



CAAL
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Agenda Item 8

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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The Honorable Lewis R. Vaughn

Dr. Richard C. Sutton,
Executive Director

September 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Ms. Renea Eshleman, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Information Report on Staff-Approved Mission Statement Modifications

In keeping with the Commission's *Policy and Procedures for Approval of New or Revised Mission Statements*, Commission staff reviewed proposed mission statement revisions from the following institution since August 2012:

- [Clemson University](#)
- [Coastal Carolina University](#)
- [Francis Marion University](#)
- [USC Beaufort](#)
- [Central Carolina Technical College](#)
- [Horry Georgetown Technical College](#)
- [Northeastern Technical College](#)
- [York Technical College](#)

The changes were determined to be minor as defined by the policy, which reads "Minor revisions are those revisions which do not change the nature, function, type, or sector of the institution. Examples include revisions for clarity and grammar, changes in size, CHE-approved changes in program mix, board-approved name changes, and editorial changes." As such, the proposed changes were considered and approved at the staff level.

The revised statements are shown below.

Clemson University

Mission Statement

Clemson University was established to fulfill our founder's vision of "a high seminary of learning" to develop "the material resources of the State" for the people of South Carolina. Nurtured by an abiding land grant commitment, Clemson has emerged as a research university with a global vision. Our primary purpose is educating undergraduate and graduate students to think deeply about and engage in the social, scientific, economic, and professional challenges of our times. The foundation of this mission is the generation, preservation, communication, and application of knowledge. The University also is committed to the personal growth of the individual and promotes an environment of good decision making, healthy and ethical lifestyles, and tolerance and respect for others. Our distinctive character is shaped by a legacy of service, collaboration, and fellowship forged from and renewed by the spirit of Thomas Green Clemson's covenant.

University Description

Clemson University is a selective, public, research university in a college-town setting. Clemson's desire is to attract a capable, dedicated and diverse student body of approximately 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, with priority to students from South Carolina. The University offers a wide array of high quality baccalaureate programs built around a distinctive core curriculum. Graduate, continuing education, doctoral and research programs contribute to the state of knowledge and to the economic future of the state, nation and world. The university provides bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in more than 100 majors through five academic colleges: the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities; the College of Business and Behavioral Science; the College of Engineering and Science; and the College of Health, Education and Human Development.

Clemson combines the benefits of a major research university with a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and individual student success. Students, both undergraduate and graduate, have opportunities for unique educational experiences throughout South Carolina, as well as in other countries. Experiential learning is a valued component of the Clemson experience, and students are encouraged through Creative Inquiry, internships, and study abroad, to apply their learning beyond the classroom. Electronic delivery of courses and degree programs also provide a variety of learning opportunities. Clemson's extended campus includes teaching sites in Greenville and Charleston, five research campuses and five public service centers throughout the state of South Carolina, as well as four international sites.

The University is committed to exemplary teaching, research and public service in the context of general education, student engagement and development, and continuing education. In all areas, the goal is to develop students' communication and critical-thinking skills, ethical judgment, global awareness, and scientific and technological knowledge. The distinctive character of Clemson is reflected in the culture of collegiality and collaboration among faculty, students, staff, the administration, and the university board.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, October 19, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, March 22, 2013

Coastal Carolina University

Mission Statement

Coastal Carolina University is a public comprehensive liberal arts institution that seeks to develop students who are both knowledgeable in their chosen fields and prepared to be productive, responsible, healthy citizens with a global perspective. To deliver on this commitment, Coastal Carolina recruits highly qualified and motivated students, faculty, and staff from the region, state, nation, and world to create a diverse and dynamic student-centered learning environment.

Because Coastal Carolina embraces the teacher-scholar model, it places primary emphasis on high quality teaching and engaged learning, and it supports faculty research, creative activities, and expert collaboration in the community, state, nation, and world. This focus enables faculty and staff to mentor students in collaborative research, creative opportunities, and internships. To nurture this active learning community, Coastal Carolina maintains a broad range of contemporary technologies, programming, support services, and innovative course offerings and delivery methods. The result is alumni who are well prepared for professional careers or graduate programs in their chosen fields and who continue to be connected to Coastal Carolina.

