

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

May 6, 2004
10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Rosemary Byerly
Sue Cole
Larry Durham
Douglas Forbes
Austin Gilbert
James Konduros
Miles Loadholt
DeLoris Oliver
Tom Olsen
Daniel Ravenel
Roger Stevenson

Commission Members Absent

John Griffith
Vermelle Johnson

Staff Present

Rita Allison
Camille Brown
Mike Brown
Renea Eshleman
Conrad Festa
Charlie FitzSimons
Monica Goodwin
Bichevia Green
Betsy Gunter
Nancy Healy
Deborah Henning
Lynn Kelley
Michelle McDowell
Gail Morrison
Mike Raley
Jocelyn Ross
Jan Stewart
Edna Strange
Julie Wahl
Shayne Watts
Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Charles Bierbauer
Betty Boatwright
Ann Bowles
Dianne Bradstadter
Bill Bragdon
Mia Butler
Donna Collins
Kay Coons
Anthony Coyne
Tina Crews
Kenneth Davis
Terry Davis
Doar DePew
Edie Dobyns
Wayne Fogel
Marilyn Fore
Henry Giko
Dr. Gary Hansen
Curt Holland
Barbara Hoskins
David Hunter
Charlie Jeffcoat
Sue Johnson
Rick Kelley
Star Kepner
Dan Madenicek
Lee Monroe
Philip Moore
Susan Prior
Charles Shawver
Jackie Skubal
Teresa Smith
David Swinton
Mark Tarplee
Brenda Thames
Mary Thornley
Aileen Trainer
Sherrill Vaughn
Richard Williams
James Williamson
Brice Wilson
Charles Young

Press Present

Jeff Stensland

1. Introductions

Chairman Floyd called the meeting to order at 10:40 and asked Dr. Lynn Kelly to introduce guests attending the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of March 10 and April 3, 2004 were distributed for review prior to the meeting. A **motion** was made (Durham), **seconded** (Cole) and **carried** to approve the minutes as submitted.

3. Chairman's Report

- ◆ May is National Scholarship Month. On May 13, on the north steps of the State House, the Commission on Higher Education, along with the Governor's Office, will recognize South Carolina's increased investment in merit-based aid and the Governor's Office will present a proclamation to encourage students to do well in school and recognize the State's focus on increasing access to post secondary education through additional scholarship aid. In addition, the Commission has invited LIFE, Palmetto Fellows and HOPE scholarship recipients to the event to talk about how the scholarships helped them pursue higher education. Commission members were invited to attend.
- ◆ On May 17 there will be a ceremony at the African-American monument on the statehouse grounds to recognize the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. The Briggs vs. Elliott case in Clarendon County was a pioneering case to deal with the doctrine of separate but equal schools. It was one of the cases consolidated in the Brown vs. Board of Education case. We are inviting the descendents of the plaintiffs in that case to be there and will present them with a commemorative medal. John Rainey at Brookgreen Gardens had a commemorative medal designed to honor the occasion. Much of the factual basis for the court's decision in the Brown vs. Board of Education came from the Briggs vs. Elliott case, argued by Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP counsel (later appointed a supreme court justice). Hopefully the Governor will also be present.
- ◆ Chairman Floyd opened discussion of the possibility of re-activating a Business Advisory Council referred to in Act 359. A Business Advisory Council was organized, but has been inactive for a couple of years. If any members have any ideas for members from the business community that may be willing to serve, they were asked to please contact the Commission office. There have been discussions with the Department of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce trying to assemble an advisory council from the business community.
- ◆ Chairman Floyd publicly thanked Charlie FitzSimons, Gail Morrison, Karen Woodfaulk and Rita Allison for their promotion of the Commission's priorities among the legislators with positive results, especially with regard to the Virtual Library. Austin Gilbert, Jim Konduros and Dan Ravenel were in charge of working with the presidents. He also commended the Presidents for their assistance.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee (No Report)

