

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Large Conference Room

Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 5, 2007

Commission Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Chairman
Dr. Bettie Horne
Dr. Mitchell Zais
Dr. Ragu Korrapati

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Dan Ravenel

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Michael Brown
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Ms. Rae McPherson
Ms. Melissa Santilli
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Mr. Franklin Davis
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Monette Foster
Ms. Deborah Henning

Guests Present

Mr. John Smalls, SC State University
Mr. Reggie Adams, SC State University
Mr. Dennis Wiseman, Coastal University
Mr. Shirley Houser, SC State University
Mr. Anthony Cohen, USC-Sumter

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cindy Mosteller. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

2. Review of the Need-Based Grant Surveys

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk presented and reviewed the Need-based Grant survey. She stated that the survey information was provided as raw data. Ms. Melissa Santilli explained that the raw data is divided by the public institutions, USC-regional campuses, technical schools, and the independent colleges. She stated that the responses were received from all the schools, except for those who felt that the questions did not apply to them. Ms. Santilli explained that Table 1 shows how the Need-based Grant is awarded, how the Pell Grant is awarded and each institution's tuition and fees. Dr. Woodfaulk added that Table 1 contains data concerning the Pell Grant, the Need-based Grant, and SC Tuition Grant, which is a need-based program

administered by the SC Tuition Grant Commission and funded by state money for students to attend an independent institution in the state. Ms. Santilli noted that Bob Jones University is included in Table 1, but did not submit answers to most of the questions on the survey because they do not participate in the federal grant programs.

Ms. Melissa Santilli explained that the data in Table 4 pertains to loans that the Pell Grant, Tuition Grant and Need-based Grant students are applying for and the average loans at each institution. She noted that MUSC's numbers are going to be significantly higher than every other public institution because they are an entirely different type of school. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that if Pell Grant and Need-based Grant students with student loans receive everything they are suppose to receive in terms of federal and state funds, the students still have a remaining balance that they would have to pay to attend college. Ms. Mosteller asked if Column 3 contained an integration of students in both sets. Dr. Woodfaulk responded that Column 3 articulated students who received the Pell Grant, Tuition Grant or the Need-based Grant. Ms. Mosteller asked why a Pell Grant recipient would not also receive a Need-based Grant. Dr. Zais responded because the Tuition Grant also has a merit component. Dr. Woodfaulk added that a state Need-based Grant does not require any merit going in, but in order to receive it for a second or third year, a student would need to earn at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. She said the Commission has to make sure the student is awarded through the institution. The Commission allocates the grant award dollars to the institution and the institution allocates the funds to the students. She explained that the awarding of the Need-based Grant is awarded on a first come first serve basis, so the institutions could give away all of the Need-based Grant funds by April, and therefore the institutions, may be out of Need-based Grant funds for students applying late. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the SC Tuition Grant has a June 30 deadline and can have the same issue if the application is not in early.

Ms. Melissa Santilli stated that Table 5, Appendix E presents the total amount of loans awarded. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that at one point the colleges and universities matched the state funds for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. She stated the state is fully funding the scholarship programs and questioned how much of an investment the institution is placing in its own students by depending on and relying only on the state for the LIFE Scholarship, and if it is also placing some institutional scholarships into the student budget. Dr. Zais noted that the institutional scholarships provide no actual money and that the scholarship is only a discount to the student's cost of attendance. Dr. Woodfaulk gave the comparisons of state aid and institutional scholarships. Dr. Tajuana Massie stated that the LIFE Scholarship is given first before the institutional scholarships are given. Dr. Zais stated that public and private schools are competing for the top students. Ms. Mosteller asked if there is anything that can be done about the private institutions choosing to compete for the top students and is there a problem with the system. Dr. Zais responded that it is only a problem because the schools are giving away so much money to the top students, and the schools do not have any money to give away to other students. Ms. Mosteller asked if students are shopping for where they want to attend college. Dr. Woodfaulk stated there is an organization called College Opportunities Online Locator (COOL) that allows for students to do a comparison of college cost.

3. Proposed Legislation for the LIFE Scholarship, the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the HOPE Scholarship

Dr. Woodfaulk reviewed the proposed legislation for “enhanced” LIFE, Palmetto Fellows, and HOPE Scholarships. She stated that the Senate version is a loan forgiveness program and the House version is a scholarship program. Dr. Woodfaulk said there is a difference in the two versions. She stated that the Senate Committee is interested in the student providing service back to the state and that would mean the student would have to stay in the state for a period of time in order for his/her loan to be forgiven. Dr. Woodfaulk said that if the General Assembly requests new legislation into go in effect for Fall 2007, the Commission would have to work rapidly to get the regulations in place.

4. Annual Scholarship Day and Press Release for the Scholarship and Grants Report

Mr. Gerrick Hampton announced that the annual Scholarship Day will be May 2, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the State House on the South Grounds. He stated that Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE Scholarship recipients are invited to participate. Mr. Hampton presented a sample of the agenda. He stated that Governor Sanford will make a proclamation for the Annual Scholarship Day and a student will speak on behalf of each Scholarship and the impact of their scholarship award on their educational career.

5. Other Business

Ms. Mosteller moved that the November 2, 2006 minutes be accepted and Dr. Zais seconded. Ms. Mosteller stated that she would like for the Committee to see a print out of what comes in for the Committee to work on. She said she would like the Committee to consider how to assist Access & Equity, continue with the Scholarship Programs and proceed with the Need-based Grant Program. Ms. Mosteller stated she would like for the Committee to look at how to best help the first generation students, help the K-16 pipeline process and have a relationship with the Department of Education. Dr. Woodfaulk suggested a small round table meeting to talk with the Department of Education, legislators, and a college president to discuss statewide issues. Ms. Mosteller concluded that efficiency and closure on the Need-based Grant request and a request for a roundtable are the Committee’s next issues.

Dr. Zais moved for adjournment and Dr. Bettie Horne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laverne Sanders