

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Large Conference Room

Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 22, 2008

Commission Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Chairman
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Dr. Bettie Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati

Guests Present

Mr. Charlie C. Sanders, Jr., President and CEO
SC Student Loan Corporation
Mr. J. Wayne Landrith, Senior Vice President
SC Student Loan Corporation

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Mitchell Zais

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Mr. Michael Brown
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams
Ms. Sherry Hubbard
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Rae McPherson
Ms. Nan Ford
Ms. Monette Foster
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Arlene Criswell

1. **Introductions**

The Chair, Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by all in attendance. Dr. Raghu Korrapati **moved** that the minutes of the May 1, 2008 meeting be approved, and the motion was **seconded** by Mr. Dan Ravenel. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. **SC Student Loan Corporation 2008-2009 SC Teachers Loan Program Budget**

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller gave an overview of the establishment of the SC Teachers Loan Program, which is administered by the SC Student Loan Corporation. She stated that the General Assembly authorized the Commission on Higher Education to promulgate the regulations that govern the SC Teachers Loan Program. In addition, Ms. Mosteller also stated that based on the regulations the Commission is charged with two primary responsibilities: 1) approval of the Corporation's annual operating budget associated with administering the Teachers Loan Program; and 2) approval of the appropriation request for loans distributed through the Teachers Loan Program.

Ms. Mosteller reviewed the FY 2008-09 proposed operating budget for the SC Teachers Loan Program, which is at a total of \$452,950. Ms. Mosteller opened the floor for discussion of the proposed FY 2008-2009 Administrative Budget of the SC Student Loan Corporation.

Mr. Charlie Sanders, President and CEO, SC Student Loan Corporation began the discussion by noting the decrease in the overall budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09. According to Mr. Sanders, the decrease in the budget for next year is a result of the reduction in personnel expenses. In particular, Mr. Sanders stated that he proposed a budget plan in November 2007 to the SC Student Loan Corporation's Board of Directors that included a recommendation to reduce the proportion of health care costs paid by the Corporation on behalf of both active and retired employees. According to Mr. Sanders, the proposed plan to reduce the amount of health care expenses will save the SC Student Loan Corporation money for the FY 2008-09 budget year as well as in future budget years. The savings will consist of the actuarial cost for the retirees' medical plan. Ms. Mosteller asked Mr. Sanders how the proposed budget plan will affect the Corporation's individual employees. Mr. Sanders replied that the proposed plan will not significantly affect active employees, given that the SC Student Loan Corporation pays about 70% of the health care costs for current employees. In addition, he stated that for each additional year of service for active employees, the Corporation will pay an additional two percent rather than an additional three percent of the cost as in previous years. Mr. Sanders stated that the reduction from three percent to two percent is not significant enough to negatively affect the remaining costs paid by active employees. He stated that the proposed budget plan will have a more significant impact on retirees. According to Mr. Sanders, the employees who have retired within the past one to two years were grandfathered into the budget plan and given a three year period of health care paid by the Corporation. Only a few retirees who retired more than two years ago will be affected by the Corporation's proposed budget plan. With no additional questions, Ms. Mosteller **moved** to approve the Proposed FY 2008-09 Operating Budget for the SC Teachers Loan Program, Dr. Bettie Horne **seconded** and the motion was unanimously **approved**.

3. **Other Business**

a. **College Goal Sunday**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the SC Student Loan Corporation was very helpful in the planning and in support of the College Goal Sunday events held throughout the state.

She said that the College Goal Sunday events helped several hundred families around the state to find financial assistance for their students to attend college. Ms. Mosteller asked for CHE staff to share the May 1, 2008 minutes with the SC Student Loan Corporation for additional ideas to be discussed at the upcoming Access & Equity and Student Services Retreat.

b. **Access & Equity and Student Services Retreat**

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that Benedict College has agreed to host the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee to have a retreat on the campus. Dr. Woodfaulk discussed possible dates and times for the upcoming retreat, which included June 16, 17, 19 and 20 and possible dates in July. After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to schedule the retreat for Thursday, June 19, 2008 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

c. **SC GEAR UP Conference**

Dr. Horne noted that the Commissioners received invitations to the SC GEAR UP Steering Committee. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the guest speaker for the conference will be Mr. Levon Kirkland, former NFL player for the Pittsburgh Steelers and current Minority Recruitment Coordinator at Clemson University. Ms. Mosteller requested that Mr. Kirkland be a guest speaker at the upcoming retreat. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that Mr. Kirkland would be invited to be a speaker at the upcoming retreat.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Mosteller asked if there were any additional discussions. Being none, Ms. Mosteller asked for a motion to **adjourn**, Dr. Horne **moved** for adjournment, Mr. Ravenel **seconded** and the meeting **adjourned** at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laverne Sanders

Laverne Sanders
Recording Secretary