

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

Minutes of the Meeting

August 2, 2006

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Mr. Danny Holcombe
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Col. John Bowden
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. James Atkins
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Mr. Franklin Davis
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Ms. Deborah Henning
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Ms. Rae McPherson
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers

Dr. Donald Tetreault
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Mr. Tony Ateca, U.S.C. - Aiken
Mr. Jeff Beaver, Lander University
Mr. York Bradshaw, U.S.C. - Upstate
Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Donna Collins, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Bob Connelly, U.S.C. - Upstate
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter
Ms. Jackie DiMaggio, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Tuck Hanna, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Craig Hess, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Star Kepner, U.S.C. - Sumter
Mr. Jay Kispert, Francis Marion University
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston
Mr. Wayne Landrith, SCICU
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Mr. Ted Moore, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Diane Newton, Lander University
Mr. Charles Shawver, Budget & Control Board
Mr. John Smalls, S. C. State University
Col. Don Tomasik, The Citadel
Dr. Richard Weldon, Coastal Carolina University

Members of the Press

none

1. Introductions

- Julie Carullo

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy. Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests attending, all of whom are listed above. Chairman McCurdy also introduced new Commissioners Louis Lynn, Hood Temple, and Danny Holcombe. He noted that Commissioner Wingate would be arriving late and that Commissioner Bowden would not be attending due to illness in his family.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 1, 2006. A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

Chairman McCurdy reported the Task Force on Higher Education had been meeting regularly and a finalized report of their work should be ready in September. He stated that the Presidents' Presentations would begin after the Commission meeting at 12:45 p.m.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

(No Report)

- Layton McCurdy

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

- Bettie Rose Horne

**A. Consideration of Budget for Research Centers of Economic Excellence,
FY 2006-07**

Commissioner Horne made reference to the proposed budget, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment I**. Dr. Morrison provided background information on the Research Centers of Economic Excellence. She explained three pieces of legislation were passed which provide for the research conducted, the infrastructure needed to enable that research, and innovation centers which translate the research into the commercial marketplace. Dr. Morrison noted though the research institutions were the drivers of these efforts, some of the teaching sector institutions have also had opportunities to participate.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed budget.

5.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity

and Student Services

- Cyndi Mosteller

Commissioner Mosteller stated that a final report on state scholarships would soon be delivered to the Commissioners for their review prior to its submission to the General Assembly.

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. Francis Marion University - Center for Performing Arts Construction
- 2. Lander University - Student Center Facility Construction/Renovation
- 3. SC State University - Transportation Research & Convention Center
- 4. USC Aiken - Student Residence Hall Construction
- 5. Greenville Technical College - Northwest Campus Construction
- 6. USC Upstate - Lease - Spartanburg Housing Authority Building

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to the interim capital projects to be considered, a description of which may be found in **Attachment II**.

With regard to the project at Francis Marion University, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends approval of this project provided the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the City remain the same and if the funds expected for city redevelopment are not fulfilled, the University will use other funds which will not require an increase in tuition and fees. The same provision applies if the private guaranteed funds are not fulfilled.

With regard to the project at Lander University, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the project as proposed.

With regard to the project at SC State University, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the project as proposed.

With regard to the project at USC Aiken, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the project as proposed.

With regard to the project at Greenville Technical College, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the project as proposed.

With regard to the USC Upstate lease, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) to approve the lease provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Dr. McCurdy asked for additional information about the Greenville Technical College project. Representing Greenville Tech, Mr. Tuck Hanna, explained that this facility would house the college's culinary program and would establish Greenville Tech's fourth campus. Commissioner Mosteller inquired whether the outreach project intended to take place on the property to be leased by USC Upstate would be concluded since the lease was for one five-year period with no renewal. Representing USC Upstate, Bob Connelly responded that the project was provided for by a three-year grant though other activities would take place on that property for the remaining two years of the lease.

The **motions** were then brought to the table and **carried**.

B. Recommendations for Improving the Higher Education Facilities Approval Process

Commissioner Ravenel noted that special recognition should go to Commissioners Sanders and Workman for their expertise in this area. Commissioner Sanders explained that the object of the review was to determine ways to shorten the process of facilities approval while maintaining a system of checks and balances. The recommendations formulated by this subcommittee are found beginning on page 8 of Attachment II. Implementation of these recommendations will shorten the process by 6 - 9 months.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **seconded** (Mosteller) that the Commission approve the recommendations in order to enact the necessary policy and procedure changes and to allow staff to draft legislation to present to the General Assembly where required.

