would be better. Ms. Mosteller and Mr. Workman recommended that a staff person serve on either the Board or Council due to the knowledge they have on policies and procedures.

Ms. Mosteller asked whether the Executive Director answered to the Executive Committee. Dr. Hynd said yes and then explained that the Executive Director was not a member of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Horne asked whether SACS accreditation of academic programs offered by the Graduate Center is different from the accreditation of individual institutions. Dr. Hynd explained the programs offered at the Graduate Center are already approved and accredited through their respective institutions. There is not a unique accreditation given for the Graduate Center.

Dr. Horne suggested that the Graduate Center consider adding a Boeing representative to the Center's Advisory Council.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the Consortium Agreement of the Lowcountry Graduate Center, providing that the Agreement be amended by March 4, 2010, to add a representative of the CHE, appointed by the CHE chair, to the Lowcountry Graduate Center Governing Board to serve non-voting *ex officio*.

5. Consideration of Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs, FY 2007-2008

Dr. Horne introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Morrison emphasized a few items from the report. First, she reported to the Committee that when USC-Beaufort began operating as a four-year institution, it maintained its ability to offer a two-year associate degree at the Marine base. She continued to explain that the program has had very low enrollment, and she contacted Chancellor Upshaw about the viability of the program. Dr. Upshaw reported to her that USC-Beaufort had made a strategic error in charging a four-year tuition rate to the two-year associate degree program and, therefore, lost enrollment to competing institutions. Dr. Morrison said that Dr. Upshaw reported that USC-Beaufort is now offering the program at a special military rate tuition and is trying to re-build the program.

Second, Dr. Morrison explained that CHE staff have tried to encourage the regional campuses in rural areas without a technical college to try to collaborate with the technical college system to enhance economic development through technical programs. Dr. Morrison reported that progress has occurred in that a technical college and a regional campus have collaborated and now share space in the same facility and thereby have maximized resources. Dr. Morrison also added that the Vice Chancellor for the USC regional campuses has met with technical college representatives in order to discuss replicating that model in other parts of the state.

Next, Dr. Morrison discussed the issue of Engineering Technology. She reported that many engineering technology programs are on probation or are being terminated due to low completion rates. Dr. Morrison applauded the technical college system for utilizing grant monies over the past few years to revamp curricula. She explained, however, that more work needs to be done in order to increase completion rates.

Finally, Dr. Morrison began a discussion about nursing. She explained that due to concerns over a shortage of nurses in the state, CHE has approved five new nursing degree programs over the last few years. She reported that the technical college programs are still able to maintain a high employment placement rate. She added, however, that CHE staff have heard anecdotally that nursing graduates with B.S. degrees are struggling to find employment and that nurses of retirement age are continuing to work due to the recession. Dr. Morrison told the Committee that nursing degree programs and placement rates need to be monitored in the near future.

Dr. Horne asked about the legislation which would provide a new system for tracking the supply and demand of nurses in the state. Dr. Morrison explained that the legislation referred to as the "One Voice, One Plan" legislation created an office at USC-Columbia, which is going to study supply and demand. Dr. Morrison added that this new office will work closely with the S.C. Budget and Control Board on data collection. She also told the Committee that good data currently exists related to supply, but there is a need for better data related to demand.

Dr. Horne questioned the large jump in programs on probation. Dr. Morrison explained that the increase was due to the industrial and engineering technology programs.

Ms. Frazier reported that the S.C. Technical College System anticipates that many of the engineering technology programs currently on probation will survive probation and become more productive by next year because of new initiatives. In response, Dr. Morrison asked Ms. Frazier whether the S.C. Technical College System could provide more information in next year's report regarding the initiatives pursued in order to take programs off probation.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the *Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs, FY 2007-08*.

6. Consideration of New Improving Teacher Quality Grants Awards, FY 2010-11

Dr. Horne introduced the item. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Gregg reported that the grants program is being considered for re-authorization at the federal level and that the decision made might impact the funded projects. She told the Committee that CHE was able to carryover seven successful projects and fund new projects at Columbia College, USC-Upstate and The Citadel.

