



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Ms. Natasha M. Hanna
Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
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Mr. Kim F. Phillips
Ms. Terrye C. Seckinger
Dr. Jennifer B. Settlemyer
Mr. Hood Temple

Dr. Richard C. Sutton
Executive Director

**Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Main Conference Room**

AGENDA

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hood Temple, Chair

Proposed Regulations:

SC National Guard Loan Repayment Program (Repeal)
SC National Guard College Assistance Program (Amend)
2015-16 Academic Year

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**FY 2015-16 Budget- EIA Funded Teacher Recruitment
Project:**

Consideration of the FY 2015-16 Appropriations Request
for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of
Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at SC State University

Brief Update: Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014

Mr. Frank Myers and
Mr. Gerrick Hampton

Election of Chair

Adjournment

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Access & Equity and Student Services Committee**
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

**Minutes of the Meeting
Main Conference Room
Tuesday, July 15, 2014
9:30 a.m.**

Members Present

Mr. Hood Temple, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
Ms. Leah Moody (Phone)

Guests

Ms. Jane Honeycutt, CFO
SC Student Loan Corporation

Ms. Anne Harvin Gavin, Vice President
SC Student Loan Corporation

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Elizabeth Caulder
Ms. Stephanie Charbonneau
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Vickie Pratt
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Catherine Team
Ms. Leslie Williams

Dr. M. Evelyn Fields, Chair
Department of Education
SC State University

Ms. Nancy Jeter
SC Program for the Recruitment & Retention of
Minority Teachers

1. Introduction and Approval of Minutes

-Mr. Hood Temple

Mr. Hood Temple called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by all in attendance. Mr. Temple **moved** that the minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting be approved, and the motion was **seconded** by Ms. Elizabeth Jackson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Consideration of SC Student Loan Corporation
FY 2014-2015 Administrative Budget Request: SC
Teachers Loan Program**

-Ms. Jane Honeycutt

Ms. Jane Honeycutt, CFO, SC Student Loan Corporation, explained that the SC Student Loan Corporation Teachers Loan Program experienced its largest budget in FY 2007-2008. She said the proposed budget for the SC Teachers Loan Program for FY 2014-2015 is \$317,145. Ms. Honeycutt reported that the expenses were divided into three general areas: operational expenses, contractual expenses and general operating expenses. She said that the operating expenses also included personnel expenses. Ms. Honeycutt explained that a decrease of \$18,000 is proposed for FY 2014-2015. Ms. Honeycutt said the equipment and software were updated, thereby resulting in a slight increase in the information technology costs. She stated that the biggest decrease is retirement expenses. Also there were minimum changes under contractual expenses. Ms. Honeycutt explained

that within general operating expenses, there is a slight increase due to the increase in postage rates and mail outs.

Mr. Temple asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Committee. Being none, Mr. Temple requested a motion to **approve** the SC Student Loan Corporation's FY 2013-14 proposed budget for the administration of the SC Teachers Loan Program. Ms. Elizabeth Jackson **moved** and Ms. Leah Moody **seconded** to approve the SC Teachers Loan administration budget and the motion **carried**.

3. SC Program for the Recruitment & Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)

-Dr. M. Evelyn Fields

Dr. M. Evelyn Fields, Chair, Department of Education, explained that teachers in SC-PRRMT are prepared to teach in the classroom immediately after graduation. She stated that the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) will visit the SC-PRRMT program in 2019. She said that SC State University participates in numerous programs to increase the diversity in the public school system in South Carolina. Dr. Fields reported that 180 students have graduated through the SC-PRRMT program through the years. She stated that SC-PRRMT's graduates were placed in 42 districts. She said that currently there are 174 teachers placed in South Carolina public schools. However, graduate students from May 2014 are still being placed. Dr. Fields explained that the numbers are extremely high in placement of graduates. She said that there are 149 graduates teaching in critical school districts.

Dr. Fields stated that the mission of SC-PRRMT is to increase the pool of teachers in the state. Dr. Fields reported that 52 students were enrolled in the program and 14 students graduated last semester. She said there are between three or four graduates who were placed in the public school system. Dr. Fields stated that there are 39 students in the pipeline and the program is presently enrolling students for the Fall. She said the goal is to have a minimum of 60 students by August 15, 2014. Dr. Fields stated that SC State University's budget cuts have affected all of the programs at the University including the SC-PRRMT's budget. Dr. Fields said the University's President has continued to give the program support in light of the budget situation. She explained that some funds have been moved around which included funding for the Administrative Support position which was absorbed by the University and the University's Foundation funds. Mr. Temple asked if the University Foundation funds were in the proposed budget. Dr. Fields replied that the funds are presently being allocated and is not in the proposed budget. She said SC-PRRMT is requesting the same amount of funding from last year, \$339,482.

Dr. Fields stated that in order for the program to have an even greater impact, SC-PRRMT has decided to divide the sites by regions throughout the state so that there will be better access to the sites. Mr. Temple stated that the SC-PRRMT proposal presented in September to the Committee indicated that sites would be established in Berkeley, Richland, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. He said that presently there are two sites in Berkeley and one site in Richland but there are no sites in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties. He stated that geographical regions were not approved by the Commission. Dr. Fields stated that a regional breakdown is being planned for Fall 2014. Ms. Nancy Jeter stated that the funding was not available for the sites. Mr. Temple stated that the funding was requested by SC-PRRMT and the Commission approved the funding for those sites. Mr. Temple stated that SC-PRRMT Expansion Plan approved by the Committee was inclusive of those sites.

Dr. Fields stated that since her return to the Chair position, SC-PRRMT has been working in the Williamsburg area to have the site up and going. The site will be at Williamsburg Technical

College. She stated that students are ready to attend the Williamsburg site. Mr. Temple inquired about the Georgetown site. Dr. Fields replied that a site has not being identified in Georgetown County.

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that SC-PRRMT was placed on a conditional status. She stated the funding for the program was based on four sites. She said the funds were not used for the purposes of the sites. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Commission approved the budget based on SC-PRRMT's proposal. Dr. Fields stated that the personnel funding did not changed and were used for personnel. She said it was her understanding that any funds that were not paid out on sites were paid out for students.

