

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

*Minutes of the Meeting*

April 6, 2006

**Commission Members Present**

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman  
Ms. Rosemary Byerly  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne  
Dr. Vermelle Johnson  
Mr. Jim Konduros  
Mr. Miles Loadholt  
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller  
Mr. Dan Ravenel  
Mr. Neal Workman  
Dr. Mick Zais

**Commission Members Absent**

Mr. Larry Durham  
Dr. Doug Forbes  
Mr. Jim Sanders

**Staff Present**

Ms. Camille Brown  
Mr. Mike Brown  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland  
Ms. Renea Eshleman  
Dr. Conrad Festa  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Yolanda Hudson  
Ms. Lane Jeselnik  
Dr. Lynn Kelley  
Ms. Lynn Metcalf  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Dr. Mike Raley  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Ms. Jan Stewart  
Dr. Donald Tetreault  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Ms. Leslie Brunelli, U.S.C. - Columbia  
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter  
Dr. John Cormier, Medical University of S.C.  
Dr. Christine Ebert, U.S.C. - Columbia  
Dr. Charles Gould, Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University  
Mr. Lewis Lynn, Clemson University  
Mr. Scott Ludlow, S.C. Technical College System  
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston  
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University  
Ms. Candice Morgan, University of Phoenix  
Mr. Rick Moul, PASCAL  
Mr. Tim O'Dell, Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia  
Mr. Jack Roach, Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.  
Col. Don Tomasik, The Citadel  
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. - Columbia  
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board

**Members of the Press**

Ms. Diane Knich, The Post and Courier

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

### 1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending, all of whom are listed above. Dr. Festa then announced that, though not yet confirmed by the Senate, three new Commissioners had been appointed. One of the appointees, Dr. Louis B. Lynn who will replace Commissioner Miles Loadholt as the Research Institution representative, attended the meeting unofficially. The other two appointees are Colonel (ret.) John T. Bowden who will replace Commission Larry Durham as the Four-year Institution representative and Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate who will fill the Governor's Appointment at Large vacated when Dr. McCurdy became Chairman. Dr. Festa also announced that after working for the Commission on Higher Education for 28 years, Ms. Jan Stewart would be retiring effective April 28, 2006. The Commissioners then joined Dr. Festa in commending Ms. Stewart for her many years of dedicated service

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2006. A **motion** was made (Byerly), **seconded** (Johnson), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

### 3. Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman McCurdy extended sympathy to Commissioner Johnson on the recent passing of her grandson and welcomed her back to the Commission meeting. He then read a proclamation (**Attachment I**) issued by the Governor which declares April 2006 as Focus on Research and Graduate Education Month. At Chairman McCurdy's request, a **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Johnson), and **approved** to incorporate this proclamation into the meeting's minutes. An event celebrating this proclamation to which the Commissioners are invited will take place on Thursday, April 13, 2006 in the State House Rotunda. Chairman McCurdy noted that the collaboration of our research universities in recent years has been important in raising the legislature's awareness about the importance of their work to the economic welfare of the state. Dr. Morrison then introduced Dr. Christine Ebert, Chair of Graduate Deans at USC, who agreed that this event was a culmination of the research universities' collaborative efforts.

Chairman McCurdy also reported that he had attended the meeting of the S. C. Association of Institutional Researchers (SCAIR) which took place March 30-31, 2006. He stated that the group had some advice about things they'd like to see the Commission do and will send those ideas to the CHE in writing. Chairman McCurdy also commented that Dr. Bob Becker of Clemson University's Thurmond Institute had delivered a fascinating presentation about the economic power of education at that meeting. Chairman McCurdy also advised that Ms. Carullo would deliver more information about an article he had circulated to the Commissioners regarding the admission of out-of-state students to South Carolina's institutions when she delivered the legislative report later in the meeting.

**4. Committee Reports**

**4.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

(No Report)

**- Layton McCurdy**

**4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs  
and Licensing**

(No Report)

**- Vermelle Johnson**

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

**- Dan Ravenel**

Commissioner Ravenel reported that the Access & Equity Conference would take place in Charleston April 19-21, 2006. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend this event. Commissioner Ravenel also stated that his committee would meet on a number of occasions in the near future, the outcome of which would be delivered in the form of a report. He invited all members of the Commission to attend those meetings so that they might benefit from the information shared.

