

**Minutes  
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing  
December 3, 2009**

**Members Present**

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair  
Ms. Cindy Mosteller  
Mr. Bill Scarborough  
Mr. Hood Temple

**Members Absent**

Mr. Neal Workman

**Staff Present**

Dr. Argentini Anderson  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Mr. Arik Bjorn  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Renea Eshleman  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Trena Houpp  
Mr. Clint Mullins  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Dr. T. Michael Raley  
Ms. Edna Strange

**Guests**

Dr. Barbara Buckner, Coastal Carolina  
Dr. Beth Carter, Saint Leo University  
Dr. David Cohen, College of Charleston  
Dr. Beverly Diamond, College of Charleston  
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC-Columbia  
Dr. Douglas Friedman, College of Charleston  
Mr. Roy Hawkins, Miller-Motte Technical College  
Dr. Tony W. Johnson, The Citadel  
Ms. Karen C. Jones, Winthrop University  
Dr. Joseph Kelly, College of Charleston  
Ms. Meredith Kennedy, Miller-Motte Technical College  
Mr. Mike Largent, Virginia College  
Dr. Cynthia Lowenthal, College of Charleston  
Dr. Ronnie B. Martin, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston  
Dr. Frank Osage, Saint Leo University  
Dr. David Persky, Saint Leo University  
Dr. Alison Piepmeier, College of Charleston  
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston  
Dr. Michael Roberts, Coastal Carolina  
Mr. John Rocovich, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ms. Jennifer S. Rumbold, Miller-Motte Technical College  
Ms. Susan Sweet, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ms. Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, D.O., Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Dr. Fran Welch, College of Charleston

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Consideration of Minutes of September 3, 2009**

Dr. Horne requested a motion to accept the Minutes of September 3, 2009, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Temple), and the Committee **voted to accept unanimously the Minutes as distributed.**

**2. Consideration of New Program Proposals**

**a. B.S. Biochemistry, Coastal Carolina**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Roberts. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Ms. Mosteller referenced page four and asked what goals Coastal is trying to accomplish in regards to medical school application and acceptance rates. Dr. Roberts responded by stating that in the recent past, Coastal students have exceeded the national average of 50% of medical school applicants who have been accepted to medical school. Dr. Roberts added that he would like it to be a stronger percentage.

Dr. Horne referenced the needs statement and asked for clarification about students who will move from pursuing a major in Biology to this new degree program of Biochemistry. Dr. Roberts explained that Biochemistry majors gain more technical skills than Biology majors which allows for increased career options if medical school ceases to be an option. Dr. Roberts also added that the Biology Department has a robust student population and will not be hurt greatly by a small percentage of students switching to a Biochemistry degree.

Mr. Temple asked why Coastal chose to start a new degree program instead of adding a concentration. Dr. Roberts explained that forming a track of biochemistry under a Chemistry degree would involve the Biology Department. According to Dr. Roberts, Coastal decided that it would be more attractive to develop a new degree other than to pursue an interdisciplinary track under the Chemistry Department.

Dr. Horne asked whether potential future cuts in the state budget had been taken into account in outlining the costs of this new degree. Dr. Roberts responded by addressing the library holdings. He explained that even though bound volumes for this degree are not fully supplied currently, Biochemistry is a fast developing field and therefore relies on online databases which are provided through the library system. Dr. Roberts also addressed the costs of the program by stating that only one new course will have to be added for the program.

Mr. Temple continued the discussion about costs by referencing that all the programs considered on the agenda have robust revenues.

In reference to Dr. Roberts' comments about library holdings, Dr. Horne asked CHE staff to describe the current funding status of PASCAL. Dr. Morrison responded by sharing that the funding status is critical. She stated that institutions have had to provide funds to keep the program active at a "bare bones" level. Dr. Morrison presented

questions about PASCAL's future: If the state does not provide funding, will the institutions be able to continue to fund it themselves? and if so, how many of them will participate?

Ms. Mosteller asked whether Dr. Roberts would consider PASCAL significant to this program. Dr. Roberts replied in the affirmative. Ms. Mosteller then stated the need to advocate for PASCAL with the General Assembly and encouraged Dr. Roberts to consider visiting legislators.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at Coastal Carolina, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

**b. B.A. or A.B., International Studies with concentrations in Africa, Asia, International Comparative Literature, Europe, and Latin America, College of Charleston**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Diamond, Dr. Friedman, and Dr. Cohen. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Diamond shared with the Committee that internationalization is one of the key components of the most recent strategic plan of the College of Charleston. Dr. Friedman explained that the College has had a large number of international studies minors in different geographical concentrations. According to Dr. Friedman, the College decided to place all the different geographical area concentrations into one comprehensive program in part because of significant faculty and student interest.