Dr. Horne asked about the definition of "highly-qualified teachers." Dr. Gregg explained that the term is a national term defined by the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Dr. Horne asked whether teachers know that they are considered "highly-qualified." Dr. Gregg answered that a letter is mailed to students' parents regarding the teacher's status so the teacher does know if he/she is highly qualified or not. Dr. Horne asked how a teacher's status could change from being "not highly-qualified" to being "highly-qualified." Dr. Gregg explained that a teacher must have the equivalent of a degree in the content area.

Dr. Morrison told the Committee that CHE staff plan to have presentations on selected ITQ and Center of Excellence grant projects at the April 1, 2010, CHE meeting. Dr. Gregg will select and invite presenters in the next few weeks.

Dr. Horne asked that the rubrics for scoring the projects be included in next year's report. Dr. Gregg agreed to do so.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the new awards made under the Improving Teacher Quality Grants Program for FY 2010-11.

7. Consideration of Revised Transfer Policy

Dr. Horne introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Morrison explained that the previous policy was created in 1994 and contained much general language. She reported to the Committee that the new transfer and articulation web portal, SCTRAC, was the impetus for the revised policy. She explained that implementation of the new system made much information in the old policy obsolete, and the policy needed to be aligned with SCTRAC's capabilities.

Dr. Horne asked about the authority of this policy and more particularly whether institutions are bound to submit to this policy. Dr. Morrison explained that CHE was given authority over transfer policy in Act 359 and that CHE staff have been working together with institutions on the creation and implementation of SCTRAC.

Dr. Horne asked why the policy is not more student-friendly. Dr. Morrison explained that institutions have final authority in rejecting or accepting transfer credit.

Dr. Horne reported that a student seeking to have credit transferred to a four-year institution for Biology 101 and 102 courses taken at a technical college was told that credit was not transferable because the technical college class did not offer the lab portion of the courses. Dr. Morrison agreed that this has been a problem in the past, especially in regards to Lander University and Piedmont Technical College. Ms. Frazier told the Committee that she would research the matter and report back to the Committee.

Dr. Horne asked if there were other examples of disconnect. Ms. Mosteller asked whether this is a problem across the state. Dr. Morrison answered that she did not know of another situation similar to this one occurring elsewhere in the state. Dr. Morrison added that the Course Alignment Project is not only exposing curriculum disconnection between secondary and post-secondary institutions but also between two-year and four-year institutions. Identifying these disconnects will help solve these types of issues. Mr. Mullins commented that SCTRAC will help provide transparency in regards to transfer issues. He also added that the web portal will inform students of allowable transfer credits and will aid them in mapping their college courses.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised Transfer Policy.

8. Report on *Migration of Undergraduate First-Time Transfer Students, 2006-08*

Dr. Horne introduced the item. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Morrison introduced the next item, the report entitled *Migration of Undergraduate First-Time Transfer Students, 2006-08* for information and discussion. She explained that the data for the report was compiled by a CHE staff intern, Mr. Ryan Goodwin, a Master's level student in the Higher Education Administration program at USC-Columbia. The report was then formatted and refined by CHE staff.

Dr. Morrison explained that she requested that data about transfers be compiled and analyzed because much information about transfers has been largely anecdotal. She added that the agency has the ability to collect quantitative data but not necessarily sound qualitative data that would illustrate the reasons for transfers.

Dr. Morrison referenced page one of the report which provides highlights. She told the Committee that the data show that overall transfers are increasing and transfers from two-year to four-year institutions are also increasing, showing increased pursuit of baccalaureate degrees among technical college students. She also pointed out to the Committee that approximately 16% of all transfers were "reverse" transfers from a four-year institution to a two-year institution. She reported the surprising fact that one third of the technical college transfers transferred from one technical college to another.

Ms. Mosteller asked about specific transfer information of individual institutions. Dr. Morrison informed her that specific information is found in the *S. C. Higher Education Statistical Abstract 2009*, located on the CHE website.

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Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the report entitled *Migration of Undergraduate First-Time Transfer Students, 2006-08*.

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, Dr. Horne adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.