-Dalton B. Floyd

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Sue Cole

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

1. A.B., Digital Arts, Horry-Georgetown Tech
2. A.H.S., Pharmacy Technology, Horry-Georgetown
3. A.D.N., Nursing, Spartanburg Technical College
4. A.H.S., Emergency Medical Technology, Technical College of the Lowcountry
5. A.I.T., Industrial Maintenance Technology, York Tech
6. B.A., History, USC-Beaufort
7. B.A., Psychology, USC-Beaufort
8. B.A., Spanish, USC-Beaufort
9. B.S. Biology, USC-Beaufort
10. B.A.J.M.C., Visual Communications, USC-Columbia
11. B.S., Business and Technology (Teacher Certification), USC-Columbia
12. M.S. Youth Development, Clemson
13. M.R.E.D., Masters of Real Estate Development, Clemson
14. M.S.E.M., Sport and Entertainment Management, USC-Columbia

Vermelle Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs was unable to be present for this meeting and in her absence Sue Cole presented their report. Ms. Cole explained at length that the 14 program proposals listed above were studied and approved by the Committee and now are before the Commission for final approval. Full descriptions of these programs (**ATT I**) were sent to the Commissioners for their review prior to the meeting. All of them carry the common proviso that “no unique cost or other special funding are required or requested.” Other provisions are unique to one or several of the programs as stated in the individual recommendations. She indicated that if there were any programs members of the Commission chose to review individually, those could be dealt with by separate motions. On behalf of the Committee, the **motion** was made (Cole), **seconded** (Olsen), and unanimously **carried** to approve all 14 of the programs listed using the language as found in each recommendation. During discussion, Dr. Forbes asked if any of these programs duplicated offerings from the private schools. Dr. Morrison explained that while there is duplication, all programs are certainly justified in terms of needs of the institutions and the students they serve.

In response to Mr. Ravenel’s inquiry as to who competes with USC Beaufort, it was explained that there really is no other four-year institution immediately accessible to the population served by USCB.

C. Consideration of Amendment to Licensing Statute

For the reasons listed in the Committee’s report, certain changes in the Non-public Postsecondary Institution License Act are important at this time. On behalf of the

Committee, a **motion** was made by Ms. Cole, **seconded** by Mr. Ravenel and unanimously **carried** to authorize the staff to pursue amending this statute through the General Assembly.

During discussion, Dr. Morrison explained that the present licensing statute is not explicit in its exemptions from restrictions placed on personal appearances in the state; the Attorney General's office had suggested that we make explicit the fact that personal contact such as occasional or incidental informational public appearances (such as at high school recruiting fairs) and degree-granting institutions accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that conduct occasional or incidental recruiting activities (such as at high school recruiting fairs or through seasonal recruitment advertising) should be explicitly exempt from the licensing authority and the statute should be clarified to explicitly state that.

All proposed changes were sent out in the Commission materials for review prior to the meeting and are found in **Attachment II**.

D. Consideration of Revised Mission Statements:

1. Denmark Technical College
2. Midlands Technical College
3. Trident Technical College

Ms. Cole explained that the changes in the Mission Statement for Denmark Technical College is to the number of students served and in the name of the unit which provides non-credit training from "Special Schools" to "Center for Accelerated Technology Training."

For Midlands Technical College, the change in its mission relates to additions to the values section of the existing mission statement.

For Trident Technical College, the change in the mission statement is necessary to reflect the addition of one four-year Bachelor of Professional Studies degree program in the culinary arts as authorized in the 2004 session of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, a **motion** (Cole) was made, **seconded** (Byerly) and **carried** to approve the mission statement changes as presented.

During discussion, Dr. Forbes asked about the possibility of Trident Tech requesting permission to offer more four-year courses next session.

Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College, was recognized and explained that they are here today with a request for approval to offer one four-year degree. They need this approval in order to begin the process of filing a substantive change with the regional accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and to ensure that students in the program are eligible for financial aid.

