

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
September 6, 2007

Members Present

Ms. Cynthia C. Mosteller, Acting Chair
Col. John T. Bowden
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Via Telephone
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.

Staff Present

Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. JoAnn Biga
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. De’Nitra Reese
Dr. Garrison Walters
Ms. Karen Wham

Guests Present

Dr. York Bradshaw, USC-Upstate
Dr. Mary Cheeseboro, S.C. State
Dr. Cheryl Cox, S.C. Technical College System
Dr. Gib Darden, Coastal Carolina
Mr. Calvin Glover, Port College
Dr. Mary Lou Hightower, USC-Upstate
Mr. Alan Krech, Retired CHE Staff
Dr. Leonard Lundquist, Lander
Mr. Tom Moore, Virginia College

Dr. Martha Moriarty, USC-Beaufort
Dr. Linda Neely, Lander
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Mr. Morris Roper, Port College
Mr. Bill Runyon, Port College
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC-Columbia
Dr. Becki Trickey, MUSC
Dr. Robert Sheehan, Coastal Carolina
Mr. Roger Swartzwelder, Virginia College

Ms. Mosteller called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Dr. Horne was present via telephone.

1. Consideration of Minutes of April 5, 2007

Mr. Workman **moved** that the minutes of April 5, 2007, be accepted as distributed and the motion was **seconded** by Mr. Temple. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

2. Consideration of New Program Proposals

2.a. B.A., Art Education, USC-Upstate

Ms. Cindy Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Bowden) to accept the staff's recommendation. In response to Dr. Horne's inquiry of why Limestone has chosen to discontinue, Dr. Hightower responded that the action was taken for accreditation reasons. Dr. Hightower also stated that Limestone wanted to find another local institution where its students could still enroll in this program and that USC-Upstate was interested in developing the program for this reason. She stated that a new faculty member will be added for next year and, as the program might grow, another faculty member will be added. Dr. Horne asked if the institution has documented the number of retiring public school teachers. Dr. Hightower responded that USC-Upstate polled the school district and estimates that approximately 50 teachers will retire soon. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission USC-Upstate's program leading to the B.A. degree with a major in Art Education to be implemented in Spring 2008.

2.b. B.S., Exercise and Sport Science, Coastal Carolina

Ms. Mosteller introduced this item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Darden gave more information on the program. He stated that USC-Columbia was pleased to know that an undergraduate

program is being offered that can be a feeder program for its exercise science graduate program. Dr. Horne inquired if students enrolled in this program will participate in service learning project. Dr. Darden stated that all students of this program will be required to participate in a semester-long internship. Dr. Horne inquired about the type of places that the students would intern. Dr. Darden stated the some internships will be coordinated with Coastal Carolina's athletic department and others will be able to intern at fitness centers and hospitals. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission Coastal Carolina's program leading to the B.S. degree with a major in Exercise and Sport Science to be implemented in Spring 2008.

2.c. M.Ed., Montessori Education with concentrations in Preschool (ages 3-6) and Primary (grades 1-3), Lander

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Thomas) to accept the staff's recommendation. Dr. Lundquist added that no new courses need to be added. He stated that the emphasis in Montessori Education currently being offered in the Med in Elementary Education will be deleted as an option if the proposed masters program is approved. In response to Mr. Temple's question, Dr. Neely stated that the Montessori curriculum is different from the traditional classroom because it is more applied or "hands-on" with individualized learning. Dr. Horne asked if there was a plan to enhance enrollment. Dr. Lundquist stated that some thought has been given to enhancing enrollment and that there are several resources that Lander identified to increase those numbers. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission Lander's program leading to the M.Ed. degree with a major in Montessori Education with concentrations in Preschool (ages 3-6) and Primary (grades 1-3) to be implemented in Spring 2008.

2d. M.R.A., Research Administration, MUSC

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Bowden) to accept the staff's recommendation. Mr. Temple stated that while he understands that there is a need for this program because of the competitive grants, he still wondered why the program is so expensive. Dr. Trickey stated the expense is mostly related to faculty salaries and added that a majority of the faculty will be re-assigned from other programs at MUSC. Ms. Mosteller noted the increase in the research grants at all three of South Carolina's research institutions. In response to Dr. Horne's question, Dr. Trickey stated that the program the program is individualized and is not a cohort group. She added that some students will be part-time and others will be full-time. The University will try to have some students start at the same time but are not considered a true cohort group. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission MUSC's program leading to

the M.R.A. degree with a major in Research Administration to be implemented in Fall 2008.

