

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

Minutes of the Meeting

August 24, 2004

2:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present

Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Rosemary Byerly
Larry Durham
Doug Forbes
Bettie Rose Horne
Vermelle Johnson
Cynthia Mosteller
James Konduros
DeLoris Oliver
Tom Olsen
Daniel Ravenel
Mick Zais

Bichevia Green
Betsy Gunter
Deborah Henning
Sherry Hubbard
Yolanda Hudson
Lynn Kelley
Michelle McDowell
Rae McPherson
Gail Morrison
Jocelyn Ross
Karen Woodfaulk

Commission Members Absent

Miles Loadholt

Staff Present

Rita Allison
Camille Brown
Mike Brown
Julie Carullo
Lorinda Copeland
Renea Eshleman
Conrad Festa
Charlie FitzSimons

Guests

*Bill Bragdon
Russ Bumba
Tuck Hanna
Karen Jones
Jack Kresslein
Chris Manley
John Sutusky*

Member of the Press:

Pamela Hamilton

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

1. Introductions

Introductions were deferred. This meeting came on the heels of a two-day meeting of the Commission for presentations by the college and university presidents, so attendance of representatives from the institutions was limited to those who had items on the agenda. Guests are, however, listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 8, 2004. The **motion** was made (Oliver), **seconded** (Durham) and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

- ◆ Chairman Floyd introduced Bettie Rose Horne and Mick Zais, two newly appointed Commissioners attending.
- ◆ Vermelle Johnson prepares a report called *Keeping You Informed* and sends it to all legislators in her congressional district. The CHE staff will be glad to help any of you prepare such a report for you to send out.
- ◆ Last night Tom Olsen's idea for the Service Learning component of the scholarships was discussed and it is assigned to the Student Services Committee for study.
- ◆ The parity issue was also discussed in the informal meeting last night and it is assigned to the Finance and Facilities Committee for a report at the October 7 meeting of the Commission.
- ◆ This meeting is held in lieu of the September 2 meeting, therefore the next Commission meeting will be held on October 7.

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)

-Vermelle Johnson

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

- Dan Ravenel

Mr. Ravenel began by asking that Mick Zais, new Commissioner, be appointed to the Student Services Committee. Chairman Floyd appointed Dr. Zais to the Student Services Committee, having discussed it with him prior to this meeting.

The Student Services Committee now consists of Dan Ravenel, Rosemary Byerly, Mick Zais, DeLoris Oliver, Bettie Horne and Cindy Mosteller. There will be an election held at the next meeting for Chair of the Committee.

- A.** There are three recommendations to be brought before the Commission with regard to Scholarship Programs and Dr. Woodfaulk was asked to explain them. There are proposed regulatory amendments to three Scholarship Programs presented today for approval:

1. LIFE Scholarship Program

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the Commission staff has prepared proposed regulation to be considered by the 2005 General Assembly including amendments made under the Life Sciences Act (Act 187) during the 2004 Legislative Session which amended the continued eligibility requirements for students to renew, earn, or regain the LIFE Scholarship. Those amendments are stated in full in **Attachment I**. On behalf of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services, a **motion** (Ravenel) was made, **seconded** (Oliver), and **carried** to approve the proposed amendments to the regulation for the South Carolina LIFE Scholarship Program, which will be submitted to the General Assembly for approval under the Administration Procedures Act.

2. HOPE Scholarship Program

The Commission on Higher Education proposes two major amendments to the South Carolina HOPE Scholarship Program Regulation. The first amendment removes Johnson and Wales University as an eligible independent institution due to the institution's relocation to Charlotte, North Carolina. The second amendment adds language for service members of the United States Armed Forces who are called to active duty to receive the maximum terms of eligibility. Due to the events of September 11, 2001, service members of the United States Armed Forces are being called to active duty and are required to withdraw from college due to deployment. Both of these amendments and six additional modifications are fully stated in **Attachment II**. On behalf of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services, a **motion** (Ravenel) was made, **seconded** (Mosteller) and **carried** to approve the amendments and modifications to the regulation for the HOPE Scholarship Program to be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.

3. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

The Commission on Higher Education proposes five amendments to the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulation. The first amendment will allow students to rank within the top six percent of the class instead of the top five percent of the class to be eligible to apply for the scholarship. Second, the classes used for eligibility will be expanded from the sophomore and junior classes to also include the senior class. Third, students will be allowed more opportunities to meet the minimum 1200 SAT score requirement (or 27 on the ACT) by adding language to extend the deadline through the June national test administration. The fourth amendment proposes language that will allow students to use the new Writing subsection as additional way to meet the minimum 1200 SAT score requirement for initial scholarship eligibility. Finally, the fifth amendment proposes language that will allow for active duty service members of the United States Armed Forces to receive the maximum number of terms of scholarship eligibility due to military mobilization.

