

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
February 2, 2012

Members Present

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Mr. Rodney Smolla
Mr. Kim Phillips
Admiral Charles Munns

Members Absent

Ms. Leah Moody
Ms. Natasha Hanna

Staff Present

Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Tanya Rogers
Ms. Edna Strange
Dr. Garrison Walters

Guests

Dr. Andrew Abrams, Charleston School of Law
Ms. Carol Bratt, Grand Canyon University
Mr. Randall Bridwell, Charleston School of Law
Mr. Jack Clark, Virginia College
Dr. Lady June Cole, Allen University
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC Upstate
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Dr. Lynne Ford, College of Charleston
Dr. Larry M. Hall, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Mr. George Kosko, Charleston School of Law
Dr. Sara Lawhorne, Virginia College
Dr. Learie Luke, S.C. State University
Dr. Gretchen McLaine, College of Charleston
Mr. Todd McNerney, College of Charleston
Dr. Jeannette Myers, Francis Marion University
Dr. Hank Radda, Grand Canyon University
Dr. Hope Rivers, S.C. S.C. Technical College System
Dr. Darlene Shaw, MUSC, via teleconference
Dr. Amy Wood, Lenoir-Rhyne University

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of Minutes of December 1, 2011

Dr. Horne requested a motion to accept the Minutes of the December 1, 2011, meeting as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Smolla), and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as distributed.**

2. Consideration of New Program Proposals

a. B.A./A.B., Dance, College of Charleston

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Ford, Dr. McNerney, and Dr. McLaine. It was **moved** and **seconded** to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. McNerney explained that the College's Department of Theater currently offers a minor in Dance and has long sought to offer a major, with the largest hindrance being lack of physical space on campus; however, the College recently opened the Cato Center for the Arts which houses two dance studios. Dr. McNerney reported that shortly after joining the College, Dr. McLaine began preparing the proposal to offer the major.

Admiral Munns thanked the College for its well-written proposal and then asked why the College waited to submit the proposal to CHE until six months after approval by its Board of Trustees. Dr. McLaine explained that the delay was the result of a combination of the College's schedule and CHE deadlines.

Dr. Horne expressed her appreciation for the College in creating a strong case of student interest in the degree. She then asked for more information about local demand for graduates. She referred to the statistics in the proposal from the Department of Labor, but added that the data seemed out of date. Dr. McLaine answered that students will be earning a liberal arts degree and therefore will have a variety of experiences with different career paths and goals. She stated that there are 120 dance studios in the tri-county Charleston area and hundreds more across the state. She said that graduates could pursue careers as freelance choreographers, dance fitness and wellness instructors, and dance therapists. Dr. Horne suggested that the College strengthen the proposal by adding more information about employment after graduation.

Dr. Horne expressed concern over students having to repeatedly audition for participation in the program. Dr. McLaine explained that the degree program will include two tracks: a Performance track for students who will be admitted through auditions which prove their technical dance skills, and a General Studies track for students who lack proficient technical dance skills and therefore can pursue the degree without completing the audition process.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree or Artium Baccalaureatus degree in Dance with concentrations in General Dance Studies and Performance at the College of Charleston, to be implemented in Fall 2012, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

3. Consideration of Request for Initial License

M.A., Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC,
Following merger with the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Hall and Dr. Wood. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Admiral Munns asked about the status of the merger. Dr. Hall answered that the boards of both institutions plan to vote on the merger at meetings in March. He stated that the merger should take place on July 1, 2012, contingent on SACS approval in June.

Admiral Munns referred to the list of similar programs offered in the state on page five of the staff analysis and asked why the state needed another program. Dr. Hall answered that the program will re-vitalize the current stand-alone institution of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He stated that the M.A. in Counseling is Lenoir Rhyne's most popular program, and he informed the Committee that USC Columbia offers different counseling programs than the one proposed.

Dr. Horne asked whether it was their understanding that Lenoir Rhyne students borrow the maximum amount of federal money in order to attend the school. Dr. Hall and Dr. Wood both answered that they did not have exact figures but that the University education is relatively inexpensive: \$5,000 per semester for 12 credit hours, and not all students borrow to pay their tuition. Dr. Horne asked what the typical debt was for those who graduate. Dr. Hall answered that he did not have the specific answer but expected that it would not exceed \$10-12,000.

