

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

*Minutes of the Meeting*

February 5, 2004  
10:30 a.m.

**Commission Members Present**

Dalton Floyd, Chairman  
Larry Durham  
Douglas Forbes  
Austin Gilbert  
James Konduros  
Miles Loadholt  
DeLoris Oliver  
Tom Olsen  
Daniel Ravenel

**Commission Members Absent**

Rosemary Byerly  
Sue Cole  
John Griffith  
Vermelle Johnson  
Roger Stevenson

**Staff Present**

Rita Allison  
Camille Brown  
Renea Eshleman  
Conrad Festa  
Betsy Gunter  
Nancy Healy  
Lynn Kelley  
Gail Morrison  
Mike Raley  
Julie Wahl  
Shayne Watts  
Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Don Burkhart  
Donna Collins  
Anthony Coyne  
Henry Giko  
Henry Giles  
Stan Godshall  
Tuck Hanna  
Dr. Gary Hansen  
Jeff Hoffman  
Curt Holland  
David Hunter  
Karen Jones  
Mr. Rick Kelley  
Ms. Star Kepner  
Amanda Maghsound  
Gary McCombs  
J.P. McKee  
Ms. Susan Prior  
Ron Rhames  
Colin Seyre  
Charles Shawver  
Christine Smalls  
Charles Stevenson  
Patricia Summers  
Aileen Trainer  
Richard Williams  
Helen Zeigler

**Press Present**

None

For the record, notification of this meeting was made to the public as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

The Commission on Higher Education met on February 5, 2004, at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Commission on Higher Education offices.

**I. Introductions**

Chairman Floyd called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Lynn Kelly to introduce guests attending the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2004 had been mailed out for review prior to the meeting. A **motion** was made (Durham), **seconded** (Byerly) and **carried** to approve the minutes as submitted.

**3. Chairman's Report**

- ◆ Chairman Floyd reported that on the afternoon of March 10, a retreat is planned for the purpose of discussing the *Foundations . . .* report, to further review and evaluate recommendations made in the report. Hopefully presidents from some of the institutions will be present for these discussions and will help develop suggestions for a process by which the Commission and other statewide constituencies can work together on the report's recommendations. The workshop will help promote better understanding of the findings in the report and serve as a planning session. He then asked if there was any problem rescheduling the March meeting for the morning of March 10 at Coastal Carolina. There was brief discussion and all agreed that March 10 @ 10:30 a.m. at Coastal Carolina was acceptable.
- ◆ Chairman Floyd suggested the possibility of there being a social function on Wednesday night, but those plans would be forthcoming.
- ◆ The Access and Equity conference will be held March 24-26 in Greenville. Please contact Mike Brown for further information. Commissioners are encouraged to attend this meeting; and registration information will be mailed in the next few days.
- ◆ The latest word on the Life Sciences bill is that it went to the House and they non-concurred; it is now in a conference committee.
- ◆ Government restructuring bill – would dissolve the Tuition and Grants Commission and that board would become an advisory board, with the actual function transferred to the Commission. Rita will comment on that in the legislative update.
- ◆ There was an item to be added to the agenda by the Finance Division, but that was withdrawn.

**4. Committee Reports**

**4.01 Report of the Executive Committee**  
(No Report)

**-Dalton B. Floyd**

**4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs  
and Licensing**  
(No Report)

**-Dr. Vermelle Johnson**

**4.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services****- Ms. Sue Cole**

Dr. Woodfaulk introduced the presentation by College Net, recapping the process by which the online college application procedure, now widely successfully used, was developed. This is a process by which a student is able to apply to several SC colleges at once by transfer of basic information from one individual application to another. Don Burkhart, Dean of Admissions in Adult Student Services at the College of Charleston presented a perspective of a college who has been using this system for some time. Representatives from College Net – Pat Summers and Jeff Hoffman – presented information as to our State’s standing with this system and a view of what lies ahead in the next phase, that of transfer of transcripts electronically.

Chairman Floyd pointed out that a relatively short time ago there was a discussion in this very location about how this procedure was impossible because all institutions were so different.

Dr. Burkhart reported that this system has grown to the point that this year, 76% of the College of Charleston’s applications are online. This has also opened the door to imaging of documents so that now they no longer review paper files, but rather review all applications electronically.

Pat Summers reported tremendous growth of online applicants over the past two years. The numbers are not available to compare online applications to hard copy applications. The numbers they have include all SC campuses in one lump sum.

Jeff Hoffman outlined the delivery of transcripts online, available now from College Net. The system for online transcripts needs maximum participation from high schools. The entire system works from the high school’s fax machine. On the application, the question is asked if the applicant wants to submit an online transcript request. If yes, the online transcript request comes in over the high school’s fax machine. All the high school has to do is fax the transcript using the request sheet as a cover sheet. That is then converted into a PDF document that is attached to the application at the sight where the applications are picked up. From a security standpoint, the transcript will only go through if: 1) the request is used as a cover sheet; 2) it has to come from a specific fax machine specified by the high school; and 3) if it is faxed from an assigned fax number at the high school. The College of Charleston is in the process of implementing this system now. Its success will be monitored over the next year. He further explained the procedure and how information is transferred from one college application to another. There is a fee waiver application attached to the method of payment section on the College of Charleston and Clemson applications. The fee waivers are honored upon receipt of proper documentation. There is an e-mail trigger useful for notification messages. There are mass communication tools available to perform searches and set up mass e-mails to groups of applicants or prospects. Individual applications are sent to colleges, but duplicate information common to all applications are auto-populated.

