

**Minutes of**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**September 11, 2007 (First Meeting)**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**SC Commission on Higher Education Offices**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

*In attendance:*

**Study Committee Members Present**

Mr. J. Boone Aiken, III  
Col. Claude Eichelberger  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Dr. Doris R. Helms  
Mr. Scott Ludlow  
Dr. Layton McCurdy  
Dr. John Montgomery  
Mr. Robert W. Marlowe  
Mr. Daniel Ravenel

**Study Committee Members Absent**

none

**CHE Staff**

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director  
Ms. Rita Allison  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Alyson Goff  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Dr. Lynn Kelley  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Mr. Clint Mullins  
Dr. Mike Raley  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Ms. Karen Wham  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Ms. Joren Bartlett, S.C. Technical College  
System  
Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Governor's Office  
Mr. Jim Byrd, S.C. Independent Colleges &  
Universities  
Dr. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University  
Mr. Daniel Dukes, College of Charleston  
and Francis Marion University  
Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways &  
Means Committee  
Mr. Michael Hollings, Lander University  
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education &  
Public Works Committee  
Mr. Will McCain, Coastal Carolina  
University  
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University  
Ms. Robin Moseley, Senate Education  
Committee  
Mr. Craig Parks, Senate Finance Committee  
Mr. Tommy Preston, University of S. C.  
Mr. Eddie Shannon, S.C. Tuition Grants  
Agency  
Mr. Steve Smith, Tri-County Technical  
College  
Dr. Harry Stille, Private Researcher

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Dr. Layton McCurdy who initiated discussion about the election of a Chairperson for the group. A **motion** was made (Ludlow), **seconded** (Marlowe), and **carried** to elect Mr. Daniel Ravenel as the committee's Chair.

Mr. Ravenel accepted the position and emphasized the importance of maintaining a statewide perspective in the committee's work. He encouraged committee members to review previous study information which had been provided to them, including the Foundations for the Future report, the Report of the Presidents' Accountability Workgroup, and the Report of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force. He noted that staff would be required to help with the committee's work. Following discussion, it was decided that assistance would be drawn principally from the Commission on Higher Education staff; House and Senate staff may be called on to assist as well.

Dr. Garrison Walters was asked to comment on how the committee might proceed. In response Walters emphasized the need for an Action Plan that focuses on short-term (three to four years) activities that will strengthen South Carolina's economy and quality of life; the plan should be specific not only in what should be done but in the responsibility of various parties for implementation. Walters stated his belief that higher education has had substantial assistance from outside consultants in recent years and that the need now was for South Carolinians to build a plan of their own. Dr. Walters suggested including input from other state entities such as the Department of Commerce and the New Carolina (South Carolina's Council on Competitiveness).

A skeleton framework to guide the committee in the development of an action plan, prepared by Dr. Doris Helms, was distributed and reviewed. Following discussion, the committee concluded that Dr. Helms' framework provided an excellent building block for its work. Chairman Ravenel recommended that an electronic version of Dr. Helms' framework be e-mailed to each of the committee members.

The committee members discussed the schedule and location of the committee's future meetings. Dr. Walters recommended the creation of advisory groups to assist with the committee's various tasks. Chairman Ravenel requested that Dr. Walters take the lead in drafting suggestions for the committee on how these groups should work and in which areas they could operate as well as for making suggestions about possible speakers. Dr. McCurdy recommended that the committee re-read the report of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force and also requested that they be sent an electronic version of Dr. Bob Becker's presentation to the Task Force in June of 2006.

Committee members discussed the implementation of the statewide plan once it is formulated. It was noted that the Commission on Higher Education will need to be a central body in the implementation of any action plan. The importance of governance and accountability was also noted.

The following schedule was developed for the committees' next three meetings. Each will take place at the Commission's offices, located at 1333 Main St., Suite 200, Columbia, SC.

Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, October 22, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.