

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes of the Meeting
March 1, 2007

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Col. John Bowden
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Tina Anderson
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Arlene Criswell
Mr. Franklin Davis
Ms. Angela Enlow
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Nan Ford
Ms. Sybil Gibbs
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Deborah Henning
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Ms. Marian Jones
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Rae McPherson
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Mr. Frank Myers
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Mary Ann Bickle, USC - Columbia
Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Governor's Office
Mr. Bill Bragdon, USC - Columbia
Mr. Edwin Breazeale, Midlands Technical College
Mr. David Carter, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Kathy Carter, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Missy Coker, Williamsburg Technical College
Elder Charles J. Coleman, Southeast Middle School
Ms. Cheryl Coleman, Southeast Middle School
Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Ms. Donna Collins, USC - Columbia
Mr. Al Cope, Clemson University
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC - Sumter
Mr. George Dennis, S.C. Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sharon Givens, S.C. Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Santana Grooms, Southeast Middle School
Dr. Karen Horne, S.C. Department of Education
Ms. Tondaleya Jackson, Benedict University
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, USC - Columbia
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Dr. Spike Metts, The Citadel
Dr. Gina Mounfield, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Steve Nida, The Citadel
Ms. Sandy Powers, College of Charleston
Ms. Susan Prior, USC - Columbia
Ms. Carmen Pugh, Service Learning Committee
Dr. Jim Rex, S.C. Department of Education
Ms. Chelsea Scott, Southeast Middle School
Ms. Constance Tarrance, Southeast Middle School
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC - Columbia
Dr. Sonny White, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Angela Woodard, Benedict College
Ms. Gizelle Woods, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Chuck Wright, USC - Sumter

Members of the Press

none

The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy at approximately 10:30 a.m. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests all of whom are listed above and who were announced at the meeting.

2. Special Presentation

Dr. Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education

Dr. Gail Morrison introduced and welcomed Dr. Rex, noting that his many years of experience covered the broad spectrum of K-12 through higher education. Dr. Rex delivered his remarks drawn predominantly from the reforms recommended in *South Carolina's Covenant with Our Children: A comprehensive plan for reforming, supporting, and improving our public schools*, the report of his transition team. Those reforms are in the following five areas crucial to improving South Carolina's schools: accelerating innovation; reforming accountability to ensure success; expanding choices for parents and students; promoting fair and equitable school funding; and elevating and reinvigorating the teaching profession. A copy of this report may be found in **Attachment I**.

Following Dr. Rex's presentation, Chairman McCurdy emphasized the importance of a K-16 collaborative effort in the development of a statewide plan for higher education. He also commented that he would like to see a K-16 effort advocating for improvements in teacher education as an economic development interest for the state. Dr. Rex agreed that greater K-16 interface is essential. He also recommended that the Superintendent of Education and the CHE's Executive Director be required to report annually on their articulation and communication.

In response to Commissioner Ravenel's question about the effect of dual enrollment on high school programs, Dr. Rex responded that he supports the concept, though there are some details that need to be ironed out. Commissioner Horne inquired about why South Carolina is the only southern state not aligned with the American Diploma project, which is working to align high school exit standards with college and workforce interest standards. Dr. Rex responded he believes that some regional or national consistency is needed, though he cautioned against over prescribing what teachers can teach. In response to Commissioner Mosteller's question about whether the PACT test is a useful assessment tool, Dr. Rex replied that the PACT is an accountability test, not a diagnostic test. He stated that the PACT has resulted in a great deal of praise for South Carolina's high standards and educational rigor from outside the state, though within the state is has been fairly widely condemned by teachers, parents, and students. He added that the possibility of computer assisting testing is now being studied and a report on the feasibility of that should be available in June, 2007. Commissioner Lynn inquired about Dr. Rex's plan for at-risk students. Dr. Rex replied that equitable funding is mandatory in order to provide for all students, particularly those who come from more impoverished backgrounds. Commissioner Sanders asked Dr. Rex about how the drop-out rate in South Carolina might be improved with the implementation of his plans for education. He also asked for an estimate on the number of students who may be elevated into the higher education system within five to ten years. Dr. Rex replied that within four years it is possible for South Carolina to have the most fairly funded, most innovative, and most choice-driven public school system in America, which should also make our system the fastest improving system in the country. This will reflect in many ways, including the drop-out rate. He stated that the Education and Economic Development Act's (EEDA) program, *Pathways to Success*, should successfully reveal to students the relationship between high school completion and their lives beyond. He stated that the concept of learning communities, or teams of teachers responsible for groups of students for consecutive years who also connect with a parent or other influential adult in the student's environment may be another way to address this issue. Finally, Dr. Rex stated that he hoped to cut the state's drop-out rate by one-third within four years. This will be possible because he plans to impact in innovative ways the state's "drop-out factories," schools which

have been classified as failing. Commissioner Bowden asked that Dr. Rex encourage the *Call Me Mister* program, which recruits minority males into the teaching. Dr. Rex agreed that it is very important to attract males into the profession and that a statewide marketing plan is currently being developed for that purpose.

3. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Mosteller), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2007, meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy reported that the search for a new Executive Director for the Commission continues. He stated that a new search committee had been organized which is chaired by Commissioner Ravenel. Other members of the committee are Commissioners Louis Lynn, Cyndi Mosteller, Jim Sanders, Hood Temple, and Ken Wingate. Staff member Ms. Julie Carullo will also be involved in this effort. Chairman McCurdy then offered thanks to the College of Charleston for their gracious hospitality in hosting the February 1, 2007 Commission meeting.

5. Presentation of the Commission's Service Learning Awards

- Layton McCurdy

In keeping with the focus on CHE outreach and collaborative efforts in education, the theme of today's Commission meeting, Dr. Morrison stated that service learning goes beyond the classroom and greatly enhances the learning experience. Dr. Mike Raley introduced the members of the Service Learning Awards Review Committee. They are Mr. Daniel Ravenel, Chair; Dr. Karen Horne, Ms. Carmen Pugh, and Mr. Franklin Davis. This committee's review of the twelve nominated programs was based on the criteria of the number of students involved in the program, the impact of the program on the community, and the integration of the program into academics. Winners in each of the following categories: Public four-year institution; public two-year institution; and independent college or university.

The winners were as follows:

Benedict College - PLUS (Preparation for Leadership and Unity through Service) Day
Tondaleya G. Jackson, Project Director
Angela Woodard, Assistant Director

The Citadel - The "Buddy Program"
Dr. Conway Saylor, Project Director
Dr. Steve Nida, Psychology Department Head
Dr. Spike Metts, Associate Provost

Midlands Technical College - Marketing Plan for the Village of Hope Community
Development Corporation
Mr. David Carter, Project Director
Dr. Gina Mounfield, Vice President, Career Programs
Mr. Edwin Breazeale, Department Chair, Business/Public Service

The winners were then recognized and presented plaques and simulated checks in the amount of \$500 each.

Chairman McCurdy reported that other candidates for this award had been programs from Francis Marion University, the University of South Carolina, Winthrop University, Greenville Technical College, Williamsburg Technical College, Newberry College, Clemson University, Midlands

Technical College, and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

Chairman McCurdy congratulated all participants and commended them for their excellent efforts.

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee - Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing - Bettie Rose Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing has no report.

6.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities - Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. Clemson University
 - Institute for Packaging Design & Graphics Construction
 - Rhodes Hall Annex Construction
 - Earle Hall High Bay Conversion
- 2. USC - Columbia
 - Baseball Stadium Construction

B. List of Staff Approvals for December 2006

Commissioner Ravenel reviewed each of the projects listed above, also described in **Attachment II**. He stated that each of the items has been unanimously approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee at their telephone meeting on February 8, 2007.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to collectively approve the following **recommendation** for each of the projects as listed in Item A:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this project as proposed.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to the list of staff approvals for December 2006 as provided in Item B. He stated that this was provided for information only.

7. Presentation on CHE K-16 Initiatives

A. Update on Education and Economic Development Act - Lynn Kelley

B. Overviews of Improving Teacher Quality and SC Centers of Excellence - Paula Gregg

C. Overview of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) - Rae McPherson
Overview of College Goal Sunday - Karen Woodfaulk

CHE staff members provided information on each of the above programs. A brief description of those programs may be found in **Attachment III**. Additional information about the GEAR UP program may be found in **Attachment IV**.

Commissioner Bowden inquired about whether there was a Center of Excellence at SC State University. Dr. Gregg replied that an application for a center has not yet been received from SC State, although there have been some Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) partnerships among universities and public schools in the Orangeburg area. Dr. Gregg noted that a grant writing workshop had taken place in the past year which helped improve the quality of the ITQ grant proposals submitted. A technical assistance training of this nature will likely take place this year for the Centers of Excellence program. Commission staff will make sure that SC State University is aware of that training opportunity.

Commissioner Horne remarked on the large percentage of increase in college awareness which may be attributed to GEAR UP's efforts in changing perceptions of student success. Commissioner Mosteller inquired about the number of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms which may not be completed without the assistance offered by the College Goal Sunday effort. Mr. Davis responded that a recent survey revealed approximately 80% of its participants indicated they would not have been able to successfully complete the form.