Dr. Horne asked whether a prospective student needs an undergraduate degree in a special discipline to be accepted into the program. Dr. Wood answered that prospective students could have a degree in any academic discipline from an accredited program.

Dr. Horne then asked about required experience outside of the classroom. Dr. Wood answered that the program offers field work early in the curriculum in a controlled setting. She continued by stating that a 600-hour supervised field work internship is required towards the end of the curriculum. Dr. Horne also asked whether a student completing field work receives a salary. Dr. Wood answered some hosts of interns provide a salary. She said that by the time students enter their internship, students usually have been able to obtain gainful employment in the field.

Dr. Horne asked about the target audience for the degree. Dr. Wood explained that the majority of Lenoir Rhyne's students are working adults, but also noted that in the last several years, more traditional-aged students have expressed interest in the degree.

Dr. Horne indicated potential salary information on page four stating that the lowest 10% of mental health counselors earned less than \$23,580 and that the top 10% earned more than \$63,100. She specifically wanted to know what type of salary increase would be expected with obtaining this degree for those who are already employed in the field. Dr. Wood stated that she could not answer the question specifically, but stated that no one can practice counseling in the state of South Carolina without a license.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission initial licensure for five years to the Lenoir-Rhyne University to offer a program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Counseling provided that 1) no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and 2) the institution discontinue advertising and enrolling students into the program if it becomes apparent that it is unable to gain CACREP accreditation before the graduation of the first class.

4. Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Add New Program

LL.M., Admiralty and Maritime Law, Charleston School of Law

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Abrams. It was **moved** and **seconded** to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Abrams explained that Charleston's location provides a strong maritime community and that plans for offering the proposed program have been in progress for years. He explained that the School had to await its full American Bar Association (ABA) approval before pursuing graduate law programs.

Admiral Munns commented that the program seems important and timely in the midst of news stories regarding cruise ships, port access, and offshore drilling. He then asked whether the School's finances were stable. Dr. Abrams answered specifically about the financial prospects of the proposed degree, stating that the program will offer a niche market which will become nationally known and that the School expects great success for the degree.

President Smolla confessed his bias toward deferring to academic institutions in regards to bringing programs forward. He expressed his opinion as a previous law school dean that no law school would bring a program to the Commission unless the School is ready to offer that program, having studied and analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of offering the degree, including the financial implications and responsibilities.

Dr. Horne asked about space allocations of the School's facilities, especially in regards to communal student space. Dr. Abrams answered that since the School is not located within a University, communal space is limited. He continued by stating that for graduate students, however, communal and study space is not as necessary as it is for undergraduates. He said that the program is part-time, and the School limits intramural activities. He concluded by stating that the School is responsive to its students and their needs and will act as needs arise.

Dr. Horne asked whether the four full-time faculty members needed for the program are already employed by the School. Dr. Abrams answered that they are not. He reported to the Committee that two faculty members are already on staff and teaching related courses, but that the School will recruit two additional faculty members for the program. Dr. Horne asked about the difficulty in finding adjunct faculty given the narrow scope of the program. Dr. Abrams answered that the School rarely has difficulties in recruiting adjunct faculty; he stated that attorneys enjoy taking breaks from their practice in order to teach.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the license of the Charleston School of Law to add a program leading to the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Admiralty and Maritime Law for implementation in fall 2012.

5. Reconsideration of Request for Amendments to Existing Licenses to Add New Programs

D.B.A., Management; Ph.D., General Psychology, 1.) Cognition and Instruction, 2.) Industrial and Organizational Psychology; and Ed.D., Organizational Leadership
Grand Canyon University

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Bratt and Dr. Radda. It was **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Horne invited Dr. Walters to the table to speak to certain elements of the proposal. Dr. Horne informed the Committee that Ms. Bratt and Dr. Radda expressed a desire to give a short presentation about the University.

Dr. Radda informed the Committee that Grand Canyon University was founded as a private Christian university in Arizona in 1949 and has been accredited since 1968 with the Higher Learning Commission. He reported that the University has experienced great success recently and is proud of its work on behalf of its students. He stated that the on-ground campus is growing and recognized in the state in the areas of nursing and education.

