

**Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
RETREAT
March 21, 2008, 9:45 a.m.
Lowcountry Graduate Center
Columbia, South Carolina**

In attendance:

Study Committee Members Present

Mr. Daniel Ravenel, *Chair*
Mr. Boone Aiken
Col. Claude Eichelberger
Representative Jerry Govan
Dr. Doris Helms
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Mr. Bobby Marlowe
Dr. John Montgomery

CHE Staff

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Gail Morrison
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests:

Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education
& Public Works Committee
Dr. Bob Becker, Strom Thurmond Institute
Dr. Skip Godow, Lowcountry Graduate Center
Dr. Karl Hill, Clemson University
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Ms. Sandy Powers, College of Charleston

Chairman Ravenel welcomed all in attendance, all of whom introduced themselves.

Dr. Walters provided a brief overview of a paper which had been provided to HESC members entitled, *Connecting Report and Goals to a Plan*. Information included in this paper offered optional ways to think about the process of developing a statewide plan, briefly described what the goals of the plan might look like and how they might be constructed, and also briefly addressed the idea of return on educational investment.

Discussion took place relating to the goals. The following topics were discussed.

Goals generally – Do we have the right goals? A discussion ensued about the importance of the goals being stated in a straightforward manner and being constructed so as to be achievable and measurable.

Efficiency and Effectiveness - Should efficiency and effectiveness be a fourth goal of the statewide plan or should it be a sub-goal of one of the three already established?

Role of Comprehensive Institutions – Conversation centered on consideration of the comprehensives relative to the focus on research institutions. The need to give consideration to comprehensives equal to that afforded to the research institutions was discussed. Additionally, it was discussed that the comprehensives might play a major role in the increasing college enrollment aspect of the statewide plan and also play an important part by committing to producing a greater number of more qualified graduates who become K-12 teachers.

Enrollment – This topic was discussed relative to the capacity issue and focused on the role of the various sectors and institutions in their ability to increase enrollments.

Centralized Authority - Is this necessary to address strong institutional independence in South Carolina and to promote much needed coordination and collaboration?

Dr. Walters recommended that the statewide plan adhere to the three previously established goals, including improvement in efficiency and effectiveness as an element of their foundation and including quality as an element of their focus.

Chairman Ravenel initiated conversation about defining the three established goals. With regard to Goal 1, Increased Education Levels, Dr. Walters suggested that the increase should be measured in percentage. He also stated that it will not be possible to determine that percentage until further work on the goals is accomplished. It was suggested that data contained in the *Foundations for the Future* report may be helpful in determining that percentage.

At Chairman Ravenel's request, Dr. Bob Becker introduced himself, described his background, and provided a briefing on the work of the Strom Thurmond Institute. He then responded to Chairman Ravenel's invitation to comment on what the work of the HESC has developed to date, as well as on how South Carolina's institutions of higher education might play a key role in the economic development of the state.

Dr. Becker stated that the HESC's three goals have potential. He said the two variables which appear to be most prevalent within those goals appear to pertain to reducing the state's number of high school dropouts and increasing the number of people with bachelor's degrees. Conversation about those topics followed.

During the course of this conversation, emphasis was placed on the importance of convincing South Carolinians that higher education will increase their quality of life. Investment in a large higher education marketing plan was advocated. It was suggested that the implementation of a fifteen year Department of Revenue survey might help determine whether South Carolina is producing graduates who can compete in a global economy.

Dr. Walters then recommended that the group focus on elaborating the three goals.

Following a short break for lunch, the HESC agreed that the fourth goal "increased effectiveness and efficiency" should be included as a separate goal. The HESC then decided to break into working groups to analyze and refine goals 2 through 4. It was agreed upon that goal 1, with its applicability focused on K-16 or K-20, was acceptable as is.

The working groups consisted of the following individuals: Goal 2 - Dr. Helms, Representative Govan, Dr. Montgomery, Dr. Morrison, Ms. Carullo; Goal 3 - Mr. Ludlow, Col. Eichelberger, Dr. Woodfaulk, Ms. Lybrand, Mr. Glenn; and Goal 4 - Mr. Marlowe, Mr. Aiken, Dr. McCurdy, and Dr. Walters. Discussion took place about return on educational investment. It was suggested that a concept paper be developed in order to help determine the best way to approach this topic. Recommendations of individuals to assist with this were Doug Woodward from U.S.C. and Harry Miley, the state's former chief economist. It was decided that CHE staff, together with a subcommittee of HESC members including, Mr. Ravenel, Col. Eichelberger, and Mr. Marlowe, would work on drafting a request for proposal for this concept paper and assist in evaluating responses to the request.

The working groups then met in different rooms for approximately one hour. Upon reconvening, a designee of each group reported on their activities. Summary information developed and reported on each of the goals is attached with these minutes. It was agreed that this work would serve as a first draft of the statewide plan.

Conversation took place about the role of the CHE in the future in terms of encouraging and mandating collaboration and exercising its authorities. Dr. Walters suggested that it might be best to define where the CHE has the greatest value and focus on that. He offered to have CHE staff prepare a document on this topic for presentation to the HESC.

It was agreed upon that CHE staff would summarize the information developed at this retreat, after which it will be sent to the HESC members for their suggestions. Following any revisions after that review, it will be presented to the public institutions' presidents at a meeting to take place at the CHE offices in Columbia on April 4, 2008, beginning at 1:00 p.m. This information will also include the results of the work of the six Advisory Groups. After incorporating recommendations made by the presidents, this information will be delivered at public hearings around the state and then taken to the House and Senate Education Committees for their consideration. The timeline for these events will be revised and distributed to HESC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.