

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
April 5, 2012

Members Present

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Ms. Natasha Hanna
Ms. Leah Moody
Admiral Charles Munns
Mr. Kim Phillips
Mr. Rodney Smolla (via teleconference)

Other Commission Members Present

The Honorable Lewis Vaughn
Mr. Bill Scarborough

Staff Present

Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Tanya Rogers

Guests

Dr. Tony Ambler, USC Columbia
Dr. John Beard, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Robert G. Brookshire, USC Columbia
Dr. Richard Chapman, Francis Marion University
Dr. Hanif Chaudhry, USC Columbia
Mr. Jack Clark, Virginia College
Dr. Randy Collins, Clemson University
Dr. Harry Davakos, The Citadel
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC Upstate
Ms. Bridgette Dzedzic, Art Institute of Charleston
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Dr. Lacy Ford, USC Columbia
Ms. Kris Frady, Clemson University
Dr. Anand Gramopadhye, USC Columbia (via teleconference)
Mr. Ed Halbig, City of Seneca, SC
Ms. Brenda Hammersley, Chamberlain College of Nursing
Dr. Doris Helms, Clemson University (via teleconference)
Dr. Sam Hines, The Citadel
Dr. George Hynd, College of Charleston
Dr. Jamil Khan, USC Columbia
Dr. Brian Klaas, USC Columbia
Dr. Learie Luke, S.C. State University
Mr. Robert Marlowe, College of Charleston

Dr. John McGregor, Clemson University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Dr. Spike Metts, The Citadel
Dr. Brian Mihalik, USC Columbia
Dr. Jeannette Myers, Francis Marion University
Dr. Jeff Priest, USC Aiken
Dr. Elizabeth Regan, USC Columbia
Dr. Ken Rogers, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Shari Schleis, Art Institute of Charleston
Dr. Alan Shao, College of Charleston
Dr. Darlene Shaw, MUSC (via teleconference)
Dr. Robert Sheehan, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Jonathan Smith, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Nelson Soto, Harrison College
Ms. Debbie Spear, Chamberlain College of Nursing (via teleconference)
Mr. Mitch Sudy, Virginia College
Dr. Hildy Teegen, USC Columbia
Dr. Ruth Wittman-Price, Francis Marion University
Ms. Alexa Woodward, Clemson University
Ms. Melissa Zelaya, Clemson University

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of Minutes of February 2, 2012

Dr. Horne requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 2, 2012, meeting as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips), and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as distributed.**

2. Consideration of Mission Revision for Francis Marion University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Chapman. It was **moved** (Hanna) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Chapman explained that the mission revision being presented was approved by the University's faculty members, the administration, and the Board of Trustees and incorporates a statement about the University's ability to offer Master's degrees in nursing. He informed the Committee that the University also offers Master's degrees in the areas of business, education, and psychology as well as a Specialist degree in psychology. He stated that the mission revision was required in order to bring forward a proposed degree program for approval: Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised mission statement for Francis Marion University.

3. Consideration of New Program Proposals

a. Accelerated Master of Business Administration (A.M.B.A.), University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Ford. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Ford briefly described the proposed program as an evolution of offering master's degrees in business. He stated that the proposed program responds to markets that have changed over the past twenty years. He informed the Committee that the institution is adapting its International Master of Business Administration's (IMBA) Global Track to make it an Accelerated Master of Business Administration (AMBA) program to make it more attractive for the market. Dr. Ford stated that the number of students enrolling in two-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees is decreasing nationally while the number of those enrolling in one-year programs is increasing. He stated the proposed program could be offered with existing faculty without any additional costs. He then introduced Dr. Hildy Teegen, Dean of the Darla Moore School of Business, to respond to any questions.

Admiral Munns asked for more explanation about the capstone experience. Dr. Teegen described the experience in more detail saying it provides real-life experience either through case studies or with companies that tie together the program's curriculum. Admiral Munns then asked a question about the program's location and whether the institution has any intentions to

expand beyond Columbia. Dr. Ford responded that the program is designed to be a residential program in Columbia, but like a number of MBA programs currently offered, it could be offered through distance education at any one of seven sites (six in South Carolina and one in Charlotte, North Carolina). Dr. Teegen clarified and stated that the required core sequence of courses for the MBA programs are offered in Columbia, but electives could be offered at these additional sites.

Admiral Munns pointed out that if electives were to be taught at one of these sites, the proposed program would be in violation of the staff's recommendation. Dr. Raley responded by reiterating that the core courses are to be taught in Columbia and that according to the Commission's *Policies and Procedures for New Academic Programs and Centers, Program Modifications, and Program Terminations*, a program is considered to be offered at a new site only if more than 50% of the coursework is offered at that site. He added that Commission staff also considers the nature of the site and that the sites mentioned by Dr. Teegen are viewing sites. Dr. Teegen responded that USC does not anticipate any students of the proposed program using the viewing sites because the expectation is that these students will be living and studying in Columbia since the AMBA represents a bifurcation of the existing IMBA program with no net increase in enrollment. However, she also stated that in order to offer a wider array of electives for this program and for all graduate business programs, the institution takes advantage of its ability to deliver courses by telepresence at its seven sites and asynchronously through distance education. She provided the example of a student with the opportunity to complete a capstone experience with Michelin which would require that the student spend a significant amount of time in Greenville and said that the student could complete electives through telepresence or distance education instruction while completing the capstone experience in Greenville.

Admiral Munns asked Dr. Teegen whether USC was comfortable with the staff's recommendation about the program expanding to sites other than Columbia. She stated that USC was comfortable with that recommendation because the program is offered in Columbia.. However, she asked the Commission to recognize that the institution allows students to complete electives through other modalities. Dr. Raley explained the staff's recommendation by stating that if courses for the proposed program were to be offered face-to-face at sites other than Columbia, then the institution would need to submit a program modification proposal. Dr. Ford and Dr. Teegen both stated that the recommendation was acceptable and that the institution did not plan to offer face-to-face instruction at other sites and would submit a program modification proposal to the Commission should it wish to do so.

