

October 11, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chair, and Members
Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Susan Cole, Chair, and Members,
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

South Carolina HOPE Scholarship Program
Proposed Regulations - 2002-03 Academic Year

During the 2001 legislative session, the General Assembly approved the South Carolina Education Lottery Act. The Commission on Higher Education is charged with promulgating regulations for the scholarship program with the purpose of providing merit-based scholarships to students who achieve academically but are not eligible to receive the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. The S.C. HOPE Scholarship will provide funding in an amount up to \$2,000 (not to exceed the cost of attendance) to first-time entering freshmen for the first year only. The Commission staff recommends approving the proposed S.C. HOPE Scholarship regulations, which includes the following terms of the scholarship program:

- Earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale at the end of the senior year of high school
- Graduate from a South Carolina high school
- Be a legal resident of South Carolina
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Attend an eligible South Carolina four-year public or independent institution as a full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) degree-seeking undergraduate student
- Certify that he or she has not been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any alcohol or drug-related offenses within the past academic year
- Certify that he or she is not in default and does not owe a refund or repayment on Federal or State aid
- Must not be a LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient

Recommendation

The Access & Equity and Student Services Committee recommend that the Commission on Higher Education approve the proposed regulations for the South Carolina HOPE Scholarship Program. If approved, the amended regulations will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.