

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

Minutes of the Meeting

January 8, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Chuck Talbert
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Courtney Blake
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Michael Raley
Ms. De'Nitra Reese
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds

Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Fred Baus, University Center of Greenville
Dr. Rose Booze, USC Columbia
Ms. Candace Borchik, University of Phoenix
Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Ms. Elaine Cue, Miller-Motte Technical College
Ms. Kate Dillon-Hogan, Grand Canyon University
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Dr. Madilyn Fletcher, USC Columbia
Dr. Gwen Geidel, USC Columbia
Dr. Skip Godow, Lowcountry Graduate Center
Dr. Paula Harper Bethea, Centers of Economic Excellence Review Board
Dr. Joseph Hoey, Savannah College of Art & Design
Ms. Wanda Hutto, USC Columbia
Ms. Nichole Karpel, Strayer University
Mr. Jeff Lamberson, USC Columbia
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Dr. Len McCall, University Center of Greenville
Dr. Bonnie Martin-Harris, Medical University of SC
Col. Spike Metts, The Citadel
Dr. Greg Niehaus, USC Columbia
Mr. David Sessoms, Miller-Motte Technical College
Mr. Roger Swartzwelder, Virginia College
Dr. Becky Trickey, Medical University of SC

Members of Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

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

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Scarborough), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2008, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Ken Wingate

Chairman Wingate reported that the Executive Committee met by teleconference on December 18, 2008. He reminded Commissioners of their upcoming retreat to be held in the Charleston area on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21. He asked them to mark their calendars and plan to attend. The retreat will provide Commissioners an opportunity to get to know each other better, as well as to become more aware of current higher education issues and opportunities. Chairman Wingate reported that the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC) would also be meeting today at 1:30 p.m. in the main CHE conference room. He invited all Commissioners to participate.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters reported that the CHE had been invited to testify before the House Ways & Means Committee on January 13, 2009. He provided a brief review of the testimony he proposed to advance.

That information will include a status report on the Action Plan which will soon be released by the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC), the central focus of which is on the critical importance of higher education in today's knowledge economy. Also included will be information about the impact and consequences of state budget cuts on South Carolina's colleges and universities as well as on the CHE. An updated copy of the Commission's Higher Education Funding Request, provided to the Governor in August, 2008 (**Attachment I**) was distributed for the Commission's review. He stated that the three major issues in the current request are: 1) capital bond funding for higher education; 2) need-based grant funding; and 3) restored support for PASCAL, the statewide higher education library. The testimony will be concluded with an emphasis that investing in higher education is the best path to economic growth and stability and has the best potential to lead us quickly out of a recession and build a foundation of prosperity that will protect us in the future.

Discussion took place about PASCAL and its potential to provide a seven to one return on investment if funded. An information sheet describing the value of PASCAL was distributed to Commissioners and may be found in **Attachment II**. This document will be revised to reflect the most up to date figures in terms of the savings that PASCAL provides and it will be sent to Commissioners as well as institutional representatives. Dr. Walters stated that institutional commitment to this project, already partially in place, is important to the success of PASCAL, but what is most critical now is the funding from the state. The importance of assuring that members of the General Assembly have the opportunity to actually witness the work of PASCAL was emphasized. At Commissioners' requests, information which demonstrates

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specifics on the cost savings per institution will be added to the PASCAL information sheet and distributed to members of the General Assembly.

Dr. Walters stated that the time of the January 13 testimony will be approximately 1.5 hours after the House adjourns which should be around 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. All Commissioners were invited to attend. Dr. Walters stated that the outline of his testimony would be e-mailed to Commissioners.

5. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that the budget would be at the forefront of issues to be considered by the General Assembly when it reconvenes on January 13. She stated that budget reductions to date for higher education average 20%. Ms. Carullo reported that Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) should issue its estimate for FY 2009-10 in February and that state agencies were bracing for the possibility of further reductions. She stated that the Governor would release his Executive Budget on Friday, January 9, and give his State of the State address on the evening of Wednesday, January 14. She reported that House Ways and Means budget presentations of higher education institutions, like CHE's, would begin next week. Ms Carullo referred to a list of prefiled bills (**Attachment III**) relating to higher education which had been distributed to each Commissioner. She stated that weekly updates on those bills would be posted on the CHE website. Ms. Carullo also reported that the House Education and Public Works Committee had announced the members of its subcommittees, information about which may also be found in **Attachment III**.