Ms. Mosteller asked about geographical demarcation, particularly about where the study of the Middle East falls within this degree. Dr. Friedman answered that currently Middle Eastern studies is incorporated into the Asia concentration. He added that the College has an interest in making the Middle East a concentration in the future.

The Committee then discussed the study-abroad program at the College of Charleston. Dr. Horne asked how the College's program compares to other colleges in the state. Dr. Cohen told the Committee that the College is always in the Top 25 ranking in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* category involving students studying abroad. He explained that the tradition of studying abroad is strong at the College and that scholarship funds are abundant for students who study abroad. Dr. Horne asked what percentage of graduates has study abroad experience. Dr. Diamond explained that she did not know the exact percentage. She further added that the College has proposed an initiative in the current strategic plan which requires a student to participate in two out of five activities as part of a student's general education requirement. Study abroad is one of those five activities. Other activities include research, internships, and civic engagement.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, with concentrations in Africa, Asia, International Comparative Literature, Europe, and Latin America at the College of Charleston, to be implemented in

Fall 2010, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

**c. B.A. or A.B., Women’s and Gender Studies, College of Charleston**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Peipmeier and Dr. Diamond. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval.

Dr. Diamond reiterated the College’s support of this degree program at all levels of the institution. She acknowledged that changes had been made in the proposal in order to address concerns raised by the Committee at its last meeting on September 3, 2009.

Dr. Morrison explained that discussions between the College and the Committee since the last meeting clarified concerns. An addendum explaining the changes made in the program proposal to conform to the concerns of the Committee was submitted by the College of Charleston to be included with the proposal and staff analysis. She asked the Committee to make the addendum a part of the record and a part of the program proposal.

Mr. Temple thanked the College of Charleston for its cooperation as the Committee raised issues and debated diverse opinions among its members. Ms. Mosteller also expressed her appreciation to the College of Charleston and her support for the degree program.

Dr. Horne expressed her desire to conduct further discussion about the Committee members’ roles in this service to the state. She asked Dr. Morrison if it would be possible to seek advice from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) about how individual members balance their own value systems with their role as Committee members. Dr. Morrison stated that a representative from SACS was scheduled to present at the next Committee meeting.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Women’s and Gender Studies at the College of Charleston, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

**d. M.A.T., Middle Level Education, with Concentrations in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science, The Citadel & College of Charleston**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Diamond, Dr. Welch, and Dr. Johnson. It was **moved** (Scarborough) and **seconded** (Temple) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval.

Dr. Diamond introduced the program by sharing that the College of Charleston and The Citadel have four joint master’s programs but this particular program is the first

one that involves the Schools of Education. She continued by stating that the program addresses a critical need in the state and that neither school addresses the middle grades at the master's level. Dr. Welch explained that the Master of Arts in Teaching is one that is earned by an individual who has an undergraduate degree in a subject other than teacher education. She also shared with the Committee that once CHE approval is obtained, the institutions will seek approval from the S.C. Department of Education. Dr. Johnson stated that this joint program has been in development for several years and encompasses four concentrations in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science.

Mr. Scarborough publically commended Deans Welch and Johnson for their collaboration. Dr. Horne questioned why the program took several years to develop. Dr. Johnson explained that The Citadel needed to make sure its NCATE process was in order.

Dr. Horne expressed that indeed the Commission applauds collaboration. She questioned, however, what the advantages were for this particular collaboration and what The Citadel would bring to the collaboration. Dr. Johnson answered that the advantage of this collaboration was the reliance on resources from both institutions. He further explained that The Citadel has a tradition of preparing teachers, primarily at the graduate level with leadership programs in administration and supervision, literacy, and counseling. He also stated that The Citadel offers an MAT at the secondary level. Dr. Johnson added that there is a strong interest in this degree among students and that The Citadel has strong content-area faculty in the middle grades.

Ms. Mosteller asked if the faculty members have middle school certification. Dr. Welch responded that each new faculty member recruited must have a minimum of three years' work experience in the content area. Dr. Morrison asked if the experience is at the middle school level. Dr. Welch responded that as faculty members retire, new faculty members will be hired to fill expertise "gaps" and therefore the expertise will be built up over time. Dr. Johnson highlighted the faculty members at The Citadel who will add to this program. He clarified that The Citadel does not have an undergraduate program for middle grades but that the faculty members have experience in that area.

Ms. Mosteller asked specifically about middle school certification. Dr. Welch explained that faculty members are not required to keep their certifications active.

Dr. Horne referenced a statement found in the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the expectation that students are to split their courses evenly between institutions. She asked specifically how students will be held to this expectation. Dr. Johnson answered that the students will be encouraged by advisors to split their classes evenly. Dr. Morrison added that there is only one unique class per institution in the degree program. Dr. Diamond responded that both institutions must work at scheduling and advising to make the program a truly joint program.

