

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

*Minutes of the Meeting*

February 7, 2008

10:30 a.m.

**Commission Members Attending**

**by Teleconference**

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman  
Dr. Doug Forbes  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne  
Dr. Raghu Korrapati  
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller  
Mr. Daniel Ravenel  
Mr. Jim Sanders  
Mr. Hood Temple  
Mr. Randy Thomas  
Mr. Ken Wingate  
Mr. Neal Workman  
Dr. Mick Zais

**Commission Members Absent**

Dr. Louis Lynn

**Staff Present**

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director  
Ms. Rita Allison  
Ms. Camille Brown  
Mr. Michael Brown  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Ms. Alyson Goff  
Ms. Deborah Henning  
Dr. Lynn Kelley  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Ms. Karen Wham

**Guests**

Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. Sumter  
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina  
University  
Mr. Mike Lefever, S.C. Independent  
Colleges & Universities  
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical  
College  
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University  
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of  
Charleston  
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. Columbia  
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget &  
Control Board

**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. Dr. Lynn's absence was excused as it he was unable to participate in this teleconference meeting due to a conflict with his attendance at the winter board meeting and retreat of the Clemson University Board of Trustees.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A **motion** was made (Sanders), **seconded** (Mosteller), and **carried** to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007.

**3. Chairman's Report**

**- Chairman McCurdy**

Chairman McCurdy had no report but asked Dr. Walters to provide information on his recent interactions with members of the state legislature. Dr. Walters stated he had testified before the House Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 5. In that testimony he reviewed the CHE's previously presented budget proposal, highlighting the loss of funding for higher education institutions in the last six years due to state budget cutbacks. Also highlighted was an analysis demonstrating that South Carolina's capital support has been substantially below that of neighboring (Georgia and North Carolina) and typical (Kentucky) states for the last ten years. He emphasized that the lack of capital support exacerbates the problem of declining state support and presents difficult times for public colleges and universities. Other key items highlighted were the importance of need-based aid in balancing our portfolio of scholarships and current collaborative activities in South Carolina's higher education system. The importance of state investment in higher education and how that directly relates to growth and strength of economy was also noted. Dr. Walters concluded his testimony by stating South Carolina has a strong foundation on which to build and that the action plan to be delivered by the Higher Education Study Committee should be an effective vehicle to elevate South Carolina in the knowledge economy. Dr. Walters also reported that testimony by the three research university vice-presidents of research on the Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Endowed Chairs program was positively received by the full Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, February 6.

At Dr. Walters' invitation, Ms. Julie Carullo provided an answer to Chairman McCurdy's question about why the CoEE testimony was presented to the full Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Carullo stated that the full committee was considering legislation pertaining to the CoEE program whereas the budget considerations were currently being considered by a subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. She explained that the CoEE legislation had already been through subcommittee and was being considered by the full committee. The full committee had requested briefings by the vice-presidents of research from the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and the Medical University of South Carolina as part of the meeting at which the legislation was being considered. Ms. Carullo informed the Commission that, following the presentations, the

CoEE legislation (H.4494) was approved by the full Ways and Means Committee and will next be considered by the full House.

Ms. Carullo reported that different subcommittees of the House Ways and Means Committee are currently meeting to develop budget recommendations. She stated that the Higher Education Budget Subcommittee has concluded its presentations and would be developing recommendations in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Carullo also reported that the full Ways and Means Committee is expected to meet and consider subcommittee budget recommendations during the week of February 18.

Discussion followed in which Dr. Walters stated he is in the process of meeting with members of the Higher Education Subcommittee (Representatives Limehouse, Merrill, Littlejohn, and Nielsen) in an effort to follow-up and answer any questions they might have.

Additional conversation took place about the importance of Commissioners acting as advocates for higher education, making every effort to communicate with members of their respective legislative delegations with regard to important issues. Also noted was the need to continue to emphasize to members of the legislature the important relationship between higher education and economic development, perhaps in education sessions organized by the CHE expressly for that purpose.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### **4.01 Report of the Executive Committee - Layton McCurdy**

The Executive Committee had no report.

##### **4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing -Bettie Horne**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

##### **4.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Cynthia Mosteller**

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

##### **4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities - Daniel Ravenel**

#### **A. Lease**

1. Clemson University - Computing & Information Technology

#### **B. List of Staff Approvals for January 2008**

Commissioner Ravenel reported that the Committee had met just prior to the CHE meeting and had approved the lease referred to in agenda item 4.04A, described in **Attachment I**.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this lease provided the

Clemson University Board of Trustees approves the lease at its February 7 meeting and provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Ravenel stated that the list of staff approvals for January 2008 was provided for information only.

In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about the status of the request to extend the timeline of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC), Commissioner Ravenel and Ms. Julie Carullo replied that a September 15, 2008, extension request had been submitted by Senator John Courson in the form of a joint resolution (S.1034). That resolution has been approved by the Senate and is currently under consideration by the House.

## **5. Other Business**

Commissioner Horne reminded Commissioners to complete their Statement of Economic Interests forms by the required deadline. She also initiated a conversation about the upcoming term expiration dates of several Commissioners. Discussion followed regarding the process by which replacements are named.

Commissioner Mosteller requested that the different funding level scenarios on need-based aid allocation, previously sent to Commissioners by Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, be re-sent, noting on each their original dates of distribution. Commissioner Sanders also requested that the information on the new policy implemented by the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC), recently distributed by Mr. Gary Glenn, also be re-sent.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Beth B. Rogers***

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Recording Secretary

Attachment I

\*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.