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South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CHE

2/4/2016

Agenda Item 9.01.A

TO: Chair Hofferth and Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Commissioner Dianne Kuhl, Chair, Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs

DATE: January 22, 2016

RE: Item for consideration of the Executive Committee

The Committee on Governmental & Administrative Affairs met on January 19, 2016, and is pleased to forward to the Executive Committee the attached compilation of potential agenda topics and speakers.

Prior to our meeting, commissioners and division directors were invited to suggest topics for upcoming Commission meetings that a) offer opportunities for discussion or b) provide educational value to the Commission and/or our stakeholders. Commissioner Munns and Ms. Carullo compiled and organized the submissions.

The Committee recommends this list to the Executive Committee for review and prioritization.

Enclosure

Agenda Topics for Commission Meetings

The following are suggestions received by Commissioners for topics and speakers for upcoming committee meetings. The suggestions have been arranged by category and are not presented in any particular order.

The Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs reviewed the information at its January 19, 2016 meeting and is forwarding the information to the Executive Committee for its review and prioritization.

Presidents of SC Colleges and Universities:

- Suggested that a regular, systematic way be used to bring presidents to talk to the Commission. Purpose would be to provide 15-20 minutes to discuss their financial situation, strategic plans, “hot” issues... Suggested that later their Academic Provosts and/or Vice Presidents of Finance, etc. could be invited

- Specific suggestions and topics relating to the presidents
 - New president of Lander University, Dr. Richard Cosentino, since he has such a wealth of knowledge coming from the UNC higher education system (among other places)
 - Dr. Fred Carter (Francis Marion) always provides excellent insight as well as so many others.
 - President Glenn McConnell (College of Charleston) - to discuss reciprocal credit programs

Workforce and Economic Development

- Invite state business community and economic development leaders to discuss emerging trends and higher education needs of their members or constituents:
 - SC Chamber of Commerce (President and CEO, Ted Pitts)
 - SC Department of Commerce (Secretary of Commerce, Bobby Hitt)
 - Mary Graham of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce to discuss their Avalanche Consulting study conducted for the Lowcountry
 - SC Department of Employment and Workforce (Executive Director Cheryl Stanton)

- Invite leaders of major corporations to discuss their emerging needs and trends they see coming up in 5-10 years such as: Boeing, Santee Cooper, Michelin, BMW, Volvo, etc.

- SmartState Program:
 - Invite researchers to discuss their work and progress, particularly some of the new areas. One example noted: Clemson, for example, is working closely with both the Greenwood Genetics Center and Project Hope (entity working with autistic individuals) to research possible causes (which would lead eventually, hopefully, to how to prevent that condition -- very timely, citing today, 1 in every 48 newborn boys are autistic. It’s an epidemic of an idiopathic condition.)
 - Update on growth of the “incubation program” where new business ventures are spun off the research.

Other State and National Speakers:

- Higher Education Legislative Leaders and other key members in the General Assembly who might give us the benefit of their thinking about where they'd like to see higher education move? (individually or possibly as a panel), e.g.,
 - Rep. Rita Allison (Chair, House Education and Public Works)
 - Rep. Bill Taylor (Chair, House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee)
 - Rep. Jim Merrill (Chair, House Ways and Means Higher Education Budget Subcommittee)
 - Senator John Courson (Chair, Senate Education. Also Chairs Senate Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee)
 - Senator Nikki Setzler (Chair Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee)

- National higher education system experts to discuss effective governance issues and national best practices – such as SHEEO, NCHEMS, SREB etc. (Dr. Tom Layzell and Dr. Rich Rhoda are scheduled for February but could always have others at another time)

- Paula Harper Bethea, Executive Director, SC Education Lottery Commission

- Students (to include technical colleges and four-year colleges/universities in a variety of programs). Purpose to discuss “success” stories and provide testimonials

- Superintendent Molly Spearman, SC Department of Education. Suggested topic to discuss the “pipeline”

- Invite TransformSC leaders, Pam Lackey and/or Mike Brennan, to discuss this initiative relating to innovating K-12 schools and education and implications for higher education programming

Academic and Other Student Program Related:

- SACS and/or Sandra Jordan (Chancellor, USC Aiken) - to receive information about SACS reporting tools and matrix, specifically financials as they relate to accreditation and probation. *(Commissioner Allison Dean Love, will be talking with Dr. Jordan and should have more information to share at the GAA committee meeting.)*

- Campus security (suggested as a workshop including our institutions)

- On-line education - Why it costs so much, and how to make it more affordable

- Remedial education on college campuses - Why is this necessary? What can we do to mitigate the need?

- Cross campus standards for general education classes – outcome-based

- Higher education trends such as competency-based education and policy implications

- For-profit institutions

- Up-to-date information on federal regulations that will affect the for-profit schools like Phoenix

- Briefing on a new program called “The College Experience” and how it is working at our five participating universities (College of Charleston, Winthrop, USC, Coastal, and Clemson.)
- Are we educating students or simply providing them with credentials? Life skills? (Noted: Furman's Cultural Life Program (CLP)) requirements, TSMU's history/language reqs.)

Higher Education Funding and Finance:

- Financial terminology: requiring clear and uniform terminology from institutions requesting funding
- Costs of varying degree programs and their corresponding value to the state
- A report from the student affairs area to inform us about what kinds of amenities “required” in dormitory living that are driving the huge costs of new residences. What, exactly, do students demand and . . . get?

Student Financial Aid:

- How the two-year colleges’ proposal for free tuition is likely to affect the various other funding sources (i.e., Pell? Lottery scholarships, local initiatives like the Greenwood Promise wherein private citizens, businesses, and corporations fund specific groups of students (several similar initiatives around the state))
- Any new information on progress to help alleviate the pressure of student loans?