

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

Minutes of the Meeting

January 8, 2004
10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Mr. Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Ms. Sue Cole
Mr. Larry Durham
Dr. Douglas Forbes
Mr. Austin Gilbert
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. James Konduros
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Ms. DeLoris Oliver
Gen. Tom Olsen
Mr. Daniel Ravenel

Commission Members Absent

Dr. John Griffith
Dr. Roger Stevenson

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Sandra Carr
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons
Ms. Betsy Gunter
Dr. Nancy Healy
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Tajuana Massie
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Jan Stewart
Ms. Julie Wahl
Ms. Shayne Watts
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Laura Barbas-Rhoden
Dr. Ronnie Booth
Mr. Bill Bragdon
Mr. Edwin Breazeale
Mr. Jim Byrd
Dr. Anthony Coyne
Ms. Suzie Edwards
Dr. Raymond Greenberg
Dr. Susan Griswold
Dr. Gary Hansen
Dr. Tom Higerd
Col. Curt Holland
Dr. Jim Hudgins
Ms. Karen Jones
Mr. Rick Kelley
Ms. Star Kepner
Dr. Carol Lancaster
Mr. Chris Manley
Dr. Dan Maultsby
Ms. Gina Mounfield
Dr. Jerry Odom
Mr. Charles Parker
Dr. Burnele Powell
Ms. Susan Prior
Ms. Mary Rawls
Ms. Pamela Robinson
Mr. Phil Sawyer
Mr. John Smalls
Dr. Gordan Smith
Dr. Andrew Sorensen
Mr. Jonothan Trail
Mr. Patrick Wamsley
Ms. Catherine Watt

Press Present

Mr. Jeff Stensland

For the record, notification of this meeting was made to the public as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

The Commission on Higher Education met on January 8, 2004, at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room at Commission on Higher Education offices.

I. Introductions

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

2. Approval of Minutes, Special Reports and Presentation of Awards

Minutes from the meetings on November 13, December 4, and December 9 (Conference call) had been distributed for review prior to the meeting. A correction to page 5 of November 13 minutes made as requested – Mr. Durham was mistakenly cited as having seconded a motion by Dr. Johnson. A **motion** was made (Durham), **seconded** (Byerly) and **carried** to approve the minutes with that correction.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Floyd reminded everyone of the Safety Conference scheduled March 10-13, at Coastal Carolina University. There is only one Commissioner besides Chairman Floyd registered for the conference and all were encouraged to do so. It was suggested that there may be a Commission retreat scheduled on March 10, during the weekend of the Safety Conference. There will be more information furnished with regard to those arrangements as they progress.

Chairman Floyd has asked Rita Allison, Director of Communications, to give a brief legislative report at each Commission meeting, the initial report to come later in this meeting. He also requested that she begin e-mail and/or mail communication on a regular basis to keep the Commissioners informed as to what is going on in the legislature.

Presentation of Service Learning Awards – 2003

Chairman Floyd reviewed the history of the Service Learning Awards, explaining that in 2001, the Commission on Higher Education undertook an initiative to recognize statewide the service learning and volunteerism efforts of the state's public higher education institutions.

By the second year of competition (2002) the Commission awarded two commendations for excellence in this field – one for four-year and one for two-year public institutions. In this, the third competition cycle, the Commission includes the service learning projects of the State's independent colleges and universities. These Service Learning awards were presented:

Independent Colleges:

Wofford College - *Advanced Spanish with Community Based Learning*

Representing Wofford College to accept the award was Dr. Dan Maulsby, Dr. Laura Baras-Rhoden (Director of the Project) and Dr. Susan Griswold (former Chairman of the Spanish Dept. at Wofford).

This project places Wofford students of Spanish in the midst of the upstate's growing Hispanic population for service to that segment of the community and for broadening the cultural understanding and deepening the linguistic abilities of the Wofford students engaged in the project. Wofford students serve as mentors in the Spartanburg public schools to Hispanic students, in after-school programs, and as volunteers at free medical clinics working with the Hispanic population.

