

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Main Conference Room

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, September 1, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Attending

Mr. Hood Temple, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Jennifer B. Settlemyer

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Dr. Sjanna Coriarty
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Mr. Ryan Leckie
Mr. Renwick McNeil
Mr. Frank Myers
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Vickie Pratt
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Leslie Williams

Guests

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Program Manager
SC Program for the Recruitment & Retention of
Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)

1. Introductions

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced those in attendance. Mr. Hood Temple stated that he was very excited about the new beginning with the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee.

2. College Application Month Update

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a background about SC College Application Month which is funded by the College Access Challenge Grant. College Application Month will be held during the month of October 2011. She explained that College Application Month was established in 2009 by the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). She said that South Carolina, along with four other states' College Application Month was modeled after the National College Application Month. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the goal for College Application Month is to encourage high schools in South Carolina to participate. She stated that every high school senior at participating high schools will know about completing college

applications. A site coordinator is involved in each high school and trained to help senior students. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the events start in September for high school seniors because this is the time in which they begin applying for college. She explained the student process for filling out a college application. She stated CHE uses the services of CollegeNet, an online admissions application company used by the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship program for the online scholarship application. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that CHE coordinates with regional coordinators around the state as well.

Dr. Woodfaulk reported that in 2009, College Application Month's first year, 15 South Carolina high schools with 1,000 students were served. Last year 57 South Carolina high schools with 15,000 students participated in College Application Month and over 30,000 applications were completed and submitted. She stated that this year it is anticipated that 110 high schools will sponsor a college application event and an estimated 23,000 students will participate. Dr. Woodfaulk said that over 45,000 college applications are expected to be completed. She said surveys about the process will be completed by seniors. She stated a great number of districts have been identified.

Mr. Hood Temple inquired about South Florence High School. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that she would investigate and would let the site coordinators know that Mr. Temple is interested in having South Florence High School participate in the program. Mr. Temple stated that he would like to share with the Committee the SC College Application Month's videos of former Governor Riley. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that the video can be viewed on the www.sccango.org website. Ms. Elizabeth Jackson asked if there were other opportunities throughout the year to help with the College Application Month. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that there were no other statewide events for College Application Month. However, the next event to help students would be College Goal SC. This event assists students in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These events are held in February and March. The College Application Month updates were accepted for information.

3. Presentation: SC Program for the Recruitment & Retention of Minority Teachers

Dr. Woodfaulk provided an overview of the programs at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT). She explained that the Commission is authorized to approve the CERRA and SC-PRRMT's budgets. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the CERRA and SC-PRRMT programs will provide their budgets in October for the Committee's approval. She said the budgets will go to the full Commission and finally to the SC Education Oversight Committee for final approval.

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Director of the SC-PRRMT at SC State University, provided an information packet to the Committee. Ms. Thomas-Myers explained that the information included a Transfer Articulation Agreement with SC Technical Colleges, a Recruiting Tool Booklet, and a recruitment form.

The students are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA so that SC-PRRMT funds can be awarded to more students.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that the mission of the SC-PRRMT is to increase the pool of teachers in the State of South Carolina. SC-PRRMT recruits technical college students and teacher aides to enroll at SC State University and enter the SC-PRRMT. The sites are located in Lake City, Lake Marion, Columbia, Rock Hill and Moncks Corner. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that these students take classes in the evening. Also, she stated the school districts are more likely to employ teachers in their hometown. Ms. Thomas-Myers explained that several of the teacher aides work during the day and pursue their degree in the evening. She stated that funds provided to the students will be forgiven through their teaching service. Ms. Thomas-Myers said students who participate in the program enter into a contractual agreement to teach in the State of South Carolina. She said that the loan is \$5,000 each year.

Ms. Elizabeth Jackson inquired about how long are the teachers committed to teach in South Carolina. Ms. Thomas-Myers replied that the students are required to teach one year for each \$5,000 loan received. Ms. Jackson asked if there is a maximum amount of years for the student to receive a loan and if it will cover all four years of college. Ms. Thomas-Myers replied that loans are awarded as funds are available. Mr. Temple asked how many forgivable loans or scholarships are funded at this time. Ms. Thomas-Myers replied that there are twenty-two students funded in the program this year. She said the program has had up to 45-50 students in the past four years. She stated that there are students who participate in the evening program who do not receive forgivable loans. Ms. Jackson asked if the program targets students already in college, or people who are going back to college who are seeking to change over to the education field. Ms. Thomas-Myers replied that the program targets career path changers, non-traditional students and technical college students. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that many of these particular participants start out as a teacher's aides and the program will allow them to become certified teachers.

Ms. Thomas-Myers presented several statistics about the SC-PRRMT program to the Committee Members:

- 1) Since the program's inception there have been 152 graduates;
- 2) 141 students who were placed in South Carolina are continuing to teach in South Carolina;
- 3) 40% of the graduates have completed their forgiveness, but continue to teach in South Carolina;
- 4) Fifty-one (34%) graduates are teaching in South Carolina in state declared critical need areas;
- 5) 119 teachers are placed in critical geographic areas;
- 6) Out of the 43 county school districts, 141 (93%) graduates are teaching;
- 7) 111 graduates are teaching and their debt is fully paid; and
- 8) Currently 116 (82%) graduates are still teaching in South Carolina and continue to meet their loan obligations.

Ms. Thomas-Myers explained that the statistics reflect FY 2009-10. She said the SC-PRRMT 2010-11 Annual Report will be submitted to the Committee in October. Mr. Temple stated that this is a very small amount of funds compared to the return for additional teachers employed in South Carolina.

4. Other Business

There was no other business for discussion.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Temple requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jackson **moved** for adjournment, Dr. Settlemyer **seconded** and the meeting **adjourned** at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laverne Sanders
Laverne Sanders
Recording Secretary