

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Medical University of South Carolina
Colcock Hall, 179 Ashley Avenue
Charleston, SC 29425

Minutes of the Meeting **October 3, 2013**

Commission Members Attending

General John Finan, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice-chair
Ms. Natasha Hanna
Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Leah Moody (phone)
Mr. Kim Phillips (phone)
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer
Mr. Hood Temple
Hon. Lewis Vaughn

Commission Members Absent

Admiral Charles Munns

Staff Attending

Dr. Richard Sutton, Executive Director
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Courtney Blake
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Tanya Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Nadim Aziz, Clemson University
Ms. Adrienne Barry, Charleston School of Law
(CSOL)
Ms. Katy Bayless, Clemson University
Mr. Joel Biffle, CSOL
Mr. Chandler Bowers CSOL
Ms. Katherine Brooks, CSOL
Mr. Dwight Cauthen Southeastern Institute
Mr. Gary Cosgrove, Southeastern Institute
Dr. Richard Chapman, Francis Marion
University
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. David Cohen, College of Charleston
Ms. Elizabeth Collins, CSOL
Mr. Matthew T. Craft, CSOL
Mr. Jeremy Crane, CSOL Alumni
Mr. Benjamin Dennis, CSOL

Ms. Marti Dennis, CSOL
Mr. Will Duke, CSOL
Ms. Aaryne Elias, College of Charleston
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia (phone)
Ms. Julia Flumian, CSOL Alumni
Dr. Consuela Francis, College of Charleston
Mr. Kenneth Goode, Jr., CSOL Alumni
Mr. Peter Goplerud, Infilaw Management
Solutions
Ms. Leigh Ellen Gray, CSOL
Dr. Charles Harrington, USC Upstate (phone)
Mr. Andrew Harris, CSOL
Dr. Samuel Hines, The Citadel
Ms. Krystal R. Ikonomidis, CSOL
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University
Ms. Michelle Jones, CSOL Alumni
Ms. Diane Knich, The Post and Courier
Dr. Layton McCurdy, Medical University of SC
(MUSC)
Mr. Jacob McFadden, CSOL
Mr. John McEntire, Clemson University (phone)
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, MUSC
Dr. Emily Moore MUSC
Mr. Taylor Morris, CSOL
Dr. Angela Mund, MUSC
Ms. Megan O'Dell, CSOL
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Ms. Casey Pagano, CSOL
Mr. David Peterson, Francis Marion University
Mr. Alex Pinson, CSOL
Mr. Ted Riley, Riley Pope & Laney, LLC
Ms. Mallary Scheer CSOL Alumni
Ms. Casey Seidel, CSOL
Dr. Mark Sothmann, MUSC
Ms. Sarah Talbott, CSOL
Mr. Logan Templeton, CSOL
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, MUSC
Ms. Jescelyn Tillman, CSOL
Mr. Hobart Trotter, Riley Pope & Laney, LLC
Mr. Gary Vonk, Southeastern Institute
Ms. Karen Wager, MUSC
Mr. Greg Weigle, MUSC
Ms. Beverly Weshnak, CSOL
Mr. Ed Westbrook, CSOL
Mr. Brandon Whiteside, CSOL
Mr. Seaton Womble, CSOL
Dr. James Zoller, MUSC

The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Introductions

- Courtney Blake

Ms. Blake recorded the names of all in attendance as they introduced themselves around the room and from the conference phone line, as well as those attending by video connection from an auditorium in an adjacent building. All attendees are listed above.

Following the introductions, Chairman Finan recognized Dr. Mark Sothmann, Interim President of the Medical University of SC (MUSC), who welcomed all and encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of the opportunity to take the tour of the MUSC campus following the conclusion of the meeting and lunch. He noted that the Drug Discovery Building and Bioengineering Building are host buildings of the SmartState Chairs where much research is taking place. He also highlighted MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center which had very recently received a very successful review from the National Cancer Institute.

2. Approval of Minutes

- John Finan

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Scarborough) to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2013, CHE meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- John Finan

Chairman Finan referenced the concern, both state and nationwide, about the cost of higher education and increasing student debt load. He pointed out Converse College's recent 23% reduction in tuition and the University of South Carolina's proposed agreement to keep their tuition level in return for state funding for pay raises and the cost of utilities. He stated that the Commission would be working with CHE staff to begin similar dialogues with the other state colleges and universities regarding cost-saving efforts on their respective campuses.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Richard Sutton

Dr. Sutton thanked Dr. Sothmann and MUSC for graciously hosting this CHE meeting. He then reported on his work as Executive Director since the September 5, 2013 CHE meeting. He provided information about current issues and activities as well as those projected for the near future. A copy of Dr. Sutton's remarks may be found in **Attachment I**.

5. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that updates related to legislation would be reported on as they develop in preparation for the beginning of legislative session in January of 2014. She also stated that agency budget requests are being submitted during the month of October as are agency accountability reports.

