



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

Commissioners' E-Alert

April 2009

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Commission Highlights

This E-Alert brings highlights from the April 2nd meeting.

The Commission meets each month on the first Thursday. The next meeting will be held Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. An agenda will be available at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Commission%20Calendar&Materials/Calendar/CommCalendar2009.htm> approximately one week prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman of the Commission, noted that the Commission's Executive Committee continues to meet one week prior to the Commission meeting for the purpose of reviewing the upcoming agenda. The Commission received as information the minutes of recent Executive Committee meetings. The Committee on Finance and Facilities was the only other Committee to bring forward recommendations for approval of the Commission. The Commission approved the Committee's recommendations regarding the criteria and evaluation method for scoring the FY 2009-10 year two of the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP) for Capital Improvement Bond (CIB) Requests. Also approved by the Commission were interim capital project requests from USC Columbia and USC Aiken. The request approved from USC Columbia relates to exterior safety repairs/replacement at the Thomas Cooper Library. Requests approved for USC Aiken included repairs/replacement of the Etheredge Center cooling system, replacement of the Penland cooling tower, and Aiken campus elevator renewal. Detailed information on these items can be found on the CHE website at: <http://www.che.sc.gov/ExecutiveDirector/Mailouts/CommMailOutApr2009.htm>

HEALTH SCIENCES SOUTH CAROLINA SPEAKS WITH COMMISSION

The Commission invites special guests to engage in conversation about pressing topics facing the state and higher education. This month's invited guests included representatives of Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC), an important statewide collaborative now in its fourth year with a mission "to conduct collaborative health sciences research to improve the health status, education, workforce development, and economic well-being for all South Carolinians." Dr. Jay Moskowitz, President and CEO of HSSC and Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Endowed Chair in Clinical and Translational Research at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Robert J. Adams, CoEE Endowed Chair in Stroke at the Medical University of South Carolina, and Dr. Iain Sanderson, CoEE Endowed Chair in Medical Informatics at the Medical University of South Carolina, each spoke to the Commission about their roles and on-going research. To learn more about HSSC, please visit their website at www.healthsciencessc.org.

COMMISSION DISCUSSES ITS ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING AN ACTION PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioners discussed their role in implementing an action plan for higher education that has been advanced by a legislatively appointed Higher Education Study Committee (HESC). The HESC released its final report, **Leveraging Higher Education for a Stronger South Carolina: The Action Plan Implementation**, at a press conference just prior to the Commission meeting. Chairman Wingate commented that the baton had now passed to the Commission to work on the details of ensuring its successful implementation. He applauded the Committee's work and encouraged Commissioners to thank Mr. Dan Ravenel, who chaired the Committee, and the Committee members for their tremendous efforts in developing a comprehensive action plan for higher education in South Carolina. HESC members who served with Mr. Ravenel included: Mr. J. Boone Aiken, III, Esquire, of Florence; Colonel Claude Eichelberger of Camden; The Honorable Jerry N. Govan, Jr., House District 95, Orangeburg County; Dr. Doris R. Helms of Clemson; Mr. Scott Ludlow of Columbia; Mr. Robert W. Marlowe of Charleston; Layton McCurdy, M.D., of Charleston; and Dr. John E. Montgomery of Columbia.

Information about the study committee and its work is available on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's website at www.che.sc.gov. The final report and copy of the Executive Summary is accessible directly at www.che.sc.gov/HigherEd_ActionPlan.htm. A copy of the press release about the event is available at http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/PressRelFiles/HESC_Report_Release_040209.pdf.