



**S. C. Commission on Higher Education
March 6, 2003 Meeting
Hosted by Coastal Carolina University
Highlights**

Please note the following information is intended to be a brief summary of Commission actions and should not be considered as any form of minutes for the above referenced meeting. The next meeting of the Commission will be in Columbia, S.C. on April 3, 10:30, Large Conference Room.

At the March 6, 2003 CHE meeting the following actions were taken:

Commission Approves a Total of 12 New Programs

The following new programs (listed with their institutions) were approved:

1. B.A., Early Childhood Education, USC-Beaufort
2. B.A., English, USC-Beaufort
3. B.A., Liberal Studies, USC-Beaufort
4. B.A., Nonprofit Administration, USC-Spartanburg
5. B.S., Hospitality Management, USC-Beaufort
6. B.S., Human Services, USC-Beaufort
7. B.S.B.A., with a major in International Business, USC-Columbia
8. B.S., Turfgrass, Clemson University
9. M.S., Transportation, SC State University
10. Executive International Master of Business Administration, USC-Columbia at Guadalajara, Mexico
11. Ph.D., Human Factors Psychology, Clemson University
12. Center for Nuclear Environmental Engineering Science and Radioactive Waste Management, Clemson University

Proposed Change in Licensing Statute Dealing with Academic Credentials

The Commission approved proposed changes to the Nonpublic Postsecondary Institution License Act to establish parameters for valid academic credentials and authorized staff to pursue a statutory change that will make it a misdemeanor for an internet provider to sell degrees labeled with the name of a South Carolina public institution of higher education as well as make it a misdemeanor for faculty hired who knowingly present such degrees for academic credentials to be prosecuted by the institution. This change becomes necessary because of the increasing presence of unaccredited institutions on the internet selling unauthorized, false degrees, including offering some from several South Carolina institutions. When such degrees are discovered, the Commission immediately notifies the institution with a request that the institution contact the internet provider to remove the institution's name from their web pages and check faculty files for any degrees from the internet provider in question.

Commission Reaffirms Existing Commission Allocation Methodology

After a brief discussion, the Commission voted to reaffirm as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Advisory Committee the existing allocation methodology with respect to parity with no changes at this time. The Committee noted that there was a minority report to this recommendation submitted by the two-year institutions who had an alternate proposal for parity.

Interim Facilities Projects Approved

The following Interim Facilities Projects were approved by the Commission:

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| 1. College of Charleston- Craig HVAC and Interior Renovation | \$ 1,250,000 |
| 2. MUSC - Children's Research Institute Construction (BSB)
Walton Research Bldg. Exterior Renovation | 10,000,000
(1,000,000) |
| 3. USC - South Campus Housing Phase III | 1,900,000 |
| 4. USC-Beaufort - New River Property Transfer | -0- |
| 5. USC-Spartanburg - Campus Life Center Addition and Renovation | 5,500,000 |
| 6. Winthrop University Water Street Loop around Johnson Hall,
and Johnson Parking Improvements | 1,000,000 |

Lease:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7. MUSC | Master Lease Agreement Combining Seven Properties
Including Renewal of 4295 Arco Lane |
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Presentations

CHE PLANNING PRESENTATION: Dr. Lovely Ulmer-Sottong, Director, Planning, Assessment and Performance Funding gave a presentation on [Emerging National Demands for State Level Accountability: Measuring Up: South Carolina State Profile.](#) (Entire presentation can be found at the link above).

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION: Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President of the University of South Carolina System, was our guest speaker. Dr. Sorensen outlined his vision and plans for a research initiative for the Columbia campus which would use private dollars to build a research facility on public lands. Dr. Sorensen asked the Commission for support on this project with the legislature as he moves forward to obtain regulatory relief which would allow project implementation.