

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Access & Equity Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Radisson Hotel Columbia and Conference Center
March 28, 2007
3:30 p.m.**

Committee Members:

Mr. Rodney Adams
Ms. Thelathia Bailey
Mr. Keith Britton
Mr. James Carter
Mr. Lafayette Harrison
Dr. Mary Holloway
Ms. Sylvia Holmes
Mr. Martin Kinard
Mr. Jerry Knighton
Mr. Vincent Myers
Ms. Lottie Otto
Mr. Leron Peterkin
Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert
Ms. Lucille Skaggs
Dr. Jacqueline Skubal
Ms. Myra Smith
Ms. Jewel Whitney
Mr. Reginald Wilburn
Mr. Byron Wiley
Ms. Monica Williams
Ms. Stacie Williams
Ms. Alexis Wright

Guests:

Mr. Rodney Cohen
Mr. Allen Friend
Ms. Sharon Harriott
Mr. LaMondre' Pough
Mr. Michael Vanderhurst
Mr. Wayne Wright

Staff:

Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Lorinda Copeland

1. **Introductions**

Mr. Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Ms. Lorinda Copeland introduced everyone in attendance.

2. **Adoption of Minutes**

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

3. **Legislative Update**

Mr. Brown gave the following budget/legislative update:

- 1) The House and Senate did not recommend additional funding for Access & Equity (A&E).
- 2) The House did not recommend additional funding for the Need-based Grant. However, the Senate recommended 2 million dollars.
- 3) A proposed 3% pay increase for state employees.

(Related documents were disseminated and will be attached to the minutes.)

4. **Discussion of Institutions Access and Equity Program's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Brown stated the Access and Equity Program Strategic Plans should be tied to the 7 Access & Equity goals because this would reflect accountability and would be measurable.

Mr. Brown reported he plans to implement the strategic plan during the Fall of 2007. Institutions should forward a draft copy of their plan to the Commission by September/October 2007. Mr. Brown will disseminate a draft regarding the plan to the institutions in May. There will be a meeting during July/August for the A&E coordinators to discuss the strategic plan.

5. **Discussion of revision to the Guidelines for Access & Equity Undergraduate Scholarships**

Staff Recommendation:

1. The program is designed to serve "underrepresented" South Carolina resident students who have proven their ability to do college-level work. Therefore, grantees who maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least **2.0 2.5** will be eligible to receive additional grants in subsequent years if funds are available.

The following comments were made:

Keeping the GPA at 2.0 creates bad habits and suggested academic support and tutoring be provided.

GPA requirement for A&E scholarships is already a 3.0 just as their institutional scholarships. Have enough students with a 3.0 and do not have to reward lesser performance.

Sometimes it is assumed a student is willfully under achieving but background and discipline is a variable.

All high schools are not equal and maybe the current scholarship guidelines are a safety net for students.

Mr. Brown stated the minimum should not be the floor and A&E scholarships have to adhere to and operate from minimum guidelines. A committee member responded the committee probably could agree on a GPA but beyond the GPA what institutions are doing is different. Mr. Brown stated CHE management feels they should have more control over the money and would like to see more money used for scholarships instead of institutions deciding whether to award scholarships or not. Mr. Brown further stated because of the way the A&E program is designed and because of the lump sum allocation CHE can't tell institutions how to use their money.

Staff Recommendation:

2. Need-Based:
Is eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants for the year in which the scholarships are awarded.

Mr. Brown asked the committee to also consider whether need-based should be a criterion for the scholarship?

Staff Recommendation:

3. Non Federal Pell Grants Recipients:
Include mentoring; tutoring; community service/volunteering component of the scholarship based on awards received over \$500.

The following comments were made:

This would be punitive to adult students who work part-time, have families, and children in daycare. If these engineering students (who receive a minimum of \$250) maintain a 3.0 this is o.k. and the students shouldn't have to meet the suggested requirement to receive funds. Mr. Brown responded there are students who are willing for \$250 and that an education is not free and students should make an effort to work for it. Mr. Brown stated this is a recommendation and that community service doesn't have to be 500 hours and these students can participate in a mentoring program so their GPA won't drop. Mr. Brown also stated institutions have the option to provide fewer scholarships with a higher amount.

Students who work and have children are advised not to take more classes than they can handle and the purpose of the scholarship is to remove barriers and not to add barriers to money that as a minimum helps a student purchase a book. Mr. Brown stated he felt a student could handle 20 hours within a semester and he doesn't see it as a barrier because the A&E goal is to remove financial barriers.

If a student has additional hours they can work.

Mr. Brown stated that the A&E program does not receive a lot of money but in comparison look at the statewide scholarships and their criteria. Community service may not be a component but SAT requirements are. Mr. Brown responded currently if a student is a minority and a SC citizen they will receive a scholarship.

This would be detrimental because students commute 45 minutes one way and have their coursework. Scholarship recipients may have to speak at a scholarship banquet but they don't want to require anything additional that would take the student away from their studies. These students are trying to complete their education and survive so they get a \$2.00 increase on their job.

Mr. Brown stated the committee should not think technical college students can't adhere to requirements because preparing them to transfer to 4 year institutions is an A&E goal. These four-year institutions will not look at these students and think they can't meet criteria because of employment, etc. Mr. Brown stated public speaking can be classified as public service.

It was asked if there is a high default rate and if not are we revising something that isn't broke. It was further stated A&E coordinators need the flexibility and need to be trusted to know what is needed on their campus because everything can't be legislated.

A committee member stated two-year institutions (except for Denmark Technical College) were not involved in undergraduate scholarships until the State took over because undergraduate scholarships came out of the desegregation plan and the current guidelines don't take into account the type of student attending a technical college.

Mr. Brown suggested all institutions email him their recommendations. It was also decided to establish a sub-committee to review these recommendations and present a recommendation to the advisory committee. The following persons volunteered to serve on the sub-committee: *Mary*

Holloway, Jacqueline Skubal, James Carter, Rodney Adams, Lottie Otto, Jerry Knighton, and Vincent Myers. It was also suggested that the Graduate Incentive Scholarship (GIS) be reviewed and Mr. Brown replied it would. Mr. Brown stated within a month to six weeks the A&E advisory committee would meet to discuss the sub-committee's recommendation.

6. **Discussion of a "Student Tracking" process**

(Tracking and Retention Process/Procedures of Minority Students that receives Access & Equity scholarships)

Discussion was postponed until the next A&E Advisory Committee meeting.

7. **Presentation – "LaMondre' Pough Unlimited"**

Mr. LaMondre' Pough of LaMondre' Pough Unlimited who provides personalized and customized training in the areas of leadership development, sensitivity, diversity and empowerment spoke to the A&E coordinators. Mr. Pough reminded the coordinators to remember the important work they do and how they are in a wonderful position to change people's lives and help them succeed. Mr. Pough advised the committee to 1) have a plan, 2) recognize even in differences there is potential, and 3) to remain positive.

8. **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorinda Copeland
Recording Secretary