

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes of the Meeting
May 3, 2007

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Ken Wingate
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Col. John Bowden
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Tina Anderson
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarity
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Cynthia Mallios
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Mr. Frank Myers
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Larry Allen, Clemson University
Ms. Susan Allen, Greenville Technical College
Ms. Sandra Barbour, Northeastern Technical College
Ms. Kim Barrett, Greenville Technical College
Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University
Ms. Candace Borchick, University of Phoenix
Dr. Sally Boyd, U.S.C. Columbia
Dr. Chris Cassier, Capella University
Ms. Donna Collins, U.S.C. Columbia

Mr. Bob Connelly, U.S.C. Columbia
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. Sumter
Ms. Anita Crawford, Northeastern Technical College
Ms. Diane Dyches, Northeastern Technical College
Dr. Bill Fisk, Clemson University
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, S.C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Mr. Walter Hardin, Winthrop University
Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C. Columbia
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, U.S.C. Columbia
Ms. Pamela Johnson, Forrest Junior College
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Judy LaBoone, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Wayne Landrith, S.C. Student Loan Corporation
Dr. Michelle Liken, South University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Dr. Martha Moriarty, U.S.C. Beaufort
Dr. Valerie Morris, College of Charleston
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Ms. Anne Patton, South University
Dr. Chris Plyler, U.S.C. Regional Campuses
Mr. Scott Poelker, Trident Technical College
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Ms. Susan Pryor, U.S.C. Columbia
Mr. Rick Puncke, U.S.C. Upstate
Ms. Hope Rivers, State Technical System
Dr. Bob Schemel, South University
Mr. Charles Shawver, S.C. Budget & Control Board
Ms. Sandra Somerville, Professional Golfers Career College
Dr. Tim Somerville, Professional Golfers Career College
Ms. Sharyl Thompson, Capella University
Col. Don Tomasik, The Citadel
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. Columbia
Mr. John True, Medical University of S.C.
Dr. Bob Wells, Clemson University
Dr. Jimmie Williamson, Northeastern Technical College
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board
Mr. Chuck Wright, U.S.C. -Sumter

Members of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Vice-Chairman Ravenel presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman McCurdy who had been unavoidably detained on business in Washington, D.C. Vice-Chairman Ravenel called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. He also entertained a motion that the agenda be adjusted to include an emergency request from U.S.C. Upstate approved at the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on May 2, 2007. A **motion** was made (Wingate), **seconded** (Sanders), and **carried** to include that request. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests all of whom are listed above and who were announced at the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2007, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

As the Chairman was not in attendance, there was no report.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had no report.

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing

- Hood Temple

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

1. A.H.S., Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Greenville Technical College
2. A.H.S., Nursing (ADN), Northeastern Technical College
3. B.A., Liberal Studies at the Regional Campuses, U.S.C. Columbia
4. M.A.T., Performing Arts, College of Charleston
5. M.Ed., Early Childhood Education, Clemson University
6. M.S., Biotechnology, Clemson University
7. Center for Biological Interfaces of Engineering (CBIOE), Clemson University

B. Consideration of Request for Initial License to Recruit in South Carolina:

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

C. Consideration of Request for Amendment to License:

1. A.A.S., Criminal Justice, Forrest Junior College, Anderson S.C.
2. R.N. to B.S.N., South University, Columbia, S.C.

D. Consideration of Request of Initial License:

Professional Golfers Career College, Temecula, CA
Specialized Associates Degree in Professional Golf Management

E. Consideration of Report on Program Productivity, Fall 2000-Fall 2005

F. Consideration of Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs, FY 2004-05

G. Consideration of Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2006

H. Consideration of Annual Report on Advanced Placement Course Acceptance Policies, FY 2006-07

I. Consideration of Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education), Budget Allocations, FY 2007-08, and Appropriations Request, FY 2008-09

J. Informational Report on Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)

1. New Center, FY 2007-08
2. Funding Allocation to Existing Centers, FY 2007-08

K. Informational Report on Awards for the Improving Teaching Quality Competitive Grant Awards, 2007-08

1. Funding Allocation to Continuing ITQ Awards, FY 2007-08
2. New ITQ Awards, FY 2007-08

Vice-Chairman Ravenel requested that Commissioner Temple lead the discussion of Academic Affairs and Licensing matters in the absence of Commissioner Horne who was unable to attend due to illness. Commissioner Temple deferred to Dr. Gail Morrison who briefly described the seven new program proposals as listed under item A above and described in **Attachment I**.