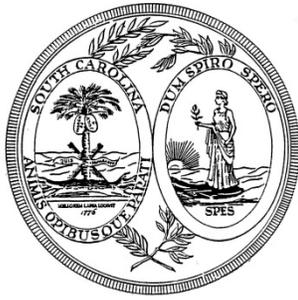
Dr. Woodfaulk recommended from the staff to the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee a request to convene a review of SC-PRRMT Program to include the structure of the program, the examination of the program, cost and sites, delivery of the program to critical areas throughout the state to determine ways to further develop a comprehensive teacher recruitment program for non-traditional students at off-campus sites in the most cost-effective manner. She further recommended from the staff that there be representatives from the Educational Oversight Committee, SC Department of Education, and Center for Educator Recruitment Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and other entities if the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee should wish to do so. She stated that pending the outcome of the review and recommendations, the FY 2015-16 proposed budget in the amount of \$339,482 would be considered by the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee. Mr. Temple also recommended that the Committee meet in August before presenting a recommendation to the full Commission. He stated that other members of the Commission can be invited to attend the next meeting to have any questions answered at that time. He stated that the October 1 deadline for the SC-PRRMT budget could be met. Ms. Elizabeth Jackson **motioned** to accept the recommendation from the staff and Mr. Hood Temple **seconded** and the motion **carried**.

Ms. Jeter stated that one reason the site was not started because there was a change in personnel. She said an evaluator was hired years ago to review the program. SC-PRRMT developed a self-evaluation as well. Mr. Temple stated that what he voted on was for SC-PRRMT to have four sites in place. He stated that is where the funds should have been spent and that did not happened. He said that regardless of anything else he would like to know why the site was not in place. Mr. Temple stated that the Commission would like to know that what they approved and allocated funds for went into the area that was approved. Mr. Temple stated that the Commission is responsible for overseeing the program and the budget, and therefore, if SC-PRRMT tells the Commission that this is what will be done, then it should be expected that it will be done. He stated the Commission was never told that there were any problems with personnel or problems with achieving the sites. He further stated that this is where the concerns are. Mr. Temple said regions do make sense when there is a limited amount of resources to utilize, but that is not what the Commission approved or considered.

4. Other Business

With no further business, Mr. Temple adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laverne Sanders
Laverne Sanders
Recording Secretary



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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September 30, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Hood Temple, Chair
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director
Student Services Division

Proposed Regulations: SC National Guard Loan Repayment Program (Repeal) SC National Guard College Assistance Program (Amend) 2015-16 Academic Year

Background

During the 2001 legislative session, the General Assembly approved Act 41 to create the SC National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program. The SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE), in consultation with the SC Student Loan Corporation, developed the loan repayment program for providing incentives for eligible students enlisting or remaining for a minimum of six years in either the SC Army or Air National Guard (SCNG) in areas of critical need. In 2007, to better support the recruitment goals of the SCNG, legislation was passed that closed the loan program and replaced it with a college tuition assistance program.

The legislation enacted by the General Assembly, Act 40 of 2007 closed the SC Loan Repayment Program under SC Code of Laws Section 59-111-75 to new participants beginning FY 2007-08 and provided for the phase-out of the program as obligations to enrolled participants were met. As of the academic year 2013-14, the loan repayment program has been fully closed. As a result, the existing regulation for the loan repayment program (SC Code of Regulations, R.62.200-240) is no longer applicable and may be repealed (i.e., struck in its entirety).

As referenced, a new tuition assistance program for SCNG members, the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP), was implemented in academic year 2007-08. CHE in consultation with the SCNG developed program guidance, and CHE promulgated regulations for the operation and administration of the SCNG CAP pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 59-114-10 et seq. in 2009. The program is administered by CHE in consultation with the SCNG and provides tuition assistance for eligible enlisted guard members enrolled in undergraduate programs.

The SCNG CAP provides incentives or assistance for students enlisting or remaining (for a specified time) in either the SC Army or Air National Guard by offering undergraduate college financial assistance to members of the SC Army and Air National Guard.

Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for college assistance program benefits upon completion of Basic Combat Training/Basic Military Training and Advanced Individual Training/Technical Training. Enlisted personnel must continue their service in the National Guard during all terms of courses covered by the benefit received. Officers must continue their service with the National Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent award or degree completion.

A SCNG CAP recipient qualifies for college assistance program benefits for no more than one hundred thirty (130) semester hours or related quarter hours from the time of initial eligibility in the program. The cumulative total of all SCNG CAP benefits received may not exceed eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000). SCNG CAP is awarded on an annual basis. Eligible Army Guard members may receive up to \$4,500 per year and eligible Air Guard members may receive up to \$9,000 per year. SCNG CAP tuition assistance is available for eligible members attending eligible two- and four- year SC public and independent institutions. Institutions are responsible for reviewing all students based on the "Eligibility Requirements/Satisfactory Academic Progress" to determine Guard member eligibility for program benefits.

During the 2014 legislative session with the passage of Act 151 of 2014 there were three amendments to the SC Code of Laws relating to the SCNG CAP that affected Guard members' eligibility for the SCNG CAP. These amendments included: 1) clarification that each academic year's annual maximum grant must be based on the amount of available program funds; 2) required that a SCNG member becomes qualified for program funding upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training; and 3) provided for appropriations to the SCNG CAP to be carried forward to a subsequent fiscal year and expended for the same purpose and to be exempted from any mid-year budget reductions.

As a result of the passage of the changes to the program and further review of the program in consultation with the SCNG, amendments are proposed to the program regulation in order to incorporate statutory changes effective April 7, 2014 and to clarify administrative procedures for the program. The proposed changes as marked in the attached revised regulation (**Attachment 1**) are summarized as follows:

1. Regulation language changed to be consistent with Code of Laws, relating to the National Guard College Assistance Program. The Code of Laws states that the "Academic Year" shall be defined as "the beginning" twelve month period. Language to regulations was revised to replace "that" twelve month period with "the beginning" twelve month period;
2. Amendments to the regulation to include the 2014 statutory change to clarify that each academic year's annual maximum grant must be based on the amount of available program funds. The annual maximum grant will be determined beginning each fiscal year based on state appropriation;
3. An amendment is made to include 2014 statutory changes that a SCNG member becomes qualified for program funding upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Previously, a Guard member became eligible for program benefits on the day of enlistment;
4. An amendment is made to include 2014 statutory changes to acknowledge that appropriations for the SCNG CAP to be carried forward to a subsequent fiscal year and expended for the same purpose, and are exempt from mid-year budget reductions;

5. SCNG members who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 must receive approval by the Disability Services Provider at the home institution to be considered a full-time student. Guard members who qualify under ADA must comply with all institutional policies and procedures in accordance with ADA and meet all other eligibility requirements for program funding; and
6. Expansion of program definitions to include defining “attempted hours” and revisions to program definitions to include clarification of a degree-seeking student and satisfactory academic progress.

