



**South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education**

**Commissioners' E-Alert
January 2009**

Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
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Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

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Greetings.....

**Highlights of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2009**

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education met on Thursday, January 8, 2009, for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Ken Wingate called the meeting to order. Dr. Lynn Kelley of CHE introduced the Commission's guests including representatives from public and private college and universities, legislative and executive branch staff, and others.

After the approval of minutes from the December meeting, Chairman Wingate turned the meeting over to Dr. Garry Walters for his Executive Director report. Dr. Walters shared information concerning the Higher Education Study Committee. He announced it expects to hold its final meeting following the Commission meeting. He announced that the Study Committee would be targeting February 5, 2009, for bringing its report to the General Assembly. He then reviewed with the Commission the presentation he would be making to the House Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Budget Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 13.

Julie Carullo, Director of Governmental Affairs, gave a legislative update reviewing the recent developments in the state's budget situation. She noted that since the Commission's last meeting, the revenue estimates for the state had been reduced again and the Budget and Control Board had acted to approve across the board reductions of 7% for state agencies and higher education. Commissioners were reminded that these cuts had come on top of the recent reductions taken by the General Assembly in November. Ms. Carullo informed members that to date cuts to higher education have averaged more than 20%. She provided information on pre-filed legislation and noted that the Governor would be releasing his budget recommendations on January 9th. The Governor's budget recommendations are available on-line under the state legislative website at www.scstatehouse.gov

Dr. Fred Baus, Chief Executive Officer from the University Center of Greenville (UCG), gave a very informative and interesting update on UCG activities and community involvement. UCG was established in 1987 to bring baccalaureate and above higher educational opportunities to residents of Greenville. Access to programs is provided by seven participating colleges and universities. He informed the Commission that the UCG board had recently adopted a goal of increasing the number of people completing bachelor degrees and higher for the upstate area. Discussion followed concerning data about UCG and the possibility of providing more detailed information about students who had earned degrees through their work at UCG.

Committee Reports and Actions Taken by the Commission

Report of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee brought forward for approval a recommendation to amend the administrative budget of the Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) program which had been approved by CHE earlier in the fall. The CoEE program is governed by a separate board, the CoEE Review Board, and is staffed by the Commission as fiscal agent. The Commission is required to consider and approve the CoEE program's budget although it does not have policy approval authority. CoEE Review Board Chairman, Paula Harper Bethea, explained the request to Commissioners noting that as the program has matured, administrative work at the institutions has increased significantly and the request would provide needed funds of \$100,000 to each research institution for purposes of administering the program. The Commission voted to approve the request.

Chairman Harper-Bethea updated the Commission on the program's progress. She was pleased to announce that the five year program assessment that was being conducted by the Washington Advisory Group would be released shortly. While the report was not yet available, she was able to share with the Commission that the investigators have found the program to be highly successful, providing a three to one return on the state's investment and have noted that the program is the best of its kind in the nation. Ms. Harper Bethea commended Dr. Morrison and the Commission staff who administer the program on their contributions to the great success of the program.

Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Dr. Bettie Horne, Chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, first brought forward and the Commission approved recommendations for new program proposals from public colleges and universities including programs leading to the A.H.S in Dental Hygiene at Aiken Technical College; the B.S. degree in Environmental Science at USC Columbia; the Master of International Business at USC Columbia, and the Ph.D. in Health and Rehabilitation Science with concentrations in degree Pathology and Impairment, degree Functional Limitations or Health Services at MUSC.

The Commission then considered and approved the following licensing requests:

- Request by Miller-Motte Technical College in Charleston to amend its existing license to add a new program leading to its A.A.S. degree in Physical Therapy;
- Request by Strayer University in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville to amend its existing license to add two new programs leading to the A.S. and B.S. degrees in Criminal Justice;

- Request by Virginia College of Birmingham, Alabama to amend its existing license to add a new site in Charleston with programs including A.A.S. degree in Administrative Office Management, A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice, A.A.S. degree in Medical Office Management, A.A.S. degree in Paralegal Studies, A.A.S. degree in Respiratory Therapy, A.A.S. degree in Surgical Technology, A.A.S. degree in Therapeutic Massage, B.S. degree in Business Administration, B.S. degree in Criminal Justice, B.S. degree in Health Services Management, and to add new programs in Greenville leading to the A.A.S. degree in Healthcare Reimbursement and A.A.S. degree in Medical Assistant;
- Request by Grand Canyon University of Phoenix, Arizona for an initial license to recruit South Carolina residents to their university on line.
- Request by Savannah College of Art and Design to offer at its new branch located in Hardeeville, S.C. a program in Equestrian Studies leading to a B.A. degree.

Dr. Horne provided for information the Annual Report on the state's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Academic Common Market program. This program allows certified residents of the 16 participating states to pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain approved degree programs at out-of-state institutions which are not offered in the student's home state. A copy of the report is available at: <http://www.che.sc.gov/newweb/Rep&Pub/agendaitem9acmannRpt.pdf>

UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education meets on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2009, in the main conference room of the Commission on Higher Education, 1333 Main Street, Suite 200, Columbia, and beginning at 10:30 am. For additional information, please visit our website at: <http://www.che.sc.gov/ExecutiveDirector/CommissionMeetings.htm>

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"Support for higher education is the lever by which the government can move the entire economy"

. ~ Stanford/Hoover Institution economist Paul Romer