Dr. Morrison asked if it would be practical to use a cohort approach with this program. Dr. Welch answered that they had considered it, but they did not want to limit the program to full-time students.

Dr. Horne asked the institutional representatives what their primary motivation was in creating the joint degree. Dr. Welch answered that CHE required the two schools to have a joint program as opposed to two separate free-standing programs.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Middle Level Education, with concentrations in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science at The Citadel and the College of Charleston, to be implemented in Fall 2010, provided that:

1. no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested;
2. the program be approved by the State Board of Education prior to implementation; and
3. the program be granted national recognition by the National Middle School Association (NMSA) with nomenclature identical to that used in this program approval.

**e. M.S., Sport and Fitness Administration, Winthrop**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Jones. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Scarborough) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval.

Dr. Morrison referenced a staff error in the third paragraph on page two of the recommendation. She reported that both tracks consist of 36 credit hours, not the 48 and 42 credit hours which are listed in the recommendation. She assured Ms. Jones and the Committee that the correction would be made.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Science degree in Sport and Fitness Administration at Winthrop University, to be implemented in Summer 2010, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that the institution terminate the existing program leading to the Master of Science degree in Physical Education upon implementation of the proposed program.

**3. Consideration of Initial License: Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) of the Carolinas, Blacksburg, VA, in Spartanburg**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Tooke-Rawlins. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval.

Dr. Horne referenced the November 20, 2009, meeting and thanked the institutional personnel from VCOM for participating in that informative meeting.

Ms. Mosteller took the opportunity to ask in person a question she asked at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting via teleconference. She inquired as to the evolution of the osteopathic discipline. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins described the osteopathic discipline as one which now encompasses the full scope of medicine. She explained that VCOM offers the same curriculum as a traditional medical school but with additional hours in prevention, the concept of the whole patient, and osteopathic manipulation.

Dr. Tooke-Rawlins continued by describing the origins of the 100 year old discipline of osteopathic medicine. She relayed to the Committee that the discipline's origin flowed out of the philosophy that the body had the ability to heal itself. The practice of osteopathic medicine has continued to uphold treatment of the whole body including treatment of mental well-being and structural health.

Dr. Tooke-Rawlins also spoke of recruitment and graduates. She told the Committee that the school's graduates enter diverse fields with the majority entering general practice. She said that the target audience for the school would be primarily South Carolina students. Beyond that audience, the school would concentrate on recruiting students from the Appalachia region, including students from rural areas and students from minority backgrounds.

Ms. Mosteller asked if traditional medical schools offer the D.O. degree. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins answered that some state institutions do offer both the M.D. and D.O. degrees, including Michigan State. Ms. Mosteller continued by asking about the awareness of patients in regards to the types of degrees held by their doctors. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins answered that the school plans to market extensively in S.C., as they did in Virginia, in order to educate the public about the practice of osteopathic medicine. She told the Committee that there are over 400 individuals with a D.O. degree practicing medicine in S.C., including faculty members at MUSC and the USC School of Medicine.

Dr. Horne agreed with Dr. Tooke-Rawlins that a public relations campaign would be necessary to educate the public about this type of medical practice. She also mentioned the school's zero student loan default rate.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of initial licensure for five years to Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine to establish a branch campus in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.). The Committee further recommends that the Commission delegate authority to the staff to license the site in Spartanburg when the facilities have been developed.

#### **4. Consideration of Amendments to Add New Sites:**

##### **a. A.A.S., Massage Therapy; A.A.S., Medical Assisting, Miller-Motte Technical College in Conway**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Hawkins and Ms. Rumbold. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Horne asked about the costs of the degrees and pointed out that similar degrees could be earned at a public technical college for one fourth of the cost. She asked the representatives how they would respond to a student asking about this cost discrepancy. Mr. Hawkins replied that Miller-Motte primarily locates in cities where large community colleges are located. He said that Miller-Motte knows that "one size does not fit all" and that it serves as an alternative to those students who cannot succeed at local community colleges. He mentioned that Miller-Motte offers hands-on schooling, uses smaller classes, and directs money towards retention and employment of students.

Dr. Horne further noted that students who leave with student loan debt will owe approximately \$16,000, which is comparable to a student graduating from a public four-year college. Dr. Hawkins responded that Miller-Motte concentrates resources on the employment placement of students which gives students the ability to pay back debt. Dr. Horne referenced the 15.5% default rate. Dr. Hawkins responded that the rate is comparable to the industry average and to the types of students the school serves. Ms. Mosteller and Dr. Horne replied that the Committee usually sees lower default rates from similar for-profit institutions.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the license of Miller-Motte Technical College to offer at a new site in Conway existing programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Massage Therapy and (2) Medical Assisting. The Committee further recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license the site in Conway when the facilities have been developed.