Additionally, the following clarifications are proposed to provide clarification to language, but will not affect how the program is currently being administered. The clarifications are:

- 1) “SC” changed to South Carolina;
- 2) “SC National Guard College Assistance Program” changed to college assistance program;
- 3) added new headings/sections and combined sections;
- 4) deleted R.62-263 C (any funds remaining in the SC National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program shall be transferred to the college assistance program);
- 5) provided clarification concerning participant application process and continued eligibility (new and currently enrolled Guard members must complete and submit an application each year prior to the beginning of the fall term of the academic year);
- 6) further clarified administrative procedures (all attempted hours from the time of initial eligibility, whether college assistance program funded or not, will count towards the one hundred and thirty maximum hours); and
- 7) expanded categories under section “Program Benefits and Maximum Assistance” to include annual maximum grant, disbursement of grant, grant cannot be used to pursue program in the same preceding level, and Guard members cannot receive funds at more than one institution during the same semester.

The SCNG CAP Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from the independent and public institutions in South Carolina and representatives from the Air Guard and Army National Guard, as well as Student Services staff, met over the course of the year to provide their input regarding the proposed amendments to the regulation for the SCNG CAP. Their recommendations were incorporated into the proposed regulation.

The proposed regulations are being advanced under the state’s Administrative Procedures Act for promulgating regulations. Final Regulations are intended to be submitted for consideration of the General Assembly during the 2015 Session.

Recommendation

The Student Services staff recommends that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services commend favorably to the Commission the proposed regulations repealing the SC National Guard Loan Repayment Program Regulation (R.62.200-240) and the proposed regulation to amend the SCNG College Assistance Program Regulation (R.62-650-263) for submission to the State Register under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Document No.
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
CHAPTER 62
Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Section 59-114-75

62-250 to 62-263. South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program
Regulations and Procedures

Synopsis:

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education promulgated regulations for the operation and administration of the South Carolina National Guard college assistance program (59-114-10 et seq.) in 2009. The program is administered by the Commission and provides tuition assistance for eligible enlisted guard members enrolled in undergraduate programs. The Commission proposes amendments to these regulations in order to incorporate changes enacted with the passage of House Bill 3784 effective 4/07/2014, clarify administrative procedures for the program, and make changes for readability.

Instructions: Amend R.62-250 through R. 62-263 as indicated below.

~~Indicates Matter Stricken.~~

Indicates New Matter.

Fiscal Impact Statement:

The Commission on Higher Education estimates the costs incurred by the State and its political subdivisions in complying with the proposed regulations will be \$0.

Statement of Rationale:

To incorporate changes enacted with the passage of House Bill 3784 effective 4/07/2014, clarify administrative procedures for the program, and make changes for readability.

Text:

62-250. Purpose of the ~~SC~~ South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Pursuant to Act 40 of 2007, the Commission on Higher Education shall develop a college assistance program for providing incentives for enlisting or remaining for a specified time in both the South Carolina Army and Air National Guards (~~SCNG~~). The Commission on Higher Education, along with the South Carolina National Guard, shall promulgate regulation and establish procedures to administer the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program. These ~~SC~~ South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program benefits will cover the cost of attendance as defined by Title IV regulation, up to a maximum amount each award year. The maximum amount will be made annually and detailed in established procedures; to be administered by the Commission on Higher Education.

62-251. Program Definitions

A. The “Academic Year” shall be defined as the beginning that twelve month period as defined by the institution for the awarding of financial aid to a student and which includes regular terms (~~F~~fall, ~~S~~spring, or trimester) or other terms (~~S~~summer and other) in any combination.

B. “College assistance program” means ~~any awards made under~~ the South Carolina National Guard ~~C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program.

C. “Commission” means the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

D. “Eligible institution” means:

(1) a public institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-103-5 and an independent institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-113-50; and

(2) a public or independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina; or an independent bachelor's level institution which was incorporated in its original charter in 1962, was granted a license to operate in 1997 by the Commission on Higher Education, has continued to maintain a campus in South Carolina, and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Institutions whose sole purpose is religious or theological training or the granting of professional degrees do not meet the definition of "public or independent institution" for purposes of this chapter.

E. "National Guard" means South Carolina Army or Air National Guard.

F. "Cost of Attendance" is defined as "tuition and fees" charged for registering for credit hours of instruction, costs of textbooks, and other fees and costs associated with attendance at an eligible institution in accordance with Title IV Regulations.

G. "Degree-seeking student" is defined as any student enrolled in an eligible institution which leads to the first one-year certificate, first two-year program or associate's degree, or first bachelor's, or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor's degree for acceptance into the program (and leads to a graduate degree). ~~Upon completion of the first one year certificate, first two year program or associate's degree, or first bachelor's or program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor's degree for acceptance into the program (and leads to a graduate degree), the student cannot use scholarship funds to pursue a program in the same or preceding level.~~

H. "Eligible program of study" is defined as a program of study leading to:

(1) at least a one-year educational program that leads to the first certificate or other recognized educational credential (e.g., diploma) as defined by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in federally funded financial aid programs and prepares students for gainful employment in recognized occupations;

(2) the first associate's degree;

(3) at least a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit towards the first bachelor's degree; or

(4) the first bachelor's degree.

I. "Full-time student" shall mean a student who has matriculated into an eligible program of study and who enrolls full-time, usually 12 credit hours for fall and spring terms.

J. "Less-than full-time student" shall mean a student who has matriculated into an eligible program of study and who enrolls part-time, e.g., usually fewer than 12 credit hours, for the fall and spring terms.