**4.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities**

**- Rosemary Byerly**

**A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects**

- 1. College of Charleston - Physical Education & Athletics Center
- 2. USC - Columbia - ROTC Center Renovations
- 3. Florence-Darlington Technical College - Technology Mall/Advanced Manufacturing Center

Commissioner Byerly reported that the three capital projects as listed above and described in **Attachment II** had been reviewed, discussed, and unanimously approved by her committee.

Commission Mosteller inquired as to whether increases in construction costs as a result of Hurricane Katrina would be seen across the board. Commissioner Byerly responded that there had already been a few projects whose costs have increased due to Katrina and that both the College of Charleston and Florence-Darlington Technical College costs had been increased for this reason. Dr. Charles Gould of Florence-Darlington Technical College responded to questions raised by Commissioner Horne about the \$7,810,000 cost increase for their Technology Mall/Advanced Manufacturing Project. It was noted that this facility would be an important economic tool for the area. Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to whether manufacturers were contributing to the \$4,060,000 in local funds for the Florence-Darlington Project. Dr. Gould responded that close to \$2 million in corporate funds were included in that \$4 million figure.

A **motion** was then made (Byerly) and **approved** to approve the following **recommendation** for each of the above mentioned projects:

Staff recommends approval of the project as proposed.

## **B. Information Items**

Commissioner Byerly noted the permanent improvement projects approved by staff as found on the last page of **Attachment II** were provided for information only. It was noted that the criteria for staff approval of a project was that its value be either \$500,000 or less or 10% of the project's total budget.

### **5. Presentation: Mission Resource Requirement (MRR)**

**- Lynn Metcalf**

Dr. Festa introduced the presentation by providing information about funding for higher education and the methods whereby the costs involved are determined. (See **Attachment III**). Following discussion, Ms. Lynn Metcalf gave a presentation on the MRR, the formula used to calculate the education and general costs of the institutions in South Carolina, during which she entertained and responded to questions from the Commissioners. Details about this presentation may be found in **Attachment IV**. Conversation followed regarding the sources of income for institutions with particular reference to grant money and individual contributions. Dr. Festa noted that if the budget proposed by the House passes, there will be an increase in Education and General (E & G) funds, although this amount will not be adequate to address the operating needs of the institutions. He also stated that the House's method of distributing those funds does not follow the Commission's recommendation.

### **6. Legislative Update**

**- Julie Carullo**

Ms. Carullo updated the group on the current status of the budget, details about which may be found in **Attachment V**. She noted that the budget recommendations adopted by the House are similar to those recommended by the Ways and Means Committee. Of concern, however, is the fact that funds recommended for higher education are all non-recurring funds. Ms. Carullo also provided details about the House's recommendations for funding of the CHE and for the institutions. Ms. Carullo noted that the House had not recommended funding for the Higher Education Electronic Library, though it is hopeful that the Senate will support it. Ms. Carullo reported that the House had recommended an increase in funding of all the scholarship programs with the exception of need-based aid. **Attachment VI** is an information sheet about the Need Based Grants Program compiled at the request of Senate committee members who expressed concern about what it would take to fully fund this program. Dr. McCurdy commented that a study conducted on student debt at the time of graduation might help shed some light on the topic of need-based aid. Discussion followed regarding whether the level of debt is a true indicator of financial need.

Ms. Carullo stated that the only CHE request funded by the House was for that of staffing. She also noted that a proviso proposed to create an endowed chairs program at S. C. State University was tabled due to pending legislation, House Bill 4848, which, if enacted, would establish that program.

Ms. Carullo made reference to **Attachment VII** which helps clarify information referred to in recent news articles about the waiver of out-of-state tuition at South Carolina's public institutions.

## 7. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Festa reported that he and the staff had provided large amounts of data to members of the legislature. He stated that, though the House had not supported the CHE's budget requests to the extent that he had hoped, they did recommend that the CHE be granted \$135,000 to be used for the hiring of two new staff members. Money for program review and technology needs was not recommended. It was also noted that the House and Senate are in communication about the CHE's request for funding for SREB participation. Dr. Festa encouraged the Commissioners to contact legislators, especially when issues go before the Conference Committee, with regard to the CHE's funding requests. It was noted that the Senate Finance Committee will begin consideration of the budget during the week of April 10 and that the full Senate will consider it during the week of April 24.

Dr. McCurdy stated that Commissioner Ravenel had made a **motion** that the Commission go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. After the **motion** was **approved** the Executive Session began. At the conclusion of that business, a **motion** was then made (Ravenel) and **approved** to go back into General Session.

## 8. Other Business

(none)

## 9. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth B. Rogers*

Beth B. Rogers  
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - VII

\*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.