

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**  
**Access & Equity Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting**  
**Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport**  
**June 21 & 22, 2007**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members:**

Mr. Keith Britton  
Ms. JoAnn Diaz  
Ms. Joyce Durant  
Ms. Sylvia Holmes  
Dr. Mary Holloway  
Ms. Caren Kelley-Hall  
Mr. Martin Kinard  
Mr. Jerry Knighton  
Ms. Lottio Otto  
Mr. Robert Pickering  
Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert  
Ms. Pat Singleton-Young  
Ms. Lucille Skaggs  
Dr. Jacqueline Skubal  
Mr. Reginald Wilburn  
Dr. Leon Wiles  
Ms. Stacie Williams

**Commission Members:**

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

**Staff:**

Mr. Anthony Brown  
Mr. Michael Brown  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland  
Dr. Gail Morrison

**1. Introductions**

Mr. Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Brown had each institution and visitors to individually introduce themselves.

**2. Opening Remarks**

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Chair of the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee, introduced herself to the committee and gave opening comments to include her supporting their work of raising the bar and helping students with obstacles to meet standards.

Ms. Lottie Otto of Trident Technical College greeted the committee on behalf of Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

The motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes as submitted.

**4. FY 2006-2007 Legislative Update - Budget Update**

Mr. Brown reported that a state budget had not been adopted. Mr. Brown also reported a \$400,000 additional request for Access & Equity was not funded. However, the proviso (with no funding) was approved for competitive grants. There were no increases in the current allocation. However, institutions may receive a higher allocation due to an increase in their headcount

enrollment. Mr. Brown stated if A&E coordinators wanted to begin preparing their budgets for FY 2007-08, they could do so based on the allocation received last year because the difference between this year and last would probably be plus or minus 1 or 2 percent. Mr. Brown will email the budget, bills, and allocation once received.

## 5. **Institutional Updates**

Each Access & Equity representative provided an update regarding their programs and activities on their campus.

Ms. Mosteller suggested a task force of A&E representatives and Financial Aid Officers develop a Need-based funding request based on identified areas of need (ex: higher tuition costs for transfer students). This strategy will provide the General Assembly with a request that is concrete.

Mr. Brown stated it is important to forge a relationship with K-12 to work with students in need so that there will be students attending college to award Access & Equity funds to.

Dr. Skubal stated that the greatest challenge to Access & Equity and higher education is the growing Hispanic population and the language barrier.

Jerry Knighton stated that he would like to see an increase in funding levels for the GIS (Graduate Incentive Scholarship) because tuition has increased since the inception of the scholarship.

## 6. **Discussion of Institution's Access and Equity Program Strategic Plan**

Mr. Brown reviewed the suggested format for the Access and Equity Strategic Plan which will require planning for 5 years as previously done in the past. Some comments were the plan would be a lot of work and would be a campus wide project, CHE already has the data, and each institution's institutional research officer reports the requested data. Mr. Brown stated his intent was for the plan to focus on Access and Equity. An advisory member stated she could see how the strategic plan would allow data to be framed in a way that would benefit Access and Equity. It was decided that an advisory committee meeting would be scheduled in July to continue discussion regarding the strategic plan. It was suggested the plan focus on areas an institution needs to improve in and that Presidents receive a letter from CHE regarding the plan. Mr. Brown requested that suggestions/recommendations be forwarded to him by email.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

## **Friday, June 22 2007**

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Dr. Gail Morrison, Interim Executive Director, of the Commission on Higher Education was in attendance. Dr. Morrison reported that Access & Equity did not receive additional funding and that the Need-based program was the only scholarship/grant program that did not receive a significant increase last year. Dr. Morrison stated she would like the Access & Equity coordinators to put together a proposal for a statewide initiative and asked the coordinators to forward their ideas and personal success stories regarding Need-based aid to CHE. Dr. Morrison also stated she is open to writing a grant and to forward any foundation leads to Mr. Brown.

**7. Discuss/Approval of revision to the Guidelines for Access & Equity Undergraduate Scholarships.**

**- Access and Equity Scholarship Subcommittee Recommendation**

Please see the attached proposed guidelines.

**- The issue of adding Hispanics and other ethnic minorities to the list of those considered to be “Other Race” students**

Discussion postponed.

**8. Review Graduate Incentive Scholarship (GIS) guidelines**

Mr. Brown reported the scholarship subcommittee did not review the GIS guidelines. It was suggested a new subcommittee that includes A&E coordinators who actually administer the GIS be established. The GIS subcommittee developed to review the guidelines consists of Martin Kinard (SCSU), Lucille Skaggs (MUSC), Jerry Knighton (Clemson), and Carl Wells (USC).

**9. Discussion of Next Year’s SC-PAAE (Professional Association for Access and Equity) /Access and Equity Conference**

Mr. Jerry Knighton, President of SC-PAAE, reported he would not have details regarding the conference until after the SC-PAAE executive board meeting which would be held Thursday and Friday, June 28 and 29, 2007.

Dr. Leon Wiles of USC Upstate announced that USC Upstate is interested in hosting the conference. Dr. Wiles also announced the historic appointment of Mr. Don Beatty as the second African-American to be appointed Supreme Court Justice in South Carolina history. Dr. Wiles stated Mr. Beatty is in Spartanburg and would be eager to participate in the conference and discuss his historic appointment process.

**10. Confirmation of Next A & E Advisory Committee Meeting**

Mr. Brown will notify the committee regarding the next A&E Advisory Committee meeting.

**11. Discussion of a “Student Tracking” process  
(Tracking and Retention Process/Procedures of Minority Students that receive Access & Equity Scholarships**

Discussion postponed.

**12. Other Business**

Dr. Morrison stated she would like for SC-PAAE to brainstorm ways of advocating for more money and grants for Access & Equity during their executive board meeting.

Dr. Wiles asked Dr. Morrison if the media had ever been used to tell a compelling story regarding the need for Need-based aid and that a profound impact could be made in a 10 or 15 minute video. Dr. Morrison responded the idea was a great idea. Dr. Wiles stated ETV is located on his campus and could probably assist. Dr. Rembert stated legislators don’t have time for in

depth research and all the information they need should be provided. Dr. Rembert also stated that brief phone calls to legislators are helpful. Mr. Knighton stated he wants to be involved in the process when there are hearings or committee meetings because they can attend with students. Mr. Kinard asked whether the Access & Equity coordinators as a unified body had every written the legislators stating the need. Dr. Morrison responded a statement could be attached to the budget request. Dr. Wiles stated this undertaking would take a multiple, coordinated, and strategic effort. Dr. Morrison also suggested Access & Equity coordinators influence Presidents to endorse Need-based aid during their budget presentations.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Copeland  
Recording Secretary