A brief presentation was delivered by three Southeast Middle School eighth grade students (Santana Grooms, Chelsea Scott, and Cheryl Coleman) whose mentor is Ms. Constance Tarrance, the GEAR UP Southeast Regional Coordinator. Cheryl Coleman's father, Elder Charles Coleman also conveyed very favorable remarks about the positive effects of the GEAR UP program.

8. Legislative Update

- Rita Allison

Ms. Allison began by stressing the importance of continuing to collaborate in efforts to improve education in South Carolina from the level of early childhood through higher education. She commended Ms. Julie Carullo for her work in providing a weekly legislative update to Commissioners which is also available to the public on the CHE web site. Ms. Allison noted that the budget will be debated on the House floor during the week of March 13, 2007, and that Senate Finance budget hearings have begun. The CHE is scheduled to present its budget recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee on March 15, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Allison introduced Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Governor Sanford's education policy advisor. She reported that the work of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force was moving forward, and it is expected that the Task Force would be broadened to include members of the legislature, members of the business community, and Commissioners. She stated that the Governor's staff is in the process of developing a proviso which will be necessary to provide funding to support the continued work of the Task Force. Ms. Allison stated that details as far as staffing of the Task Force will be revealed in a Governor's Executive Order, also currently being developed by the Governor's staff. She advised Commissioners to send to the Governor's office in writing any input they may care to have included in this effort.

Ms. Charmeka Bosket welcomed input from the Commission regarding the continued work of the Higher Education Task Force. She presented possible options for its future management and encouraged Commissioners to support the proviso when it comes before the Senate. At Chairman McCurdy's recommendation, Commissioners Horne and Sanders, members of the original Task Force, agreed to meet with Ms. Bosket immediately following the Commission meeting to discuss this matter in more detail.

Commissioner Sanders inquired about the current status of the effort to improve the facilities approval process. Ms. Lynn Metcalf replied that the Senate Finance Committee staff is currently working with the information which CHE has submitted to them, but a response on the status of this work has not yet been received. Discussion took place about legislative consideration of CHE concerns. Commissioner

Zais suggested that perhaps a more focused method of calling our most prioritized concerns to the attention of the legislature should be explored.

Chairman McCurdy, Commissioner Ravenel, and Ms. Allison agreed to meet briefly after the Commission meeting to discuss the facilities approval process concern and to try to determine a way in which that might move more quickly through the legislative process.

Commissioner Mosteller inquired about why recurring funding for the statewide electronic library had not been included in the House budget. Ms. Carullo and Dr. Morrison advised Commissioners to advocate for its inclusion in the Senate's version of the budget. When questioned about the light rail project, Ms. Carullo indicated that the House had placed \$1.5 million in non-recurring funds in each of the research institutions budgets.

9. Report of the Interim Executive Director

-Gail Morrison

Dr. Morrison reported that a Financial Aid Scholarship Hotline will be piloted by the CHE's Division of Student Services in the very near future. She also provided information on the soon to be implemented *Know How To Go* program, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation. Publicity about both of these programs is in the process of being developed. She stated that the CHE is partnering on a data project with the SC Department of Motor Vehicles which should bring forth results about extent to which out-of-state students remain in the state after having graduated from South Carolina institutions. Dr. Morrison reported that the February 25 - 27, 2007, Campus Safety Conference had been quite successful. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the Access & Equity Conference on March 28 - 30, 2007. Materials about this conference may be found in **Attachment V**. Dr. Morrison stated that the goals and objectives of the Commission's Access & Equity efforts are currently being examined in an attempt to try to update strategic planning in that regard as well as to determine possible sources of additional funding. Dr. Morrison also reported that the inaugural Lightsey Society Hall of Fame Banquet will take place in Columbia on the evening of April 25, 2007, followed by a Trustees' Conference on April 26, also in Columbia. Commissioner Sanders suggested that a strategic plan for education in South Carolina be place on the Trustees' Conference agenda.

10. Other Business

Commissioner Mosteller inquired about the House budget recommendation which provides that excess unclaimed lottery prize money would go toward need-based aid funds and asked what that amount might be. Ms. Carullo responded that this amount is unknown but based on the recent past could be between \$3 and \$5 million. Commissioner Horne made a recommendation that a dialogue could be started with Dr. Rex in a more informal setting. Dr. Morrison suggested that a spring or summer Commission retreat might be a good venue in which to have a good exchange of ideas.

11. Adjournment

A **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Forbes), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - V

*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.