Inspired by its founding in 1954 to serve the educational needs of the immediate area, Coastal Carolina has grown with the region to become a mid-sized regional comprehensive university with a tradition of a strong liberal arts core. As such, Coastal Carolina commits its resources to maintaining a population of 8,000 – 12,000 students by building baccalaureate and selective master's programs of national and/or regional significance in the arts and sciences, business, humanities, education, and health and human services and a Ph.D. program in Marine Science. Coastal Carolina fully embraces its leadership role as a regional center of economic and intellectual resources, lifelong learning, cultural and recreational opportunities, and athletic programs.

As Coastal Carolina executes this mission, it recognizes its responsibility to be a role model to the community and to the professions by assuring fair and honest treatment of people with whom it interacts and sustainable stewardship of resources entrusted to it, adopting the highest standards of integrity and accountability, and in committing itself to excellence through continuous assessment and improvement.

Approved by the Coastal Carolina University Board of Trustees, June 7, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, October 4, 2012

Francis Marion University

Mission Statement

Francis Marion University is a four-year public institution established by the state of South Carolina. It is located in the northeastern part of the state near the city of Florence and has more than 4,000 students. Its purpose is threefold: to provide students with an excellent education, stimulate inquiry and research, and serve the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina.

Francis Marion University adheres to the primary purpose for which it was established as a college in 1970: to make available excellent educational programs for the people of the region and the state. The University offers bachelor's degrees in a wide range of liberal arts disciplines, as well as in the health sciences, education, and business. The University also offers professional degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and specialist levels. While maintaining high standards, we serve students with a broad range of preparation and ability. We seek a wide variety of students, primarily from the Pee Dee region, but also from the entire state, other states, and foreign countries. We believe that a student body diverse in age, racial and ethnic background, and country of origin enriches the education of all students. To achieve its educational goals, the University has outstanding faculty members distinguished by high achievement and diverse academic backgrounds. We provide traditional and, when appropriate, non-traditional instruction, access to an excellent library as well as electronic resources, and staff members committed to student learning and success. A low student-faculty ratio and faculty concern for the individual student help us to achieve our goals. The University recognizes the importance of the out-of-the-classroom experience and offers opportunities for students to engage in activities that promote personal growth. In addition, the University provides students with special learning opportunities, such as an honors program, internships, study abroad destinations, and cooperative degree programs.

Since our highest priority is excellence in teaching and learning, we believe that intellectual inquiry and analysis by students and faculty members are essential. We encourage all scholarly pursuits, including student research for courses and faculty research for presentation and publication and for use in the classroom. The University provides faculty members with support for professional development through resources for innovative teaching, scholarship, and service. Our goal of an academic experience built on inquiry and research as well as the transmission of information allows students to develop their ability to think and communicate, to gain knowledge and skills, to pursue a career or further study, to appreciate the creativeness of the human mind, to be aware of the human and natural environment of the world, and to have the capacity to pursue a life of learning and understanding.

The University also serves the needs of Florence and the surrounding area in ways beyond formal education. Numerous artistic and cultural activities, athletic programs, health initiatives, and outreach efforts benefit not only our students, but also the community. To foster the economic development of the region, we offer consulting services to business, industry, and government. Academic and practical assistance to area schools is basic to our endeavors. Faculty and staff members participate in and contribute to a wide range of community activities.

Francis Marion emphasizes liberal arts education while offering new academic programs with innovative technology. It is small enough to provide attention to each student, but large enough to offer a variety of academic and cultural resources. It thus combines the advantages of a liberal arts college with the resources and programs of a public university.

Approved by the Francis Marion University Board of Trustees, June 15, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, October 4, 2012

University of South Carolina Beaufort

Mission Statement

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) responds to regional needs, draws upon regional strengths, and prepares graduates to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally with its mission of teaching, research, and service. USCB is a senior baccalaureate campus (1,400 to 3,000 students) of the state's largest public university. It offers degree programs in the arts, humanities, professions, and social and natural sciences delivered through on-site instruction and distance education, along with an active program of co-curricular activities and athletics. It serves a racially and culturally diverse student body, including military personnel, veterans and their dependents, and draws students from the South Carolina Lowcountry, from around the country, and from around the world. USCB enriches the quality of life for area residents of all ages through its academic programs, continuing education, artistic and cultural offerings, community outreach, collaborations with regional initiatives, and life-long learning opportunities.