K. "Military mobilization" is defined as a situation in which the U.S. Department of Defense orders members of the United States Armed Forces to active duty away from their normal duty assignment during a time of war or national emergency, or as determined by the South Carolina Military Department.

L. "Remedial/developmental coursework" shall mean sub-collegiate level preparatory courses in English, mathematics, reading and any courses classified as remedial by the institution where the course is taken.

M. "Transfer student" shall be defined as a student who has changed enrollment from one institution to an eligible ~~SC public or independent~~ institution.

N. "Home institution" shall mean the institution where the student is currently enrolled as a degree seeking student and may be eligible for financial aid at the same institution.

O. "Satisfactory academic progress" shall be defined as the academic progress as required by the institution in which the student is enrolled as a degree-seeking student for Title IV financial aid eligibility. ~~The student must meet all requirements for satisfactory academic progress towards the degree/program completion as established by the institution. Should the student's enrollment status not be covered in the institutional policies, completion of all courses with a passing grade is required.~~

P. "Attempted hours" includes all enrolled semester hours or related quarter hours, whether passed or not and does not include those hours dropped or withdrawn in accordance with institutional drop-add policies.

62-252. Program Benefits and Maximum Assistance

A. Qualifying members of the National Guard may receive college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to one hundred percent of college cost of attendance, provided, however, these college assistance program benefits in combination with all other grants and scholarships shall not exceed the cost of attendance at the particular eligible institutions ~~referenced in section 62-251 subsection (D)~~ in any given award year; and the cumulative total of all college assistance program benefits received may not exceed eighteen thousand dollars.

(1) These ~~SC National Guard College Assistance Program~~ benefits cover the cost of attendance as ~~defined by Title IV regulation~~; however, the benefit maximum per award year may be reduced if, in combination with other financial aid, the cumulative total of all aid received would exceed the cost of attendance. ~~Disbursements of this grant will typically be paid in two (Fall semester, Spring semester, or its equivalent) equal disbursements. Any remaining funds can be used in any sequential terms prior to annual expiration date. If the recipient is in his/her final semester of enrollment as required for degree completion, the recipient may receive up to the full annual benefit in the final semester.~~

~~(2) The annual maximum grant will be determined prior to the beginning of each academic year based on the amount of available program funds.~~

~~(3) Disbursements of this grant will typically be paid in two (Fall semester, Spring semester, or its equivalent) equal disbursements. Any remaining funds can be used in any sequential terms prior to annual expiration date. If the recipient is in his/her final semester of enrollment as required for degree completion, the recipient may receive up to the full annual benefit in the final semester.~~

B. A member shall not qualify for college assistance program benefits for more than one hundred thirty ~~attempted semester hours or related quarter hours~~ from the time of initial eligibility into the ~~SC National Guard College Assistance Program~~.

~~(1) The award will be prorated so that a student's funded hours shall not exceed 130 attempted hours from the time of initial eligibility.~~

~~(2) A student will not be penalized toward the maximum one-hundred-thirty attempted hours for which the student enrolled but withdraws in accordance to institutional drop-add policies.~~

C. ~~Students who have been awarded a bachelor's or graduate degree are not eligible for the College Assistance Program benefit. Benefits are not to be awarded for graduate degree courses. may not receive college assistance benefits upon completion of an eligible program to pursue an eligible program of study in the same or preceding level.~~

~~D. Students who have been awarded a bachelor's or graduate degree are not eligible for the College Assistance Program benefit.~~

~~E. Students may not receive college assistance benefits at more than one institution during the same term. Where students are enrolled in more than one institution during a semester, the benefit will be received at the student's home institution.~~

~~F. College assistance benefits are must not to be awarded for graduate degree courses.~~

~~G. Less than full-time students may receive college assistance program benefits.~~

~~(1): Awards for less than full-time students The SC National Guard College Assistance Program benefits cannot exceed the cost of attendance as defined by Title IV regulation an academic year to eligible Guard members attending a public or independent institution as defined in section 62-251 subsection (D).~~

~~(2) Half shall be awarded during the fall term and half during the spring term (or its equivalent). College assistance program benefits Benefit funds will be prorated for less than full-time enrolled students, awarded prorated, to students not enrolled full time. The prorated method (based on semester calculation) will be based on the Pell Grant model (¾ time; ½ time; less than ½ time (to include ¼ and less than ¼ time) of the recipient's full time award value.~~

~~E. A new application must be submitted by the Guard Member for each separate academic year to the South Carolina National Guard identifying his/her home institution and his/her intent to enroll at that institution.~~

~~G. College assistance program benefits may not be applied to the cost of continuing education or graduate coursework.~~

~~H. A Guard member who qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 must meet all eligibility requirements as defined in "Program Benefits and Maximum Assistance, National Guard College Assistance Program Terms of Eligibility (Student Eligibility) and Continued Eligibility and Transfer Students" Sections except for the full-time enrollment requirement, if approved by the Disability Services Provider at the home institution. A Guard member must comply with all institutional policies and procedures in accordance with ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the responsibility of the Guard member to provide written documentation concerning services from the institutional Disability Services Provider. The institutional Disability Services Provider must provide written documentation to the Office of Financial Aid prior to each academic year verifying that the student is approved to be enrolled in less than full-time status. The~~

institution is responsible for retaining appropriate documentation according to the “Institutional Policies and Procedures for Awarding” Section.

I. Remedial/developmental or non-degree attempted hours shall be used toward the National Guard member’s 130 attempted hours.

62-253. ~~National Guard~~ College Assistance Program Terms of Eligibility (Student Eligibility)

A. Members of the National Guard enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution may apply to the South Carolina National Guard for a college assistance program benefit.

B. ~~The South Carolina National Guard~~ College ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~rogram benefits may be applied by giving priority to service members in areas of critical need. The ~~SC~~ South Carolina National Guard will determine areas of critical need.

C. To qualify, an applicant must:

(1) be in good standing with the active National Guard at the beginning of each academic year and remain a member in good standing with the active National Guard throughout the entire academic year for which benefits are payable;

(2) have valid tuition and fee expenses from an eligible institution;

(3) maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution;

(4) be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident who meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes;

(5) be admitted, enrolled and classified as a degree-seeking full-time or part-time student at an eligible institution in South Carolina; and

(6) satisfy additional eligibility requirements as may be promulgated by the Commission.

D. Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for college assistance program benefits ~~on the day of enlistment~~ upon completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT)/Basic Military Training (BMT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)/Technical Training for sequential regular terms (fall, spring, or trimester) or other terms (summer and other).

E. Enlisted personnel must continue their service in the National Guard during all terms of courses covered by the benefit received. Officers shall continue their service with the National Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent award or degree completion.

~~EF.~~ National Guard members receiving a full Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship are not eligible for college assistance program benefits.

~~F. National Guard College Assistance scholarship funds may not be applied to the cost of continuing education or graduate coursework.~~

~~G. Remedial/developmental or non degree credit hours shall be used toward the National Guard member’s credit hour limit.~~

~~H. Students who have already been awarded their first bachelor’s degree or graduate degree or who have already completed a program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor’s degree for acceptance into the program (and leads to a graduate degree) are not eligible to participate in the National Guard College Assistance Program.~~

~~I. All documents required for determining the National Guard College Assistance Program eligibility must be initiated and submitted by the student to the institution by the institution’s established deadline(s).~~

~~1. Currently enrolled members should contact their college’s financial aid office to initiate benefits award for the current academic year. The financial aid office will coordinate with the Commission on Higher Education to verify student eligibility and coordinate payment to the college or university on behalf of the student member.~~

62-254. Participant Application Process and Continued Eligibility and Transfer Students

A. New applications must be completed submitted each year prior to the beginning of the fall term of the academic year by the deadline determined by the South Carolina National Guard.

(1) The application is to be submitted to the South Carolina National Guard and must include information identifying the student’s home institution and intent to enroll at the institution in the upcoming year.

(2) Guard members who intend to enroll only for the spring and/or summer semester must also complete a new application prior to the fall term of each academic year by the established deadline determined by the National Guard.

(3) The National Guard shall determine eligibility for the college assistance program.

(4) Once eligibility has been determined by the National Guard, all documents must be initiated and submitted by the student to the institution.

B. Currently enrolled members must have applied prior to the beginning of the fall term of each academic year by the National Guard established deadline and should contact their college's financial aid office to initiate benefit award for the current academic year. The financial aid office will coordinate with the Commission on Higher Education to verify student eligibility and coordinate payment to the college or university on behalf of the student member.

C. For continued eligibility, students must apply prior to the beginning of the fall term of each academic year by the established deadline as determined by the National Guard, continue to meet all eligibility requirements as stated in the Section 62-253, National Guard College Assistance Program Terms of Eligibility (Student Eligibility).

A. Students must meet the following criteria to renew eligibility for the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Benefit:

(1) Continue to meet all eligibility requirements as stated in the National Guard College Assistance Program Terms of Eligibility (Student Eligibility) Section 62-253 (C); and

(2) Students who initially enroll in college mid-year (spring term) may be eligible to receive the tuition assistance the same academic year.

BD. Transfer students who are eligible prior to the beginning of the academic year for receive/participate in the National Guard College Assistance Program and who transfer mid-year to another eligible institution may be eligible to receive the assistance for the spring term if they continue to meet met the eligibility requirements at the end of the previous academic year.

C. The institution where the student is transferring will determine the classification of the entering transferring student based on initial college enrollment and will use this classification to determine the remaining terms of eligibility in compliance with the "Program Benefits and Maximum Assistance" Section 62-252.

D. The home institution will be responsible for obtaining official certification of the student's grade point average, credit hours earned, and satisfactory academic progress for the purposes of determining eligibility for scholarship renewal for the next academic year.

62-255. Enrollment in Internships, Cooperative Work Programs, Travel Study Programs and National and International Student Exchange Programs

A. Students enrolled in internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Student Exchange Programs that are approved by the home institution and that the home institution accepts as full-time transfer credit are eligible to receive the ~~South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program~~ benefit funds during the period in which the student is enrolled in such programs. Students will be required to meet the continued eligibility requirements.

62-256. Military Mobilization

A. Service members who are enrolled in college and during which affected by military mobilizations will not be penalized for the term they are required to withdraw after the full refund period based on institutional policies and procedures. Institutions are strongly encouraged to provide a full refund of required tuition, fees and other institutional charges or to provide a credit in a comparable amount against future charges for students who are forced to withdraw as a result of military mobilization. The service member must re-enroll in an eligible institution within twelve months upon demobilization and provide official documentation to verify military deployment to the institutional Financial Aid Office upon re-enrollment. Reinstatement will be based upon the service member's eligibility at the time he/she was mobilized. If the student re-enrolls after the twelve month period, the service member must submit an ~~Appeal Application~~ per the established procedures of the Office of the Adjutant General to the Commission on Higher Education and the South Carolina National Guard Office of the Adjutant General by the established deadline in order to be considered for reinstatement.

B. Service members who are enrolled in college and are mobilized for an entire academic year may renew the scholarship for the next academic year, if they met the eligibility requirements at the end of the prior academic year. Service members who did not use the college assistance program ~~funds~~ benefits/terms of

eligibility during this period due to military mobilization shall be allowed to receive the college assistance ~~fund~~ benefits during the succeeding term.

C. The home institution will be responsible for receiving verification of military mobilization status, from the South Carolina National Guard, attempted semester hours, credit hours earned, and eligibility for benefit renewal for the next academic year.

D. Service members of the United States Armed Forces will not be penalized for any credit hours earned while on military mobilization. The credit hours earned will be used toward the maximum credit hour requirement for the college assistance program.

62-257. Appeals Procedures

A. Students may appeal an adverse determination as to the awarding or continuation of the ~~C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program benefit to the Office of the Adjutant General.

B. The Adjutant General shall devise procedures addressing student appeals to provide students an opportunity to submit documentation for a second review and determination of award.

62-258. Institutional Policies and Procedures for Awarding

A. Each institution is responsible for reviewing all students based on the “Eligibility Requirements/Satisfactory Academic Progress” to determine eligibility for college assistance program benefits.