3. Consideration of Request for Initial License:

- a. A.A.S., Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Therapeutic Massage; A.S., Administrative Office Management, Networking, Criminal Justice, Paralegal, Medical Office Management, and Surgical Technology; B.S., Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Health Services Management; Virginia College, Greenville, SC**

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple). Ms. Mosteller asked Dr. Morrison to comment on relations with proprietary institutions. Dr. Morrison explained that the Commission does all its work with these institutions within the framework of the statute and consumer protection regulations which are approved by the General Assembly. She stated that the Commission's function is to identify whether or not schools meet these standards of the law and the regulations. Public institutions may not be pleased with these for-profit institutions coming into the state, she said, but the Commission cannot prevent their competition because of "interstate commerce" rulings of the court. She stated that the Commission has been strengthening regulations and standards so that they will align with the accreditation agencies like SACS. Ms. Mosteller asked Dr. Morrison also to explain the process of the school review. Dr. Morrison stated that the state's regulations require intense scrutiny for initial license. She added that the staff decides whether or not the school meets standards. When a school receives licensing, it must be renewed after five years. Ms. Mosteller asked if the regulations require the state to review the mission statements, curriculum alignment, and instructor qualifications of for-profit institutions. Dr. Morrison stated that all of these are a part of the review process and are very important to the staff as they are deciding whether or not to support the initial licensing of an out-of-state institution.

Dr. Horne inquired about the student debt rates and what percentage of students are borrowing money and defaulting on student loans. Dr. Horne requested this data for each program. Mr. Moore stated that there is a three to four percent default rate within all schools, but he will provide all data to the Commission. Dr. Horne asked what type of relationship the school has with the community. Mr. Moore stated that the first goal of the school will be to meet with the community members and the end goal will be to have enrolled students, internships, and job placement possibilities before classes begin. In response to Dr. Horne's inquiry about the library and technology resources, Mr. Moore replied that the main campus in Birmingham has prepared written and electronic information that will be available to students. The librarian from the Birmingham

campus will meet with the faculty and staff of the South Carolina campus to discuss what library needs might exist for their particular classes.

Mr. Temple observed that many of the degrees that Virginia College are requesting to offer are already taught at Greenville Technical College at a lower cost than what Virginia College plans to offer. Given that fact, he asked how Virginia College plans to market their institution in this area. Mr. Swartzwelder replied that many of the students who are interested in their college have already attended technical colleges without success. Virginia College plans to target those students and offer them more “hands-on” training. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission to initial licensure for five years to Virginia College at Birmingham, AL to establish a branch campus in Greenville, South Carolina to offer programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Administrative Office Management, (2) Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, (3) Criminal Justice, (4) Medical Office Management, (5) Paralegal Studies, (6) Surgical Technology, and (7) Therapeutic Massage; and the Bachelor of Science degree in (1) Business Administration, (2) Criminal Justice, and (3) Health Services Management to be implemented in April 2008. The staff further suggests that the Committee recommend to the Commission delegation to the staff authorization to license the site in Greenville when the facility has been developed.

b. B.S., (1) Computer Science and (2) Management; B.A., (1) Public Administration and (2) Psychology; Port College

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Workman). Ms. Mosteller began by thanking the representatives of Port College for taking the initiative to promote education in South Carolina. She also thanked the Commission staff for organizing a team to ensure that standards are being met. Ms. Mosteller reviewed the extensive number of recommendations. Dr. Morrison added that this is the second set of recommendations suggested to Port College and that the school has not had an opportunity to comment on these recommendations. Ms. Eshleman distributed a letter that stated the school’s plan to address the recommendations. She said that this letter addresses the first set of recommendation. Mr. Runyon requested that Port College’s request for approval be tabled in order to give the college an opportunity to address the seconded set of recommendations. Dr. Morrison stated that if the Committee were to decide to table the item, representatives of Port College could resubmit items for review before the Committee and the Commission. In response to Dr. Roper’s question, Dr. Morrison stated that if all recommendations are met and there are not any new additions to the request, the College should receive licensure. Mr. Krech added that the major concern with any college is student protection. He stated that the current proposal makes it clear that the academic programs need to be strengthened. He emphasized the need to have these programs be truly the institutions developments. Ms. Mosteller also

stated the grammar needs to be reviewed before resubmission any documents and request. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to table** Port College's request for initial license.

