

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

Minutes of the Meeting

February 2, 2006

Commission Members Present

Ms. Rosemary Byerly, Acting Chairman
Mr. Larry Durham
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Jim Konduros
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Dr. Layton McCurdy

Staff Present

Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Mr. Jeff Richards
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Jan Stewart
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Betty Boatwright, S. C. State University
Dr. Joann Boyd-Scotland, Denmark Technical College
Ms. Priscilla Burbage, College of Charleston
Mr. Dean Carnagy, Trident Technical College
Dr. Les Carpenter, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Mark D'Amico, State Technical System
Dr. Christine Ebert, U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Thomas Higerd, Medical University of S.C.

Ms. Lynn Hopkins, Trident Technical College
Ms. Meghan Hughes, U.S.C. Student
Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C. Student
Dr. Tony Johnson, The Citadel
Mr. David LeGrande, York Technical College
Dr. Scott Little, S. C. Research Authority
Dr. Scott Ludlow, S.C. Technical College System
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Mr. J.P. McKee, Winthrop University
Mr. John Malmrose, Medical University of S.C.
Dr. Isaac Metts, The Citadel
Mr. Joshua Morgan, M.U.S.C. Student
Dr. Eleanor Nault, Clemson University
Dr. Pam Niesslein, College of Charleston
Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Kely Sheldon, Clemson University Student
Ms. Deborah Vaughn, College of Charleston
Ms. Catherine Watt, Clemson University
Dr. Alex Whitley, Medical University of S.C.
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board

Members of the Press

no members of the press attended

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

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Byerly. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Byerly asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 2006. The **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Durham), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

Commissioner Byerly reported that she was serving as the meeting's Acting Chairman as Chairman McCurdy was out of the country and unable to be present. The meeting's original agenda was altered to include a presentation delivered by Dr. Scott Little, State Manager for South Carolina's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Institutional Development Awards (IDeA). Dr. Festa then introduced Dr. Little, providing opening remarks about EPSCoR and Dr. Little's request that the CHE support an increase in its annual appropriation in the CHE budget request from \$2 million to \$3 million per year.

4. Presentation: EPSCoR IDeA Dr. Scott Little

Dr. Little delivered a power point presentation about EPSCoR/IDeA, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment I**. Dr. Little's presentation included information about the purpose and history of the program. It also supported his request that the Commission advocate an increase in the annual EPSCoR/IDeA appropriation, a line item in the CHE budget, from \$2 million to \$3 million per year. Several questions followed the presentation as did discussion about how the extra million dollars would benefit the state. Benefits include stronger and more competitive research programs as well as an approximate return for the investment in the amount of \$10 million. A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and seconded (Workman) that the Commission go on record as being in favor of the \$1 million increase in this line item of the CHE budget and recommend that it be funded by the legislature. Commissioner Workman inquired as to who decided which projects this money would be used for. Dr. Little responded that it is a competitive process in which institutions present research which goes through national merit review before being selected. Commissioner Workman also inquired as to whether the research projects must be health or product related and might an additional increase in this appropriation be used to help with math and science education in South Carolina. Dr. Little responded that this would certainly be a possibility, however, he was limited at this time to asking only for the \$1 million increase. Discussion followed about the amount and source of funds required to administer EPSCoR/IDeA. Commissioner Mosteller asked whether South Carolina

needed a better effort to maximize matching potentials in terms of acquiring federal money. Dr. Little responded that South Carolina was currently almost at the maximum level of competitiveness in terms of the EPSCoR program. The motion was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Presentation: S. C. State Student Association (SCSSA)
Kely Sheldon, Chair; Megan Hughes, Vice-Chair

Acting Chair Byerly introduced the presenters and briefly described the organization they represent. Established in the spring of 2004, the S. C. State Student Association deals with state and national issues pertaining to higher education. Its members are students from M.U.S.C., Clemson, U.S.C., Coastal Carolina University, The College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Winthrop University. Dr. Festa also introduced Alyson Goff, a senior at U.S.C., and also a part-time CHE staff person. Information about this organization, its objectives and accomplishments may be found in **Attachment II**. Current projects of SCSSA were described. Highlights of SCSSA's recent student body presidents' meeting included expressions of concern about the issues of tuition cap, state funding for higher education, and student debt. Discussion took place about the issue of student debt. Commissioner Ravenel encouraged the presenters to become more familiar with and to support the Commission's request that state funding for higher education be increased in the amount of \$50 million. He also recommended that representatives from the state's technical institutions be included in SCSSA. Mr. Alex Whitley, student body president at M.U.S.C. reported that the average student debt at M.U.S.C. ranges from \$30,000 to \$130,000 in addition to debt acquired in undergraduate school. This is fact which can sway the fields and locations in which students choose to practice medicine, often taking them away from South Carolina. Discussion took place about the lottery scholarships and how an increase in need-based aid might affect recipients of the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and HOPE scholarships. Discussion took place about what might be considered an acceptable percentage of per year tuition increase in lieu of tuition caps. Discussion also followed regarding market dynamics and the complexity of the issue of tuition increases. Commissioner Ravenel then invited these student presenters to attend the Commission's Student Services Committee meetings and Acting Chairman Byerly stated that the Commission would gladly provide them with information about the CHE's budget request.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