Dr. Radda recognized the questions brought by the Commission and submitted to the Committee vitas of faculty members in the psychology program, a vita for the Director of the Center for Innovation, Research and Technology (CIRT), his own vita, and a summary of publications and presentations by University adjunct faculty. He stated that the University is dedicated to committing resources to both scholarship and infrastructure.

Admiral Munns asked for more information about Grand Canyon's value of gainful employment, citing that the University terminated the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies due to low enrollment. Ms. Bratt explained that the University is concerned about its students' employment and keeps track of IPEDS data. She stated that she knows of no student who has expressed concerns to the University about unemployment related to a specific program. Admiral Munns asked whether the University provides placement services. Ms. Bratt said they do not since most students are already employed.

Dr. Radda spoke directly about the doctoral college and reported that the average doctoral student is 44 years old and currently employed, with 15-20 years of experience in his or her profession. He stated that doctoral students enter the degree program to further their education for personal reasons or for career changes.

Dr. Horne asked whether a final decision had been reached by the U.S. Department of Education regarding incentive compensation. Ms. Bratt answered that the University's current compensation plan was submitted to the Department of Education as well as to CHE and that the Department of Education has not requested any additional information. Ms. Eshleman stated that she confirmed with the Department that there were no outstanding issues regarding Grand Canyon University. Dr. Horne asked whether the Department will notify Grand Canyon of an official decision regarding the investigations. Ms. Eshleman answered that she was unsure how the Department would communicate acceptance of the compensation plan, but it would most likely be through a periodic audit.

Dr. Radda informed the Committee that the doctoral program has established a number of requirements, including one which requires a master's degree G.P.A. of 3.4. He also

explained that the program requires three counseling sessions about the rigor of the program prior to admission. He stated that the University has added a free one-week workshop on the differences between a pursuing a master's degree and pursuing a Ph.D. He re-iterated that the University prepares students well for the realistic expectations of a doctoral degree program.

Dr. Horne cited the fact that the University seems to be on track regarding its projected timeline for gaining specialized accreditation for the Ed.D., D.B.A., and Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition and Instruction. She called upon Dr. Walters to comment about the area of specialized accreditation.

Dr. Walters responded that he had grave concerns about the doctoral program in Psychology. He said that the degree is a research degree where a student is called to produce original research in the field. He continued by stating his concern regarding the expertise of the faculty members who will lead the doctoral program. He stated that faculty members in a doctoral program should be active researchers so that they are able to teach students the practice of research and that faculty members should have experience in directing dissertations. Dr. Walters informed the Committee that he reviewed the resumes of the 15 faculty members slated to lead the doctoral program. He reported that out of the 15, only eight have a doctoral degree in an associated field and only two have degrees in higher education psychology. He explained that only one faculty member has directed dissertations, one faculty member's experience with dissertations is unclear and 13 have never directed a dissertation. He also reported that of the 15 faculty members, 14 have never been members of departments which grant the Ph.D.

Dr. Radda reported that he was unsure whether the University had included dissertation directing in its request to provide vitas for the faculty members. He stated that the summary of research publications speaks to the faculty members' expertise and ability to lead the doctoral program. He informed the Committee that the new virtual Center for Innovation, Research and Technology brings together a consortium of researchers to provide high-quality research education. He explained that the University decided to forego the traditional model of a mentor and a committee guiding a student's education. He stated that the program instead offers alternative learning methods by a community of scholars. Dr. Radda reported that the program offers a balance within its faculty of traditional researchers and "in-the-world" researchers. He stated that the summary of publications clearly reflect active research.

Dr. Walters responded to Dr. Radda's comments. He stated that the faculty members' attributes, publications and presentations are not relevant and not proof of expertise. He added that research grants could be relative to prove a faculty member's expertise.

Dr. Radda stated that six courses in the program are dedicated to research and the development of research. He informed the Committee that the University has integrated research throughout the rest of the program including in content classes. He stated that the traditional model of a student completing content courses for a number of years and then entering a dissertation phase without being prepared to research has resulted in a high attrition rate in doctoral programs. He explained that this program would integrate research throughout the program.

Dr. Walters countered that the faculty members selected to lead the doctoral program will not be able to teach research to their students because there is no credible evidence that they themselves know how to conduct research. Dr. Radda responded by explaining that the

University employs researchers beyond faculty members, including specialized methodologists and specialized quantitative and qualitative researchers. He stated that these staff members, in addition to faculty members, are meant to serve students in their education. He informed the Committee that the University seeks to create a holistic approach to research by using all employees in students' educations.