With regard to the first program proposal from Greenville Technical College concerning the A.H.S. degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Commissioner Wingate noted that there are no additional faculty or staff requirements, no new physical plant requirements, and no new library requirements, yet there is a \$225,000 - \$250,000 differential per year with costs exceeding revenues. He inquired as to how that might be the case and whether there was anything that could be done to help make the program self-sustainable. Dr. Morrison provided information about how the figures are determined for the first three years of a program's implementation. A representative of Greenville Technical College

stated that the institution would be willing to carry the program once faculty hours are increased. The Greenville Technical College representative noted that a degree program in this field has been operating for some time. Commissioner Lynn inquired as to whether there was any type of articulation between this program and appropriate four-year degree programs. Discussion took place about the fact that no baccalaureate degree in this area currently exists, though some of the general education courses required for this particular program may articulate to a four-year institution. Commissioner Sanders asked how the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) is calculated for two-year institutions. Dr. Morrison replied that variables in these calculations vary by sector and institution, but the actual formula is the same. Mr. Scott Ludlow of the State Technical System added that MRR costs are recalculated by the Technical College System before individual technical colleges receive funding. Discussion took place about whether the MRR is a true reflection of what the cost of operating a program will be.

With regard to the second program proposal from Northeastern Technical College concerning the A.H.S. degree in Nursing, Dr. Morrison explained that per a statewide nursing agreement of 1996, this program will articulate to in-state, public four-year B.S.N. programs. It was noted that, although there is an articulation agreement from two-year to four-year programs, one does not exist for four-year to two-year programs because it is not needed. Commissioner Temple inquired as to whether it would be possible to acquire information about the cost of similar programs at other institutions within the state to see if they are comparable. Dr. Morrison replied that an attempt to pull some of that data could be made though program related data is somewhat difficult to collect as institutions tend not to budget by program, but by larger administrative units. Dr. Jimmie Williamson, President of Northeastern Technical College then stated that sources of private funding for this program as well as grant possibilities are being explored. In response to Commissioner Sanders' inquiry, Dr. Williamson confirmed that he believed this program would, in fact, cost \$751,953 to implement in second and third years of its implementation.

With regard to the third program proposal from the U.S.C. Regional Campuses concerning the B.A. degree in Liberal Studies, Commissioner Lynn inquired as to whether this degree will be comparable regardless of which campus at which the courses are taken. Dr. Plyer, of the U.S.C. Regional Campuses, replied that the courses, the methodology, and the degree earned is the same at each campus site since the degree is a Columbia degree, delivered either by distance education from Columbia or by faculty approved by the Columbia faculty. Commissioner Forbes stated that this proposal encouraged mission creep by promoting incremental growth of two-year institutions to four-year institutions. Dr. Plyer stated that the faculty who will be teaching courses for this program are already in place at the regional campuses and that this effort in no way intends to convert the regional campuses to four-year institutions. He further stated that this program will provide for a need that exists (for place-bound students), is a fundamental degree program with faculties already in place, and will better utilize what is already available on the two-year campuses. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question, Dr. Plyer stated that this provision would certainly address the issue of access in that it allows for students who must stay in their communities to complete a four-year

degree. Commissioner Zais stated he shared Commissioner Forbes concern. Because of these concerns, Vice-Chairman Ravenel recommended that this particular program proposal be considered in a motion separate from the motion covering the other six programs.

With regard to the fourth program proposal from the College of Charleston concerning the M.A.T. degree in Performing Arts, Commissioner Sanders inquired as to whether the College intends to pursue accreditation of this program as part of the approval process. Dr. Valerie Morris, representing the College of Charleston, stated that accreditation by the National Association for Schools of Music and the National Association for Schools of Theatre had already been granted. Accreditation by the The National Association of Schools of Dance is in the process.

With regard to the fifth program proposal from Clemson University concerning the M.Ed. degree in Early Childhood Education, Commissioner Sanders inquired about other institutions in the state that also offer a Master of Education degree in Early Childhood Education. Dr. Morrison directed him to page two of the proposal's description which indicates that Coastal Carolina, Francis Marion, the College of Charleston, and U.S.C. Columbia also offer this program, though it is not currently offered at an institution in the Upstate.

With regard to the sixth program proposal from Clemson University concerning the M.S. degree in Biotechnology, Commissioner Sanders inquired if this program would have any relationship with the Greenwood Genetics Center. Clemson representative, Dr. Debra Jackson, replied that students enrolled in this program would have opportunities for internships at the Center and that students may apply for the program as part of a combined five years and a summer model to receive both the B.S. and M.S. at the conclusion of the studies. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question, Dr. Jackson confirmed that this program will form part of the technology cluster of Clemson's emphasis series.