6. Report from the University Center of Greenville: Update on Activities and Community Involvement

- Dr. Fred Baus, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Baus delivered a power point presentation on the functions and current activities of the University Center of Greenville (UCG), a copy of which may be found in **Attachment IV**. A consortium of eight participating institutions, UCG's objective is to increase the number of adults completing bachelor's and graduate degrees.

During the course of Dr. Baus' presentation, discussion took place about the number of students who have graduated through programs offered at UCG. He informed the Commission that the students are actually enrolled at and graduate from one of the participating institutions and not the UCG, it is difficult to ascertain the exact number who have completed degrees. Efforts to collect refined data about this would be from the institutions. The importance of having this information to demonstrate to the general public the effectiveness of UCG was emphasized.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Dr. Baus stated that plans are developing to create additional articulation agreements between Greenville Technical College and the participating institutions. Dr. Baus provided additional details on UCG's upcoming partnership with the Greenville County School District on an alternative high school project for at-risk students. He also stated that a standard cost per credit hour delivered could be calculated upon acquisition of the appropriate data. The importance of having this type of information available was noted as it could be used a tool to demonstrate the effective contribution of consortia such as UCG and the Lowcountry Graduate Center to degree completion in South Carolina.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Ken Wingate

A. Consideration of Revised Budget for the Centers of Economic Excellence Program, FY 2008-2009

Chairman Wingate made reference to the Executive Committee's recommendation that the Commission approve a change in the operating budget of the Centers of Economic Excellence Program (CoEE) to incorporate \$300,000 in funds for institutional administrative costs. Additional information about this recommendation may be found in **Attachment V**.

Chairman Wingate introduced Ms. Paula Harper Bethea, Chair of the CoEE who stated that a five year assessment of the CoEE program had just been completed by the Washington Advisory Group and that a report on that assessment would be considered in length at a strategic planning meeting of the CoEE board on January 12, 2009. She stated that the report reflects that the program is doing exactly what it was designed to do in terms of building the knowledge based economy in South Carolina. Ms. Harper Bethea reported that as the program has matured, more money is needed to accomplish the work necessary to report on its activities. She stated that, to date, the CoEE's operating budget has been only 1% of its total allocated funds. The three participating institutions have therefore requested funds in the amount of \$100,000 be appropriated to each of them annually to be used to for administrative purposes.

The following **motion** was then brought forth by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee commends favorably to the Commission approval of a revised 2008-2009 CoEE Program operating budget in the amount of \$1,166,665, which incorporates \$300,000 in funds for institutional administrative costs at the three senior research institutions approved by the CoEE Review Board at its November 2008 meeting, to be dispersed immediately following approval by the Commission.

Conversation followed in which Ms. Harper Bethea stated that the requested amount should cover the cost of administrative reporting for the foreseeable future, though as the program grows, it may be necessary to request additional funding for this purpose. She stated that the funds will cover the cost of hiring one or two individuals at each of the participating institutions. These individuals will prepare the administrative reports, a task which is currently being completed by provosts and directors of research as their schedules allow. Ms. Harper Bethea stated that the differences and complexities of the various aspects of the CoEE programs demand that they be reported in ways for which standardized reporting templates are not currently applicable. In addition to compiling reports on the CoEE programs, the administrative persons at each institution will also be responsible for providing support for the implementation of those programs. Ms. Harper Bethea stated that the funds for this purpose will come from the same source as that of the CoEE budget, which is accrued interest generated by lottery money set aside for the program. She reported that though no state support for the CoEE was received last year and will likely not be received for the coming year, the momentum of the program continues to build, and it has thus far demonstrated a very high return on investment.

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

Ms. Harper Bethea then highly commended the members of the CHE staff who are responsible for working with matters pertaining to the CoEE, and thanked them for their dedicated service.

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

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

1. A.H.S., Dental Hygiene, Aiken Tech
2. B.S., Environmental Science, USC Columbia
3. M.I.B., Master of International Business, USC Columbia
4. Ph.D., Health and Rehabilitation Science with concentrations in Pathology and Impairment, Functional Limitations, or Health Services, MUSC

B. Consideration of Requests for Amendments to Existing Licenses to Add New Programs

1. A.A.S., Physical Therapy, Miller-Motte Technical College, Charleston
2. A.A. and B.S., Criminal Justice, Strayer University; Charleston, Columbia, Greenville

C. Consideration of Request for Amendments to Existing License to Add New Site in Charleston and New Programs in Greenville – Virginia College, Birmingham, AL