Dr. Walters responded that process and philosophy do not trump substance. He reiterated that Grand Canyon does not have faculty members who have demonstrated they have the ability to evaluate doctoral research. He continued by stating that an outside team of experts should review every doctoral program, but to his knowledge, this program had not been reviewed by an outside team. He cited the Higher Learning Commission's review of the program and informed the Committee that only one member of that team was a psychologist. He stated that his understanding was that the state of Arizona did not conduct any type of review or analysis. Dr. Walters then asked whether the University had an independent external review of the research abilities of its faculty for this program. Dr. Radda answered that future reviews have been planned for the D.B.A., Ed.D., and the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis on Cognition and Instruction. Dr. Walters explained that he is concerned mainly with the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, because the other programs will be reviewed through specialized accreditation.

Dr. Radda responded that he believes Dr. Walters and Grand Canyon have different perspectives on the value of the faculty members for the program. He continued by stating that the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology had one external review by the Higher Learning Commission. Again, Dr. Walters re-iterated that only one member of that team had a degree in Psychology, and she was not employed by a research institution. He stated that in his opinion the review was not rigorous due to the team's lack of psychology scholarship.

In light of the dialogue, President Smolla asked about the status of the staff recommendation. Dr. Raley answered that the Committee must decide whether it wants to accept, deny or amend the recommendation.

Admiral Munns asked how online doctoral degrees are able to include crucial face-to-face time between students and faculty mentors. Dr. Walters commented that institutions have developed the ability to conduct doctoral programs online in a responsible way. He then stated that he does not disagree with the use of online learning, but is more concerned about the credentials of the faculty members. AdmiralAd Munns asked how an institution can guarantee students' abilities online. Dr. Radda answered that the University encourages interactive dialogue and that professors and students interact at least three times a week. He stated that students submit written papers and presentations and participate in virtual scholarship and community.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Bratt assured the Committee that the materials regarding the Ph.D. in General Psychology specifically inform students that the program does not lead to licensure. Mr. Phillips asked whether it is normal for this degree to not lead to licensure. Dr. Raley answered that it depends on the type of Ph.D., but that is not abnormal.

Dr. Horne asked how many re-admissions a student is allowed. Dr. Radda and Ms. Bratt answered that students are allowed to re-enter two times.

Dr. Horne evaluated the options for the Committee in regards to the staff recommendation. She stated that the Committee could accept the staff recommendation as written, approving all four programs to progress to the full Commission; the Committee could disapprove the full recommendation in order to create a new one; the Committee could defer the decision to the next CAAL meeting; or the institution could withdraw the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Ms. Bratt asked that the Committee consider deferring the one program: the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Admiral Munns moved that the Committee approve three of the four programs, deferring the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. President Smolla seconded the motion. Dr. Raley then reminded the Committee that there was already a motion on the table that would need to be withdrawn. Mr. Phillips withdrew his original motion to accept and approve the staff recommendation as written.

The recommendation to commend favorably to the Commission the D.B.A. in Management, the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition and Instruction, and the Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership, while deferring a commendation regarding the Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Leadership, was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Smolla) and the Committee **voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

6. Reconsideration of Request for Amendments to Existing License to Add New Site

A.A.S., Business Administration; A.A.S., Criminal Justice; A.A.S., Healthcare Reimbursement; A.A.S., Medical Assistant; A.A.S., Medical Office Administration; A.A.S., Surgical Technology, Virginia College, New Site in Florence

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Lawhorne and Mr. Clark. It was **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Munns) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Admiral Munns referred to a table highlighting the placement rates of Virginia College's S.C. campuses on page three of the agenda item document. He asked what the College considers an acceptable placement rate. Dr. Lawhorne explained that the current minimum requirement for the College is 65% in order to meet accreditation standards. She informed the Committee that the minimum placement requirement required by the accrediting agency will shift to 64% in 2013. She further reported that if a campus falls below the current minimum rate the campus is subjected to additional monitoring by the accrediting agency. She stated that in December 2011, the College began implementation of the new standards on its campuses. Dr. Lawhorne explained that one of the standards is that a campus must create and submit an improvement action plan if its placement rate falls below the acceptable rate, and that the placement rate must be monitored on a quarterly basis. She also stated that the College is implementing the action plan at all campuses that have low but acceptable placement rates.

