

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

November 6, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Chuck Talbert
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Doug Forbes
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Courtney Blake
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Ms. Trena Houpp
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Michael Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Terry Booth, Central Carolina Technical College
Ms. Candace Borchik, University of Phoenix
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC Sumter
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Terri DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Ben Dillard, Greenville Technical College
Dr. Helen Doerpinghaus, USC Columbia
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Mr. Dalton Floyd, SC Higher Education Foundation
Ms. Gail Ginsberg, SC Higher Education Foundation
Dr. Tim Hardee, Central Carolina Technical College
Dr. Keith Miller, Greenville Technical College
Ms. Mandy Kibler, SC Technical College System
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Ms. Nancy Jeter, SC State University
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Mr. John Malmrose, Medical University of SC
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Ms. Jen Phelps, SC Association of Technical College Commissions
Ms. Kimberly Pittman, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Mr. Tom Quazney, USC Columbia
Ms. Monica Scott, College of Charleston
Ms. Reinell Thomas, SC State University
Ms. Austin Thompson
Ms. Leslie Thompson
Dr. Sharon Thompson, Coastal Carolina University

Members of Press

none

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

Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above.

1. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2008, meeting.

2. Introduction of Governor's Professors of the Year

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy welcomed, introduced and congratulated the two winners of the Governor's Professor of the Year award, Dr. Sharon Thompson of Coastal Carolina University, and Mr. Charles Wilson of Greenville Technical College. The winners had been recognized at a ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the rotunda of the State House. A description of each recipient and their accomplishments may be found in the press release which was distributed (**Attachment I**). At Chairman McCurdy's invitation, each winner commented briefly and expressed appreciation for having been chosen for this award.

3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy reported that his term on the Commission had expired on July 1, 2008, though he had been asked to continue to serve until December, 2008. He stated that today's meeting would most likely be his last meeting as Chair of the Commission. Chairman McCurdy remarked that his experience on the Commission had been very positive and rewarding. He thanked all Commissioners and CHE staff with whom he has worked.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters commented on a recent article in *The State* newspaper about Dr. Gail Morrison who had been awarded a Presidential Citation by the Columbia Urban League in recognition of outstanding leadership and commitment to promoting equal opportunity. At Dr. Walters' invitation, Dr. Morrison described her efforts to promote and make available to a greater cross section of individual programs offered by the Columbia City Ballet and the Columbia Philharmonic Orchestra. Dr. Walters remarked on the tremendous role that the arts communities play in the quality of life as well as in economic development.

Dr. Walters noted the draft schedule of Commission meetings for 2009 (**Attachment II**), a copy of which had been distributed to each Commissioner. He asked that Commissioners review it carefully prior to the December 4 CHE meeting, share comments about it by e-mail, and be prepared to formalize it in December.

Dr. Walters reported that a series of public hearings will take place during the week of November 17-21 with regard to the work of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC).

At Dr. Walters' request, Ms. Rita Allison provided details on the format and schedule of the meetings. She stated that the draft recommendations will be presented after which a panel consisting of members of the HESC, presidents, and other institutional representatives will lead a discussion. A member of the local Chamber of Commerce is expected to moderate the discussion. Members of the public will be encouraged to attend and to provide input. A schedule of the meetings may be found in **Attachment III**.

Dr. Walters provided a brief description of and status on each of the HESC's three main goals: 1) to raise educational levels; 2) to raise levels of research and innovation; 3) to raise levels of workforce development and educational services. He stated that a fourth goal pertains to leveraging higher education resources. Dr. Walters reported that a compiled summary of the work of each of the task forces will be sent to Commissioners prior to the public hearings. After the public hearings, the HESC will develop a draft report, receive input from institutional presidents and other constituencies, as necessary, and then produce a final report.

Dr. Walters reported that he had recently had a conversation with Dr. David DeCenzo, President of Coastal Carolina University, regarding the effect of current budget cuts on South Carolina's institutions. Dr. Walters invited Dr. DeCenzo to comment on the issues the cuts present to his and other colleges and universities. Dr. DeCenzo stated that limitations on the amount of tuition waivers institutions are permitted to offer in addition to declines in family incomes and students' ineligibility for student loans may cause Coastal Carolina to lose 10% of its enrollment for the Spring 2009 semester. He stated the same likely holds true for all comprehensive institutions. Dr. DeCenzo stated that he had approached Governor Sanford requesting that Coastal Carolina and other comprehensive institutions be provided with flexibility for the Spring 2009 semester. He asked that the Commission support this request.

Following discussion, Commissioner Horne proposed that given our understanding that an educated citizenry is part of the solution to our present crisis, the Commission pass a resolution supporting the institutions in a manner that would allow them maximum reasonable flexibility in the upcoming semester in determining how they can best assist students.

This proposal was then **seconded** (Workman), and **carried**.

5. Report on the SC Higher Education Foundation

- Dalton Floyd

Chairman McCurdy welcomed Mr. Dalton Floyd, President of the SC Higher Education Foundation. Mr. Floyd noted that this was an excellent time to seek regulatory relief for all of the institutions and he encouraged the Commission to attempt to do so.