(No Report)

- Rosemary Byerly

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

(No Report)

- Vermelle Johnson

5.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Dan Ravenel

Commissioner Ravenel reported the research institutions will soon be approached about changing the allocation method of the need-based scholarship program.

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Rosemary Byerly

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. College of Charleston - Rivers & Buist Residence Hall
- Historic Houses Interior & Exterior Repairs & Upgrades
- 2. Winthrop University - Boiler Plant Mechanical Renovation and Construction
- 3. Denmark Technical College - Living and Learning Center
- 4. Trident Technical College - Building 950 Renovation
- 5. York Technical College - Chester Technology Center - Phase 1

- 6. Leases:
 - Medical University of S. C. - 30 Bee Street
 - Fishburne Street Parking Spaces

Commissioner Byerly stated that each of the projects listed above had been considered carefully, reviewed and discussed by her committee. Commission Byerly briefly described each of the projects, detailed information about which may be found in **Attachment III**. Commissioner Mosteller questioned why Denmark Technical College is one of two technical colleges for which the state provides maintenance funds. The other is the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Ms. Lynn Metcalf responded that this was provided for by law. Discussion took place about how well the facilities at Denmark Tech were maintained. Speaking on behalf of her institution, Dr. Boyd-Scotland, President of Denmark Technical College, explained that the legislature considered that these particular institutions were located in counties with limited financial resources when the decision to provide them with maintenance funding was made. Commissioner Horne questioned why Daimler Chrysler did not make a contribution to the building renovation at Trident Technical College since the additional space would be used primarily for the training of Daimler Chrysler automotive assembly workers. Mr. Scott Ludlow of the State Technical College System responded that such a contribution is not expected as the initial purpose of the renovation was for the college's use and that the training of Daimler workers will be part of the pre-existing automotive training programs at Trident. A discussion about spurring economic development followed. Commissioner Byerly then reviewed the two lease renewals presented by the Medical University of S. C.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve these projects as **recommended**.

Commissioners Ravenel and Byerly commended Commissioners Sanders and Workman for their hands-on approach to examining the projects at York Technical College and thanked them for their expertise.

B. Information Items

1. Technical College of the Lowcountry Property Sale
2. List of Staff Approvals

Commissioner Byerly stated the this material was provided for information only and that no action was required.

Commissioner Byerly made reference to the recommendations contained in **Attachment III** which had been discussed earlier in the day at a Finance Committee meeting. Commissioner Workman explained that this was an attempt to request that the appropriate state agencies re-evaluate the process of providing for construction and facilities costs to allow for more efficiency and to reduce the timeline for capital projects from conception to completion. Commissioner Workman emphasized that the Commission would be willing to assist in the re-evaluation. A **motion** (Workman) was then made to adopt these recommendations for submission to the Budget and Control Board and other appropriate agencies. Conversation took place about the life-cycle of buildings and the costs increases in pre-existing projects. The **motion** was then **seconded** (Ravenel) and **carried**. Discussion followed about taking this information to various constituencies, including institutions and the legislature, to get their feedback.

6. Legislative Update

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported on recent legislative activities. In the Senate, she noted that Charter School legislation had been amended and returned to the House. The Senate Education Committee held its first meeting on February 1 at which Superintendent Tenenbaum addressed the members. Dr. Festa, Dr. Barry Russell of the State Technical College System, and Ms. Susan DeVenney of First Steps are scheduled to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on February 8, 2006. The Research Presidents are scheduled to address the Committee on February 22, 2006. An initial appointment of Colonel J. T. Bowden to CHE has been introduced in the Senate. In regard to the House, Ms. Carullo reported that most of the work has been focused on the budget and property tax. The CHE as well as the State Technical College System and institutions have presented their budget requests to the House budget subcommittees. It is expected that the budget will come to the House floor by the week of March 13th. CHE's scholarship regulations are currently working their way through the process. They have been through the House and are awaiting consideration by the Senate. Ms. Carullo reported that the bill proposing the name change for Spartanburg Technical College had been ratified and is awaiting the Governor's signature. A similar bill pertaining to Tri- County Technical College is also currently working its way through the process. The CHE has been asked to provide a fiscal impact statement for a bill relating to tuition exemption for members of the National Guard. That estimated fiscal impact is \$40 million