On behalf of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services, a **motion** (Ravenel) was made, **seconded** (Durham), and **carried** to approve the proposed amendments to the regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program to be submitted to the General Assembly under the Administrative Procedures Act.

B. Proposed Guidelines for Use of Access and Equity Funds

The proposed Guidelines for Use of Access and Equity Funds are listed and explained in **Attachment IV**. Michael Brown was asked to explain these guidelines and, on behalf of the Committee on Access & Equity a **motion** (Ravenel), **seconded** (Horne) and **carried** to approve the Guidelines as presented in Attachment IV.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Ms. Rosemary Byerly

There are four Interim Capital Projects to be considered today and since they have all been approved at the committee level, Ms. Byerly requested they all be considered as a group. She reviewed the projects as listed below. Complete reviews of these projects are found in **Attachment V**.

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Project Name/Action</u>	<u>Amount</u>
College of Charleston	McConnell Residence Hall – increase	\$ 1,565,000
Medical University	Anderson House Restoration - establish	1,200,000
SC State University	Student Housing Apartments	11,155,217
Greenville TC	Northwest Campus Constr. – increase/revise scope	13,332,000

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** was made (Byerly), **seconded** (Olsen) and **carried** to approve these projects.

B. Consideration of Commission’s Budget Request for 2005-2006 fiscal year

Mr. FitzSimons was asked to explain the budget request. He explained that ordinarily the budget request was submitted in October; however, Governor Sanford accelerated that request date to September. Due to the time frame in which the Commission works with the institutions, the time frame for that portion of the budget remains the same. The portion being considered today is the agency’s request. Those requests are outlined and explained in **Attachment VI**. These are listed in priority order and include refilling the agency Auditor position; Program Review funds, Access & Equity Competitive Grants Program funds to expand the present program; Funds to provide the increase necessary for the Commission to pursue continuation of the GEAR-UP Program; increase in SREB dues; and reinstatement of funds to allow the Commission to remain current with technology resources. On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve these items to be submitted to the Governor’s office for consideration in the development of the 2005-2006 Governor’s Budget Recommendation.

Three provisos to be pursued by the Commission staff (also explained by Mr. FitzSimons) are stated in full and explained in Attachment VI. They include provisos affecting the existing Access & Equity funds competitive grants program; Scholarship Administration, and the Teacher Grants Program.

There was considerable Discussion regarding the Scholarship Administration proviso and the **motion** (Olsen) was made, **seconded** (Horne) and **carried** to amend the proviso to read “.....

Commission is authorized to use an amount not to exceed one-half of one percent of the appropriated program funds to administer the respective programs.....”

5. Legislative Update

**-Rita Allison
-Charlie FitzSimons**

Ms. Allison provided articles and a policy paper to keep the Commissioners informed. She informed the Commissioners that the Governor’s Executive Budget is expected in October. Work on that budget has begun with a general meeting and meetings for different committees. There is a Higher Education Advisory Committee consisting of two representatives from the CHE (Commissioner Byerly and myself); the legislature (Harry Stille); the Technical College System; Tuition and Grants; and the cultural side. This advisory committee is charged with improving the State’s postsecondary education system and cultural resources. Their indicators include availability of and access to cultural and recreational opportunities. Higher education is to look at increased percentage of adults completing certificates and degrees; increased student and graduate satisfaction; percentage of two-year college graduates in related jobs; and increased number of students prepared to meet the workforce needs; research efforts relevant to the needs in South Carolina; mission focus; quality of faculty; classroom quality; and governance structure. Those were some of the topics of discussion at the first meeting as indicators to be aware of. The Commission’s meeting with that advisory committee will be October 5.

6. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa reported that he has been appointed to new boards, one of them the Workforce Board from the Chamber of Commerce working on the Pathways legislation. Also, a Blueprint Panel for Early Childhood Education, the first meeting of which is Thursday. The Commission staff has Had a busy summer and he commended the staff on their quality and quantity of work accomplished.

He recognized Vermelle Johnson’s newsletter to the legislators in her district and expressed hope that there would be more of that kind of communication among Commissioners and the citizens they represent.

7. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Gunter

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - VI

*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.