Dr. Horne then raised the issue of the viewing site in Charleston and possible duplication and asked the institution to address this issue. Dr. Ford addressed the issue of duplication by explaining that the proposed program targets a different audience than existing programs. He stated the proposed program targets the following prospective students: those who have been employed for at least three years who can potentially take a year off from their employment; international students which USC's program is unique in targeting; and students at USC who would like to pursue a joint degree with law, medicine, or public health. Dr. Ford said he believed the proposed program would help with the economic development recruitment of the state. Dr. Teegen responded that the program is offered in Columbia, and there is no other program like the one being proposed in Columbia. She stated that questions about location ignore the fact that the institution is already serving the AMBA's target population with the IMBA's Global Track, which the AMBA will replace. She then reminded the Committee that when USC endorsed the College of Charleston's MBA program, USC already offered the Global Track in place so if there was a concern about duplication, it was relevant at that time. She also

added that when USC endorsed the College of Charleston's program, USC noted that the AMBA was in development.

Admiral Munns referred to the term "lingering opposition" used in the staff's analysis of the proposed program and asked whether there were other documents or comments to describe the opposition. Dr. Raley stated that the College of Charleston would be able to comment on its opposition to the proposed program. Dr. Horne briefly described the role of the Commission in evaluating programs and addressing concerns. Then, she asked Dr. Hynd to voice his concerns.

Dr. Hynd began by stating that the College appreciated USC's endorsement of its MBA program and that he supports the proposed program in concept because it is a good program. He then expressed his concern about the program being offered in Charleston because as described, only the program's required courses will be offered in Columbia. He mentioned that the Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs (ACAP) recommended that the institutions try to resolve their concerns. He stated that the business deans of The Citadel, the College of Charleston, and USC met in Charleston, followed by several emails and phone calls, to try to resolve the issues of concern about the viewing site in Charleston. He described the main issue as being the fact that electives can be taken in Charleston through telepresence and USC's potential ability to offer any face-to-face courses in Charleston. Dr. Hynd stated that he, President Benson of the College, and General Rosa of The Citadel are concerned about this situation being a "slippery slope" leading to a residential program in Charleston and that they are particularly concerned about program duplication.

Dr. Hynd further stated that the market is being addressed in Charleston by the programs offered by The Citadel and the College of Charleston. He also reminded the Committee that The Citadel and the College of Charleston were required to submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for their programs and that restrictions were put on the College of Charleston to address issues of duplication. He then described the restrictions. He stated that the absence of a MOU between USC, the College of Charleston, and The Citadel to address the issues is the reason for his presence at the meeting. He also stated that the proposed program affects the larger issue of program duplication, particularly in Charleston because the College of Charleston and The Citadel have had to submit MOUs for several programs. He argued that there needs to be a clear understanding about the larger issue of program duplication. He explained that if the proposed program is approved without an MOU, then it is opening the door for USC to offer programs throughout the state while restrictions are placed on other programs that are bound by MOUs. Dr. Hynd added that if this program is approved without an MOU, then other programs in the state bound by an MOU will come before the Commission seeking to remove their restrictions.

Ms. Moody asked whether the institutions tried to create an MOU. Dr. Hynd stated that they tried to do so, but could not reach a compromise. Dr. Horne asked what issue impeded the ability to reach a compromise. Dr. Hynd stated that the College of Charleston did not want USC to offer any face-to-face courses in Charleston in the facility USC owns approximately two blocks from the College. Dr. Ford stated that by accepting the Commission staff's recommendation, the institution acknowledges that it does not plan to offer face-to-face courses in Charleston and would have to submit another proposal to the Commission should it wish to do so. Dr. Ford explained that the institutions could not reach an agreement because USC could never turn down the possible opportunity to have a retired CEO with expertise in international trade or finance who resides near the Charleston facility teach an elective course at the site. Dr. Horne asked why the institutions could not articulate such an exception in an MOU. Dr. Teegen stated

that the proposal and accompanying staff analysis states that required courses will only be offered in Columbia and that such language negates the need for an MOU.

Dr. Horne asked about the elective courses. Dr. Teegen responded by explaining that the Business School's graduate programs use the same electives to allow students to select a broad array of courses and that it would be difficult and very costly to separate electives for the AMBA students or to segregate one viewing site from the others. She also added that if such restrictions were placed on USC, then it would restrict what they are already permitted to do and cited the example of PMBA students who receive face-to-face instruction at any of the sites. Dr. Hynd then interjected to state that because of recent events in which USC established a program that bypassed the Commission, the College's Board of Trustee members are concerned about competing residential programs in Charleston. Ms. Moody asked to which program Dr. Hynd was referring. He responded that he was referring to the new medical school in Greenville.

Admiral Munns stated he wished to return to the issue of the current proposal. He questioned whether the restrictions included in the staff analysis were sufficient. Dr. Hynd responded that the College would like an MOU that sets up a body to address issues and sets a restriction at the outset that USC could not offer face-to-face instruction at its site in Charleston. Admiral Munns expressed his opinion that the staff's recommendation sets that restriction since USC would need to submit a program modification proposal to offer face-to-face instruction. Dr. Hynd stated that he would like the recommendation to include the restriction that USC could not offer any face-to-face instruction in Charleston. Dr. Teegen stated that such a restriction would be an entrenchment of current offerings. Dr. Hynd reiterated that the College is drawing the line on face-to-face instruction for this program in Charleston.

Ms. Hanna asked about the division of coursework and where courses could be taken. Dr. Teegen responded that the proposed program consists of 43 credit hours, 22 of which are required courses that must be taken in Columbia, three of which are the capstone experience which could be completed in Columbia or elsewhere, and the remainder of which are electives that can be taken in Columbia or elsewhere through telepresence or distance education. She stated that she did not anticipate students taking a lot of courses outside of Columbia and that even in the most extreme cases, students would still take fewer than 50% of their coursework outside of Columbia. She then described the asynchronous and telepresence delivery options and stated that USC would not have full-time faculty teaching anywhere other than Columbia. Dr. Horne asked Dr. Hynd whether this statement was an acceptable compromise. He responded that it was not because the example Dr. Teegen provided earlier was for an adjunct faculty with expertise teaching at the site in Charleston.

Dr. Hynd then introduced Dr. Shao, Dean of the College's Business School, who informed the Committee that one-year MBA programs received fewer applications last year and therefore the market for such degrees is decreasing. He then stated that the College received fewer applications and that it only enrolled 31 students last year. Dr. Shao also stated that the College's applicant pool is very similar to USC's. He then addressed the issue of credit-hour breakdown as described by Dr. Teegen, and stated that a student would only need to spend one semester in Columbia since the program is a one-year program. He stated his concern about any courses being offered in Charleston because the current market does not allow room for another MBA program in Charleston.