A.A.S., Administrative Office Management; A.A.S., Criminal Justice; A.A.S., Medical Office Management; A.A.S., Paralegal Studies, A.A.S., Respiratory Therapy; A.A.S., Surgical Technology; A.A.S., Therapeutic Massage; B.S., Business Administration; B.S., Criminal Justice; B.S., Health Services Management; and to add to the existing license for Greenville programs leading to the A.A.S., Healthcare Reimbursement; A.A.S., Medical Assistant

D. Consideration of Requests for Initial Licenses

1. B.A., Christian Studies; B.A., Communications; B.A., English Literature; B.A., History; B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies; B.S., Elementary Education; B.S., Elementary/Special Education; B.S., Secondary Education; B.S., Justice Studies; B.S., Psychology; B.S., Medical Imaging Sciences; B.S., Health Sciences; B.S., Respiratory Care; B.S., Accounting; B.S., Applied Management; B.S., Business Administration; B.S., Emergency Management; B.S., Entrepreneurial Studies; B.S., Marketing; B.S., Public Safety Administration; M.B.A., Business Administration; M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction; (1) Reading, (2) Technology, (3) Special Education, (4) Teaching ESOL; M.Ed., Elementary Education; M.Ed., Education Administration; M.S., Nursing; M.S., Professional Counseling; M.S., Executive Fire Service Leadership; M.S., Leadership; R.N. to B.S.N., Nursing; R.N. to M.S.N., Nursing; **Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ, to recruit SC residents**
2. B.A., Equestrian Studies, Savannah College of Art and Design, **Savannah, GA, (new branch in Hardeeville, SC)**

E. Annual Report on Academic Common Market

F. Informational Report on Licensing Activities for Degree-Granting Institutions, FY 2007-2008

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Chairman Wingate stated that agenda items 7.02 A-D had already been approved by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing and were being presented as Consent Agenda Items.

Dr. Horne briefly reviewed the new program proposals as described in Agenda Item 7.04A, more detail about which may be found in **Attachment VI**. Representatives from USC and MUSC were introduced, each of whom provided information on their proposed programs.

In response to Commissioner Forbes' question about what made the program proposal for the B.S., Environmental Science at USC Columbia unique from the programs offered at Lander and Winthrop Universities, Dr. Madilyn Fletcher responded that the program at USC provides the potential to draw across a wider variety of programs, enhances choices, and increases opportunities for students. Dr. Horne stated that no opposition to the USC program had been expressed by either Lander or Winthrop. Dr. Morrison stated that environmental science is an emerging discipline which will likely grow due to need and employment opportunity in this area.

In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about whether the proposed program at MUSC would have any connection to the military, Dr. Bonnie Mark Harris responded that students in the program would be placed at the Charleston VA Hospital.

Dr. Horne briefly reviewed Agenda Item 7.04B, described in detail in **Attachment VI**. A representative of Miller-Motte provided information on their physical therapy program.

Dr. Horne briefly reviewed Agenda Item 7.04C, described in detail in **Attachment VI**. A representative of Virginia College provided information on this request.

Dr. Horne briefly reviewed Agenda Item 7.04D, described in detail in **Attachment VI**. A representative from Grand Canyon University provided information on their request to recruit students from South Carolina.

In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about how these types of on-line programs are policed, Dr. Morrison explained that this done through accrediting bodies who evaluate the quality of programs. She stated that, though the CHE has the ability to investigate complaints about programs of this nature, it does not have the authority to police them.

A representative of Savannah College of Art and Design provided information on their request to open a branch in Hardeeville, SC. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about the student base targeted for this program, Dr. Joseph Hoey replied that students enrolled in this program at their current branch in Georgia come from various U. S. and international locations. In response to Dr. Forbes' request for a total list of the programs offered by the college, Dr. Hoey stated that a list of those programs can be found on the back cover of their brochure which had been distributed to Commissioners.

A **motion** was then made (Horne) and **carried** to approve of all the requests contained in Agenda Items 7.02 A-D.

Commissioner Horne stated that Agenda Items 7.02 E and F (**Attachments VII and VIII**) had been provided for information only.

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Brief discussion followed about the program approval process, the quality of accrediting agencies, and the Academic Common Market.

**7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity
and Student Services**

- Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report. Commissioner Mosteller stated that this committee had a productive meeting on December 4, 200 at Trident Technical College, and that information from that meeting will soon be brought to the full Commission.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Jim Sanders

The Committee on Finance and Facilities had no report.

8. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12.20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

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Recording Secretary

Attachment I-VIII

*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.