

Higher Education Study Committee (HESC) Summary Working Group Information:

Additional Details and Information is available on the SC Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/HiEdStudyComm.htm>.

The Higher Education Study Committee (HESC) was authorized by the General Assembly at the end of the 2007 Session. Its members were appointed by House and Senate leadership and the Governor by September 2007 whereupon the HESC began its work. The HESC members include: Mr. Daniel Ravenel (Chair), Mr. J. Boone Aiken, III, Esquire; Colonel Claude Eichelberger; The Honorable Jerry Govan; Dr. Doris R. Helms; Mr. Robert W. Marlowe; Mr. Scott Ludlow; Dr. Layton McCurdy, M.D.; and Dr. John E. Montgomery.

By way of background, the establishment of the HESC followed recommendations of an Executive Order (2006-01) Task Force on Higher Education of the Governor. This Task Force recommended the establishment of a committee that could develop a plan for higher education in South Carolina. The final report of the Governor's Task Force is available at http://www.che.sc.gov/hetf/Files/Final_HETF06_fullreport_%20Sept2006.pdf. Subsequent to this report, the General Assembly authorized the HESC with the primary charge of recommending a multi-year, evolving statewide plan for higher education. Initially, the General Assembly expected a report from the HESC by February 2008 but extended the deadline during the 2008 Session to September 15, 2008. (See Attachment 1 for a copy of the original proviso establishing the HESC and outlining its charge.)

Since last September, the HESC has been working to develop recommendations for a statewide plan. While the HESC has many specific questions to answer, its foremost responsibility is creating a multi-year, higher education strategic plan that sets aggressive goals for a stronger and more competitive system, together with methods of plan implementation that emphasize accountability and responsibility. In doing so, the Committee has determined it will recommend an Action Plan for Higher Education focused on a six-year period beginning next July. The HESC has identified four primary goals including:

- (1) Making South Carolina One of the Most Educated States
- (2) Increasing Research and Innovation in South Carolina
- (3) Increasing Workforce Training and Educational Services for South Carolina
- (4) Realizing South Carolina's Potential: Resources and Effectiveness

The HESC plans to release its recommended state-level plan by its deadline of September 15 and is scheduled to consider a draft report at its upcoming September 4 meeting. The HESC's September report will provide a framework and overall description of the recommended goals and types of mechanisms and resources for achieving the goals. It will be followed by a December report that will lay out the implementation details. Prior to releasing the final report in December, the HESC plans to hold meetings across the state in order to receive public input on the Action Plan and direction.

In order to develop the plan's implementation details, the HESC has established four working groups, one for each goal, tasked with recommending to HESC the details necessary for succeeding in each of the four goal areas. These four groups are composed of institutional representatives and representation from various constituencies such as New Carolina, the South Carolina Chamber, the South Carolina Research Authority, and state agencies including the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce and the Arts Commission and are now beginning their work. The HESC has charged the groups with developing their recommendations to the HESC for the implementation details and necessary resources to accomplish the goals. At a meeting earlier this year, the HESC established frameworks for use as examples in considering the necessary goal details. The frameworks (see Attachment 2) outline the goals in terms of mechanisms, resources and impacts and provide initial examples of how HESC has thought about those components. The groups are expected to meet in September and October with recommendations provided to the HESC in November.

For additional details on the HESC including meeting minutes and materials, please visit CHE's website at www.che.sc.gov and select "Higher Education Study Committee."

FY 2007-08 Appropriation Bill, PART 1B Provision¹

5A.28 (CHE: Higher Education Task Force) The funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the Task Force on Higher Education Study Committee shall be utilized to establish the Higher Education Task Force whose mission shall be "to develop and recommend an evolving, multi-year statewide strategic plan for higher education in South Carolina to meet the needs of the state as can be addressed by higher education.

The task force shall consist of nine members appointed as follows: three by the Governor, one by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, one by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, one by the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and one by the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee. The members appointed shall include persons knowledgeable in issues involving higher education to include, but not be limited to, higher education officials, K-12 education officials, and members of the business community. The task force shall elect its chairman from among its appointed members.

The task force shall review the current higher education mission and goals as set forth in Section 59-103-15 of the 1976 Code, taking into consideration the areas identified by the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education in their final report issued September 28, 2006, and shall also review all state supported higher education scholarship and grant programs.

Upon completion of the review the task force shall develop and recommend a Statewide Higher Education Strategic Plan which shall include, but not be limited to, the following five aspects of higher education as recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education's final report

- 1) Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning;
- 2) Enrollment; 3) Funding and Institutional Cost;
- 4) Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology; and
- 5) Organization and Plan Implementation.

The Plan shall also include recommendations for all state supported higher education scholarship and grant programs whether funded through the Education Lottery Account or through the State General Fund.

The task force shall submit recommendations for the Higher Education Statewide Strategic Plan to the General Assembly by February 1, 2008.

¹ Proviso as passed in FY 2007-08. The Proviso was included in the FY 2008-09 Appropriations Act and revised to extend the report date to February 15, 2008, as per the *Joint Resolution S.1034* which was enacted February 21, 2008. The Proviso number in the FY 2008-09 appropriations act is 6.27.