Ms. Moody then returned to the language included in the staff's recommendation and asked whether additional restrictions needed to be added or whether an MOU could be

developed. Dr. Hynd responded by stating that they could try to reach an agreement with an MOU, but that the “lines have already been drawn.” Ms. Moody stated that an MOU would need to include language stating that the College of Charleston would not duplicate USC’s AMBA program either. Ms. Moody then asked whether there was a way to restrict the proposed program so that it was acceptable for the College of Charleston. Dr. Teegen reminded the Committee that if restrictions were placed on offering coursework through telepresence or distance education at any site, it would impinge upon permission currently provided and programs currently offered.

Dr. Hines commented on the discussion by seconding Dr. Hynd’s call for an MOU for the proposed program. He described the type of collaboration and opportunity that could result from the development of an MOU and cited a program The Citadel and Clemson are working to develop. He stated that an MOU would ensure that the institutions engage in continuous dialogue in order to meet the needs of students. Dr. Hines stated that he would prefer an MOU over additional language added to the recommendation for approval.

Dr. Helms commented that recent changes in higher education have led to institutions trying to expand their programs, but given scarce resources, institutions should share their resources. She also addressed the fact that institutions are offering more online coursework to address learners who prefer that method. Dr. Helms stated that she believed the Commission should require an MOU if a program wanted to expand to deliver any face-to-face instruction at another site.

Mr. Philips returned to the issue of the MOU and the restrictions requested. Dr. Teegen stated that such restrictions would prevent the AMBA students from participating in the full range of electives. Mr. Philips clarified that only the AMBA students would be hindered by the restrictions. He then asked whether Dr. Teegen was saying that no courses would be offered in Charleston. She responded by stating no and described a situation that might qualify as face-to-face engagement with an adjunct or guest lecturer teaching in Charleston. Mr. Phillips asked whether USC expected a lot of students from the Charleston area. Dr. Teegen responded that USC did not expect a lot of students from the area. She stated that USC is more concerned about the issue of setting an inconsistency by singling out and prohibiting courses at the Charleston site. She also added that USC would not be able to launch the program if it had to offer a full range of separate electives for the AMBA students as doing so would be too costly. Dr. Teegen stated USC had made significant efforts to address and resolve the concerns of the College, but USC recognizes opportunities where courses could be offered in Charleston and therefore it cannot agree to the College’s demands.

Dr. Horne summarized the discussion and added a few more points. She reiterated Dr. Helms’ point that public universities are in the middle of a transition, seeking to expand their offerings to different markets. She cited Chairman Wingate’s comments made at the morning’s Commission meeting that universities are seeking to move beyond their mission. Dr. Horne also informed the Committee that Commissioners are receiving information through news articles and blog postings prior to their learning the facts through official meetings. She added to the discussion by stating that Senator Vaughn, a Commissioner serving on the Finance and Facilities Committee, is concerned about the impact this Committee decision will have on his own Committee. Dr. Horne said that Senator Vaughn is committed to being a good steward of the state’s sparse funding in regards to higher education.

Dr. Horne reminded the institutions that the Committee prefers that decisions and compromises be made among institutions prior to a proposal reaching the Committee's agenda. She then encouraged the Committee to make a decision given the information presented.

Admiral Munns stated that he recognizes the issues raised by both institutions but stressed the need to make a decision that will be best for the students. He described the proposed program as one which will use existing faculty and staff and in many ways is an existing program. He then expressed his concern about duplication and mission creep.

Admiral Munns proposed an alternative to the staff's recommendation. He **moved** that the recommendation be revised to read: "The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission the program leading to the Accelerated Master of Business Administration (AMBA) degree at the University of South Carolina at the Columbia campus, to be implemented in Summer 2013, provided that no 'unique cost' or other special state funding be required or requested, and further provided that should the University wish to expand the program to sites other than Columbia or change the nature of the program as currently described, the University will submit a program modification proposal to the Commission and if such a program modification proposal is submitted, the Committee strongly recommends that the program modification proposal include a Memorandum of Understanding amongst all players for this enhanced program." Ms. Hanna **seconded** the motion.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Accelerated Master of Business Administration (AMBA) degree at the University of South Carolina at the Columbia campus, to be implemented in Summer 2013, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and further provided that should the University wish to expand the program to sites other than Columbia or change the nature of the program as currently described, the University will submit a program modification proposal to the Commission and if such a program modification proposal is submitted, the Committee strongly recommends that the program modification proposal include a Memorandum of Understanding amongst all players for this enhanced program.

b. B.A., Intelligence and National Security Studies, Coastal Carolina University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Sheehan. It was **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Sheehan introduced Dr. Jonathan Smith, director of the proposed program,;Dr. Ken Rogers, Chair of the Department of Politics and Geography; and Dr. John Beard, Associate Provost. Dr. Sheehan explained to the Committee that the impetus for the proposed program originated outside of Coastal when a representative from Point Park University approached Coastal to offer the degree. Dr. Sheehan stated that Coastal officials discussed the program and decided to offer the program on its campus and not through a partnership with Point Park University. He further explained that no baccalaureate degrees which address national security exist in the state and between four and six degrees address the subject in the nation. He informed the Committee that students have expressed strong interest in the proposed program through a needs assessment survey. Dr. Sheehan stated that intelligence and security agencies rely heavily on analysts, and this degree would serve the need to fill analyst positions.

Admiral Munns expressed his support for the program and stated that there is a need for the program. He cited the proposal by stating that Coastal did not clearly clarify the analysis

aspect of the program. Dr. Smith reiterated that the goal of the program is to train analytic generalists.

Admiral Munns asked about the program's source of funding. Dr. Sheehan explained that half of Coastal's students originate out-of-state and pay tuition that is twice the amount paid by an in-state student. He further clarified that the costs table in the staff analysis reflects an average blend of in-state and out-of-state tuition revenue, and that this revenue would be sufficient to fund the proposed program.

Dr. Horne asked about employment opportunities for graduates. Dr. Smith answered that agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, will be potential employers along with other federal intelligence agencies, in part due to large numbers of current employees reaching retirement age. He continued by stating that local security and protection agencies will also be potential employers of graduates.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Intelligence and National Security Studies at Coastal Carolina University, to be implemented in Fall 2012, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

c. B.S., Sport Management, The Citadel

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Metts. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Metts explained that Sport Management is currently a track in the B.S. degree in Physical Education. He stated that The Citadel now has the curriculum and student interest to seek approval for a separate degree in Sport Management.

