

Draft Minutes - June 4, 2009

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes of the Meeting
June 4, 2009
10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn (by phone)
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Neal Workman

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Mr. Chuck Talbert
Mr. Guy Tarrant
Dr. Mick Zais

Invited Guest Speakers

None

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Courtney Blake
Mr. Tony Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Stephanie Charbonneau
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Members of the Press

none

Guests

Mr. Jeff Beaver, Lander University
Dr. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC Sumter
Dr. Helen Doeringhaus, USC Columbia
Dr. Marcia Dowell, USC Upstate
Mr. Claude Eichelberger, Higher Education Study Committee
Dr. Skip Godow, Lowcountry Graduate Center
Mr. Jeff Lamberson, USC Columbia
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education & Public Works Committee
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Jim London, Clemson University
Dr. Layton McCurdy, Higher Education Study Committee (by phone)
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Mr. Bobby Marlowe, Higher Education Study Committee
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, Medical University of SC
Mr. Rick Puncke, USC Upstate
Mr. Dan Ravenel, Higher Education Study Committee
Mr. Chuck Sanders, SC Student Loan Corporation (by phone)
Ms. Christine Smalls-Brown, Medical University of SC
Ms. Ashleigh Stevens, Office of the Governor
Mr. Bryce Wilson, SC Budget & Control Board

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

1. Introductions

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Mosteller), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2009, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Ken Wingate

Chairman Wingate stated he would not make a formal chairman's report and that the meeting would proceed directly to the Executive Director's report.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters commented on a recent event he had attended at which high school guidance counselors were honored and presented the Higher Education Awareness Readiness Transition (HEART) Award. Funded through the federal College Access Challenge Grant award, the HEART award recognizes excellence in school counseling by identifying South Carolina school counselors with proven records of accomplishment in promoting higher education awareness. Recipients of the 2009 HEART Award are **Dr. Jennie Band** from Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School in Pomaria, S.C., **Dr. Ayanna Shivers**, from Waccamaw Middle School in Pawleys Island, S.C., and **Mr. Greg Bearden** from Walhalla High School in Seneca, S.C.

Dr. Walters stated that various op-ed pieces on the Higher Education Action Plan are in process for distribution to newspapers throughout the state.

Referring to a recent news article about Clemson University's purported misrepresentation of rankings which appeared in national higher education publications and the Greenville News on June 3, Dr. Walters stated that he and the Commission have experienced nothing but the highest level of integrity in all dealings with Clemson and that, as reported, the accusations are inconsistent with reality. He stated further Clemson has one of the best strategic plans he has seen, the implementation of which has brought about dramatic progress there in recent years. Dr. Walters also stated that the article fails to represent all that a college or university really does in terms of the range of options it makes available for its students, and that an attempt to capture this in a single set of rankings is not possible. He noted that he intended to write an op-ed on this topic which will be distributed for publication in the near future. Commissioner Lynn stated that he appreciated Dr. Walters remarks on this matter.

Dr. Walters reported on his recent travels to various rotary clubs around the state at which he has been presenting on the knowledge economy. He noted that plans include follow up visits with these groups to provide additional information on specific topics related to the Higher Education Action Plan.

With regard to a "Frequently Asked Questions" document which had been distributed to Commissioners at last month's meeting, Dr. Walters stated that some additional information about the question of institutional duplication (in terms of numbers of campuses and academic

programs offered) had been added (**Attachment I**). He invited Commissioners' suggestions and comments on the document and stated that, following any further revisions, it would soon be posted on the CHE website. In response to Dr. Horne's inquiry about whether information would be added regarding savings realized as a result of the Statewide Virtual Library, Dr. Walters stated that work on drafting an addition on that topic is underway. Dr. Walters agreed that information on the Return on Economic Investment document developed as a result of the Higher Education Action Plan should be included in the FAQ, as suggested by Commissioner Sanders. As suggested by Commissioner Mosteller, Dr. Walters said staff would review the piece again in regard to appropriate tone for the various expected audiences.

