

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Trident Technical College
7000 Rivers Avenue, Building 920, Salon A-B
North Charleston, SC 29406

Minutes of the Meeting

December 4, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Doug Forbes
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Hood Temple
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Mr. Chuck Talbert
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Courtney Blake
Mr. Mike Brown
Mr. Derrah Cassidy
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Ms. Trena Houp
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Michael Raley
Ms. De'Nitra Reese
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Donna Collins, USC Columbia
Mr. Marshall Conner, Trident Technical College
Dr. Helen Doerpinghaus, USC Columbia
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC Upstate
Mr. David Dowell
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Ms. Meg Howell, Trident Technical College
Dr. Elise Jorgens, College of Charleston
Ms. Kay Koonce, Trident Technical College
Mr. Wayne Landrith, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Audrey Mack, MUSC
Mr. John Malmrose, Medical University of SC
Ms. Clara Martin, Trident Technical College
Ms. Jen Phelps, SC Association of Technical College Commissions
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, Medical University of SC
Mr. Scott Poelker, Trident Technical College
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Mr. Tom Quazney, USC Columbia
Mr. Dan Ravenel, Higher Education Study Committee
Dr. Pat Robertson, Trident Technical College
Ms. Lucille Skaggs
Dr. Mary Thornley, Trident Technical College
Mr. Hayes Wisner, Technical College of the Lowcountry

Members of Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Lynn), **seconded** (Mosteller), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2008, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Ken Wingate

Chairman Wingate stated that he was honored to have been selected as the new Chair of the Commission, pending his confirmation by the South Carolina Senate when it reconvenes in January 2009. He commended former Chair, Dr. Layton McCurdy, for the outstanding leadership he provided during his term and invited all to join him in a round of applause for Dr. McCurdy's service. Commissioner Horne commented on the limited diversity of the CHE, particularly with regard to African Americans and females. She requested that Chairman Wingate encourage the Governor to consider this in future CHE appointments.

Chairman Wingate read an excerpt from the mission of the CHE, mandated by the SC Code of Laws. He encouraged all Commissioners to work together to accomplish the goals put forth in this mission. Chairman Wingate noted that Commissioner Scarborough had agreed to serve on the Commission's Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, and that Commissioners Ken Jackson and Chuck Talbert had agreed to serve on the Commission's Committee on Finance and Facilities. He noted the members of the Commission's Executive Committee, which consists of himself and the Commissioner Horne, the Commission's Vice Chair, as well as Committee Chairs, Commissioner Mosteller and Commissioner Sanders.

Chairman Wingate stated that he would like the Executive Committee to begin meeting on a regular basis and asked that they meet briefly and informally immediately following this Commission meeting. Chairman Wingate commented on the status of the Higher Education Study Committee and stated that the focus and direction of the Committee's work will greatly assist the Commission in its work with the General Assembly, the business community, and the education community.

4. Welcoming Remarks and Trident Technical College Highlights

- Mary Thornley

Dr. Thornley began by introducing the management team of Trident Technical College: Pat Robertson, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Kaye Koonce, Senior Vice President and General Counsel; Meg Howle, Vice President for Advancement; Elise Davis-McFarland, Vice President for Student Services; Scott Poelker, Vice President for Finance and Administration. She also introduced her assistant, Ms. Kelli Burke. Dr. Thornley then provided highlights about the college and its various campuses, which can be found in the fact card she distributed (**Attachment I**). Dr. Thornley noted that Trident Technical College met 99% of its affirmative action goals in 2007-08, which ranked the institution first among all of South Carolina's higher education institutions in that regard. She provided details on the various activities which take place in Building 920, the location of the CHE meeting. She noted, in particular, the College's excellent remedial student facility and invited all in attendance to explore the building at some point during the day.

5. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

At Dr. Walters' request, Mr. Dan Ravenel, Chair of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC), reported on the nine hearings held during the week of November 17-21, 2008, the purpose of which was to provide information on the status of the committee's work as well as to receive input from the public. He noted that a final hearing would take place at 3:00 p.m. at the Midlands Technical College Airport Campus on December 10, 2008, and invited all to attend. Mr. Ravenel stated that, upon completion of the HESC's work, long-term efforts to carry forward with the Action Plan may well come within the purview of the CHE.

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk then reported on the 529 college savings plan, Future Scholars. She stated that Bank of America has provided approximately \$800,000 to promote this program. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that a meeting to discuss this with officials in the state Treasurer's Office would take place soon, after which she would bring to the CHE additional details.

Dr. Walters referred to his letter to the Governor (**Attachment II**), drafted at the Commission's recommendation, in which a request allowing for greater institutional flexibility was made. He stated that a response to that letter had not yet been received. He also referred to the draft 2009 CHE meeting calendar (**Attachment III**), noting that August 5 and 6, 2009, are the dates set aside for the institutional budget presentations. Chairman Wingate stated that a Friday/Saturday Commission retreat will be held in the Lowcountry on a date to be determined in February. Proposed dates will be sent to Commissioners in the near future.

Dr. Walters called attention to information (**Attachment IV**) which had been distributed to the Commission from three reports: 1) Measuring Up 2008; 2) a report of the National Association of Universities and Land Grant Colleges which highlights the proportion of public higher education revenue from state appropriation and net tuition revenue; and 3) a new economy index which indicates that South Carolina is doing better in terms of its competitiveness in the knowledge economy. Dr. Walters stated that links to all three of these reports, as well as additional information which connects them to the Action Plan, would be e-mailed to the Commissioners.

6. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that the 2009 legislative session would begin on January 13. She stated that the House had met to reorganize earlier in the week. Speaker Bobby Harrell was unanimously re-elected to his position of Speaker of the House, Rep. Harry Catoe was elected Speaker Pro-Tempore, and Rep. Kenny Bingham was elected Majority Leader. House Committee assignments have been made and a copy of those assignments was distributed (**Attachment V**.) Ms. Carullo reported that the Board of Economic Advisors met in early November at which time FY 2008-09 budget estimates had been reduced by 2%, though that number will most likely be raised when it meets next in the coming week. She stated that the Board of Economic Advisors and the Budget and Control board do not anticipate any growth with regard to FY 2009-10, and that all state agencies have been asked to provide scenarios for a 15% reduction in their FY 2009-2010 budgets. Ms. Carullo reported that the lottery revenue estimates have not been changed for FY 2008-09 and remain level with this year for FY 2009-10. Ms. Carullo also provided information on the dates for pre-filed legislation. Chairman Wingate asked that Commissioners review the distributed list of House Committee assignments, and advise Ms. Carullo as to the members with whom they are in communication.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Ken Wingate

The Executive Committee had no report.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Bettie Horne

A. Consideration of Nursing Salary Allocation

Dr. Horne reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had met earlier in the morning at which time they agreed to recommend that the full Commission approve the FY 2008-09 allocation of funds provided in support of the SC Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Act, as described in **Attachment VI**. A **motion** was made (Horne) to approve that recommendation.

Dr. Gail Morrison shared details on how the committee came to this recommendation, noting that several allocation models had been considered, that the recommended model was based on national peer salaries, and that all increases will be approximately one third of what is actually needed.

Commissioner Zais requested that the independent institutions with nursing programs be considered for inclusion in this program in the future, if possible.

Commissioner Temple expressed concern that these monies will be placed in the base salaries of nursing faculty members as opposed to being provided as bonuses. He also said that to incorporate these funds into base salary without funds appropriated for the costs of fringe benefits was an unfunded mandate and particularly harsh on institutions in this difficult fiscal environment.