Mr. Floyd provided some background information on the Foundation. He introduced Ms. Gail Ginsberg, Director of Development, and encouraged those in attendance to provide her with names of individuals who might be potential contributors. Mr. Floyd then delivered a power point presentation entitled, *Update on Activities for the Commission on Higher Education*, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

6. Legislative Report

- Rita Allison

Ms. Allison reported the General Assembly had trimmed a total of \$488 million from the state's budget. She stated that K-12, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Corrections had been held relatively harmless which resulted in a primarily double digit budget reduction for the remaining state agencies and for higher education. Ms. Allison reported that the future budget outlook is also of great concern to all. There may be additional budget reductions this year, and there is low expectation for any new funding for next year. Ms. Allison stated that the Board of Economic Advisors would report on its predictions for next year at its meeting on Friday, November 7, 2008.

Ms. Allison reported that the SC General Assembly would go back into session on January 13, 2009. She stated that the Governor has begun work on his Executive Budget and that the CHE is in communication with his office regarding higher education budget items. Ms. Allison reported that the House of Representatives will meet December 2 and 3 to reorganize and make committee assignments for next year, and the Senate will reorganize on the first day of session in January.

Mr. Workman stated that the circumstances caused by current budget cuts present a good opportunity for a paradigm shift in terms of how institutions of higher education might improve their methods of operation.

Conversation followed in which the topics of distance learning, course redesign, and self-instruction were discussed as possible ways to improve the delivery of higher education. The importance of solicitation of ideas from students on what they feel best works for them was also noted.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

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**

- Bettie Horne

A. Consideration of Regulations for (1) Need-based Grants, (2) LIFE Scholarships and Enhancements, (3) Palmetto Fellows Scholarships and Enhancements, and (4) Residency

B. Consideration of Addition of E2 Visa Classifications to CHE Approved Visa Classification List

C. Consideration of FY 2007-2008 Program Summaries and Appropriation Requests for FY 2009-2010 for EIA funded Teacher Recruitment Projects

Commissioner Horne reported for Commissioner Mosteller who was unable to be in attendance. She provided information on the proposed amendments to the regulations for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows scholarships and scholarship enhancements, the SC Need-based Grant, and residency, as well as the addition of the E-2 visa classification to the CHE approved visa classification list, and consideration of FY 2007-08 program summaries and appropriation requests for FY 2009-10 for EIA funded teacher recruitment projects, all of which are described in detail in **Attachment V**.

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

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the proposed amendments to the regulations for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships and Scholarship Enhancements, as well as the SC Need-based Grant. If approved by the Commission, the proposed regulations will be submitted to the General Assembly during the 2009 legislative session for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.

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

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the proposed amendments to the regulations for the determination of the rates of tuition and fees. If approved by the Commission, the proposed regulations will be submitted to the SC General Assembly during the 2009 legislative session for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.

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

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the addition of the E-2 visa classification to the CHE approved list. If approved by the Commission, the E-2 visa classification will be added to the CHE approved list.

At Chairman McCurdy's request, Dr. Karen Woodfaulk explained that the approval of the E-2 visa classification provides a business incentive for persons from outside the US, allowing their dependents to qualify for in-state tuition after the family has established a business in this country with a minimum investment of \$50,000. She noted that federal and state reviews of these business investments are required as are extensive background checks of the individuals making the investments.

At Commissioner Sanders request, Dr. Woodfaulk agreed to make available to Commissioners at the next CHE meeting a schedule of all visa classifications which pertain to students in South Carolina.

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

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

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the FY 2009-10 budgets in the amount of \$439,587 (due to budget cuts – not \$467,000 as stated in write-up) for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers and \$5,089,338 (due to budget cuts – not \$7,288,584 as stated in write-up) for the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement. Discussion followed in which Dr. Horne noted the amounts reflected do not represent more than what will be available for distribution. Dr. Gail Morrison stated that at a meeting of the EIA budget committee which had taken place earlier in the week, both the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers and the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement had been asked to examine their budgets to determine ways that each might be reduced by 15%.

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

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Jim Sanders

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. College of Charleston | - | 5 College Way Renovation |
| 2. Central Carolina Technical College | - | Sumter Health Science
Acquisition/Renovation |

B. Leases

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Medical University of SC | - | 5900 Core Avenue |
| | - | McClennan Banks, Fourth Floor |

C. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for October, 2008 (For Information)

Commissioner Sanders reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had met prior to the CHE meeting at which time they had unanimously approved the projects and leases as listed in Agenda Items 7.04 A and B, and described in detail in **Attachment VI**. A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to collectively approve the following **recommendation** for each of the above-referenced projects:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this project as proposed.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to collectively approve the following **recommendation** for each of the above-referenced leases:

Commissioner Sanders noted that Agenda Item 7.04C, the list of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for October, 2008, also described in **Attachment VI**, was provided for information only.

8. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

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Recording Secretary

Attachment I-VI

*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.