Discussion followed about how the Commission would support and advocate for the implementation of these recommendations. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Ravenel commended the subcommittee, the names of whom are listed below, for all their hard work.

Ms. Rosemary Byerly, CHE Commissioner
Mr. Dan Ravenel, CHE Commissioner
Mr. Jim Sanders, CHE Commissioner
Mr. Neal Workman, CHE Commissioner
Mr. Walter Hardin, Winthrop University
Mr. Rick Puncke, Jr., USC Upstate
Mr. Thomas Suttles, Clemson University (initially Lander University)
Mr. Dale Wilson, Piedmont Technical College
Mr. Charles Shawver, SC Budget and Control Board
Ms. Lynn Metcalf, CHE Staff
Dr. John Sutusky, CHE Consultant and former Director of Planning & Special Projects at MUSC

Commissioner Sanders noted that the result of this subcommittee's work was an excellent example of productive collaboration.

C. Information Item

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to the List of Staff Approvals for May and June 2006, found on the last page of **Attachment II**. He noted that this was provided for information only.

6. Legislative Update

- Rita Allison

Ms. Allison reported that the Governor's Higher Education Task Force was continuing to meet and their report was due to the Governor on September 1, 2006. She stated that the CHE Budget Activity Report went to the Governor's office on August 1. The CHE proposed budget is due there on August 25. Ms. Allison reported that meetings with key legislators will be set up for the Fall, the purpose of which will be to discuss higher education issues of concern. She stated that the CHE year end report is in the process of being compiled. It will be distributed to public and private institutional Presidents, Chairs of the Boards of Trustees, constitutional officers, legislators and partners in education.

7. Report of the Interim Executive Director

- Gail Morrison

Dr. Morrison shared information on internal CHE matters. Orientations have taken place for some of the new commissioners, the next of which will be on August 11. In response to the request of the Agency Directors' Organization to work on ways to improve succession within agencies, Assistant and Associate Directors positions have been created within each CHE Division. This will allow for upward mobility and career advancement. A CHE topical directory has been developed and will be posted on the CHE web site. Copies will be sent to the Commissioners. Negotiations on a new lease of our office space are underway. Additional space upstairs will be required to house employees of the statewide electronic library. Space will also be needed for two soon to be hired CHE staff persons. Dr. Morrison will be meeting with officials of the SC Budget and Control Board on August 8 to further negotiate these plans. Discussion followed about what the alternative might be if the Budget and Control Board does not approve our plan as proposed. An external grant proposal regarding the alignment of high school course exit requirements with college entrance requirements has been sent to the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Commissioner Horne questioned whether this grant would be necessary since the American Diploma Project was also working on a similar study. Dr. Morrison replied though initially SC Department of Education declined to be a part of the American Diploma Project, there was now some indication that this might be reconsidered. She added, however, that the FIPSE grant and the American Diploma Project would complement each other. The 2005-06 Agency Accountability Report, the 2006-07 Agency Activity Inventory, and the 07-08 Budget Request are all due within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Sanders began a discussion about the number of vacant positions at the CHE and whether new hires should be delayed until a new Executive Director comes on board. Commissioner Horne stated that the CHE was grossly understaffed in comparison to similar agencies in other states.

8. Other Business

Chairman McCurdy noted that the CHE Committee assignments have been adjusted, incorporating the new Commissioners.

A. Election of Vice Chair

Chairman McCurdy entertained a motion for the election of a new CHE Vice Chair. A **motion** was made (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Horne) to elect Commissioner Ravenel. Commissioner Ravenel was elected by acclamation.

B. CHE Executive Director Search Committee Report - Daniel Ravenel, Chair

Commissioner Ravenel reported the next meeting of the Search Committee would take place on August 21. The Committee hopes to present 3 or 4 applicants to the Commission at the October CHE meeting. He invited Commissioners to send any recommendations on possible candidates directly to him. Commissioner Lynn inquired as to whether the services of a professional search firm were being used. Commissioner Ravenel replied that they currently were not, however, the Committee would do so if appeared to be necessary. Discussion followed about the candidates being reviewed in Executive Session before they are presented to the full Commission. Discussion also took place about salary considerations for the new Executive Director. Chairman McCurdy thanked the members of the Committee for the work accomplished to date.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman McCurdy at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - II

*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.