Mission statement revisions are found with full explanations in **Attachment III**.

E. Consideration of Annual Report on *Admissions Standards for First-time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2003*

The *Admissions Standards for First-time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2003* is in five parts and demonstrates this year's compliance by the four-year public institutions in reaching or approaching certain achievement measures and admissions standards for entering freshmen. The inclusion of USC-Beaufort as a four-year campus shows that the institution is admitting a significantly higher percentage of students who are provisional than the 15% recommended by the Commission. On behalf of the Committee, a **motion** (Cole) was made, **seconded** (Loadholt) and **carried** to approve transmission of this report to the legislative bodies and to the SC Department of Education in compliance with Act 629 and Act 359. (**ATT IV**)

Chairman Floyd and Dr. Morrison had a brief discussion concerning USC Beaufort's status in this report and the fact that it will take them several years to graduate Baccalaureate students and fall into alignment with similar institutions.

E. Report on Endorsement of "Standards for Success" from *Understanding University Success* Report (ATT V**)**

Ms. Cole asked Dr. Morrison to present information on this report. One of the things that the Commission is interested in doing and the *Foundations for the Future Report* encouraged the Commission to do more of was engage more with the K-12 community. The higher education community has been aware of the fact that student preparation at the high school level is not all that it should be, so one of the changes has been to attempt to engage higher education in helping define what that student preparation should be. The *Understanding University Success* report came out 18 months to 2 years ago. The Advisory Committee endorsed this report at its last meeting. South Carolina has done a good job in developing high school curriculum standards; however, historically lacking are similar standards for higher education. When students come out of K-12 and enter four-year institutions and, in some cases, technical colleges as well, students have not performed as well as they should. This has led to research showing a gap between K-12 exit standards and college faculty expectations for entering college freshmen. This report attempted to identify college faculty expectations by the major core discipline areas. This report identifies knowledge and skills standards that can be clearly articulated to the K-12 community. This is important, since a high number of South Carolina merit scholarship students lose their scholarships after the first year. The ultimate goal would be to align K-12 course and exit standards with the college-entry standards and eliminate any gaps between them.

This is an informational report and needs no action by the Commission.

F. Report on New Program Approvals and Program Terminations, FY 2003-2004

Attachment VI is for information only and lists 2003-2004 approved and terminated programs and a spreadsheet showing approved programs and Centers, Bureaus and Institutes by institution. This needs no motion, no action by the Commission.

4.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

- Ms. Sue Cole

Attachment VII is an informational report, *LIFE Scholarship Program, Fall 1999 Cohort Analysis*, for Commission information. The report shows what happened to LIFE scholarship students after receiving the scholarship during their freshman year and includes information as to why the student lost the scholarship after the freshman year and provides information about the percentage of students who lost the scholarship after the first year and how many of them went on to graduate within four years.

This report is presented to the Commission as information. Mr. Ravenel commented that this was just the type of information the Commission needs to see and commended the efforts of staff to keep the Commissioners informed.

There was a recess at this point.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Ms. Rosemary Byerly

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Citadel - Law Barracks Replacement - | \$ 17,700,000 | increase/revise scope |
| 2. Coastal Carolina - Atlantic Center Improvements - | 1,200,000 | establish |
| 3. Clemson - Calhoun Courts-Chill Water Lines - | 4,400,000 | increase/revise scope |
| 4. College of Charleston – Program/Academic Conversions
Various Campus Facilities | 1,000,000 | increase |
| 5. USC-Columbia - Kirkland Apartments Renovations - | 1,900,000 | establish |
| 6. Tri-County TC - Cleveland Hall Addition - | 800,000 | significant change in scope |

Ms. Byerly read through the projects and explained that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had met, reviewed and approved all six projects as they were presented and, on behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Ravenel) and **carried**, with no further discussion.