With regard to the seventh program proposal from Clemson University concerning the Center for Biological Interfaces of Engineering, Commissioner Wingate asked if the projected \$15,000,000 in federal funding for this program had been secured. Dr. Jackson replied that approximately \$3,000,000 in federal research grants had been secured. She provided additional detail about other possible sources of federal funding for this purpose.

A **motion** was then made (Temple) and **carried** to collectively approve the following **recommendations**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Greenville Technical College's proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Science degree with a major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography at the Barton campus, to be implemented in Fall 2007, provided that no "unique cost" or special state funding be required or requested.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Northeastern Technical College's proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree with a major in Nursing, provided that no "unique cost" or other special funding be required or requested; and provided further that the program seek national professional accreditation through the National League for Nursing's Accreditation Commission (NLNAC).

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the College of Charleston's proposed program leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching degree with a major in Performing Arts with concentrations in Music, Dance and Theatre, to be implemented in Fall 2007, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested; and provided that the program be approved by the State Board of Education prior to implementation; and provided further that the concentrations in music, dance and theatre seek appropriate accreditation for music by the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM); for dance by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD); and for theatre by the National Association for Schools of Theatre (NAST), with nomenclature identical to that used in this program approval.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Clemson University's proposed program leading to the Master of Education degree with a major in Early Childhood Education, to be implemented in Fall 2007, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested; and provided further that the program seek national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) with nomenclature identical to that used in this program approval.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Clemson University's proposed program leading to the Master of Science degree with a major in Biotechnology, to be implemented in Fall 2008, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Clemson University's Center for Biological Interfaces of Engineering (CBIOE), to be implemented immediately, upon Commission approval.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the University of South Carolina Columbia's proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Liberal Studies to be delivered at the four two-year regional campuses of the university and to be implemented in Fall 2007, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested; and provided further that:

1. The Office of the Provost at USC Columbia is ultimately accountable for all academic, auditing, and administrative processes for the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at the two-year regional campuses and;
2. The BAIS be closed to all new enrollments at any of the two-year regional campuses immediately, that students in the BAIS on those campuses are encouraged to consider completing the BLS, and that all files of the BAIS for students enrolled at any two-year regional campus be closed by Fall 2011.

Discussion followed in which Dr. Plyler explained that the purpose of the U.S.C. regional campuses was to bring the resources of the U.S.C. Columbia campus to other areas of the state which have demonstrated a need for those resources. He stated further that the implementation of this program at the regional campuses in no way intended to be an attempt to expand them to four-year institutions. He added that this program will replace the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and will provide for a much stronger degree. In response to Commissioner Sanders' inquiry, Dr. Plyler stated that there are five other cooperative baccalaureate programs of this nature already in place at U.S.C. which serve approximately 200 students. Commissioners offered additional comments regarding their concern about this program and mission creep, but stated that the overall benefit of the program outweighed that concern.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried** with one Commissioner (Forbes) voting in the negative.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02B regarding Capella University's request for an initial license to recruit in South Carolina, a description of which is found in **Attachment II**. Discussion followed in which Capella University representatives, Dr. Chris Cassier, and Ms. Sharyl Thompson stated that South Carolina students attending this university are not eligible to receive lottery funded scholarships, programs are delivered entirely by distance learning, 15% of the university's constituents are active duty military (40% of whom are African-American women), no physical plant is located in South Carolina, and 616 South Carolinians are currently enrolled in the university.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Capella University's request for initial licensure for five years beginning immediately to recruit South Carolina residents into programs leading to the B.S. degree in (1) Business and (2) Information Technology; the Master of Business Administration; the M.S. degree in (1) Education, (2) Human Services, (3) Information Technology, (4) Organization and Management, (5) Psychology, (6) Public Safety; and the Doctorate degree in Psychology.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02C.1 regarding the request of Forrest Junior College to amend its current license to offer an additional program, a description of which is found in **Attachment III**. In response to Commissioner Forbes'