~~B. SC National Guard~~ College ~~A~~assistance program awards are to be used only for payment toward the cost-of-attendance as established by Title IV Regulations. The ~~South Carolina National Guard C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program in combination with all other gift aid, including Federal, State, private and institutional funds, shall not exceed the cost-of-attendance as defined in Title IV regulations for any academic year.

C. Institutions will notify students of any adjustments in the ~~SC National Guard C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program benefit funds that may result from an over award, change in eligibility, or change in financial status or other matters.

D. The institution must retain annual paper or electronic documentation for each award to include at a minimum:

(1) Award notification

(2) Institutional disbursement to student

(3) Refunds and repayments (if appropriate)

(4) Enrollment and curriculum requirements

(5) Verification of required number of annual credit hours based on that (s)he is within the eligible 130 ~~attempted credit~~ attempted semester hours from the time of initial eligibility of the program.

(6) Military mobilization orders (if appropriate)

E. The South Carolina National Guard shall be responsible for providing a list of all eligible Guard members to the Commission on Higher Education, which in turn shall provide this list to all the eligible institutions. Only Guard Members who are on the list shall be awarded the ~~C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program benefits.

F. Eligible participant lists will be accessed through the ~~CHE~~ Commission portal (via log-on/password); eligibility will reflect assurance that the student is eligible for the annual maximum unless otherwise noted.

G. The ~~South Carolina National Guard C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program awards are to be used to meet unmet need or to replace any loans or work-study up to the student’s cost-of-attendance.

H. The home institution will be responsible for obtaining official certification of the student’s grade point average, attempted semester hours, credit hours earned, and satisfactory academic progress for the purposes of determining student eligibility for the college assistance program benefit and renewal in subsequent academic years.

62-259. Benefits Disbursement and Reimbursements

A. The Commission shall disburse benefits awarded pursuant to this chapter to the eligible institutions to be placed in an account established for each eligible student.

(1) In the event that a student who has received a benefit withdraws, is suspended, or otherwise becomes ineligible, the institution must reimburse the ~~C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program for the amount of the benefit for the applicable term pursuant to the refund policies of the institution.

(2) The institution is responsible for collecting any amount due to the institution from the student.

(3) In the event a student withdraws or drops below eligibility requirements after the institution's refund period and therefore must pay tuition and fees for full-time or ~~part-time~~ less-than full time enrollment, the benefits may be retained pursuant to the refund policies of the institution.

B. The institution is responsible for awarding Ccollege Aassistance Pprogram funds according to the “Institutional Policies and Procedures for Awarding” Ssection, R62-258, and procedures that may be prescribed the Commission on Higher Education.

~~62-260.~~ Institutional Disbursements

~~AC.~~ Eligible institutions shall award amounts which, when combined with other financial aid, cannot exceed the student's cost-of-attendance or defined program award maximums.

~~BD.~~ After the last day to register for each term of the eligible academic year, the institution will verify enrollment of each recipient and award amount based upon enrollment status.

~~CE.~~ The institution must submit a request for funds and/or return of funds by the established deadline each term. In addition, a listing of all eligible recipients by identification numbers with award amounts for the term must be sent to the Commission on Higher Education. At this time any funds must be returned to the Commission on Higher Education immediately.

~~DE.~~ The Commission will disburse awards to the eligible institutions to be placed in each eligible student's account.

E. At the time of disbursement, the student must be enrolled at the institution indicated as the home institution (on the ~~SC~~ South Carolina National Guard application form) as a degree-seeking student at the home institution.

~~62-261~~260. Program Administration and Audits

A. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, in conjunction with the South Carolina National Guard, shall be responsible for the oversight of functions (e.g., guidelines, policies, rules, regulations) relative to this program with participating institutions.

(1) The Commission on Higher Education shall be responsible for the allocation of funds, promulgation of guidelines and regulations governing the ~~South Carolina National Guard C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program, and any audits or other oversight as may be deemed necessary to monitor the expenditures of scholarship funds.

(2) The South Carolina National Guard shall be responsible for Officers continuing their service with the National Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent benefit awarded or degree completion.

(3) The South Carolina National Guard shall be responsible for any and all student appeals.

(4) The South Carolina National Guard shall be responsible for providing a list of all eligible Guard members to the Commission on Higher Education, which in turn shall provide this list to all the eligible institutions. Only Guard Members who are on the list shall be awarded the ~~C~~college ~~A~~assistance ~~P~~program benefits.

B. According to the “Audit Policies and Procedures for Benefit and Grant Programs Manual,” all eligible institutions that participate in the program must abide by program policies, rules or regulations. Institutions also agree to maintain and provide all pertinent information, records, reports or any information as may be required or requested by the Commission on Higher Education or the General Assembly to ensure proper administration of the program.

C. The Chief Executive Officer at each participating institution shall identify to the Commission on Higher Education a ~~South Carolina National Guard C~~college ~~A~~assistant assistance Pprogram institutional representative who is responsible for the operation of the program on the campus and will serve as the contact person. The institutional representative will act as the student's fiscal agent to receive and deliver funds for use under the program.

~~62-262~~261. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation

A. The Commission may review institutional administrative practices to determine institutional compliance with pertinent statutes, guidelines, rules or regulations. If such a review determines that an institution has failed to comply with program statutes, guidelines, rules or regulations, the Commission may suspend, terminate, or place certain conditions upon the institution's continued participation in the program and require reimbursement to the ~~South Carolina National Guard~~ College Assistance Program for any funds lost or improperly awarded.

B. Upon receipt of evidence that an institution has failed to comply, the Commission on Higher Education shall notify the institution in writing of the nature of such allegations and conduct an audit.

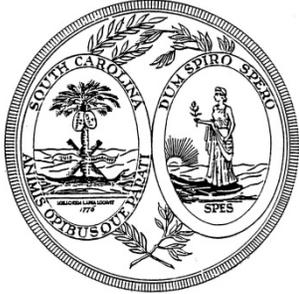
C. If an audit indicates that a violation or violations may have occurred or are occurring at any eligible ~~public or independent~~ institution, the Commission on Higher Education shall secure immediate reimbursement from the institution in the event that any funds were expended out of compliance with the provisions of the Act, any relevant statutes, guidelines, rules, and regulations.