5. Legislative Report

Ms. Carullo reported that the S. C. Supreme Court held hearings on the topic of the federal stimulus funds on June 3, and that a ruling on whether or not the Governor must accept those funds should be announced as early as today or no later than the end of the week. Ms. Carullo provided an overview of action taken by the General Assembly on the FY 2009-10 budget and on legislation pertaining to higher education during the 2009 legislative session, details about which are summarized in **Attachment II**. She noted that higher education funding for institutions this year is down by \$180 million, or 24%. She also noted that higher education did not receive any additional cuts in the approved higher education budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10. Ms. Carullo stated that \$100 million in additional funding will become available to the institutions if the federal stimulus monies are, in fact, received. She highlighted several provisos and noted that the regulatory relief bills did not pass this session. However, she indicated it is hoped that the Senate Education Committee will conduct hearings on these bills during the course of the summer and will consider passing the bills early in the next legislative session. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about how lottery revenues are trending, Ms. Carullo replied that lottery levels were essentially level with last year. She then reviewed the FY2009-10 lottery appropriations noting that it is anticipated that there are enough carry forward funds from this year to allow for growth in lottery-funded merit scholarship programs for the upcoming year. She indicated that the need-based grant program was the only program for which additional funding was allocated - \$1.5 million in non-recurring funds in addition to level allocations. Ms. Carullo verified Commissioner Mosteller's statement that we won't know until the end of this fiscal year the amount of unclaimed lottery prize funds from FY 2008-09 appropriations which will be added to the new allocation formula for need-based grants. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about the total amount of funding received to date by the Centers of Economic Excellence, for which funding for FY 2009-10 was not approved by the General Assembly, Dr. Morrison responded that the total was \$180 million, which requires an equal amount in matching funds. In response to Commissioner Scarborough's question about funding for the University Center of Greenville, Ms. Carullo responded that the Center's allocation for FY 2009-10 includes base recurring funds, non-recurring funds, and stimulus funds and is less than the funds received in FY 2008-09.

6. General Discussion: Action Plan Follow Through

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters referred to a document outlining follow-up plans and activities (**Attachment III**) related to the Higher Education Action Plan. He then asked Mr. Dan Ravenel, Chair of the Higher Education Study Committee, to comment on those plans and activities.

Mr. Ravenel began by thanking the CHE staff for all their hard work on the Action Plan and the follow-up plans to enact its implementation. He noted the importance of putting together a small

group of individuals to work specifically on the plan's implementation and keep active its momentum. Mr. Ravenel noted that, although the Higher Education Study Committee has a continuing role in the Action Plan, the time had come for the CHE to take the lead in this effort.

Dr. Walters provided a brief overview of the information contained in **Attachment III**, after which a time of discussion and comment followed. During the course of that discussion, the importance of gaining support for the plan from various populations, particularly members of institutional Boards of Trustees, was noted in preparation for further communication during Senate and House hearings later in the summer and early fall. Chairman Wingate urged Commissioners to request of the Boards of Trustees, with which they are most closely affiliated, time for a representative of the CHE to come and share with them information about Action Plan implementation. At Chairman Wingate's request, Ms. Carullo shared information about an upcoming Trustees Conference, sponsored by the SC Higher Education Foundation, to take place in Columbia on September 29, 2009. She stated that Dr. Deno Curriss, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, will be the keynote speaker for that conference and that save-the-date notifications would be distributed in the near future.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's recommendation that a copy of the Action Plan's Executive Summary be mailed to each Board of Trustee member, Chairman Wingate stated that the Executive Summary would be sent as well as the link to access the full report online. Commissioner Temple noted the importance of including the K-12 population in communications about the Action Plan as they are important stakeholders with regard to the role they play in terms of students' articulation to college.

Following additional suggestions about targeting individuals from various constituencies as recipients of updates on Action Plan implementation and conversation about the need for further revision to some of the Action Plan's implementation recommendations, Chairman Wingate stated that the implementation plan is, in fact, a living document which will continue to be fine tuned as necessary. Chairman Wingate emphasized that the Action Plan will be the most important thing on the CHE's list of priorities in the next few years, and he stressed that work on its implementation will be pursued with focus and passion.

Chairman Wingate stated that the CHE Executive Committee had discussed at its May 27 meeting, the formation of an ad hoc committee whose job will be to focus on the Action Plan and report on the status of its implementation to the CHE on a monthly basis. He stated that this committee will be composed of six members, including the four members of the CHE Executive Committee which consists of Chairman Wingate, Dr. Horne, Ms. Mosteller, and Mr. Sanders, in addition to Commissioners Scarborough and Temple. The Commissioners were in agreement with Chairman Wingate's decision to institute this ad hoc committee.

