

**Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
March 3, 2008 (Seventh Meeting), 1:30 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 Helms
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Dr. John Montgomery

Study Committee Members Absent

Mr. Boone Aiken
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Mr. Bobby Marlowe

CHE Staff

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests:

Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education
& Public Works Committee

Agenda Item 1, Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Daniel Ravenel called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. The names of all committee members, guests, and Commission on Higher Education staff in attendance were recorded for the record.

Agenda Item 2, Consideration of Minutes of the January 18, 2008, Meeting

The minutes from the January 18 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item 3, Discussion, Advisory Group Progress Updates and Final Reports

Dr. John Montgomery reported on behalf of the Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology Advisory Group. He noted that there seem to be adequate facilities for the most part across the state except possibly along the I-95 corridor, which could be met by other needs. He also indicated efficiency could be greater and additional ways to share resources should be explored. The report provides information on Florida. He also commented on space utilization and the process for approval of facilities which could be streamlined. A written summary of this information will be e-mailed to all members of the Committee as soon as possible and will be provided with the final version of these minutes.

Discussion followed about the necessity of determining more clearly the exact student capacity of each of our institutions. Dr. Walters stated that the work of former CHE staff member, Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, provides some preliminary information on this topic. It was noted that additional funding would be required in order to make accurate capacity determinations. Conversation took place about funding programs by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) versus funding by quality, noting that funding by FTE encourages institutions to increase their enrollments. Conversation also took place about the need to promote the value of higher education in South Carolina in a more pervasive and persistent manner as has recently been done in the state of Ohio. Mr. Scott Ludlow reported on behalf of the Funding and Institutional Cost Advisory Group. The written recommendations of this group, a copy of which are provided with these minutes, were distributed for review. The recommendations of this group pertain to the following topics: 1) implementation of a multi-year integrated planning and budgetary process; 2) assessment of state needs and on-going accountability with

regard to the costs of program initiatives; 3) implementation of an all inclusive institutional funding formula; 4) detailed disclosure of mandatory fee use; and 5) incentives for alternative delivery of instruction.

Dr. Walters' commented that the first recommendation of this group appeared to advocate for centralized governance, which is not consistent with the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Organization and Plan Implementation. In response to Representative Govan's question about whether departmental fees would be included in recommendation four, the disclosure of mandatory fee use, Mr. Ludlow replied that his group agreed this information should be available in order that parents and students may be better prepared to assess the affordability of the program in which the student is considering enrolling.

Dr. Doris Helms provided an update from the Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning Advisory Group. A draft version of the written recommendations of this group, a copy of which is provided with these minutes, was distributed for review.

Dr. Helms stated that the current lack of a statewide plan prevented her group from answering the question of whether institutional strategic plans are aligned with a statewide plan to ensure state needs are met. She noted that institutions would have to revise their strategic plans once a statewide plan for higher education has been established. Dr. Helms stated that institutional missions should be a purview of the institution according to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and therefore a second statement should be made by the institution as to how their strategic plans integrate with the statewide plan when developed. With regard to whether current academic offerings are sufficiently ensuring that high quality, accessible programs are available to meet state needs, Dr. Helms reported that her group recommended additional analysis of program offerings be conducted. The group also offered some additional recommendations, as described in their draft report, as well as a ten point proposal as a means to expedite the work of the HESC.

Agenda Item 4, Discussion, Draft Report Considerations

Following Dr. Helms' report, Chairman Ravenel led a discussion about how to compile the results of the work of the advisory groups. Discussion followed about possible ways to accomplish this task. Dr. Walters offered to have the CHE staff develop an outline of the recommendations which will be brought to the Committee at a retreat to be held at the Lowcountry Graduate Center on March 21, 2008. Dr. Helms also noted that a recently hired staff member at Clemson, who is talented in the area of writing for the public, might be helpful in developing the interim report. She will invite this individual to participate.

Agenda Item 5, Discussion, Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Ravenel requested that all Committee members come to the retreat fully prepared, having read other statewide plans for higher education previously distributed (Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, Washington), as well as the report from the Governor's Task Force, and the Foundations for the Future report. Ms. Carullo will e-mail to Committee members a complete list of all the necessary materials to review prior to the March 21 retreat. Arrangements will be made for nearby accommodations, and Committee members will be notified accordingly.

Representative Jerry Govan offered to answer any questions the Committee might have with regard to the report of the State Scholarships and Grants Advisory Group, a copy of which had been distributed prior to this meeting and is included with these minutes. Discussion took place about recent recommendations of the Ways and Means Committee and how those recommendations related to those developed by this Advisory Group.

Agenda Item 6, Other Business

None.

Agenda Item 7, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.