6. Update on Charleston School of Law

-Richard Sutton

Dr. Sutton provided a briefing with regard to activities related to the Charleston School of Law (CSOL) since the September 5, 2013 CHE meeting. A copy of Dr. Sutton's remarks may be found in **Attachment II**.

Following Dr. Sutton's remarks, Commissioner Temple stated that one of the provisions of the CSOL license restricts free conversation regarding matters pertaining to a possible change of the school's ownership. He emphasized the importance of allowing all parties to freely vet and discuss the ownership status of CSOL in light of the number of interested individuals, including a large number of CSOL students, who have expressed a great deal of concern about it.

Commissioner Temple then made a **motion**, which was **seconded** by Commissioner Scarborough, to remove the condition on the CSOL license which disallows this free exchange of conversation.

Discussion followed during which Commissioner Vaughn questioned whether approving the motion might be interpreted as supporting ownership of CSOL by the College of Charleston. Chairman Finan stated that it would not and approval of the motion is simply to allow discussion. Commissioner Vaughn stated further that, while he agreed with the allowance of conversation, he was not in favor at this point in time of the College of Charleston taking over CSOL. Commissioner Temple responded that conversation may at some point be vetted but that was not the issue before the Commission. He stated he is encouraging free conversation and that his motion on behalf of the board is to remove the condition on the license to allow conversation to take place which is important not only to the owners but to the students who are here at the meeting. He confirmed Commissioner Horne's conclusion that voting to allow free conversation could not in any way be construed as approval of any particular activity that may occur as a result of it. Additional discussion followed in which Commissioner Temple reiterated that the consideration at hand related only to the license which has two conditions or provisions, one relating to a change in ownership and the other to a restriction on conversation with parties. He explained that if either is violated, the license expires and removing the restriction will enable conversations to take place. Commissioner Vaughn inquired about what would result should the sale of CSOL to InfiLaw be finalized before free conversation takes place. Commissioner Temple and Dr. Sutton stated that InfiLaw, as the new owner, would have to apply to CHE for re-licensing of CSOL. In response to Commissioner Korrapati's question about whether this particular licensing condition pertained to any of the other licenses issued by CHE, Commissioner Temple and Ms. Eshleman stated that the CSOL license was the only license for which this condition was included.

Commissioner Horne concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of taking the ideas of the students and alumni of CSOL into consideration as conversations about the CSOL move forward.

The **motion**, therefore, before the Commission follows: The Commission agrees to remove the restriction contained in the operating license of the Charleston School of Law that has previously prohibited the school, or its officers or agents, from engaging in conversations that might constitute an attempt to cause the school to become a part of the College of Charleston or any other public institution. This action takes effect immediately and without expiration.

At the conclusion of the discussion the question was called, and the **motion** was voted on, and **unanimously carried**.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- John Finan

Chairman Finan stated that the Executive Committee met on September 26, 2013, to prepare for this CHE meeting.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

- Natasha Hanna

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

1. The Citadel, B.S., Mechanical Engineering
2. Clemson University, B.S., Youth Development Studies
3. Coastal Carolina University, M.A., Liberal Studies
4. College of Charleston, B.A., A.B., African American Studies
5. Francis Marion University, B.S., Industrial Engineering
6. Medical University of South Carolina, M.S., Health Informatics
7. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S., System Design
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, Ph.D., Sport and Entertainment Management

- B. Consideration of Revised Mission Statement of Coastal Carolina University**
- C. Consideration of *Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, FY 2012-2013***
- D. Presentation of *Annual Report on Terminated and Approved Programs, FY 2012-13***
- E. Presentation of *Annual Report on Staff-Approved Mission Statement Modifications, FY 2012-13***
- F. Presentation of *Annual Report on Academic Common Market, 2013***
- G. Presentation of *Annual Report on Licensing Activities, FY 2012-2013***
- H. Presentation of *Report on Program Modifications, March-August 2013***

I. Consideration of Applications for Initial License

- 1. A.A.S., Health Information Management, Medical Assisting, and Occupational Therapy Assistant, Southeastern Institute, Charleston and Columbia

Commissioner Hanna reported as the Vice-chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing, stating that the Committee had met on September 5, 2013 at which time they approved Agenda Items 7.02 A-H and now presented them to the full Commission for approval by consent agenda. Commissioner Temple **seconded the motion**, after which it was voted on and **carried**.

Commissioner Hanna reported that Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing was not yet prepared to make a recommendation to the Commission on Agenda Item 7.02 I. She stated further that additional information had been provided by Southeastern Institute. She also stated that, upon review of this information, the Committee anticipates it will bring forward a recommendation about this particular item at the November 7 CHE meeting.

