

**Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE
September 11, 2006
10:00 a.m.
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices
Columbia, South Carolina**

In attendance:

Task Force Members Present

Mr. Lyles, Glenn, Chairman
Col. Claude Eichelberger
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Ray Greenberg
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne (by phone)
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Mike Sisk

Task Force Members Absent

Mr. Tex Small

CHE Commissioners & Staff

Dr. Layton McCurdy, CHE Chairman (by phone)
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers

Office of the Governor

Ms. Rita Allison (and CHE)
Mr. Scott English
Mr. Gerrick Hampton

Other Guests

Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways & Means Committee
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Rebecca Masters, Winthrop University
Col. Jim Openshaw, The Citadel
Dr. Sandy Powers, College of Charleston
Mr. Bryce Wilson, SC Budget & Control Board

Media Representatives

none

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. Opening Remarks: Lyles Glenn

Mr. Lyles Glenn opened the meeting and asked members of the Task Force and all in attendance to introduce themselves. He announced that Dr. Horne and Dr. McCurdy would be joining the meeting by phone and that Mr. Tex Small was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. A moment of remembrance for the circumstances and victims of September 11, 2001, was then observed.

2. Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2006

A motion was **made** (Mr. Sisk), **seconded** (Ms. Goff), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Glenn thanked members of the CHE staff for their work in compiling those minutes.

Mr. Glenn thanked all the task force members for their thoughtful and conscientious efforts in developing a draft summary of their work which reflects a consensus of what will be sent to the Governor. He then asked for a motion that the draft document be placed on the floor for discussion and approval. A **motion** to that effect was made (Mr. Sisk), **seconded** (Mr. Ludlow), and **carried**.

3. Remarks, Mr. Scott English, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Mr. English began by thanking all members of the task force for their time and hard work. He also complemented them for their holistic view of higher education. Mr. English remarked that, in addition to affordability, adequate preparation for higher education was a key issue which the Task Force has addressed. He stated that the challenge will be to make sure the final report of the Task Force is shared with policy makers, members of the Commission on Higher Education, legislators, and institutional representatives, and he encouraged Task Force members to continue to stay engaged in these efforts.

4. Discussion of Draft Recommendations

Dr. Horne suggested that some hopeful language be included with regard to the time being right to take the recommended action. She stated she would send in for consideration her edited version of the draft document.

Colonel Eichelberger stated that language should also be included which indicates education is the key to increasing the economic prosperity of our state.

Mr. Sisk suggested that the third to the last paragraph on the last page of the report's conclusion be moved to the very end of the report.

Mr. Sanders commented that the timing is right to use the opportunity to bring these issues to the forefront as well as to tie South Carolina to national issues. He also stated that it was important to place in proper sequence what may go forward.

Dr. McCurdy thanked Mr. Glenn and all participating parties for their efforts. He stated that the draft report is bold, comprehensive, and addresses all dimensions. He also stated that the report's comments on collaboration are compelling and that getting lawmakers and institutional presidents on board will be crucial.

Ms. Goff thanked Mr. English for allowing her to serve on the Task Force in her unique position as a student and a state employee. She reflected that her task force experience has reaffirmed her decision to remain in South Carolina to work and pursue her graduate degree. She stated she is excited about the prospect of continuing to be a part of this work as a CHE employee. Ms. Goff thanked her fellow Task Force members and other CHE staff members for giving her the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

Mr. Glenn commented on **Dr. Greenberg's** remarks from a previous conversation about the draft report which focused specifically on the excellent introduction and conclusion, the tone and text of which was set by CHE staff member, Ms. Carullo. **Dr. Greenberg** expressed his appreciation to all involved parties for providing guidance and for creating the opportunity to

participate in the process. He further commented that the tone of the report is positive, and he liked the fact that many of the issues are phrased in the form of open questions which do not form judgments. He stated it would be useful to say early on that the questions are examples of issues that should be focused on, as they may not be entirely comprehensive. Dr. Greenberg reported that he had respected the confidentiality of this process and as such had not yet shared the draft for consideration with his colleagues.

Mr. Ludlow echoed the sentiments previously expressed with regard to appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the task force and stated that this experience challenged him to draw back and look at the overall issues in higher education. He stated that the report brings forth questions that will take time to work on and that the overall needs and requirements of the state stand out. Mr. Ludlow commented that an ongoing challenge in South Carolina is assessing what the state resources are for higher education and determining if they are being appropriately allocated to meet the state's needs.

Mr. Glenn commended the group for their work and stated that the process of developing the report and the cooperative participation of the involved parties was as critical as the some of the recommendations made.

Colonel Eichelberger commented that he found the introduction and conclusion of the draft report fascinating and that the questions it presents will most likely stimulate more.

Ms. Allison complimented the Task Force members for passion and dedication they displayed as they diligently worked through this process.

Mr. Glenn then asked that the draft document be approved subject to his and Ms. Carullo's incorporation of an executive summary and any additional edits provided by task force members. The **motion** to approve the document was then carried.

Mr. Glenn stated that conversations with several legislators have demonstrated their support of the work of the Task Force and the approach it has taken. He stated there has been conscious consideration of the method of delivery in that CHE should continue to serve as a resource for the next step as opposed to requiring that CHE further develop the work of the Task Force. It has been clear that the Governor and members of the legislature will work collaboratively in moving toward the next step. Mr. Glenn reported that one of the legislators with whom he had communicated had indicated he was pleased that the Task Force did not go into minute details in terms of its recommendations. He also stated the Governor and legislators expressed an appreciation of the comprehensive nature of the composition of the work group which will develop a statewide strategic plan. Mr. Glenn concluded that there has been a general embrace for what the Task Force would be delivering as its final report.

Mr. Sanders asked if there were any suggestions or comments that the Task Force might present in terms of sequence and timing in order that the Task Force report remain in the forefront. Mr. Glenn responded that Task Force members should continue to reiterate that all involved parties move forward with this work as quickly as possible.

Mr. English concurred that the Governor's Office is anxious to move forward, that they would like the Task Force members to remain engaged in the process, and that all constituencies become involved.

Mr. Glenn then thanked all participants including: those observing, representatives of the Governor's Office, CHE staff as well as his fellow Task Force members.

5. Other Business

(None)

6. Adjournment

A **motion** was made (Dr. Greenberg), **seconded** (Mr. Sisk), and carried to adjourn the meeting. It was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.