Chairman Wingate commented on Dr. Walters' recent visits to various rotary clubs around the state at which he has made presentations on the knowledge economy, and he stated that he would also like to have Commissioners available to make similar presentations. Dr. Walters reported that he had been very well received at these events and that the attendees demonstrated much interest and had provided positive feedback. Presentations are also being scheduled to Chambers of Commerce, and future plans involve having members of the CHE staff, Commissioners, and members of the Higher Education Study Committee available to make follow-up presentations not only on the Action Plan and its implementation but also on other aspects of higher education. Conversation followed and additional constituencies with whom to interact were recommended. The need to talk to people about these topics all around the state at a reasonably personal level

was emphasized by Dr. Walters. Also recommended was sharing this information with legislators and the media near the locations where presentations are made, as was having the USC Moore School of Business develop a short video relating to the Return on Educational Investment (ROEI) study in support of the Action Plan. In conclusion, Chairman Wingate asked the newly created ad hoc committee to remain present at the adjournment of this meeting in order to further discuss details and scheduling matters.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee - Ken Wingate

Chairman Wingate stated that the minutes of the May 27, 2009, Executive Committee meeting had been distributed to Commissioners for information only.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing - Bettie Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Cynthia Mosteller

A. Consideration of Proposed FY 2009-2010 Administrative Budget, S.C. Student Loan Corporation

Commissioner Mosteller welcomed Mr. Chuck Sanders, President and CEO of the SC Student Loan Corporation, and provided an overview of the corporation's proposed FY 2009-10 Administrative Budget, details about which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

A **motion** was made (Mosteller) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Access & Equity and Student Services Committee recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the SC Student Loan corporation's FY 2009-10 budget request in the amount of \$429,226 for administration of the SC Teachers Loan Program.

Chairman Wingate invited comment from Mr. Sanders who noted that a significant reduction in the employer share of group medical insurance costs had helped hold down expenses and therefore their FY 2009-10 budget request.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Mosteller reported that some of the money received in the two-year federal College Access Challenge Grant mentioned in the Executive Director's Report section of these minutes will go toward an on-line module-based training program to help equip high school guidance counselors with the knowledge and skills needed to help prepare students for the process of getting into college. She stated that the possibility of getting this training approved for recertification credit for counselors is being explored. Commissioner Mosteller also reported that work is in progress on a memorandum of agreement between the CHE and the SC Department of Motor Vehicles to allow the CHE to gain access to information regarding the US citizenship status of college applicants for the purpose of colleges and universities in carrying out the state mandates. This will ultimately result in cost savings to the institutions in the college admissions process. Commissioner Mosteller also noted work is taking place to expand the

College Application Week initiative throughout the state. It is anticipated that seven high schools will be involved by November 2009. Efforts are underway to have the Governor declare an official College Application Week, and it is hoped that by next year this initiative will spread statewide.

Dr. Horne commented that the enthusiastic leadership of Commissioner Mosteller, together with the hard work of the CHE staff, was largely responsible for the methodology change in the allocation of need-based aid which has resulted in giving many more needy students access to that assistance. During the course of her comments, Dr. Horne referenced a letter to this effect from Dr. George Cooper, President of S.C. State University.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Jim Sanders

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Class of 1960 N. Campus Green Development |
| | - | Lee Hall Complex Expansion/Renovation |
|
 | | |
| 2. MUSC | - | Emergency Renovations to IOP Patient Room Toilets |

B. Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plans (CPIPS)

1. Year One Project Approvals
2. Years Three, Four, and Five Summaries (for information only)

C. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for May 2009 (For Information)

Commissioner Sanders stated that the interim capital projects, listed in agenda item 7.04A and described in **Attachment V**, had been approved by the Committee at its meeting earlier in the morning.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of the two interim capital projects listed above.

With regard to the Year 1 Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP) projects, as listed in **Attachment V**, a motion was made (Sanders) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plans (CPIP) for Year One as proposed.

At Commissioner Sanders' request, Mr. Gary Glenn provided a brief overview of these projects, after which the **motion** was brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the Year 2 CPIP projects are still under consideration by the Committee on Finance and Facilities and should be brought to the full Commission for approval at the August meeting.

Commissioner Sanders stated that agenda item 7.04C, List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for May 2009 and also described in **Attachment V**, was provided for information only.

Commissioner Sanders commented on the collaborative efforts which have taken place over recent years between the CHE and the institutions to develop a standardized way of examining maintenance needs while also allowing institutions to set priorities. That process has finally been established, and Commissioner Sanders thanked all parties involved for their hard work in achieving this goal. He called attention to a seminar jointly sponsored by the CHE and the Association of General Contractors to take place on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, entitled, *The Approval & Use of Alternative Construction Delivery Methods for South Carolina Higher Education, State Agencies and K-12: Tools to Save Time and Money in Today's Economy*. With the assistance of the Tech Net System, this seminar will be transmitted to 16 technical college locations throughout the state from the presenting location in Columbia. Mr. Glenn thanked the Association of General Contractors for bearing the financial responsibility of this event as well as for absorbing costs so that public employees will be able to attend without charge. Chairman Wingate thanked Commissioners Sanders and Workman for all their dedicated efforts in this initiative.

8. Other Business

There being no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachments (I-V)

*Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.