62-~~263~~262. Funding

A. Benefits provided through the ~~National Guard~~ College Assistance Program are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

B. Up to five percent of the amount appropriated to the college assistance program may be used to defray administrative costs incurred by the Commission associated with the implementation of this chapter.

~~C. Any funds remaining in the South Carolina National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program shall be transferred to the College Assistance Program in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Commission.~~



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Mr. Hood Temple

Dr. Richard C. Sutton
Executive Director

September 30, 2014

Memorandum

To: Mr. Hood Temple, Chair, and Members
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director
Student Services Division

FY 2015-2016 Appropriation Request for EIA Funded Teacher Recruitment Project: SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)

Background

During the 1986 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to award grants to the public and/or independent colleges and universities to improve the recruitment of teacher education candidates, allocating \$236,000 in Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds for this purpose. A consortium made up of a majority of teacher training institutions in the State submitted one combined proposal to establish the SC Teacher Recruitment Center. The proposed Center was approved by CHE and has been funded annually since FY 1986-87. In FY 1986-87, a separate appropriation to South Carolina State University (SCSU) was made by the General Assembly to improve the recruitment of minority teacher candidates. Since FY 1986-87, continuing appropriations to SCSU have been made both through EIA and the General Fund. Beginning in FY 1990-1991, appropriations for the SC Teacher Recruitment Center (now the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement [CERRA] at Winthrop University) and the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at SC State University have been provided solely through EIA funds.

Beginning in FY 1988-89, CHE was required by a proviso included in the Appropriations Act to “monitor the use” of these funds and to report on the “effectiveness of the programs” to the Senate and House Committee and to the EIA Select Committee. The FY 1990-91 Appropriations Act included a more comprehensive proviso which instructed CHE to “ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis...ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the... teacher recruitment projects... review the use of funds, and... have prior program and budget approval.” The proviso directing allocations and providing direction for CHE authority has continued each year. CHE is directed by the proviso to review the effectiveness of the programs annually and report findings and budget recommendations annually to Senate and House Education Committees, the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) in a format agreed upon by SDE and EOC.

In FY 2013-14, the proviso included for the teacher recruitment programs - Part 1B Proviso 1A.9 (SDE-EIA: XII.F.2-CHE/Teacher Recruitment) - directed allocation of \$4,243,527 in EIA funds, which flow through SDE to CHE for allocation, to two teacher recruitment programs, CERRA and SC-PRRMT. Of these funds, the proviso directs 92% or \$3,904,045 to CERRA and 8% or \$339,482 to SC-PRRMT. Of the funds directed to CERRA, \$3,045,155 (78%) is directed to Teaching Fellows and the remaining 22% (\$692,588) for other CERRA programs, of which \$166,302 must be used for specific programs to recruit minority teachers. In FY 2014-15, the appropriations remained level with FY 2013-14 and direction by the proviso (1A.8 in FY 2014-15) regarding the recruitment programs also remained the same as the prior year. A copy of the proviso is attached for reference. **(Attachment)**

During FY 2013-14, due to continued concerns raised by the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services regarding the costs to administer the program, per student costs based on the overall budget, and the program's recruitment efforts throughout the state, the Committee Chair and Student Services staff met with SCSU officials on August 19, 2013. Information regarding the SC-PRRMT FY 2014-15 proposed budget, personnel costs, and possible plans to recruit more students in the program were discussed at great length. SCSU officials agreed to review the proposed budget for possible ways to increase the number of students and sites. At its meeting on August 27, 2013, the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services expressed concerns about SC-PRRMT's cost per student, the limited geographical areas served by the program, and the low percentage of graduates meeting the goal of the program as outlined in the proviso. The Committee requested that SCSU officials provide additional information about the program's personnel costs, costs per student, number of graduates, critical subject areas and schools, as well as plans to expand the program. A revised FY 2014-15 budget was submitted to the Committee in addition to the Expansion Plan of Action and was approved on September 24, 2013. The budget and Expansion Plan was subsequently approved by the Commission on November 7, 2013.* In addition, the Commission approved the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommendation to place SC-PRRMT on conditional status.

As part of the recommendation approved on November 7, 2013, CHE requested that SC-PRRMT provide a report demonstrating the program's plans to: 1) increase the number of students and graduates from the targeted population; and 2) increase the number of critical geographic sites (as provided by recruitment and retention data, as well as graduation data). The average cost per student and plans to expand in future years to increase the number of participants in the program and the number of critical geographic sites around the State were to be reported to CHE by no later than June 30, 2014.

On May 21, 2014, Student Services staff met with SCSU officials to review current progress in meeting the FY 2013-14 goals as outlined in the SC-PRRMT Expansion Plan. SCSU officials reported that the number of students participating in the program increased to 52, thereby exceeding the projected goal of 40 students. However, SC-PRRMT reported that only two geographic sites were established during FY 2013-14; one site in St Stephen, Berkeley County (which was not in the FY 2013-14 Expansion Plan) and one site in Columbia (Richland School District One). No programs were established in Georgetown or Williamsburg counties even though the Expansion Plan identified these two counties as a part of their plans for FY 2013-14. SCSU officials explained that the infrastructure and facilities needed within the school districts or counties in order to establish a new site continued to be a challenge. SCSU

[*http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/commission%20calendar&materials/Nov2013MtgMaterials/Agenda_Item_703A.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/commission%20calendar&materials/Nov2013MtgMaterials/Agenda_Item_703A.pdf)

officials expressed their commitment to work with school districts in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties (as well as other school districts). Concerns were also expressed by SCSU officials about the number of geographic sites in the present Expansion Plan and stated that a new plan would be forthcoming.

SC-PRRMT submitted an updated report on the Expansion Plan to the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services on June 5, 2014. The new SCSU Director of Teacher Education expressed to the Committee at its July 15, 2014 meeting* that the Plan devised by SC- PRRMT and approved by the Commission was not viable and that a new Expansion Plan was offered. However, the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services did not approve any modification(s) to the previously approved SC-PRRMT Expansion Plan.

On August 7, 2014, CHE approved a recommendation of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services to invite representatives from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), State Department of Education (SDE), and CERRA to review the Expansion Plan and FY 2015-16 budget for the SC-PRRMT before the Commission considered the FY 2015-16 proposed budget request. The recommendation was approved in light of the significant concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the number of participants and graduates in the program, number of critical geographic sites, average cost per student, and funds expended for the SC-PRRMT program.