concern that this program possibly duplicates one already existing at Tri-County Technical College, Dr. Morrison replied the CHE's licensing authority is consumer protection based only. She explained that the Commission has no authority to block a program proposed by a proprietary or out-of-state institution simply because it already exists at a public institution. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about how this institution would be able to attract students to enroll in this program when it is already offered at another nearby institution, Ms. Pamela Johnson, President of Forrest Junior College, replied that the market has already demonstrated there is an interested population attracted by the institution's smaller classroom size and extra hands-on attention. In response to Commissioner Wingate's question about how the cost of Forrest's program compares to the cost at Tri-County Technical College, Ms. Johnson stated that the costs of both programs are comparable given that potential students may be eligible for funds for this purpose provided by the City of Anderson. Additional discussion about the competition between the two programs followed.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Forrest Junior College's request to amend the license to offer at its Anderson campus a program leading to the A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice, to be implemented in June 2007.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02C.2 regarding the request of South University to amend its license to offer an additional program, a description of which is found in **Attachment IV**. In response to Commissioner Forbes inquiry as to whether the B.S.N. program at U.S.C. was full, Dr. Lynn Kelley replied that it was.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve South University's request to amend the license to offer at its Columbia location the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, to be implemented in January 2008.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02D regarding the request for initial license of the Professional Golfers Career College, a description of which is found in **Attachment V**. Discussion followed in which Dr. Tim Somerville, President of the institution provided additional information and answered Commissioners questions about demographics and gender and handicap requirements. Commissioner Forbes encouraged the establishment of a repoire between this program and the one existing at U.S.C. Beaufort.

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

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve initial licensure for five years to the Professional Golfers Career College to offer

a program leading to the Specialized Associate degree in Professional Golf Management to be implemented in September 2007. The Committee further recommends to the Commission the delegation of responsibility to the staff for authorization to license the site in Bluffton when the facility has been developed.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02E regarding the Report on Program Productivity, Fall 2000 - Fall 2005, a description of which is found in **Attachment VI**. Commissioner Zais requested clarification about the first evaluation criteria found on page two of the attachment. He was advised that the criteria requires at least five degrees per year over a five-year period. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about whether the CHE has the right to terminate a non-productive program, Dr. Morrison responded that the CHE may recommend that a program be terminated, although technically the institution must agree to terminate it. In response to his question, Commissioner Sanders was advised that the Clemson Pre-Dentistry program was granted an exemption because it is really not a regular program of study but rather an opportunity to allow students to prepare for entrance into a professional dentistry program.

A **motion** was made (Temple) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation** with regard to the information found in **Attachment VI**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve this report and the individual institutional recommendations contained herein.

Dr. Morrison provided information about agenda item 4.02F regarding Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Program for FY 2004-05, a description of which is found in **Attachment VII**. Discussion followed about the possible need for more technical/occupational education opportunities in rural areas which are in close proximity to some of the USC Regional campuses. In response to Commissioner Forbes' inquiry, Dr. Chris Plyler stated that although the enrollment at the U.S.C. Union campus is small (400 students), it has been established there for a number of years, it serves a definite need in that area and there is great cooperation between U.S.C. Upstate and U.S.C. Union. He stated further that there are many multi-campus university systems throughout the country with campuses the size of U.S.C. Union which are working well.

A **motion** was made (Wingate), **seconded** (Lynn), and **carried** to table action on the recommendation found on pages 16 and 17 of **Attachment VII** until the June 7, 2007, CHE meeting. This will allow for more time to study the recommendation as well as to provide Commissioners with additional background information on the reasons for proposing it.

In the interest of time, Dr. Morrison suggested and the Commissioners agreed to defer consideration of agenda items 4.02 H, I, J, & K until the June 7, 2007, Commission meeting. She then provided information about agenda item 4.02G regarding a "Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, FY 2006-07," a description of which is found in **Attachment VIII**. At Commissioner Sanders' request, Dr. Morrison

stated that it would be possible to include information about the percentages of acceptances with regard to residents of South Carolina versus non-residents at the time that this information is actually published. Dr. Morrison noted that, in contrast to the assumption that the acceptance of more out-of-state students lowers the prerequisite compliance rate, data has recently indicated that this is not the case. Out-of-state students, in fact, have a higher rate of prerequisite course compliance. Discussion followed about determining yield in enrollment. At Commissioner Wingate's request, copies of the 2006 state plan of action referred to in recommendation 2 on page 2 of **Attachment VIII** were made and distributed to Commissioners.

A **motion** was made (Temple) and **carried** to accept as information the "Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen FY 2006-07."

4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

Vice-Chairman then Ravenel stated that the meeting would break for approximately five minutes.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Jim Sanders

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Memorial Stadium West End Zone
Component II |
| 2. Winthrop University | - | Byrnes Auditorium Renovation |
| | - | Ebenezer Avenue Improvements |
| | - | Thurmond Auditorium Construction |
| 3. Tri-County Technical College | - | Pendleton Campus Expansion
Land Purchase |

B. Consideration of Institutional Deferred Maintenance Plans for Education & General Facilities

C. List of Staff Approvals for February 2007

Commissioner Sanders reviewed the projects listed in agenda item 4.04A, also described in **Attachment IX**. He stated that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had approved all of these projects at their meeting on April 5, 2007.