Commissioner Mosteller commented on the issue of getting an objective assessment of the nursing need statewide and suggested that this might provide a good opportunity for the CHE to interface with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to accumulate this type of data. Dr. Morrison stated that the Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) has received a Duke Endowment grant to work collaboratively with all health care professions, including nursing, to understand the supply and demand for professions. She stated that nursing would be the first of these groups to be studied.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Cyndi Mosteller

A. Public Hearing for Proposed Regulations: SC Need-based Grant, LIFE Scholarship/Enhancement, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship/Enhancement, And Determination of Rates of Tuition and Fees (Residency)

B. Fall 2007 Visa Classification Summary

Commissioner Mosteller began by welcoming Commissioner Wingate as the Chair of CHE and she complemented him on his character, skill and talent. She then requested that Chairman Wingate open the public hearing on the proposed scholarship regulations as listed above and described in detail in

Attachment VII. The regulations were approved by the Commission at its meeting on November 6, 2008.

At Commissioner Mosteller’s request, Dr. Karen Woodfaulk provided information on the significance of removing the term, academic year, from these regulations. She stated that doing so allows for more flexibility on the part of the institutions in terms of scholarship distribution.

As there were no further comments, Chairman Wingate closed the public hearing. He stated that the regulations would now be sent to the General Assembly for their review and adoption.

Commissioner Mosteller presented information, (**Attachment VIII**), which had been requested by Commissioner Sanders at the November 6, 2008, CHE meeting on in-state tuition granted to students who fall within certain visa classifications. She noted that the College of Charleston appeared to have the highest number of students who are benefitting from this provision. Discussion took place about the accuracy of the data and whether the institutions are reporting it consistently. Mr. Gary Glenn stated that his staff will make a point of examining this data very carefully in the future in an effort to verify its accuracy.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities - Jim Sanders

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. Technical College of the Lowcountry - Beaufort Bluff Stabilization

B. Leases

- 1. Medical University of SC
 - 55 Bee Street
 - 21 Courtenay Drive Parking Garage
 - 135 Cannon Street – Office Space
 - 135 Cannon Street – Parking

C. Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP)

- 1. Approval of CPIP 2009-10 Year Two Prioritization

D. Discussion of FY 2009-10 Capital Budget Proposal

E. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for November 2008 (For Information)

Commissioner Sanders reported that his committee had approved the capitol project at the Technical College of the Lowcountry, details about which may be found in **Attachment IX**.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve his project as proposed.

Mr. Sanders provided information on the four leases listed in Agenda Item 7.04 B, additional information about which may also be found in **Attachment IX**. A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve those leases.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the CHE is required by law to present a Comprehensive Permanent

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Improvement Plan (CPIP), after which Mr. Gary Glenn explained in more detail the three components of CPIP and the Commission's related responsibilities.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve the CPIP Year 2 priority list as presented on page eight of **Attachment IX**.

Commissioner Sanders made reference to the FY 2009-10 Capital Budget Proposal found on page nine of **Attachment IX**. He stated his committee endorsed the concept of the approach which is an attempt to prioritize distribution of funds should they become available by virtue of a bond bill.

In response to Commissioner Mosteller's question regarding the issue of life safety in terms of facility maintenance needs, Mr. Gary Glenn explained that the institutions each have funds collected from tuition and fees which are available to address life safety issues that must be addressed immediately. It was noted that oversight groups, such as accrediting boards, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), and insurance carriers are all charged with assuring that safety inspections are adequate. In response to Commissioner Jackson's question, Mr. Glenn stated that though there are no requirements that institutions have these types of funds available, it is prudent practice on their part to do so. In response to Commissioner Horne's question, Commissioner Sanders explained that he was unaware of anything that requires that the CHE have oversight with regard to life safety issues, and that this is ultimately an institutional responsibility.

Commissioner Sanders made reference to the list of capital projects and leases processed by staff for November 2008, as described on page nineteen of **Attachment IX** and stated that this was provided for information only.

8. Other Business

Commissioner Lynn informed all in attendance that President Emeritus of Clemson University, R. C. Edwards, had passed away earlier in the day.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachment 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.