

November 4, 2004

TO: Dalton Floyd, and Members
Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Dan Ravenel
Interim Chair, Access & Equity and Student Services Committee

Consideration of Program Summaries and Appropriation Requests for FY 2005-2006 for EIA Funded Teacher Recruitment Projects

Introduction

During the 1986 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized the Commission on Higher Education to award grants to the public and/or private colleges and universities to improve the recruitment of teacher education candidates, allocating \$236,000 in Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds for this purpose. A consortium made up of a majority of teacher training institutions in the State submitted one combined proposal to establish the SC Teacher Recruitment Center. The proposed Center was approved by the Commission and has been funded annually since FY 1986-87.

In FY 1986-87, separate appropriations to SC State University were made by the General Assembly to improve the recruitment of minority teacher candidates. Since FY 1986-87, continuing appropriations to SC State University have been made, both through the EIA and General Fund. Beginning in FY 1990-91, appropriations for the SC Teacher Recruitment Center and the Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers at SC State University were made solely through EIA.

Beginning in FY 1988-89, The Commission on Higher Education was required, by a proviso in the General Appropriations Act, to “monitor the use” of these funds and to report on the “effectiveness of the programs” to the Senate and House Committee and to the EIA Select Committee. The Commission has done so since 1988-89.

The FY 1990-91 Appropriations Act included a more extensive proviso which instructed the Commission to ‘ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis...ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the ...teacher recruitment projects...review the use of funds and ...have prior program and budget approval.’”

Annually, “the Commission...shall evaluate the effectiveness of each of the teacher recruitment projects and shall report its findings and its program and budget recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees and the Education Improvement Act Select Committee by December 1.”

The attached reports from the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention & Advancement (formally the SC Teacher Recruitment Center) and the Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers at South Carolina State University are to be submitted to the Commission, in compliance with the above proviso, to the Senate and House Education Committees and to the Education Oversight Committee.

Each project has submitted its 2004-2005 Annual Report to the Commission staff, along with its appropriations request for FY 2005-2006. Summaries of the Annual Reports for the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention & Advancement and the Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers at S C State University are provided. Also, the reports are available on the Commission’s website.

Recommendation

The Access& Equity and Student Services Committee will consider the FY 2005-06 appropriation requests for \$575,000 for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers and \$5,545,569 for the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement on October 27, 2004 and submit its recommendation to the full Commission on November 4, 2004.

Attachment