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

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

Commissioner Sanders presented information (**Attachment X**) on an emergency request from U.S.C. Upstate which had been considered and approved at a meeting of the Committee on Finance and Facilities on May 2, 2007. Because this project needed to be considered by the Budget and Control Board by May 11, 2007, Commissioners were asked to review this information and vote on it by mail ballot within one week's time. The **motion** to approve this project was deferred until those ballots are returned to the CHE.

Upon receipt of the ballots at the CHE offices, the **motion** to approve this project as proposed **carried**. Official notification of CHE approval was sent to the Budget & Control Board on May 14, 2007.

Ms. Lynn Metcalf provided background information on agenda item 4.04B as listed above and also described in **Attachment IX**. In response to Commissioner Wingate's question, Ms. Metcalf replied that an inventory of the buildings of each institution is maintained by the CHE. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question, Ms. Metcalf stated that deferred maintenance calculations are based on replacement costs as defined by the Budget and Control Board, and not appraised costs. Commissioner Sanders then reiterated the magnitude of the deferred maintenance planning process. He thanked Mr. John Malmrose and all of the Facility Advisory Committee for their hard work and efforts to establish standardization in this process.

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

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of the policy and calculation method as proposed.

Commissioner Sanders made reference to the list of staff approvals in agenda item 4.04C for February 2007 as found on page 10 of **Attachment IX** which was provided for information only.

Commissioner Sanders stated that the Finance and Facilities Committee had asked CHE staff to look into the possibility of revising the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting schedule in an effort to streamline the time it takes to accomplish the current approval process.

5. Legislative Update

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo stated that the end of the legislative session would be June 7, 2007. She reported that the Senate finished its budget deliberations last week and that a provision was added that would create a higher education study committee comprised of House, Senate, and Governor appointees. Ms. Carullo stated that the House will consider the budget as returned by the Senate on Tuesday, May 8. The budget would then be expected

to go to conference committee which will meet in mid-May. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question, Ms. Carullo reported that the Light Rail project was included in both the House and Senate versions of the budget, each providing for \$4.5 million in non-recurring funds to be spread across the three research institutions. In response to Commissioner Ravenel's comment on the Virtual Library, Ms. Carullo stated that the Senate version of the budget provides for \$2 million in non-recurring funds. She reported that the Senate version increased need-based aid money by \$2.5 million, whereas the House did not include any additional funds for S.C. Need-based Grant funds though they did include a provision to provide unexpended unclaimed prize funds for that purpose should it become available through the lottery. Commissioner Lynn inquired if the provision limiting tuition increase to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) had received any consideration. Ms. Carullo reported that the Senate had not included a HEPI tuition cap in its version of the budget and that this issue will go to conference committee. Commissioner Ravenel thanked Ms. Carullo for providing Commissioners with weekly e-mail updates on legislative activities.

6. Report of the Interim Executive Director

- Gail Morrison

Dr. Morrison made reference to an article about the S.C. GEAR UP program (**Attachment XI**), found in the April 2007 edition of the *South Carolina Business* magazine, which had been distributed to each of the Commissioners. She reminded Commissioners that the next CHE meeting would take place on June 7, 2007, at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. In response to Dr. Morrison's solicitation of recommendations on which campuses to hold future CHE meetings, Commissioner Ravenel suggested Francis Marion University. Dr. Morrison acknowledged the work of staff member Ms. Karen Wham who was assisted by Ms. Beth Rogers, Ms. Julie Carullo, and others in making The Lightsey Society Higher Education Hall of Fame Banquet an elegant and successful event. She reported that the Trustees' Conference which occurred on the following day, April 26, 2007, had also gone well. Dr. Morrison thanked Dr. Karen Woodfaulk and her staff, and in particular Mr. Gerrick Hampton, for their work on the Scholarship Day event which took place on the steps of the statehouse on May 2, 2007. As a result of a recent meeting she had with representatives of the S.C. State Student Association, Mr. Brad Setzler and Mr. Jamie Singleton, Dr. Morrison reported that these individuals will be invited to participate in future CHE meetings and activities. Dr. Morrison stated that the request for proposal for the web-based transfer and articulation system will soon be coming up for bids and that the high school and college curriculum alignment project was also moving forward.

7. Other Business

Vice-Chairman Ravenel reminded members of the CHE Executive Director Search Committee that a meeting would take place later in the day at 2:30 p.m. at the office of Commissioner Wingate located at 1515 Lady Street in Columbia. Commissioner Sanders thanked CHE staff for their ongoing efforts in support of the Commission.

8. Adjournment

A **motion** was then made (Wingate), **seconded** (Sanders), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - XI

*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.