

Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
September 4, 2008 (Ninth Meeting), 2:00 p.m.
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices
Columbia, South Carolina

In attendance:

Study Committee Members Present

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

Study Committee Members Absent

Mr. Boone Aiken

CHE Staff

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Gail Morrison
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests:

Ms. Debbie Jackson, Clemson University
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education & Public Works Committee
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Ashleigh Stevens, Office of the Governor

Agenda Item 1, Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Ravenel called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Agenda Item 2, Consideration of Minutes of the June 5, 2008, Meeting

The minutes from the June 5, 2008 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item 3, Discussion of the Draft Report for Delivery September 15, 2008

Chairman Ravenel called on Dr. Walters to review the draft. Dr. Walters stated that the document had been drafted using a reasonably spare writing style in order that it might be easily read and that it contains many footnotes which provide the reader with additional information if required. He stated that this plan is a macro, state-level plan which describes the four goals and why they are important to the state, as opposed to an implementation plan which is expected to be delivered in December 2008. The implementation plan will be a result of work between the HESC and the state's colleges and universities to develop details on how to best achieve those goals.

Conversation followed in which the HESC shared observations.

It was noted that a six-year timeframe was the time period the HESC had decided upon in which to try and implement the action plan and that the general consensus had been that an action plan may more successfully produce results as opposed to a traditional long-range strategic plan.

Dr. Walters provided an overview of the information contained in Goal 1, *Making South Carolina One of the Most Educated States*.

Discussion followed about the various degree levels: graduate/professional; baccalaureate; associate; and certificate. It was agreed that the information provided on certificates might require some clarification.

During the course of further discussion, Dr. Helms agreed to provide additional information on Clemson's efforts to restore the number of credit hours required for graduation to 120 in an attempt to increase the four year graduation rate. The additional information will be included in Goal 1. Dr. Morrison also agreed to research and provide information on practices in this regard of other institutions.

At Chairman Ravenel's invitation, the HESC shared thoughts about topics in Goal 1 they thought might need some further development. Those topics included remediation strategies and affordability. It was decided that a text box containing information which emphasizes the importance of need-based aid should be added to the Goal 1 portion of the document. Discussion also took place about collaboration between colleges and universities and K-12 schools in terms of mentoring and professional development opportunities for college students as well as in terms of sharing data.

Dr. Morrison provided an overview of the information contained in Goal 2, *Increasing Research and Innovation in South Carolina*. Brief discussion followed.

Dr. Walters commented on Goal 3, *Making South Carolina A Leader in Workforce Training and Educational Services*. He stated that it was well-written, though more specific recommendations are needed for this goal.

Dr. Walters stated that work on Goal 4, *Realizing South Carolina's Potential: Resources and Effectiveness*, had not yet been very extensive in part due to recent budget issues. Work will continue to encourage their participation and solicit their input and support.

Dr. Walters stated that revisions will be made to the draft document based on information shared in this meeting. It will then be distributed to the college and university presidents for their review and comments to prior to September 15 when it is scheduled to be completed and delivered to the General Assembly.

Chairman Ravenel reminded all in attendance of the HESC's scheduled meeting with the private presidents on September 11 and of the Trustees' Conference on September 24. He invited and encouraged all to participate.

Agenda Item 4, Update on the Goal Task Forces

Ms. Carullo provided an update on the Goal Task Forces which included information on their upcoming meeting schedules as well as lists of each task force's participants.

Agenda Item 5, Scheduling Next Study Committee Meeting

Discussion took place about setting a date for the next meeting of the HESC. Prospective dates will be communicated to each of the members and all will be notified when a designated date and time have been scheduled. This will most likely take place sometime mid- October, 2008. The task forces do not have a deadline on which to report on their work, though they likely will complete their work by early November.

Agenda Item 6, Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

Agenda Item 7, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.