

March 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle Johnson, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Mission Statements for Reviewers

Summary

The following three institutions have requested that the Commission approve changes to their Mission Statements. Changes were submitted in fulfillment of requirements for Performance Finding Indicator 1C, Approval of a Mission Statement. A summary explanation and staff recommendation for each institution follow, with a single staff recommendation for all three requested changes at the end of the summary explanations. The mission statements are attached at the end of the document.

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (Attachment 3.02. D.1.)

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Area Commission on November 18, 2003.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the overall statement is largely similar to the existing mission statement, although there have been numerous changes in wording and some content changes. The resulting statement is consistent with the technical college sector mission as defined in Act 359 of 1996.

Trident Technical College (Attachment 3.02. D.2.)

Trident Technical College has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Trident Technical College Area Commission on October 21, 2003.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that it is similar to the existing statement. The sole changes from the existing CHE approved mission statement are:

- Replaces “Each semester approximately 10,000 credit students enroll...” with “Each semester approximately 12,000 credit students enroll...”
- Replaces “Community, Family and Child Services” with “Community, Family and Child Studies.”

USC-Spartanburg (Attachment 3.02. D.3.)

USC-Spartanburg has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the USC Board of Trustees on June 6, 2003.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that it is similar to the existing statement. The major changes from the existing CHE approved mission statement are:

- The phrase “supports the Graduate Regional Studies Program” is deleted. This program is no longer in existence.
- Reference to the Associate Degree in Nursing is deleted. This degree is being terminated at USC-Spartanburg.
- The size of the institution is changed from “three to four thousand” to “four to seven thousand in headcount.”
- Reference to the criminal justice and information technology programs is deleted. These programs continue to exist, but will not be highlighted in the mission.
- The phrase “including comprehensive instruction at the University Center Greenville” was added to the sentence “Through on-site instruction including comprehensive instruction at the University Center Greenville, distance learning...” The institution states that this “reflects the market-driven programming closely associated with the articulated agreements with Greenville Technical College. These include full day and evening programming, as offered at the Spartanburg campus as well, in over 10 baccalaureate majors operating under the scope of the UCG consortium.” This addition was made to reflect the importance of USC-Spartanburg’s participation in the UCG. USC-Spartanburg has assured Commission staff that there is no intent to offer programs at the UCG that are not offered in Spartanburg.
- Language was added to emphasize that USC-Spartanburg serves both traditional students and working professionals.

- In speaking of the role of the institution's faculty, the word "research" was added in the phrase "basic and applied scholarship/research." The institution was clear in stating that this reflects a system-wide emphasis on the importance of faculty participation in research and does not broaden the mission.

In addition to the above items, there are several edits of grammar that do not affect content of the mission statement.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the revised mission statements for Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Trident Technical College, and USC-Spartanburg.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing further recommends that the Commission delegate 1) to the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, authority to act on CHE's behalf in terms of approving substantive mission changes and 2) to the staff authority to act on CHE's behalf in approving non-substantive changes.