Representatives from SDE, EOC and CERRA along with the CHE Committee Chair and Student Services staff met and reviewed the directives set forth per the proviso, administrative costs, number of sites, and delivery of the program to critical areas throughout the state reviewed.

According to Part 1B Proviso 1A.9 (SDE-EIA: XII.F.2-CHE/Teacher Recruitment) the SC-PRRMT program is funded as a recruitment program to attract minorities to the teaching profession. However, the representatives expressed concerns about the directives provided in the proviso, the program's limit in focus, and small number of sites for the delivery of coursework to non-traditional students. Although the Expansion Plan approved by the Commission called for creation of additional sites, SCSU officials cited problems in establishing sites due to changes in personnel at the school or the district as one reason for not complying with its Expansion Plan. In reviewing the proposed Expansion Plan, it appeared to the Student Services staff and the representatives that changes in personnel should not have been an insurmountable barrier to meeting this goal and rather, the lack of an established and consistent program structure around the state, as well as uncertain collaboration with school districts contributed to the program's failure to meet the goals set forth in the Expansion Plan.

With regard to funds appropriated for SC-PRRMT, of significant concern is that the number of participants in the program and the program's production of graduates do not substantiate the cost. SC-PRRMT's proposed FY 2015-16 budget request is in the amount of \$339,042, which is level with current year (FY 2014-15) funding. According to the Expansion Plan, there were twelve graduates in FY 2012-13, and 14 graduates in FY 2013-14.

[*http://www.che.sc.gov/MeetingsEvents/CommissionandCommitteeMeetingsMaterials/StudentServicesAccessandEquity2014.aspx](http://www.che.sc.gov/MeetingsEvents/CommissionandCommitteeMeetingsMaterials/StudentServicesAccessandEquity2014.aspx)

Recommendation

Given the administrative and operating costs of SC-PRRMT, careful consideration of other possible funding and program models is warranted to determine more cost-effective ways to recruit minority teachers. Because the important goal is to increase the number of minority teachers throughout the state, and in an effort to serve as many students as financially possible, Student Services staff suggests two alternatives for consideration by the Committee:

- 1) Approve the FY 2015-16 budget in the amount of \$339,482 for minority teacher recruitment through SC-PRRMT at SC State University for one year provided that the following conditions are required:
 - a. All funds appropriated to SC-PRRMT in FY 2015-16 are to be used to meet direct student costs. No funds shall be used for administrative oversight of the program. SCSU must submit a revised FY 2015-16 budget to the Committee by no later than October 15, 2014;
 - b. The program, in accordance with the proviso, shall recruit minority teachers throughout the state; and
 - c. CHE shall retain approval for the budget and monitor the use of funds to ensure that all funds are used to meet direct student costs to promote minority teacher recruitment on a statewide basis.

- 2) Disapproval of the SC-PRRMT FY 2015-16 proposed budget in the amount of \$339,482. Redirect the funds that would have otherwise been provided to SCSU for SC-PRRMT in FY 2015-16 to another statewide teacher recruitment program in order to realign administrative functions and carry out a more deliberate and structured recruitment process for minority teachers with other SC colleges and universities, including SCSU. All funds appropriated under this alternative in FY 2015-16 are to be used to meet direct student costs. None of these funds shall be used for administrative oversight of the program. Current participants who continue to maintain eligibility in the current program shall be held harmless and will be allowed to complete the program without penalty.

If either of these alternatives is approved, consideration by the General Assembly of changes to the controlling budget proviso for teacher recruitment programs would be necessary.

Part 1A. FY 2014-15 EIA Funds for Teacher Recruitment Programs

1A.9. (SDE-EIA: XII.F.2-CHE/Teacher Recruitment) Of the funds appropriated in Part IA, Section 1, XII.F.2. for the Teacher Recruitment Program, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education shall distribute a total of ninety-two percent to the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA-South Carolina) for a state teacher recruitment program, of which at least seventy-eight percent must be used for the Teaching Fellows Program specifically to provide scholarships for future teachers, and of which twenty-two percent must be used for other aspects of the state teacher recruitment program, including the Teacher Cadet Program and \$166,302 which must be used for specific programs to recruit minority teachers: and shall distribute eight percent to South Carolina State University to be used only for the operation of a minority teacher recruitment program and therefore shall not be used for the operation of their established general education programs. Working with districts with an absolute rating of At-Risk or Below Average, CERRA will provide shared initiatives to recruit and retain teachers to schools in these districts. CERRA will report annually by October first to the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education on the success of the recruitment and retention efforts in these schools. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that all funds are used to promote teacher recruitment on a statewide basis, shall ensure the continued coordination of efforts among the three teacher recruitment projects, shall review the use of funds and shall have prior program and budget approval. The South Carolina State University program, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education, shall extend beyond the geographic area it currently serves. Annually, the Commission on Higher Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of each of the teacher recruitment projects and shall report its findings and its program and budget recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees, the State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee by October 1 annually, in a format agreed upon by the Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Education.

With the funds appropriated CERRA shall also establish, appoint, and maintain the South Carolina Teacher Loan Advisory Committee. The Committee shall be composed of one member representing each of the following: (1) Commission on Higher Education; (2) State Board of Education; (3) Education Oversight Committee; (4) Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement; (5) South Carolina Student Loan Corporation; (6) South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators; (7) a local school district human resources officer; (8) a public higher education institution with an approved teacher education program; and (9) a private higher education institution with an approved teacher education program. The members of the committee representing the public and private higher education institutions shall rotate among those institutions and shall serve a two-year term on the committee. Initial appointments must be made by July 1, 2013, at which time the member representing CERRA shall call the first meeting. At the initial meeting, a chairperson and vice-chairperson must be elected by a majority vote of the committee. The committee must be staffed by CERRA, and shall meet at least twice annually. The committee's responsibilities are limited to: (1) establishing goals for the Teacher Loan Program; (2) facilitating communication among the cooperating agencies; (3) advocating for program participants; and (4) recommending policies and procedures necessary to promote and maintain the program.