Admiral Munns referred to the chart on loan debt on page four of the agenda item handout. He asked whether the College knew the average private debt a student holds, which would increase the total debt amount in the second column. Dr. Lawhorne reported that the College does not have access to students' private debt amounts. She informed the Committee that the College encourages students to borrow only what they need to cover tuition. Admiral Munns asked what ratio of federal loan debt to entry-level annual salary is acceptable to the

College. Mr. Clark clarified that loan payments should not exceed 12% of gross income. Admiral Munns then asked whether the information in the chart on page four is within those Guidelines. Mr. Clark answered affirmatively.

Dr. Horne asked about the length of a typical loan, the percent of interest on a typical loan, and the average monthly payment on a typical loan. Dr. Lawhorne answered that a typical loan payment is approximately \$207 per month. Dr. Horne asked how long the contract is. Dr. Lawhorne and Mr. Clark did not know the average length but promised to provide the information along with the average interest rate.

Admiral Munns asked how two changes at the federal level might affect the College:
1.) allowed Title IV revenue from the federal government must be no greater than 85% of the company's total income; and 2.) federal government funds will be contingent on the institution meeting a certain percentage rate of employment placement. Dr. Lawhorne answered that the College has been working for two years to lower its Title IV funding ratio and currently has a 88 to 12 percent ratio. She informed the Committee that if programs offered by the College could not meet the federal government's required placement rates, then the College would have to terminate unsuccessful degree programs.

Mr. Phillips commented that the average age of a Virginia College student is 30 and that his best guess would be that a 30-year-old on average would make \$15 per hour. He then asked why this average individual would borrow \$28,000 in order to obtain a degree and then accept a job where he is paid \$13 per hour. Dr. Lawhorne disagreed with Mr. Phillips' assessment that an average 30-year-old is making \$15 per hour and stated that she thinks the salary would be closer to minimum wage. Mr. Phillips disagreed with that assessment. Mr. Clark answered that many of the College's students might be making \$15 per hour but might not be receiving health benefits. Dr. Horne asked Virginia College to research the average salary of its students prior to admission. Dr. Lawhorne answered that an individual might be willing to obtain a degree in order to pursue a different life course or a different career and is prepared to accept a lower salary in order to make that change.

Dr. Horne referred to Virginia College's ongoing challenge of the FY2009 Cohort Default Rates issued by the U.S. Department of Education. She asked specifically about the 368 students who went into default without notification by the federal government of their loans being purchased from private lenders. Dr. Horne asked whether those 368 students were held responsible for the entire amount of the debt remaining. Dr. Lawhorne answered that according to her understanding, they were not held responsible. Dr. Horne asked for further information regarding the specific loans. Dr. Lawhorne agreed to provide the information.

Admiral Munns asked CHE staff about a statement from the first paragraph on page one of the Agenda Item memorandum. He referred to the statement that Virginia College seeks to begin classes in June 2012. He asked whether the College would have enough time prior to this date to choose a location, renovate it, and implement the program. Dr. Raley answered that the institution most likely has begun the process and chosen a preferable location. He continued by stating that the recommendation is contingent upon staff approval of the facilities which includes site visits and inspection reports.

Admiral Munns asked CHE staff about a statement made in the recommendation on page six of the Agenda Item: "The staff recommends that the license be issued with the condition that the institution limit enrollment to correspond with available employment

opportunities.” He asked how that information is obtained by the College and how is it reported to CHE staff. Ms. Eshleman answered that the College reports the number of graduates placed in the field of study and conveys the information to CHE through required annual reporting. Admiral Munns asked if enrollment exceeds employment opportunities, then would CHE terminate the College’s license to operate at the site. Ms. Eshleman answered that CHE typically would work with the institution rather than terminate its license. Dr. Lawhorne stated that if a program’s placement rate fell below the required standard of the accrediting agency, the College would then be forced to terminate the program.