**4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities****- Ms. Rosemary Byerly****A. Interim Facilities Projects**

Dan Ravenel conducted the business of the Committee on Finance and Facilities in the absence of the Chair of that committee, who was unable to be here. He requested that the names of the projects be read and approved in a group, with the stipulation that if anyone had questions or objections to any project, it would be separated out and discussed to their satisfaction and then considered separately.

Mr. Ravenel presented the requests as explained in **Attachment I** and, on behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Ravenel) was made, **seconded** (Gilbert) and **carried** to approve the projects as presented.

**B. Higher Education Funding Methodology for Fiscal Year 2004-05 (Attachment II)**

The proposed Higher Education Funding Methodology remains the same as before and has been endorsed by the Funding Advisory Committee. It was agreed that this was not a year in which anything should be changed. On behalf of the Committee, a **motion** (Ravenel) was made, **seconded** (Konduros) and **carried** to approve the existing funding methodology as presented in Attachment II.

**5. Report of the Executive Director****-Conrad Festa**

The Commission on Higher Education budget request presented to the legislature was, as in the past, for what we need, which was quite large. For the institutions we requested \$50 million extra money for operating funds. The Commission's first priority for the past couple of years (and remains so) has been the statewide electronic library initiative. This would provide software for the college and university libraries in the state to communicate with one another and provide joint functions such as book loans, etc. The savings for the State would amount to several million dollars. This is a \$2.5 million dollar request and one that should be pursued. Another priority is for SREB and need-based scholarship increases, using lottery funds. More budget cuts are anticipated, but hopefully they will be minimal.

Dr. Festa again touched on the workshop for the *Foundations* report and the hope that all Commissioners would attend. Representatives from Commerce, K-12 and college and university presidents have been invited.

*Items for Consideration*, a document (distributed at the last meeting) proposing to discontinue performance funding and retaining accountability measures was distributed to the college and university Presidents and they were asked to make their comments and return them to the Commission. You will be informed as soon as all responses are in.

The Commission continues to work with K-12 and Pre-K to establish links from one educational level to another.

Chairman Floyd announced that USCB did very well with their SACS accreditation visit yesterday pending the submission of a couple of documents, which are no problem to acquire.

This information was received this morning from Dr. Barton and shared so you could be informed.

### **Legislative Update**

**-Rita Allison**

Copies of pieces of legislation in progress were provided to keep Commissioners informed of the status of these issues. The Life Sciences Bill is one of the most discussed pieces of legislation in recent years. Included in the amendments to this bill were provisions authorizing issuance of bonds for the research universities and the Venture Capital legislation to encourage new business in the state; authority for USC Sumter to offer four-year programs; prohibiting the closing of a USC satellite campus without the approval of the General Assembly; requiring public institutions of higher education to submit an annual report to the Governor and the

General Assembly on the number and policy on out-of-state students; establishing a Committee to study the feasibility and need for a school of law at SC State University; authorizing Trident Technical College to establish a four-year culinary curriculum program; and approving several amendments related to eligibility for the LIFE scholarship program. As Mr. Floyd noted earlier, this bill passed the Senate, the House non-concurred and it is now in a Conference Committee.

The Senate Restructuring Subcommittee met twice this week to hear testimony and review several issues related to the Government Restructuring Proposal. The only portion of this bill concerning the Commission on Higher Education is the transfer of powers and duties of the former Higher Education Tuition and Grants Commission to the Commission on Higher Education. This is seriously being explored. Dr. Festa explained that, in the restructuring of the Tuition and Grants Commission, the independent colleges are concerned, since the funds handled by that commission are designed for independent colleges and the fear is that if it should be absorbed by the CHE some of that money may go to state institutions.

The South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act creates a new academic and work force collaborative standard; mandates the development of a statewide curriculum centered around a career cluster system for K-12 students; creates a project office and coordinating council; offers ongoing career guidance planning; and in conjunction with business and higher educational entities, provides work force initiatives. The bill will be on the House calendar next week.

Also under consideration is the SC Parental Responsibility Act 2004 which provides that the State Department of Education shall develop in-service training programs for appropriate school personnel who work with students at risk of failure, and their parents. A section to be amended is related to duties of the State Board of Education and the Commission on Higher Education in adopting program approval standards for students pursuing college or University Programs that include training to work with students at risk of failure and their parents.

A new Commission made up of about 30 people across the state will be formed to look at new economic development strategies for the state. We have asked that the CHE Executive Director have a seat at that table.

## 6. Other Business

Dr. Forbes opened a discussion of the two institutions presently approaching the legislature to expand to offer four-year degrees and, since these schools did not follow accepted protocol, offered the following resolution:

“In these times of economic issues and need for fiscal responsibility, be it resolved that the Commission on Higher Education recommends to the South Carolina General Assembly that we oppose the change of the mission of USC Sumter, Trident Technical College or any other state supported institution without following the legislative direction as set forth in Act 359 by the General Assembly. We further recommend that the South Carolina General Assembly give first consideration to the overall needs of the existing institutions and the comprehensive vision for Higher Education in South Carolina.”

Dr. Forbes made a **motion** that the Commission adopt the resolution. The motion was **Seconded** (Gilbert), **voted** on (Olsen opposed) and **carried**.

During the discussion period, **Gen. Olsen** wished to clarify USC Sumter’s position on the request for four-year status. He did not want the impression left that the two schools involved initiated this action. Gen. Olsen expressed hesitation for the Commission as a body to take a position on this question due to lack of information.

Mr. Floyd explained that the request should have been made through the Commission with facts that would allow them to make an informed decision.

Mr. Ravenel requested clarification as to where this resolution went from here. It is to be submitted to legislative leaders and the Governor’s office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Betsy Gunter*

Recording Secretary

### Attachments I-II

\*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.