- b. A.A.S., Administrative Office Management; A.A.S., Computer-Aided Drafting and Design; A.A.S., Criminal Justice; A.A.S., Healthcare Reimbursement; A.A.S., Medical Assistant; A.A.S., Medical Office Management; A.A.S., Paralegal Studies; A.A.S., Respiratory Therapy; A.A.S., Surgical Technology; B.S., Business Administration; B.S., Criminal Justice; B.S., Health Services Management; and new programs at the proposed site: A.A.S., Medical Office Administration and A.A.S., Network Engineering, Virginia College in Columbia and Spartanburg**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Mr. Largent. It was **moved** (Mosteller) and **seconded** (Temple) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Mr. Largent explained to the Committee that Virginia College intends to replicate the success it has experienced in Greenville and Charleston. He reported that the Greenville site has reached maximum capacity at 1000 students in the school's first year of operation. He shared that the success has shown a genuine need for the types of programs Virginia College offers.

Dr. Horne asked about the costs of the associate degrees which range from \$32,000 to \$37,000. She specifically asked how Virginia College competes with the public technical colleges, which offer the degrees at one sixth of the cost. Mr. Largent explained that the costs are consistent with the other branches of Virginia College. He remarked that Virginia College works hard to add value and deliver excellence in order to justify the costs. He also added that students at Virginia College on average are retained, graduated, and placed at higher rates than students at local community colleges. He reported that Virginia College's default rate was 7.8% for 2008.

In response to a question by Dr. Horne, Mr. Largent explained that the doubling of the default rate in the last two years was primarily the result of rapid growth and the current economic environment.

Ms. Mosteller asked if Mr. Largent knew the percentage of Virginia College students who have public technical college experience. Dr. Largent responded that he did not know specific figures but estimated it at 35%. In response to additional questions by Ms. Mosteller, Mr. Largent shared that Virginia College accepts for transfer courses from

technical colleges if the student received a 2.0 or higher in the courses intended for transfer.

Mr. Temple asked Mr. Largent about the pass rate on national licensure exams for Virginia College students. Mr. Largent responded that 96% of the college's Respiratory Therapy degree students who take the national licensing exam pass and that 86% of the college's Medical Assistance students who take the national exam pass.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission staff authorization to amend the existing license for Virginia College at Birmingham, Alabama, to establish branch campuses in Columbia and Spartanburg and offer existing programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Administrative Office Management; (2) Computer-Aided Drafting and Design; (3) Criminal Justice; (4) Healthcare Reimbursement; (5) Medical Assistant; (6) Medical Office Management; (7) Paralegal Studies; (8) Respiratory Therapy; and (9) Surgical Technology as well as the Bachelor of Science degree in (1) Business Administration; (2) Criminal Justice; and (3) Health Services Management. The Committee also commends favorably to the Commission the addition to the license for the sites in Columbia and Spartanburg new programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree in (1) Medical Office Administration and (2) Network Engineering. New and existing programs are to be implemented in April 2010 at the Columbia site and in July 2010 at the Spartanburg site. The Committee further recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license the sites in Columbia and Spartanburg when the facilities have been developed.

**5. Consideration of Amendments to Add New Programs at Existing Site: B.A., Human Services Administration; B.S., Health Care Management, Saint Leo University in Sumter**

Dr. Horne introduced the item and recognized Dr. Persky. It was **moved** (Temple) and **seconded** (Mosteller) to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. Horne commented that Saint Leo University's default rate is increasing. Dr. Persky responded that the institution works very closely with its students to create plans so that their loans do not go into default.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the existing license of Saint Leo University to offer at its existing Sumter site programs leading to the B.A. degree in Human Services Administration and the B.S. degree in Health Care Management for implementation immediately upon approval by the Commission provided that the University include a written disclosure to each applicant indicating that the program leading to the B.A. degree in Human Services Administration does not lead to licensure.

**6. Other**

Dr. Morrison reported to the Committee that the State Technical College System has conformed its two-year degree nomenclature to match the national degree standards of the Associate in Arts (A.A.), the Associate in Science (A.S.) and the Associate in

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Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees. She further explained that the CHE Inventory System now reflects the degree nomenclature change.

Dr. Horne again stated her desire to talk further about the appropriate roles the Committee members hold in their positions as Commissioners. She expressed the need to be better informed as to the regulations under which the Committee and the Commission operate. Mr. Temple added that he is interested in understanding more about the scope of the Commission's authority and in gaining insight as to whether the Commissioners are encouraged to express subjective opinions.

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, Dr. Horne adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.