4. Consideration of New Guidelines for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2008-09

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple). To Dr. Horne's question of why inactive centers were listed in the report, Dr. Morrison stated the Commission makes it clear that all centers are to become self-sustaining once their five years of grant funding have expired. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the New Guidelines for the Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Gants Program, FY 2008-09.

5. Consideration of Revision to *Guidelines for New Academic Program Approval*

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Workman). Dr. Horne suggested the "Student outcomes and assessment" be inserted under the justification section of the template. Ms. Mosteller stated that she is pleased that "accrediting agency" and "minors" are now being defined. Dr. Morrison stated the staff has tried to incorporate all reasonable suggestions from the Commissioners and the institutions. Dr. Morrison acknowledged Dr. Trainer for all her suggestions and comments for improvement of these *Guidelines*. She also thanked Drs. Raley and Kelley for their work in revising these *Guidelines*. In response to Dr. Horne's suggestion to submit new proposals only electronically, Dr. Morrison stated that the ten hard copies are submitted so that they can be distributed to the Commission members. Dr. Horne suggested asking each of the Commission members if they would like to begin receiving electronic copies of the programs. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission Revision to *Guidelines for New Academic Program Approval*.

6. Consideration of Proposed International Baccalaureate Credit Award Policy, EEDA Activity

Ms. Mosteller introduced this item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Workman). Without discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Proposed International Baccalaureate Credit Award Policy.

7. Consideration of Suggested Distribution Methodology for Nursing Faculty Salary Enhancements

Ms. Mosteller introduced this item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple). Mr. Temple stated that South Carolina cannot attract nursing faculty because of competition with the private sector. Ms. Mosteller asked if there is data to prove there is a nursing shortage. Mr. Workman stated that the hospitals report the shortage. Dr. Morrison stated that there is not any accurate publicly available statewide data on employer demand for nurses and that faculty and “new nurse” shortages are different across the state according to anecdotal information. For example, USC-Columbia has recently hired more faculty which in turn is producing more graduates.

Mr. Glenn presented a table displaying faculty salaries according to region, in regard to area, rank, and sector (i.e., public and private). He stated that the intent of the legislation is to close the gap between national and state nursing salaries. Dr. Morrison added that the data show public and private schools. She added that the Commission wants to get data on how many nurses quit teaching in order to work in hospital settings since so much has been about how higher education salaries are not competitive with hospitals. Dr. Morrison stated that the Commission needs to decide how future money is to be distributed among the institutions. Currently it will be distributed based on “full-time” faculty (i.e. yearly contracts for full-time work), but in the future a better model needs to be established. She stated that the system of distribution is simplistic this year, but the Commission wanted to ensure that the money was distributed. Dr. Lundquist asked if the staff will get the private sector data because the private sector is Lander’s competition. Dr. Morrison stated that the staff plans to get this data. She added that members should note that the material presented on faculty salaries is simply a model that needs to be refined for next year’s distribution. She acknowledged that the recommendation needs to be revised to permit a version of the model. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Suggested Distribution Methodology for Nursing Faculty Salary Enhancements for 2007-2008 academic year.

8. Consideration of Compliance with English Fluency Act, 2006-07

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Workman). Both Mr. Temple and Ms. Mosteller stated that they have heard many complaints from students who cannot understand the speaker English of their professors. Dr. Morrison stated that she believes that the report is accurate but will need to continue to ensure that institutions are advertising the policy. To receive these annual reports provides that information, she said. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Compliance with English Fluency Act.

9. Consideration of Operating Budget for Research Centers of Economic Excellence Program, FY 2007-08

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. It was moved (Workman) and seconded (Horne). Without discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to commend favorably to the Commission the operating budget for Research Centers of Economic Excellence Program.

10. Informational Report on Approved and Terminated Programs, FY 2006-07

Ms. Mosteller introduced the item. This report was presented for informational purposes only.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Mosteller thanked those in attendance for the participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, Ms. Mosteller adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

De'Nitra Reese