Dr. Horne asked whether the College defines successful placement within the narrow confines of the degree program. Dr. Lawhorne answered that the placement must be related to the degree. Dr. Horne asked whether the relationship between the placement and the degree is a judgment call. Dr. Lawhorne answered that the relationship is determined by the Placement Department and the Accrediting Council of Independent Schools and Colleges. Dr. Horne asked whether an existing job of a student counts as a successful placement. Dr. Lawhorne answered that it does not. Mr. Phillips then asked what a successful placement would be for a graduate of the business administration degree. Dr. Lawhorne answered that a successful placement could encompass a variety of businesses in an entry-level management or administrative role.

Dr. Horne expressed her concern with the College’s policy of not accepting a transfer course after five years. She explained that the rule is acceptable in regards to a technical course but not in the case of an English course. Dr. Lawhorne informed the Committee that a student may request a review of credit earned more than five years prior to applying to the College. She explained that the Dean would take into account the content, age, and grade of the course. Dr. Horne expressed her concern that a Dean would be inclined to label the courses as non-transferrable in order for the College to profit from the student having to re-take the course.

Dr. Horne also expressed concern about the ability of a College student to re-take a failed entrance exam up to five times when a student’s capability could be accurately assessed after two or three attempts.

Dr. Horne expressed her concern about the College’s lack of a math fundamentals course. Dr. Lawhorne explained that tutoring is offered for free. Dr. Horne asked for the cost of the Fundamentals of Communication course. Mr. Clark answered that the cost of the three-credit-hour course is \$1,095.

Dr. Horne asked what grade level would be the equivalent of the minimum required score of 64 in Reading. Dr. Lawhorne answered that she would need to research that answer and submit it to staff.

The Committee discussed the staff recommendation and considered its options, including whether to disapprove the recommendation or amend it by making it contingent upon the receipt of answers to the various questions posed by the Committee prior to the Commission meeting on March 1, 2012.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to amend the recommendation and approve the amended recommendation** to commend favorably to the Commission to amend the existing license for Virginia College at Birmingham, Alabama, to establish a branch campus in Florence, contingent upon the receipt of answers to the various questions posed by the Committee prior to the Commission meeting on March 1, 2012. Existing

programs will be offered at Florence leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Business Administration, (2) Criminal Justice, (3) Healthcare Reimbursement, (4) Medical Assistant, (5) Medical Office Administration, and (6) Surgical Technology to be implemented in June 2012. The Committee recommends that the license be issued with the condition that the institution limit enrollment to correspond with available employment opportunities. The Committee further recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license the site in Florence when the facilities have been developed and inspected by staff.

7. Consideration of Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Eshleman. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Admiral Munns asked whether CHE staff or the S.C. Technical College System created the report. Ms. Eshleman answered that CHE creates the report in conjunction with the S.C. Technical College System, and she introduced Dr. Rivers, Vice President for Academic Affairs for the S.C. Technical College System.

Admiral Munns asked specifically about the reference to future economic development needs. He expressed his opinion that CHE should be working with the Department of Commerce on this issue. Dr. Rivers answered that the Department of Employment and Workforce makes annual presentations to the S.C. Technical College System which provide information about economic development and the current workforce landscape of the state. She stated that individual technical colleges have advisory committees comprised of local business leaders which provide insight regarding program development and program need.

Admiral Munns referred to statements about military installations in the first paragraph on page three. He asked specifically about the other providers on base which offer educational programs at a lower cost. Dr. Anderson reported other educational entities include Park University, St. Leo University, Claflin University, and Embry Riddle. Admiral Munns asked whether those providers are online, profit, or non-profit institutions. Dr. Anderson answered that the schools are private non-profit organizations. Dr. Horne asked whether the schools offer online courses. Ms. Eshleman answered that the schools provide a hybrid approach of online and in-classroom courses.

Admiral Munns referred to a statement in the middle paragraph on page five regarding a recommendation made six years ago. He asked why the recommendation has not been fulfilled. Dr. Rivers stated that the Technical College disputes the phrase "where no technical college is located." She explained that technical colleges can be accessed in those locations. She reported to the Committee that the technical colleges in those locations partner regularly with the USC two-year regional campuses. Admiral Munns expressed his concern about the report and the conflicting statements made by the S.C. Technical College System. Dr. Anderson stated that the report will be amended prior to submission to the Commission and a statement about collaboration will be included.

