

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Access & Equity Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC
September 11, 2009
3:00 p.m.**

Committee Members:

Ms. Linda Becote
Dr. Warren Carson
Ms/ Daphne Carter
Ms. Richard Dawkins
D. Vivian Derienzo
Ms. Elease Gant
Dr. Mary Holloway
Ms. Croslena Johnson
Mr. Jerry Knighton
Ms. Teresa Mack
Ms. Lottie Otto

Staff:

Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Lorinda Copeland

Visitors:

Mr. Rodney Cohen
Ms. Amber Lange
Mr. Brad Smith

The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. **Introductions and Welcome**

Mr. Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

3. **Legislative Updates**

Mr. Brown reported there will be an estimated 4% across the board budget reduction and he will send the Access and Equity (A & E) officers a revised spreadsheet reflecting the budget reduction.

4. **Race and Ethnicity Reporting Categories (currently seven categories, adding an additional category which makes eight categories)**

Ms. Camille Brown stated there are currently seven race/ethnicity categories for IPEDS reporting and students select only one race/ethnicity category. The new reporting categories are now eight because the Asian/Pacific Islander category was split into two categories and more than one race/ethnicity category can now be selected which would obviously impact reporting. For fall 2009, institutions have the option to report using the old categories or using the new categories. Ms. Brown stated mandatory implementation of reporting pieces (enrollment fall 2010, completions fall 2011, and etc.) using the new reporting categories will begin fall 2010.

Ms. Brown stated there is a distinction in the way data is collected and the way data is reported. For collections, there are eight race/ethnicity categories for the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to collect race/ethnicity data from the institutions. However, if the

Hispanic/Latino ethnicity is selected along with other race/ethnicity categories, the person will be reported as Hispanic/Latino and not as two or more races because the Hispanic/Latino ethnicity trumps other races. Ms. Lottie Otto asked what type of impact will the changes in reporting have and Ms. Brown responded it would be a couple of years before data would be available to reveal the impact. Ms. Brown reported there are mini training sessions regarding the changes available on the IPEDS website (www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds). Due to questions regarding the Access & Equity program Mr. Brown plans to get the racial/ethnic breakdown of recipients in the future.

5. **Emerging Scholars Statewide Program**

Mr. Brown stated a goal of the Access & Equity program is collaboration and working with K-12 to help students achieve their dream of attending college. The goal is to develop a statewide project that will benefit the student and institution and collaboration will be a way to get the best bang for the buck due to the statewide budget situation. Mr. Brown stated Clemson University's Emerging Scholars Program is an outstanding program and Clemson expressed interest in helping other students in the state. This program will be the model for a statewide project and funding is being pursued. Francis Marion and South Carolina State universities are partner pilot institutions for this program and other institutions will be coming on board.

Mr. Jerry Knighton of Clemson University stated Clemson's Emerging Scholars program is working with some of the poorest counties in the state (Allendale, Bamberg, and Hampton) and Clemson would like participation from institutions that are closer in proximity to these students. Mr. Knighton stated Clemson realizes the upstate has students that meet the same profile and with additional institutions the face of South Carolina can be changed. Mr. Knighton stated there will have to be an institutional commitment although external funding is being pursued.

Ms. Amber Lange, site director of Clemson's Emerging Scholar's program, stated the mission is to enhance South Carolina's economic prosperity by increasing the number of college graduates from economically disadvantaged areas and first generation families. Average students are targeted and nominated by their guidance counselor to apply for the program. Ms. Lange stated there are three phases (rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors) of the summer component and during the year academic activities are held for students. The goal for students is motivation, preparation, and orientation to college through academics (reading, writing, and math) and college education (financial aid, etc.). The retention rate for the program is 70% – 75% and 90% of these students enroll in college or the military.

Ms. Lange stated a future goal is for all major colleges in the state to have this program and federal funding is being pursued with the assistance of US Congressman James Clyburn which might increase the opportunity for state support. Dr. Vivian Derienzo asked what the source of funding is and the allocation per student. Ms. Lange responded their funding comes from the President's budget and a grant from Wachovia and the allocation is \$5,000 -\$7,500 per student for three years. Dr. Derienzo asked how the technical colleges could partner with Clemson's Emerging Scholars program. Ms. Lange responded the students could be invited to their campus for workshops, or they can visit Clemson during the summer and talk to the students, and other possibilities. Ms. Daphne Carter asked if institutions participate do they have to work with students in the institution's county are students in other counties. Ms. Lange responded they want students to receive help and they do not want to put stipulations on institutions. Mr. Knighton stated during conversations with institutions these institutions have stated they would feel more comfortable working with students in their area. Ms. Otto stated through her Access & Equity program at Trident Technical College she works with high school students in a manner similar to Clemson's program. Mr. Brown stated other institutions are doing similar things individually but there would be power in collaboration. Ms. Lange stated if an institution has an interest in the

program she will meet to discuss but the funding and support should be in place prior to a meeting.

6. **Budget Reports/Measurable Goals**

- **Reporting/Budget Cuts**

Mr. Brown stated budget reports are due October 9, 2009, and budget reports not submitted thus far should reflect the 4% budget reduction. Mr. Brown also stated budget reports should reflect the total appropriation and not the initial 50% disbursement.

- **Carry Forwards/Approval Process**

Mr. Brown advised committee members not to carry forward funds because CHE had carry forward funds reverted back to the general fund due to the state's budget crisis and he did not know if this would happen to institutions. Mr. Brown also stated the budget report should reflect the carry forward amount separately and not be combined with the current year appropriation.

7. **Other Business**

Ms. Otto invited A & E advisory committee members to attend the South Carolina Professional Association for Access and Equity (SC PAAE) Honors event which would start later that afternoon at the Radisson and stated the event was to raise funds for scholarships.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Copeland