Two-Year Public Institutions:

Midlands Technical College - Village of Hope Family Life Center

Representing Midlands Technical College receiving the award are Ms. Mary Rawls, Program Director for Human Services and Director of the Project; Edward Breazeale, Department Chair for Business and Public Services; and Gina Mounfield, Vice President for Career Programs.

The *Village of Hope Family Life Center*, in operation since 1998, serves a community of approximately 300 families, mostly single-parent families, with an average income of less than \$8,000 per year. Students serve as mentors, tutors, workshop leaders and in other capacities. Several people from this community have enrolled at Midlands Tech after completion of their GED diplomas.

Four-Year Public Institutions:

University of South Carolina College of Law - The Pro Bono Program

Representing the University Of South Carolina College Of Law receiving the award are Dr. Jerome Odom, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Gordon Smith, Associate Provost; Dr. Bernele Powell, Dean of the Law School; Ms. Pamela Robinson, Director of the Pro Bono Program.

During the 14 years this program has been in place, it is estimated that 50% of all law students have been involved in the program. The program places students in settings among populations that would not otherwise have had the resources and protections of the law which other citizens could afford. The students serve in a number of capacities. Some serve as guardians ad litem for abused and neglected children, some conduct arbitration hearings for juvenile offenders, provide income tax assistance, clerk for the public defender, translate public information brochures about legal topics, conduct legal research for attorneys involved in pro bono cases and serve as law clerks for attorneys working with hospice patients.

3. Committee Reports

3.01 Report of the Executive Committee

-Mr. Dalton B. Floyd

A Summary of Certain Items for Consideration (ATT I) was approved by the Commission in December. Since that time, Dr. Festa has had meetings with several legislators, but was unable to meet with institutional presidents until yesterday. Chairman Floyd, at this point, recognized the arrival of Dr. Sorensen, President of the University of South Carolina System and Dr. Raymond Greenberg, President of the Medical University of South Carolina, both of whom will speak later.

Executive Director: Dr. Festa reported that in order to have this summary of items added to the existing Life Sciences Bill, it would require support from key legislators who were reluctant to support the recommendations proposed by the Commission. This being the case, Dr. Festa recommended that the Commission receive recommendations from the presidents with respect to the proposed legislation for consideration by the Commission at its February meeting, giving him more time to review recommendations from the presidents.

At the meeting of the Presidents yesterday, three representatives were appointed from the presidents to report from each sector.

Dr. Jim Hudgins: Dr. Hudgins, on behalf of the technical colleges outlined points of concern: 1) the timing of the proposed changes could be enhanced. 2) The Commission's Consultants' report has not yet been studied or responded to; and 3) the proposed amendments do not resolve the basic problems of Act 359 with regard to the burden of reporting on 37 indicators that may not be appropriately focused on the missions of SC colleges. The technical college presidents will consolidate their recommendations and submit them to Dr. Festa. A summary of Dr. Hudgins' remarks is **Attachment II**.

Dr. Andrew Sorensen: Dr. Sorenson spoke representing the four-year institutions. He reported the meeting yesterday as being a good one and he brings to the Commission today the representative view of the four-year institutions. He proposed that a two-phase approach be developed to resolve the issues at hand. **Phase 1** – all of the presidents work together with Dr. Festa as the facilitator of the meetings and CHE staff and Commissioners involved in whatever way the board deems appropriate, to develop really rigorous accountability measures. Performance funding measures were designed to do that but have not done so effectively. To get some honest, objective criteria by which the Commission can evaluate the performance of institutions and make it transparent so the legislature and the taxpayers in the state of South Carolina can have some clear indication as to the adequacy of the performance of the institutions in fulfilling the mission with which they are charged. **Phase 2** – would begin concurrently, but would take a longer period of time because of the political complexities involved. That phase would offer a proposal to you by the end of the calendar year, a mechanism for governance that would strengthen the CHE.