Admiral Munns asked referred to the program objectives listed on page nine of the program proposal and asked why risk and liability are not listed. Dr. Metts explained that risk and liability are important aspects of the degree program and are taught through individual courses throughout the curriculum. Dr. Raley asked Admiral Munns whether he wanted the information given in Dr. Metts' answer to be placed in the staff analysis that will be sent to the full Commission. Admiral Munns answered affirmatively.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Sport Management at The Citadel, to be implemented in Fall 2012 provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that the institution terminate the existing sport management concentration within its Bachelor of Physical Education upon implementation of the proposed program.

d. Master of Health Information Technology (M.H.I.T.), University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Ford. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Ford introduced Dr. Mihalik, Dean of the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management, and Dr. Regan, Professor in the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management. Dr. Ford explained that the proposed program addresses a growing need and that the program will be a first of its kind

in South Carolina, with only five other programs in the nation. He informed the Committee that the program is an interdisciplinary program housed in the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management with letters of support from the Moore School of Business, USC School of Medicine, and the Arnold School of Public Health. He also stated that the program has been endorsed by the CIO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and that graduates will have many employment opportunities.

Admiral Munns asked why the program is housed in the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management. Dr. Ford answered that information technology programs are housed in the College. Admiral Munns asked why cyber security courses are not listed as core courses, but only as electives. Dr. Ford answered that the topic of cyber security is enmeshed in many core courses.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Health Information Technology (M.H.I.T.) degree at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2012, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

e. M.E., Systems Engineering, Clemson University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Collins. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Hanna) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval. Dr. Collins introduced Dr. Helms and Dr. Gramopadhye on the conference call and Dr. McGregor in the room. Dr. Collins explained to the Committee that the proposed program evolved from Clemson’s current certificate program and that Clemson was encouraged to make a move to a full program by the defense industry in Charleston. He defined Systems Engineering as a highly technical field of study in which professionals connect various subsystems or systems of systems. Dr. Collins informed the Committee that the proposed program will have a 12 credit hour core of courses and will be offered online as it is designed for working professionals.

Admiral Munns stated that he had asked two questions via email which were answered by Clemson. He reiterated them for the benefit of the Committee. He asked how Charleston was related to the program. Clemson representatives answered that the idea for the full program simply originated in the defense industry in and around Charleston, but that the program would target interested students across the state and nationally. Admiral Munns also asked how the program would incorporate the topic of risk. Clemson representatives answered that the topic of risk is addressed in courses throughout the curriculum. Dr. Helms then informed the Committee that Clemson and The Citadel have been in discussion about the program. She stated that the schools hope to share resources and expertise.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Engineering degree in Systems Engineering at Clemson University, to be implemented in July 2012, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

f. M.S., Engineering Management, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Ford. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Ford introduced Dr. Ambler and Dr. Chaudry. He explained that the proposed program is designed to train engineers for business and managerial roles, which are increasingly necessary in the engineering profession. He stated that the proposed program is unique in the state, but The Citadel has a related program in project management. Dr. Ford informed the Committee that USC has a Memorandum of Understanding with The Citadel about sharing faculty and resources for this program. He stated that the proposed program will have an international track which will require the knowledge of a foreign language and an internship abroad.

Admiral Munns asked for the definition of the term "executive program," used in the program proposal on page three. Dean Ambler answered that the term means simply that the program will be offered to full-time working professionals. Admiral Munns asked how the University plans to compete with for-profit institutions offering similar degrees. Dean Ambler stated that this program is being created partly due to the success he had in creating a similar degree at the University of Texas, Austin, which was tremendously successful. Dean Ambler explained that in regards to the proposed program, USC has been in discussion with most of the major corporations located in the state which have offered their support. Admiral Munns asked about the marketing plan for the program. Dean Ambler answered that USC is marketing the program mainly through communication with corporations. Dr. Ford added that in comparison with for-profit institutions, USC offers an inexpensive tuition rate for its proposed program.

Dr. Horne asked about the requirement of students to be on campus in person for a Friday and Saturday each month and for two weeks in the summer. She asked whether travel costs were built into the overall tuition rate. Dean Ambler responded that the student is responsible for the cost of traveling.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Science degree in Engineering Management at University of South Carolina Columbia to be implemented in Fall 2012, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

g. M.S., M.E., Aerospace Engineering, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Ford. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Ford acknowledged Dean Ambler and introduced Dr. Khan. Dr. Ford informed the Committee that if approved, the proposed program will be the only one of its kind in South Carolina and that it will serve the growing aerospace industry. He cited the need for more aerospace engineers in the state as a result of the arrival of Boeing in Charleston. He informed the Committee that there are slight differences between the two proposed degrees, Master of Science and Master of Engineering, and that these differences are discussed in the proposal.

Dr. Horne asked why the University does not plan to seek specialized accreditation for the degree. Dean Ambler answered that since the University as a whole is accredited with SACS, it chose not to pursue special degree program accreditation with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Dr. Horne asked about the possibility of a student receiving a grade point average (GPA) above 4.0 as stated in the proposal. Dr. Ford answered that USC does not allow averages above 4.0, and that the reference in the proposal should be revised to reflect the highest GPA as 4.0.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Science and the Master of Engineering degrees in Aerospace Engineering at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2012 and offered on the University of South Carolina-Columbia campus and through the APOGEE distance learning program, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

h. M.S.N., Family Nurse Practitioner, Francis Marion University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Chapman. It was **moved** (Hanna) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval. Dr. Chapman introduced Dr. Wittmann-Price and Dr. Myers. Dr. Chapman recognized the Commission’s 2008 approval of the PeeDee Health Education Partnership, a consortium of Francis Marion University, the University of South Carolina, and McLeod Health and Carolinas Hospital System, and the role the partnership played in creating the proposed program. He described the proposed program as being a top priority in the Partnership’s strategic plan. He informed the Committee that the purpose of the proposed program is to address the shortage of primary healthcare providers in the region. Dr. Chapman continued by describing the health issues of the PeeDee region which include shorter life expectancies; higher rates of obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes; high infant mortality rates; and delayed diagnosis and treatment for people at risk. He stated that the proposed program is intended to train personnel to help with the overwhelming health issues of the region.