Approved by the USC Board of Trustees, December 18, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, June 7, 2013

Central Carolina Technical College

Mission Statement

Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive, public, two-year institution of higher education dedicated to fostering a positive environment of teaching and learning for faculty, staff, and students. The College serves primarily the region of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties in South Carolina and confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. College programs, student support services, and resources provide citizens, businesses, industries, and communities with quality, affordable, accessible, customer-responsive post-secondary education through life-long learning and specialized training opportunities. These are designed to develop the foundation for personal growth, economic development, and an improved quality of life through multiple learning environments including traditional and electronic instructional methods.

The College's vast array of associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs prepares students to enter the job market, to transfer to senior colleges and universities, and to achieve their professional and personal goals. Specifically, Central Carolina offers academic programs in business, the health sciences, public service, industrial and engineering technology, and the arts and sciences. Through its comprehensive programs and support services, the College annually serves over 6,000 credit students and 1,400 continuing education students through traditional and non-traditional formats in multiple learning environments including online, electronic, and distance learning.

Approved by the Central Carolina Technical College Area Commission, January 17, 2013
Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, January 30, 2013

Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Mission Statement

The mission of Horry-Georgetown Technical College is to provide accessible, affordable, high-quality, comprehensive two-year collegiate education and workforce development; to provide a student centered environment and inspire lifelong learning; to promote learning through teaching excellence; to promote community service and embrace diversity; to promote economic growth; and to embrace technological innovation in instruction and workplace applications.

Role and Scope

Since its creation in 1966, Horry-Georgetown Technical College has continued to provide post-secondary certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs leading directly to securing or continuing employment; degree programs which enable students to access other post-secondary education; and workforce development programs to meet the needs of job training, occupational advancement, licensing, and certification.

As a member of the South Carolina Technical College System, the College is a public, two-year technical college, enrolling 7,500 to 9,000 college credit curriculum students during the fall semester and providing non-credit courses and programs for workforce development and job training. The College primarily provides services to the individuals and employers of Horry and Georgetown Counties, but also offers programs to meet regional, national, and international needs. The College values partnerships with business, industry, community agencies, and other educational and governmental institutions which support the growth and development of the community.

The faculty's primary function is to ensure student learning and academic goal achievement through innovative teaching that integrates theory and application. The College provides student services to support individual and educational goals. The College endeavors to fulfill its mission by fostering the belief that all people should have equal opportunity for personal and professional growth in leading to a productive and meaningful life. The College respects every member of the college community and is committed to fairness in its educational endeavors.

Approved by the HGTC Area Commission, February 12, 2013

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, March 22, 2013

Northeastern Technical College

Mission Statement

The primary purpose of Northeastern Technical College is to prepare the workforce of Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon Counties through education and training.

Detailed Mission Statement

Northeastern Technical College (NETC) provides occupational, technical, college transfer, basic academic skills, and continuing education programs with appropriate support services to meet the needs of individuals, businesses, and industries in a rural service area composed of Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon Counties. . Within this focus, the College contributes to economic growth by enhancing the employability of service area residents in technology, business, health, arts, and sciences.

The College is dedicated to providing quality instructional programs which remain accessible to both traditional and nontraditional students through open admissions, reasonable costs, counseling, advisement, educational technology, financial assistance, and career development services. NETC also provides personal growth and enrichment opportunities through community services, continuing education, and social and cultural activities.

Northeastern Technical College, a member of the South Carolina Technical and Comprehensive Education System is an accredited post-secondary institution which grants associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates and is supported by county, state, federal, and student revenues. The average annual enrollment for NETC is approximately 1,220 students and 1,267 continuing education students.

Approved by the NETC Area Commission, June 26, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, October 17, 2012

York Technical College

Mission Statement

Building Our Community Through Maximizing Student Success

York Technical College, a member of the South Carolina Technical and Comprehensive Education System, is a public, two-year institution of higher education that offers a variety of associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Through maximizing student success, the College seeks to contribute to the economic growth and development of York, Lancaster, and Chester counties and of the State. York Technical College has an open admissions policy for qualified students and annually enrolls 8,000-10,000 credit students. Through excellence in teaching and learning, the College provides program offerings, in a variety of delivery methods, in the areas of engineering technology, industrial technology, information technology, business, health sciences, and public service and transfer to senior colleges and universities. In addition, the College offers a comprehensive selection of corporate and continuing education courses designed to promote occupational advancement, personal interest, and business and industry growth.

Approved by the York Technical College Commission, October 9, 2012

Approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, October 22, 2012