Dr. Raymond Greenberg: There are a number of issues that the public institutions need to work together to build a consensus and the meeting yesterday was a step toward that. He expressed surprise at the content of the consultants' report – the views being very innovative and imaginative. The consultants pointed out the critical linkage that needs to take place with, for instance, the Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Education (K-12), the private business sector and the governor's office. Any group charged with reviewing the report and making recommendations would, by definition, be very large and broadly based. Ideas developed from the *Foundations for the Future Report* should be the major activity that the Commission is engaged in over the next year. In the meantime, Dr. Festa wants to move forward during this legislative session in dealing with the performance funding issues, having heard from all constituents that no one is happy with the way performance funding has worked. The group (presidents) felt they could come to some consensus on what legislative changes might be enacted in this legislative session. That would put time pressure on the group, but they feel they can do this, perhaps by March or April. The issue they would like to move to is decreasing reporting burdens that presently exist and re-examining the measures to relieve the present reporting burden.

Chairman Floyd asked if it was the intention of the institutions to work with their trustees in reviewing this report and governance issues. Dr. Greenberg expressed their willingness to have the Commissioners work with their trustees in whatever manner seems satisfactory.

Dr. Hudgins offered his procedure as a plan in that he will take the summary of their presidents' opinions to their Commission, then to the State Board. Perhaps a similar procedure would serve for the four-year institutions.

Dr. Greenberg pointed out that, as Dr. Carter stated yesterday, this legislative session, being an election year, is probably not the best time to introduce new legislation and the time between now and next session could be well spent reviewing the report and developing recommendations for change for the next legislative session..

Chairman Floyd expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the presidents and realizing that this would be a time-consuming undertaking.

Dr. Festa recommended that the Commission begin immediately to review the *Foundations for the Future* report with the intention of developing a process by which the report's recommendations can be analyzed.

Chairman Floyd suggested that the committee already formed within the commission consisting of the Executive Committee of the Commission plus Jim Konduros and Dan Ravenel begin studying the report and coming back to the full Commission with recommendations for moving forward.

Mr. Konduros spoke briefly to express the appreciation of the Commission to the presidents for their participation and cooperation and the fact that he feels very encouraged by the activities presently underway.

Legislative Update: Ms. Rita Allison was asked to provide a legislative update at each subsequent Commission meeting. Today she reported that pre-filed legislation for consideration at the beginning of this session included Lottery Tuition Assistance requirements in line with LIFE and other scholarship requirements relating to convictions of certain crimes; the piece of legislation dealing with the Superintendent of Education becoming a cabinet position is perhaps most prevalent. The Economic and Education Act will be on the agenda with articulation being the area worked with most. Dr. Gail Morrison from the CHE staff has been sitting on that Sub-Committee. Life Sciences legislation S560 containing regulatory relief for institutions; ½ percent bond increase (250M); Sumter becoming a four-year institution; and the proposed four-year Culinary Arts School, will be up on the gaveling in of the Senate. H 3926 dealing with students called to military duty; and LIFE scholarships for National Guard and reserves, have been passed by the House and sent back to the Senate. These are all to be dealt with in the early days of this legislative session.

There have been several op ed pieces from the Commission that have appeared in Newspapers around the State. Copies of these were distributed today. Chairman Floyd's Newsletter will be going out shortly after the meeting today.

Chairman Floyd asked if the USC Sumter piece is attached to the Life Sciences bill, to which the answer is yes.

**3.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs
and Licensing**

(No Report)

-Dr. Vermelle Johnson

3.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

(No Report)

- Ms. Sue Cole

3.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

(No Report)

- Ms. Rosemary Byerly

3. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Festa spoke briefly before adjournment to emphasize the fact that the *Foundations for the Future Report* is the Commission's Report – one that was requested and it was now up to the Commission to examine that report in fine detail and make decisions as to whether or not to institute some of the recommendations of the Consultants modified by input from the other entities involved (colleges, universities, business community, etc.) and how and when to carry out that implementation.

5. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Gunter

Recording Secretary

Attachments I-II

*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.