Dr. Horne asked specifically about the need for nursing, citing the increasing demand from several years ago and the seemingly decline in need more recently because of the economic recession. She cited the section of the report that showed graduate output doubled in the last ten years. Admiral Munns expressed his concern that employment might not be available for the increasing number of graduates. Ms. Eshleman stated that the "need" is cyclical. Dr. Rivers

informed the Committee that the S.C. Technical College System has a 90% placement rate for its nursing graduates and explained that enrollment at technical colleges is steady.

Dr. Horne expressed her concern that the report is a year out of date, and Admiral Munns asked that the report present more recent data. Dr. Horne asked CHE staff to research the reasoning behind the delay and inquired about the possibility of considering the report later in the season to make it possible to use the most recent year's data.

Admiral Munns referred to page six and asked why the numbers of associate degree programs on probation for the most recent three years have doubled from the three years prior. Dr. Rivers answered that the increase of programs on probation was intentional and marked the phasing out of programs by the System in response to the recession and budget cuts.

Dr. Horne asked whether the S.C. Technical College System and the two-year USC Regional Campus System have a joint committee regarding collaboration. Dr. Rivers answered that within the last two years, the S.C. Technical College System met with Dr. Plyler, Chancellor for the two-year USC Regional Campuses, to discuss each system's initiatives and possible areas of collaboration.

Dr. Horne asked about the need for the S.C. Technical College System to increase enrollments in some applied degree programs. She specifically cited the need to increase the enrollment in Engineering Technology. Admiral Munns commended the S.C. Technical College System for Aiken Technical College's collaborative efforts. Dr. Rivers stated that the technical colleges collaborate in engineering technology fields throughout the state. She reported that one issue regarding Engineering Technology derives from students being unprepared, especially in the area of math, when they enter the degree program at a technical college.

Admiral Munns suggested that CHE staff create an Executive Summary of Actions recommended by the Committee to the full Commission. Dr. Horne suggested that the S.C. Department of Education be consulted for the report due to the issue of unprepared high school graduates. Mr. Phillips suggested that a dashboard report be created. Admiral Munns suggested that a brief summary of recommended actions be provided to the Commission. Ms. Eshleman suggested that CHE staff clarify the various sections of the report that are areas of discussion and confusion instead of providing a separate executive summary. The Committee agreed.

Admiral Munns suggested that the second sentence of the recommendation be revised to state that the Committee and Commission encourage the two-year USC regional campuses and the S.C. Technical College System to explore ways to increase enrollments and retention to graduation in programs in Engineering Technology. Dr. Anderson informed the Committee that the two-year regional campuses of the USC System cannot be added, because the campuses do not offer Engineering Technology. Dr. Horne suggested that nursing programs be addressed in the recommendation. Admiral Munns disagreed, noting that as long as the technical colleges are able to place nursing graduates in acceptable employment, he does not see a need for any further action. Dr. Horne suggested that the recommendation to the Commission include a broad statement which encourages the S.C. Technical College System and the two-year regional campuses of the USC System to strengthen and foster current collaborative initiatives and continue to explore ways to increase enrollments and retention-to-graduation in all two-year transferrable degree programs. She also stated that the recommendation should retain the sentence encouraging the S.C. Technical College System to particularly focus on retention and graduation rates in programs in Engineering Technology. The Committee agreed.

It was **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Munns) to amend the recommendation as stated above. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission this report's designation of programs for the current reporting year as shown in **Tables 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8**. Because of the importance of certain associate degree programs to economic development in South Carolina, the Committee recommends the Commission encourage the S.C. Technical College System and the two-year campuses of the USC system to strengthen and foster current collaborative initiatives and continue to explore ways to increase enrollments and retention-to-graduation in all two-year transferrable degree programs. The Committee further recommends that the S.C. Technical College System particularly focus on retention and graduation rates in programs in Engineering Technology.

8. Consideration of Revision made to the Report on Program Productivity, Fall 2006-2010

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Eshleman. It was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Horne recognized Dr. Learie Luke, South Carolina State University's (SCSU) institutional representative, and asked whether SCSU was in agreement with the revisions made to the Program Productivity report. Dr. Luke stated that the revisions were acceptable to SCSU.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to approve the revision to the report and commend favorably** to the Commission the revised *Program Productivity Report, Fall 2006-2010*.

9. Presentation of Interim Report on Terminate and Approved Academic Degree Programs, July 2011-January 2012

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Eshleman. Ms. Eshleman informed the Committee that the report was presented as information only.

10. Other Business

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.