Admiral Munns commented that the proposed program seems necessary and worthwhile and then expressed his concern about the business plan. He cited the need for three new faculty members and the private donation of funding provided for the first three years of the program. He asked Dr. Chapman whether the program would be self-sustaining after the initial three years. Dr. Chapman answered affirmatively and stated that the program will be self-sustaining after three years due to tuition revenue.

Ms. Hanna asked whether the proprietary institutions in the region offer graduate degrees in this field and if so are they more expensive than the proposed program. Dr. Wittmann-Price answered affirmatively to both questions. Dr. Hanna asked about information regarding rural health grants for physicians who practice in a rural health setting and who utilize a family nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Dr. Wittmann-Price stated that the National Institute of Science offers such grants. Dr. Chapman then explained that most rural physician practices cannot support two full-time doctors, but can support one full-time physician and one family nurse practitioner.

Dr. Horne discussed the funding received for the proposed program from the General Assembly prior to the program being considered by the Commission. Dr. Chapman expressed the University’s appreciation for the endorsement of the program by the General Assembly. He explained that public appropriations are difficult to secure and therefore the University sought private funding to support the program. Dr. Horne emphasized the need for a statewide higher education plan which would help decrease the special treatment received by some institutions or regions.

Dr. Shaw commented that MUSC applauds the University's efforts in meeting the health needs of South Carolina. She continued by stating that MUSC is not formally opposed to the program, but that the MUSC family nurse practitioner program is offered online and currently has 13 Pee Dee students. Admiral Munns asked CHE staff whether there was room for both programs. Dr. Raley answered affirmatively and explained that many questions were raised after the planning summary was presented to the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP). He stated that staff conducted a phone conference regarding the various questions and submitted the questions to Francis Marion. He explained that Francis Marion addressed and answered all the questions adequately and that the answers are included in the University's program proposal.

Mr. Phillips expressed his support of the program and stated that his company has maintained a family nurse practitioner on staff to serve employees for over ten years. Dr. Horne informed the Committee that discussion of this proposed degree dates back to 2008, and in 2009, Dr. Greenberg, President of MUSC, expressed his support for the program. She also explained that institutional objections should have been made at the ACAP meeting in July 2011.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner at Francis Marion University, to be implemented in January 2013, provided that no additional "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and further provided that the institution's mission statement be revised to reflect the new degree level being offered by Francis Marion University.

i. Center, Workforce Development, Clemson University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Collins. It was **moved** (Hanna) and **seconded** (Moody) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Collins introduced Ms. Zelaya, Ms. Woodward, and Ms. Frady present in the room and Dr. Gramopadhye who was participating via conference call. Dr. Collins explained that the Center addresses workforce development, especially in the fields of aerospace and automotive technologies. He continued by stating that the Center was created by two large grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Labor and has both institutional and industrial partners.

Admiral Munns asked two questions via email which were answered by Clemson. He reiterated them for the benefit of the Committee. He asked about the need for tissue culture equipment and said that Clemson answered that it should not have been included in the proposal, and the reference has since been removed. He asked about the possible disconnect between the Center's focus on training and IT and faculty credentials. Clemson representatives answered that the faculty members are in engineering disciplines but also have the interest and necessary skills to be involved in the Center.

Dr. Horne asked about the connection between the Center and the technical college system, which focuses on workforce training. Dr. Collins stated that the Center seeks to assist technical colleges in developing programs, learning modules, and curriculum to be used by technical colleges.

Dr. Gramopadhye informed the Committee that a question has been raised at the national level about how higher education will be relevant in K-12, in the technical college

system, and in lifelong learning. He referenced the strong technical college system in the state and Clemson's need to partner with industry given its land grant status.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Center for Workforce Development at Clemson University, to be implemented immediately upon Commission approval.

4. Consideration of Request for Initial License

a. B.S.N., M.S.N., D.N.P., (Nursing), Chamberlain College of Nursing, Downers Grove, Ill.

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Hammersley. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Hanna) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Ms. Hammersley introduced Ms. Spear who was participating via conference call. Ms. Hammersley explained that Chamberlain has been working with every state licensing entity to be in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's new regulation regarding state authorization. She stated that Chamberlain seeks licensure in order to recruit students for its online programs.

Ms. Hanna referred to wording on page three of the staff analysis: "There is no clinical or practicum component for this program." She asked why a clinical or practicum component is not required for the program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Ms. Hammersley answered that the online programs offered by Chamberlain are open only licensed nurses who are already working in clinical settings.

Admiral Munns referred to the program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Family Nurse Practitioner track which has four practicums and two labs. He asked how the College will identify practicum sites. Ms. Hammersley answered that the Family Nurse Practitioner program requires a different level of training and therefore a new level of licensing. She stated that the program involves a small number of students and the practicums are usually one-on-one training. She explained that this type of practicum is not in competition with the type of practicum required for pre-licensure students. Admiral Munns asked whether the student is responsible for finding a practicum location or would be aided by Chamberlain in finding a practicum site. Ms. Hammersley answered that most students are already working in physicians' offices or have relationships with physicians, but if the student does need help in locating a site, Chamberlain staff help find and coordinate the practicum for the student. Admiral Munns then asked whether students must purchase their own liability insurance. Ms. Hammersley answered affirmatively.

Mr. Phillips asked how Chamberlain's tuition costs compare to similar degree program tuition costs at in-state public institutions. Ms. Hammersley answered that Chamberlain's tuition is more expensive because it is a proprietary school. She also added that Chamberlain has a rich scholarship program to offset the higher tuition rates. She explained that once Chamberlain has permission to recruit within a state, it develops relationships with local hospitals and creates contractual agreements with them which provide for discounted tuition rates. Mr. Phillips asked whether the scholarships or the discounted rates are equal to the public institutions' tuition rates. Ms. Hammersley answered no and that the tuition is still more expensive.

Ms. Hanna expressed concern about duplication. Dr. Raley explained that the question of duplication cannot be asked when discussing programs offered by for-profit institutions because the institutions do not accept state funding. He stated that the question of duplication is usually asked when state resources are suspected of being wasted. Dr. Raley also explained that Chamberlain College is a private institution which has the potential to fail and close. Ms. Moody asked about the effect on students of a college or an individual program that closes. Ms. Eshleman answered that usually an institution will teach out a program and allow students to complete the program. She continued by stating that the Commission requires an institution to have a surety bond in case the institution closes.