Copies of the information contained within Agenda Items 7.02 A-I may be found in **Attachment III**.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Hood Temple

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report. Commissioner Temple stated that a recommendation about the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SCPRRMT) at South Carolina State University would be forthcoming pending the Committee's opportunity to review additional provided information.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities - Y. W. Scarborough

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

- 1. Coastal Carolina University - Softball/Baseball Complex Improvements
- 2. College of Charleston - Rita Hollings Science Center Renovation

**B. Quarterly Budget Report
(For Information, No Action Required)**

C. New Permanent Improvement Project Policy Revisions

D. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for August and September 2013 (For Information, No Action Required)

Commissioner Scarborough reported that the Committee on Finance & Facilities had met earlier in the morning and had made an adjustment to their originally provided Consent Agenda. He stated that it had been determined that the Committee needed to take formal action on Item 7.04 C which had been included on the consent agenda as an information item entitled, New Permanent Improvement Project Policies of the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC). The Committee approved a motion to waive the 48 hour notice for action with regard to Item 7.04 C after which it was discussed, recommended for approval, and moved under the consent agenda as an action item.

Commissioner Scarborough provided brief descriptions of Agenda Items 7.04 A-1 and A-2, after which he stated the Committee had approved these two items and brings them to the full Commission for approval. **Agenda Items 7.04-1 and 7.04-2** were then **voted on and approved**.

With regard to 7.04C, Commissioner Scarborough stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee had decided at its morning meeting to recommend updating current CHE policies to align more closely with the new policies of the JBRC, which will help minimize the time it takes to complete capital projects. The Committee's **recommendation was then voted on and carried**.

Commissioner Scarborough stated that Agenda Items 7.04 B and D were presented for information only.

Copies of the information contained with Agenda Items 7.04 A-D may be found in **Attachment IV**.

8. Consideration of the FY15 CHE Budget Request

Dr. Sutton opened this discussion with a PowerPoint presentation entitled, FY 2014-15 Budget Priorities for Greater Affordability and Sustainability, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment V**. A summary of the FY 2014-15 Budget Priorities may be found in **Attachment VI**.

Dr. Sutton stated that one focus of the budget priorities is encouraging the institutions, through a competitive process, to apply for funding that will accelerate the number of opportunities for students to participate in bridge programs between two- and four-year institutions in order to help reduce the cost of education for students and their families. He stated further that the other focus of the priorities considers structural innovations in a number of ways in order to reduce the time for students to complete their degrees.

The presentation continued with Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Ms. Julie Carullo, Mr. Gary Glenn, and Ms. Renea Eshleman delivering information about the budget requests for: Need-based grants; Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Programs and Services; Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL); Maintenance, Equipment & Facilities' Needs; EIA-funded Centers of Excellence; and a proviso request relating to SmartState.

Discussion during the course of these presentations revealed the following information:

In response to Chairman Finan's question Dr. Woodfaulk confirmed that a student receiving a Palmetto Fellows scholarship may also qualify for Need-based grant. In response to Chairman Finan's question about the possibility of establishing optometry and/or veterinary schools at one of South Carolina's existing institutions, Dr. Sothmann stated that the costs involved would have to be examined as would the student demand for those programs to determine the viability of doing so. In response to Commissioner Temple's question about whether Clemson was considering establishing a veterinary school, Dr. Aziz stated that Clemson currently offers a program in veterinary and animal science and at one point had begun but did not conclude negotiations about a partnership with the University of Georgia veterinary school. Dr. Sutton stated that an updated cost benefit analysis may be needed in order to determine whether the establishment of a veterinary school in South Carolina would be viable. He reported further that states participating in the SREB contract programs have continued their participation as long as student demand remains at an acceptable level. Commissioner Scarborough

inquired about whether a statistical analysis had been conducted in recent years to determine if the allowable number of slots for SC students to participate in the SREB contract programs is adequate. Ms. Carullo responded that the number of slots for veterinary medicine had increased in the early 2000's. Ms. Carullo stated further that South Carolina's participation in the SREB contract programs affords the allowable number of South Carolina students participating in them to pay in-state tuition of the state where the institution offering the veterinary or optometry program is located. After the allowable number of students is reached, South Carolina students may still be accepted and enrolled in these out-of-state programs, but would pay out-of-state tuition. With regard to the EIA-funded Centers of Excellence, Chairman Finan inquired as to why these are funded through the CHE as opposed to the SC Department of Education (SCDOE) since the programs are geared toward K-12 teachers and low-performing K-12 schools. Ms. Eshleman responded that Centers of Excellence are a collaborative function among CHE, SCDOE, and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and that the work of the centers provides professional development opportunities to teachers. Ms. Eshleman also referred to a document which provides more detailed information about the EIA-funded Centers of Excellence, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment VII**.

Following the presentation and discussion, a **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Scarborough), and **carried** to accept the FY15 CHE Budget Request.

9. Other Business

Commissioner Temple recognized and welcomed the CHE's former Chairman and Dean Emeritus of the MUSC College of Medicine, Dr. Layton McCurdy. He also expressed the Commission's great appreciation for his outstanding leadership and many contributions to higher education in South Carolina. Dr. Sutton reminded Commissioners of their October 13-14 retreat meeting at the Lake House at the Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center in northeast Columbia, stating that additional information and details about the event would soon be forwarded to them.

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

The Commission adjourned its business portion of the meeting at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments (I - VII)

*Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.