Commissioner Konduros inquired about the status of the seven year reauthorization for First Steps. Ms. Carullo replied that she was uncertain as to its exact position in the process. Commissioner Mosteller inquired about whether other states provide free tuition for their National Guard members. Ms. Carullo responded that some do. Commissioner Workman stated that Tri-County Technical College has requested that the provision not allow for free tuition because if that were the case, students would not be eligible to apply for scholarships, and the institutions could not include those students in their FTE counts. Conversation about this followed. Ms. Carullo pointed out that this legislation amends current legislation which allows National Guard members to have tuition credit on a seat availability basis. The National Guard has reported, however, that students are not always able to take advantage of that provision. Commissioner Horne inquired as to whether there had been any more consideration of the Statewide Electronic Library since it was left out of the Governor's proposed budget. Ms. Carullo responded that it was hopeful that this might still be seen in the House budget, and that Dr. Festa would also address this issue in his report.

7. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Festa reported that he has been spending a lot of time working with the Education Economic Development Coordinating council (EEDCC), an initiative brought forth by the Education Economic Development Act (EEDA). This initiative is working to provide students with options towards professions and how to prepare for them beginning in the eighth grade. He stated that he has been impressed with this initiative and that it is a good example of the converging of workforce and college readiness. He reported that he is on three committees involved with this effort, chairing one of them. Dr. Festa stated this time is well spent as it addresses the seamlessness of education from kindergarten through graduate school. It also addresses standards issues. Commissioner Mosteller questioned when the need for remediation in college is determined. Commissioner Zais stated that placement tests are administered in English and Math to incoming freshman at most institutions. Dr. Morrison stated that the SAT II subject matter tests also help to determine placement. Dr. Festa reported that the State Department of Education (SDE) is considering using the ACT at the 8th and 10th grade levels to determine remediation needs at that point and to help prepare those students to later take the ACT and SAT.

Dr. Festa also reported that the CHE budget request had been received cordially by the House Budget Subcommittee, and that they have been impressed with the fact that the CHE is advocating a funding policy that will be consistent and regular for the institutions. He further stated that the institutions were also supportive of the CHE's budget request as well as of the Statewide Academic Library. Dr. Festa stated that he had high hopes that the legislature will consider helping the institutions achieve better Education and General (E&G) funds in order that they may be able to move forward confidently. He reported that the states' institutions are working together very well and that there appears to be a new sense among them of the need to cooperate. Dr. Festa urged the Commissioners to contact members of the legislature regarding the needs of the CHE as an agency, especially those described in the CHE budget request in order that the agency might operate most efficiently and effectively.

8. Other Business

Information Item - Staff Report on Student Debt Upon Graduation

Ms. Lynn Metcalf explained that this information, as provided in **Attachment IV**, is an estimate provided by the institutions. She stated that the information represents an average amount of loan debt for those students who graduate with debt and deals primarily with federal loans. Ms Metcalf pointed out that the report does not identify whether the money has been borrowed for tuition or living expenses or both. Discussion followed about the need for clarification of some of this information. Ms. Metcalf stated that she will continue to work with the institutions to improve this report.

Commissioner Horne inquired as to why it appeared that some of the institutions don't appear involved in loan programs. Mr. David LeGrande, a representative of York Technical College, responded that his institution does not participate in the loan programs because the default rate for those programs can affect other federally funded programs.

Commissioner Ravenel inquired as to whether numbers from private institutions are included in this report. Ms. Metcalf stated that information concerning private institutions was not part of the initial request.

Acting Chairman Byerly asked the group if there was any other business to be shared. Commissioner Durham reminded everyone of the 2006 Campus Safety Conference which will take place February 26 - 28, 2006. He encouraged the Commissioners' attendance.

The Commissioners were informed that Ms. Cathy Harvin had stepped down as Chair of the S. C. Higher Education Foundation due to her impending duties in the legislature and that Mr. Dalton Floyd had been voted in as the new Chair.

Dr. Morrison reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing would be holding their meeting in the main conference room immediately upon adjournment of the Commission meeting.

Acting Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - IV

*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.