Dr. Horne expressed concern about the costs of the programs presented by Chamberlain and stated that the Commission is concerned about students' welfare. Ms. Moody asked whether the proposal reflects the financial aid numbers with the pending change of doubling the interest rate of federal loans. Ms. Hammersley answered that the numbers reflect the current status. She also added that students who graduate as family nurse practitioners are eligible for many loan forgiveness programs. She explained that most of the students are working adults and will earn higher salaries as a result of the education they receive, which will offset the loan burden.

Dr. Horne informed the Committee that there is a need to better communicate to South Carolina students all of the options available for them in higher education.

Ms. Hanna reiterated her concern about duplication, asking what happens if the for-profits succeed and the public institutions fail and state funding is wasted. Dr. Raley explained that the public institutions' programs will be much less expensive and proprietary institutions attract a slightly different student population. He reminded the Committee that the proposal being addressed from Chamberlain is one regarding the permission to recruit and not the issue of creating a new institution or having a traditional college campus in the state.

Admiral Munns echoed Dr. Horne's early statement regarding better communication about all educational options. Ms. Eshleman stated that a recent regulation from the U.S. Department of Education requires institutions to display prominently on their websites the costs of offered programs and degrees. She informed the Committee that websites such as College Navigator are readily accessible to the public for comparing various factors of institutions.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission initial licensure for five years to Chamberlain College of Nursing to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN degree completion) and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The request is to begin advertising and recruiting upon approval by the Commission. Further, the Committee recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license Chamberlain College of Nursing to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner track (MSN, FNP) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) once the programs have received HLC and CCNE accreditation.

b. Various Associate's and Bachelor's degrees online and The Chef Academy, Harrison College, Morrisville, N.C.

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Soto. It was **moved** (Hanna) and **seconded** (Moody) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Soto thanked Ms. Eshleman for her assistance and support in the application process. Dr. Soto explained that Harrison College is located in Indianapolis, Indiana, and offers associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, and certificates. He also informed the Committee that Harrison owns The Chef's Academy in Morrisville, NC. He stated that Harrison College is seeking approval to recruit South Carolina students to online degree programs and to on-ground programs at the Chef's Academy. He informed the Committee that the degrees for which Harrison would like permission to recruit are in the fields of business, criminal justice, health sciences, and culinary arts. Dr. Soto stated that Harrison College is accredited through the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) and is in the process of applying for regional accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). He explained that faculty members hold master's degrees plus 18 graduate hours in the subject they teach.

Admiral Munns referred to the section on page five regarding criminal justice and asked about the statement: "the Ohio Board of Regents facilitated a review." He asked about the result of that review. Dr. Soto provided background information and stated that in order for students of Harrison College to receive state aid from Ohio, the College must be reviewed by the Ohio Board of Regents. He informed the Committee that the Board of Regents asked Harrison College to review its curriculum to insure its rigor. He explained that in response to Harrison's demonstrated changes, the Board of Regents granted Harrison students the right to receive state aid.

Dr. Horne asked why a student would choose Harrison College over a public technical institution which offers its education for half the price. Dr. Soto responded by using statistics from Indiana, and stated that the graduation rate of technical college students in the state is nine percent whereas the graduation rate of Harrison College is 75-90 percent, dependent on the individual program. He informed the Committee that the waiting list for popular degrees at technical colleges in Indiana can be upwards of seven or eight years wherein students max out their financial aid taking general education courses. He explained that the College discloses its tuition costs on its website as mandated by the U.S. Department of Education and that the College has counselors to help students understand costs and loan repayment requirements.

Dr. Horne asked how the College markets itself online. Dr. Soto answered that students who are interested call the College and speak to student affairs officers who explain the benefits of the College and specifically the support mechanism in place for students. He further lauded Harrison College's abilities to offer working students flexible learning environments and technical resources in order to ensure their success. He explained that students taking online courses become part of a virtual community, a virtual campus.

Ms. Moody again expressed her concern for those in South Carolina, whether adults or traditional-age college students, who simply do not understand the financial aid or loan process and make uninformed decisions. Ms. Hanna then asked why the tuition costs for online degrees are more expensive than on-ground traditional programs which have to maintain permanent infrastructure. Dr. Soto explained that proprietary schools do not receive any state funding and stated that even though online students do not pay for permanent infrastructure, they do pay for

important resources of their education, including the salaries of qualified instructors and support staff.

Mr. Phillips asked about employment opportunities for the graduates of the Chef's Academy. Dr. Soto answered that a Chef's Academy degree leads to a variety of employment opportunities, including positions in the hotel, travel, restaurant, and catering industries.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission initial licensure for five years to Harrison College to recruit South Carolina residents into the following programs:

Business, Management, Marketing and Related Services	
A.A.S., B.S.	Accounting
A.A.S.	Administrative Professional
A.A.S., B.S.	Business Management
A.A.S.	Business Marketing
B.S.	Human Resources
B.S.	Project Management
Criminal Justice	
A.S., B.S.	Criminal Justice
Health Sciences	
A.A.S.	Medical Assistant
A.A.S.	Medical Reimbursement Technology
The Chef's Academy	
A.A.S.	Culinary Arts
A.A.S.	Pastry Arts

The institution must inform the CHE staff about the status and progress to achieve Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-HLC) accreditation, Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) specialized accreditation for its business programs, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accreditation for Medical Assistant, Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) accreditation for Medical Reimbursement Technology, and the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation (ACFEF) accreditation for Culinary Arts and Pastry Arts; if it becomes apparent that it cannot meet the standards for accreditation within its projected timeline, the institution must cease recruiting and enrolling new students into those programs and immediately advise enrolled students of the status of accreditation. The request is to begin advertising and recruiting upon approval by the Commission.

5. Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Add New Program

A.A., B.F.A., Graphic and Web Design, Art Institute of Charleston

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Dziejdzic. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Hanna) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Ms. Dziejdzic introduced Ms. Schleis. Ms. Dziejdzic explained that after full program review of its degree programs, the Art Institute decided to merge two of its existing programs: Graphic Design and Web Design. She informed the Committee that market research showed that employers want employees with both web and graphic design skills. She also informed the Committee that the Institute will teach out the current programs.

Admiral Munns asked about the default rate increase from 7.8% in 2008 to 16% in 2009. Ms. Dziejdzic explained that the increase in the default rate was due in part to the Loan Purchase Commitment Program (PUT) loans being sold to the U.S. Department of Education and students' resulting confusion. She also cited the economic recession as another reason for the default rate increase. Admiral Munns then asked about placement rates. Ms. Dziejdzic distributed a handout regarding placement rates and commented that as individual programs, Web Design had a higher placement rate than Graphic Design.

