

Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
October 22, 2007 (Fourth Meeting), 3:00 p.m.
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices
Columbia, South Carolina

In attendance:

Study Committee Members Present

Mr. Daniel Ravenel, *Chair*
Col. Claude Eichelberger
Representative Jerry Govan
Dr. Doris R. Helms (by phone)
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Dr. John Montgomery
Mr. Robert W. Marlowe

Study Committee Members Absent

Mr. J. Boone Aiken, III
Dr. Layton McCurdy

CHE Staff

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons
Ms. Alyson Goff
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lorna Maglona-Williams
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests:

Ms. Joren Bartlett, S.C. Technical College
System
Ms. Judy Cannon, S.C. Independent Colleges
and Universities
Dr. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Mr. Daniel Dukes, College of Charleston and
Francis Marion University
Ms. Mary Hendrix, ACT
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education &
Public Works Committee
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Ms. Lisa McGill, Medical University of S.C.
Ms. Casey Martin, University of South
Carolina
Ms. Robin Moseley, Senate Education
Committee
Mr. Craig Parks, Senate Finance Committee
Mr. Jim Reynolds, New Carolina

Agenda Item 1, Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Daniel Ravenel called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The guests and the Commission on Higher Education staff introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 2, Consideration of Minutes of the October 2, 2007, Meeting

The minutes from the October 2 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item 3, Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Jim Reynolds, representing New Carolina - S. C.'s Council on Competitiveness, delivered a presentation in which details about New Carolina's efforts to improve South Carolina's economic situation and workforce were highlighted. See attached for a written summary of Mr. Reynolds remarks. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Reynolds enumerated ten ways in which higher education can play an active role in the effort to stimulate growth in South Carolina's economy.

Discussion then took place which included questions and answers about the following topics: the use of work keys to determine employment eligibility; issues of access and affordability and the advantages of opportunities to earn dual credit or participate in an early college experience; the importance of collaboration across the K-20 spectrum; and the importance of adequate teacher preparation.

The necessity of all the higher education working collaboratively in these efforts was emphasized.

The issue of governance in higher education was discussed as was whether a state's type of governance structure had an affect on the strength of its economy. Also discussed was the role of CHE and the importance of the legislature as well as the use of a strategic plan to direct progress rather than allowing particular issues to dominate actions of the General Assembly. The concept of an action plan for higher education was shared with Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds endorsed the concept of an action plan that included specific short-term goals with assigned responsibilities for higher education in meeting state goals and needs.

Agenda Item 4, Discussion: Connecting the Action Plan Goals to the work of the Advisory Groups

Brief discussion took place about the Action Plan Goals, developed by the CHE and presented to the HESC previously, and the importance of the goals being linked to the work of the Advisory Groups. Dr. Walters noted that the state of Kentucky had improved its college graduation rate by 70% since the 2000-2001 academic year, largely due to the fact that they have specific goals and responsibilities for each of their institutions.

Agenda Item 5, Discussion, Advisory Group Updates

Chairman Ravenel noted that letters had been sent out to the presidents and the business community as discussed previously. He then reported that names of potential advisory group members were being e-mailed to the HESC members and additional names would also be sent as they are received. Progress on what has taken place to date in the formation of those groups was shared. Advisory Group chairs will communicate with each other about which persons from the pool of names they would like to select. The importance of these groups consisting of diverse populations of individuals was stressed. Chairman Ravenel emphasized that the chair of Advisory Group was ultimately responsible for the choice of its members. It was noted that the task of each Advisory Group is to make recommendations to the HESC and that the HESC would ultimately make its decisions and recommendations to bring forward in its report.

Agenda Item 6, Committee Meeting Schedule

It was decided that the Advisory Groups will meet at least three times prior to the delivery of their recommendations at the next meeting of the HESC on December 3, 2007. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 7, Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Agenda Item 8, Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.