Full explanation of these programs and staff recommendations are found in **Attachment VIII**.

Discussion of Non-Agenda Item

Ms. Byerly presented an additional item for consideration. There was a project from USC Columbia submitted this morning, and neither staff nor the Committee has had sufficient time to review it. Because of their pressing time frame, the Committee will conduct a special meeting to consider this project in order to accommodate the institution, recognizing the time-sensitive nature of this request. Hopefully the Committee will meet in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Byerly then asked the Commission to vest the authority to the Executive Committee to approve the project on behalf of the Commission after appropriate Consideration by the Committee.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to vest in the Executive Committee the authority to approve the project on behalf of the Commission after due consideration by the Committee. Gen. Olsen made said **motion**, Mr. Durham **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

During discussion, Mr. Ravenel asked for a brief explanation of this project, given the amount of money the Commission is being asked to approve. Mr. Rick Kelly of USC explained that it is an ongoing energy management project. This is money already in USC's budget, used to pay utility bills. This is a request to re-route funds already available. USC had consultants conduct energy audits to determine how to save money, using money already in the budget, and this plan was the result. He again apologized for the tardiness in presenting the project, but the Board of Trustees only approved the project yesterday.

B. Consideration of Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program Panel Recommendations

The regulations for the program were approved in April. The review panel met on Thursday, April 29. This morning, the Committee approved the allocations outlined in **Attachment IX**. On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Stevenson) and unanimously **carried** to approve those allocations.

5. Report on the Safety Conference

-Larry Durham

Chairman Floyd asked Mr. Durham to report on the Safety Conference. The fifth annual safety conference was held at Coastal Carolina University on March 11 and 12 and was preceded by an event at Brookgreen Gardens on March 10. It was a very good conference. There were over 145 participants this year and everyone enjoyed the various seminars. Ms. Linda Floyd was presented with a commendation for her work in establishing and planning the annual safety conference over the past five years. He thanked Karen and the Student Services Division for the efficient and professional handling of the conference.

6. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa reported that the legislature was now working on the budget. The Commission has been fortunate to have some of its priorities brought to the forefront. The possibilities for \$2 million for the virtual library look encouraging. He thanked Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Konduros and Mr. Ravenel for their work on the committee appointed to bring this item to the attention of the legislators. The Senate had recommended an increase in funding for need-based grants. They did not recommend an increase as great as the House, so that will go to Conference Committee and hopefully they will see the need to increase those funds by the amount recommended by the House. Dr. Festa informed the Commission that he was working with the Presidents and has established a working group who will begin work on accountability issues. Best practices on accountability in other states are being examined to determine what South Carolina needs in terms of assessment and accountability reporting mechanisms.

Dr. Morrison was commended for her work with the Research Centers of Excellence Review Board, and Dr. Woodfaulk for her work with the LIFE Scholarships, working with the institutions and with legislators.

Legislative Update**-Rita Allison**

Ms. Allison reported that she had furnished updates for legislation that was introduced and sent to committee, or has had second or third readings this week.

Two weeks after Commission meetings, a bulletin will be sent to you informing you of the status of projects at the Commission and the legislature. The *Chairman's Newsletter* will be sent to the colleges and universities in June. Ms. Allison thanked all Commissioners who called legislators for help on behalf of the virtual library. There will be a press release concerning the ceremony on May 18 on the State House grounds honoring the descendants of the Brown vs. Board of Education in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

5. Other Business

Ms. Sue Cole asked to be recognized. She told the Commission that she had reason to believe this would be her last Commission meeting and thanked everyone for all their cooperation for the last six years. Chairman Floyd in turn thanked her for her many contributions to the Commission and to higher education over the past six years and hopefully her association with the Commission will not end, merely change in character.

Ms. Byerly asked that her Committee reconvene at 12:45 in order to expedite their business.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Gunter

Recording Secretary

Attachments I-IX

*Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.