Dr. Horne referred to items required for consideration of admission including an essay, and scores from the ACT, SAT, ASSET or Computer Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System (COMPASS) assessment. She asked whether the Institute had minimum score requirements. Ms. Schleis answered that currently the Institute requires a GPA of 2.0 or higher, but she added that the minimum average will be reduced in the near future. She explained that many students applying to the Institute have strong creative skills, but may have deficient academic scores. Ms. Dziejdzic commented that the Accuplacer test allows the Institute to measure a student's basic abilities in English and math. Dr. Horne asked how the Institute can accept them into an academic program if the students lack academic skills. Ms. Schleis commented that the Accuplacer test scores direct the Institute to place students in remedial courses to strengthen their academic skills so that they may succeed in the degree program.

Dr. Horne stated that the proposed program costs \$87,000 and then asked Dr. Hynd to comment on how much a similar degree at the College of Charleston would cost. Dr. Hynd answered that for in-state students, the cost would be approximately \$40,000 for four years and with state scholarships, approximately \$12,000 for four years. Ms. Dziejdzic commented that the Institute has not increased tuition in three years, has reduced the number of credit hours required for programs without compromising rigor, and has transitioned to an e-book system to help students save on the costs of attending the Institute.

Ms. Hanna calculated the cost of tuition and financial debt and the average salary of a graphic/web designer and informed the Committee that a graduate would make an average salary of \$28,000 a year, but would have a \$1000 per month student loan payment. She calculated the student loan payment for a College of Charleston student without scholarships as \$460 per month and one with scholarships as \$138 per month. Ms. Dziejdzic responded by stating that the Institute is working to address this issue by making graduates more employable and providing them with better placement opportunities. Dr. Horne asked Dr. Hynd about the amount of money the College of Charleston gives in scholarships each year, beyond the state scholarships granted. He answered that the College, including the College's Foundation, grants

\$15 million in scholarships each year. Ms. Dziejcz stated that the Institute also offer scholarships, but not to the level of the College.

Admiral Munns asked about the percentage of the Institute's income deriving from federal aid. Ms. Dziejcz answered that she did not have that information on hand.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the existing license of The Art Institute of Charleston to offer programs leading to the Associate in Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Graphic & Web Design to be implemented in July 2012.

6. Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Add New New Site

A.A.S. in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Network Engineering, Virginia College, Seneca, SC

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Mr. Clark. It was **moved** (Moody) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Mr. Clark introduced himself as the regional vice president and general manager for Virginia College. He then introduced Mr. Mitch Sudy, the Greenville Virginia College campus president, and Mr. Ed Halbig, the Director of City Planning and Development for Seneca, SC. Mr. Clark informed the Committee that the impetus for proposing this new site originated with the city of Seneca and invited Mr. Halbig to begin the discussion.

Mr. Halbig explained that the City of Seneca has been seeking a higher education institution to serve its constituents in the Oconee County area. He addressed the fact that both Clemson University and Tri-County Technical College operate in the region. He stated that Clemson's popularity has made it more competitive in regards to admissions and since Tri-County Technical College has become a bridge program to the University, the city of Seneca desired an alternative higher education institution which might offer more opportunities for admission. Mr. Halbig also explained that the city, having been designated in the 2010 census as an urban cluster, wanted a campus closer to the center of the city. He reported that the City Council put forth a resolution to bring a campus within city limits and that the Oconee County Council supported the decision with a resolution of its own. Mr. Halbig stated that the city initially approached Tri-County Technical College in 2005-06 to discuss the possibility of an extension campus.

Dr. Horne asked about the distance between Seneca and the Tri-County Technical College campuses in Easley and Pendleton. Mr. Halbig answered that both sites are approximately 20-25 miles away. He then explained that the driving time to these sites for Seneca constituents hinders their attendance, especially considering that most potential students are employed full-time. Mr. Halbig also informed the Committee that the Seneca area was once populated by operating textile mills, but that the industry has vastly decreased in the area, leaving many people without employment and with the need to be re-educated and re-trained for newer industries. Dr. Horne asked about the city's unemployment rate. Mr. Halbig answered that it is over ten percent.

Dr. Horne asked for a description of the proposed program. Mr. Clark explained that Virginia College requests to create a branch in Seneca for the Greenville campus. He informed

the Committee that Virginia College developed the program selection in conjunction with the administrators in Seneca based on what they saw as needs. He stated that Virginia College also completed a market analysis of the area. Mr. Clark explained that the campus would have at the most 80-100 students and if the Commission grants approval, it would start enrolling in October 2012.

Admiral Munns asked whether Mr. Halbig could speak to the reasons Tri-County Technical College decided not to operate a site in the city. Mr. Halbig answered that he did not feel comfortable speaking unless Tri-County Technical College was represented at the meeting.

Admiral Munns asked whether the Commission could ask the S.C. Technical College System Board and Tri-County Technical College why they refused to establish a campus in Seneca. Dr. Raley answered that the Commission could request that information. Dr. Horne suggested that Admiral Munns be the representative to ask that question. Admiral Munns inquired whether a Commissioner or a staff person should approach the Board or College. Dr. Raley answered that the question would best be posed by Admiral Munns as a public citizen or as a representative on the S.C. Technical College System Board.

Admiral Munns asked about placement and default rates. Mr. Clark updated previous information and stated that the Greenville campus has almost achieved its placement goal for the year with over six months still left in the year and that the placement rate will most likely be 70%. He added that Columbia's campus will have close to a 70% placement rate as well. Admiral Munns asked whether the increasing percentage was due to systems Virginia College had created or due to the improving economy. Mr. Clark answered that he thinks that the increase is due to the systems put in place. He continued by stating that Virginia College has added resources to aid placement at all campuses. He then clarified that the Charleston campus has increased its placement percentage of 56.1% to 65% for the year.

Admiral Munns addressed the default rate increasing from 5.4% in 2008 to 12.4% in 2009. Mr. Clark clarified that the 2009 rate is 11.4%. He then explained that the increase was due to the poor economy and that Virginia College works with its students regarding loan repayment and has a disciplined training program to aid students.

Admiral Munns asked Mr. Halbig whether the city has discussed the issues of student debt and loans. Mr. Halbig agreed that it was an important issue, but that to his knowledge the City Council has not discussed that issue in particular. Admiral Munns suggested that the city begin a discussion of the topic. He further suggested that the city educate high school students, guidance counselors, parents, and the community in regards to costs, loans, and the debt that ensues.

Mr. Halbig then informed the Committee that the city received a grant to become the first all-electric transit system in the nation. He explained that Seneca will help usher in the next generation of green technology by working with Proterra electric buses. He stated that the City is also being considered for a S.C. Department of Transportation "State of Good Repair" grant which could be used to develop a facility where individuals could work on and study the electric technology behind the buses.

Mr. Clark added to the discussion by stating that Seneca recently completed a major healthcare and hospital expansion, which creates an opportunity for medical jobs in the area.

He explained that the city is also undergoing a new jail expansion, which speaks to the need of the criminal justice degree.

Dr. Horne expressed her concern about Virginia College's costs and default rates. She also expressed her admiration to Seneca for its aggressive stance in trying to solve problems which plague the state and country and applauded the city for choosing education as one of its solutions. Dr. Horne concluded by expressing her dismay that the S.C. Technical College System could not help the city and she asked Admiral Munns to relay that to the System's Board. Admiral Munns agreed to do so.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the amendment of the existing license for Virginia College at Birmingham, Alabama, to establish a branch campus in Seneca. Existing programs will be offered at Seneca leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Business Administration, (2) Criminal Justice, and (3) and Network Engineering to be implemented in October 2012. The Committee further recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license the site in Seneca when the facilities have been developed and inspected by staff.

7. Consideration of New Federal *Improving Teacher Quality* Competitive Grants Awards, FY 2012-2013

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Raley. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Raley introduced Dr. Gregg who described the *Improving Teacher Quality* (ITQ) program. She stated that the ITQ program is a federal program under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation and its intention is to improve teachers' content knowledge. She informed the Committee that the program requires a three-way partnership among faculty in an Arts and Science division at a four-year institution, faculty from a Teacher Education division at a four-year institution, and a high-needs local education agency (LEA) or school district.

Dr. Gregg explained that the Review Panel chose four continuing proposals (out of five submissions) for funding. Dr. Horne asked about the proposal that was not recommended for funding but which seemed to be in the neediest area of the state. She asked Dr. Gregg whether the proposal was salvageable and might be funded in the future. Dr. Gregg answered that the Panel highly recommended that the proposal be re-submitted in the future after revisions and she agreed to work with the proposing institution to prepare the application for the next submission.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to approve** the new awards made under the *Improving Teacher Quality* Grants Program for FY 2012-2013.

8. Consideration of New *EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence* Competitive Grants Awards, FY 2012-2013

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Raley. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Raley introduced Dr. Gregg who explained that the Centers of Excellence grants are funded by the state Education

Improvement Act and the Commission works with the Education Oversight Committee to determine themes or foci for the proposed Centers. She informed the Committee that the program is designed for the professional development of teachers and the awards are not limited to institutions' schools of education. She stated that Centers are recommended for five years of funding wherein the amount of funding decreases over the five years until the Center is self-sustaining. Dr. Gregg explained that the awards program has a Review Panel comprised of a chair who is usually an out-of-state expert and members from various arenas, including representatives of the S.C. Department of Education, the Education Oversight Committee, and public and private institutions of higher education. She stated that three proposals were submitted for this year, and the Review Panel recommended The Citadel's Center focusing on STEM education for funding.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to approve** the new awards made under the *EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence Grants Program for FY 2012-2013*.

9. Consideration of Revised Guidelines for Federal *Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-2014*

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Raley. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval of the revised Guidelines. Dr. Raley introduced Dr. Gregg who informed the Committee that the majority of the revisions are simple edits regarding dates. She stated that a few revisions reflect clarifications of specific issues.

Admiral Munns asked whether the emphasis of the program shifted from STEM education. Dr. Gregg answered that the original program, the Eisenhower Grants program, concentrated solely on STEM disciplines, but with the NCLB legislation, the content areas for the program expanded beyond STEM. She explained that a request can be made that the emphasis or content areas for the upcoming year be narrowed. She stated that this year's emphasis is on content areas which align with the Common Core standards. Admiral Munns requested that emphasis be made on STEM disciplines. Dr. Gregg explained that if the Commission requests a change in emphasis area, then she would communicate that decision to the S.C. Department of Education.

Admiral Munns recommended that the motion be modified to state that the Committee adopts the Revised Guidelines but requests that the staff narrow the content areas to STEM disciplines. Mr. Phillips seconded the revised recommendation.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised *Guidelines for Federal Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-2014*, including revisions made by the Committee in the discussion of the agenda item.

10. Consideration of Revised Guidelines for *EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-2014*

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Raley. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval of the revised Guidelines. Dr. Raley introduced Dr. Gregg who explained that the revisions reflect basic edits. She informed the Committee that the Education Oversight Committee recommended that submissions focus on the Common Core standards this year.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised *Guidelines for EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-2014*.

11. Consideration of Revised Consortium Agreement for the Lowcountry Graduate Center

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Raley. It was **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Raley introduced Dr. Hynd and Dr. Hines. Admiral Munns asked about the last sentence on page one of the staff summary: "The 2012 revision creates an expanded Governing Board consisting of the provosts of the member institutions, their provosts, two trustees of each member institution, the Director of the LGC (*ex-officio* non-voting), the Dean of the College of Charleston North Campus (*ex-officio* non-voting, newly added), and a member of the Commission on Higher Education (*ex-officio* non-voting, newly added)." Admiral Munns expressed his confusion about the double mention of the provosts. Dr. Raley explained that the second mention of provosts will be deleted to correct the typo.

Dr. Hynd provided a brief description of the Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC), which was created several years ago and is hosted by the College of Charleston at its north campus. He explained that the College and the Center have shared staff. He informed the Committee that with the revisions, the Center has decided to remove the Presidents of the partnering institutions from the governing board, at the Presidents' request. Dr. Hynd stated that the Presidents have delegated their authority on the governing board to their respective provosts. He explained that the Director of the Center will be charged with drawing programs for the Center from public institutions across the state.

Dr. Hines informed the Committee that the work of the governing board is mainly to review and oversee academic curriculum. He explained that the origin of the Center traces back to a study conducted by the Commission of the future of graduate education in the Lowcountry area.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised Consortium Agreement for the Lowcountry Graduate Center.

12. Other Business

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.