

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

Minutes of the Meeting

September 4, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Bill Scarborough
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Mick Zais
Mr. Ken Jackson
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Tina Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Courtney Blake

Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman

Dr. Paula Gregg
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Trena Houpp
Dr. Gail Morrison
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Candace Borchik, University of Phoenix
Mr. Shane Clem, University of Phoenix
Ms. Jane Johannson, Clemson University
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Mandy Kibler, SC Technical College System
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges and Universities
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, Medical University of SC
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Ms. Christine Smalls Brown, Medical University of SC
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC Columbia
Mr. Bryce Wilson, SC Budget and Control Board

Members of Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Workman), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2008, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy stated that the election of a new vice chair of the Commission will occur at the next CHE meeting. Chairman McCurdy made reference to Dr. Garrison Walters' recent opinion editorial entitled, *Higher Education Needs a "New Front Door" for Adults* and asked Dr. Walters' to comment on that in his Executive Director's report.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters reported that the "New Front Door" op-ed has run in a number of newspapers and has been well-received. He stated that the *Connect Adults* committee of the New Carolina's Workforce Taskforce has stated that they would like to follow-up on the ideas proposed by the article, as have officials within the State Technical College System. He distributed a discussion draft document (**Attachment I**) concerning graduate and professional education which contains ideas on how to renew focus and attention on this subject. Core challenges in this regard involve: 1) expanding the statewide accessibility of graduate/professional programs; 2) providing statewide access to specialized graduate credentials (certificates); 3) creating synergies of scale that allow graduate/professional programs to operate at levels of efficiency much higher than existing norms; and 4) attracting and retaining more holders of graduate/professional degrees from out of state. Dr. Walters will circulate this document among the state's colleges and universities, after which it will be brought forth for more extensive discussion.

Dr. McCurdy commented on the report of the SC Centers of Economic Excellence, recently delivered to the SC Budget and Control Board (**Attachment II**). He stated that this program is one of the most inventive, creative, and successful examples of collaboration between South Carolina's three research universities and that it is already having a very positive effect on the state's economic development. He stated that similar future collaborative efforts among the state's comprehensive institutions will also be very important.

In response to Dr. Walters' request, Dr. Gail Morrison provided a brief review of the report. She noted in particular an article by Mr. Chip Hood, Jr., of the Medical University of South Carolina, entitled *University Technology Transfer – Timing is Everything*, which appears on pages 56-57. Dr. Morrison acknowledged her staff members, Dr. Tina Anderson, Ms. Laura Belcher, and Mr. Arik Bjorn, for their assistance in the development of this report.

In response to Dr. Bettie Horne’s request that Dr. Paula Harper-Bethea, Chair of the SC Centers of Economic Excellence Review Board, come and present to the Commission, Dr. Morrison stated she would pursue that idea as well as the possibility of having a panel from the research universities with some of the endowed chairs.

Dr. McCurdy reported that, with the help of ideas borrowed from the University of Alabama, university technology transfer began in South Carolina in 1991. He also commented favorably on Mr. Hood’s article and urged all in attendance to read it.

In response to Dr. Walters’ request, Dr. Morrison reported that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) had been undergoing changes in their rules and regulations and policy and procedures. She stated that the Commission on Higher Education and the State Technical College System would be co-hosting a workshop on November 20, 2008, for all colleges and universities, the purpose of which is to explain the requirements for dealing with “substantive changes” and clarify any confusion that might exist about them.

In response to Dr. Walters’ request, Ms. Rita Allison reported that the BMW Corporation in Greer, SC, would be hosting the October 2, 2008, Commission meeting. A CHE Forum will take place during that meeting concerning manufacturing, the knowledge economy, and higher education partnering.

5. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that the SC Budget and Control Board had recommended an across the board cut of 3% for all state agencies. She stated that special House and Senate ad hoc committees have had meetings to discuss K-12 education funding and that another special ad hoc committee of Senate Finance is studying state “other fund” expenditures.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

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

-Cyndi Mosteller

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

**6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity
and Student Services**

- Bettie Horne

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

6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Jim Sanders

A. Approval of FY 2009-10 Budget Requests

1. Operating Budget Request
2. Approval of Request to Suspend Item I.5 of the CHE By-laws

B. Leases

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Medical University of SC | - | Rutledge Tower Building |
| 2. University of SC Upstate | - | USC Upstate/Spartanburg
County Lease Agreement |

**C. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for August 2008
(For Information)**

Commissioner Sanders made reference to the CHE by-law requirement which provides that committee recommendations which require Commission action must be submitted in writing to members of the Commission at least forty-eight hours prior to a regular meeting, highlighted on page 4 of **Attachment III**.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to waive this requirement in order that the full Commission be able to consider the FY 2009-10 Budget Request, found on page 2 of **Attachment III**. Commissioner Sanders stated that this recommendation had been approved unanimously by the Finance and Facilities committee in its meeting at 9:00 a.m. this morning.

Commissioner Sanders informed the Commissioners that in addition to the budget request made in support of the colleges and universities, a separate request for additional funds needed to support the activities of the CHE was also being advanced. Mr. Gary Glenn was asked to provide information on CHE's request for additional funds to be used for agency technology needs and for the hiring of an additional person to help with the implementation of the Action Plan formulated by the Higher Education Study Committee. In response to Commissioner Wingate's question, Mr. Glenn stated that these two additional requests are separate from the Priority 6 portion of the budget request, which pertains to collaborative and statewide education programs.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve the FY 2009-10 Budget Request.

Commissioner Sanders made reference to the leases described in item 6.04B, noting that the lease for USC Upstate had been withdrawn from the agenda.

A **motion** was made (Sanders) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation** for the MUSC Rutledge Tower Building lease:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this lease provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Sanders reviewed the list of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for August, 2008, as described in **Attachment III**, and stated that this was provided for information only.

Commissioner Sanders stated that his committee was still working on streamlining the approval process for capital projects and hopes to have more information to report on that at the next CHE meeting.

8. Other Business

Commissioner Horne stated that she would share with the Commission an article entitled, *15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense* from the *Scientific American*. At Commissioner Horne's request, Dr. Gail Morrison provided a brief update on the Course Alignment Project, the purpose of which is to make the transition from high school to college as seamless as possible and maximize student success. She stated that Dr. David Conley, the director of the project, would be meeting with the project's steering committee in the CHE offices on Friday, September 12, and she invited all to attend.

Dr. Garry Walters provided an update on the work of the Higher Education Study Committee, noting that the committee would be meeting at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon to discuss and refine its macro-level report on the Action Plan to be delivered to the legislature on September 15. A report on the implementation of the recommended Action Plan will be completed in December. A copy of the final version of the September 15 report will be distributed to Commissioners as soon as possible.

In response to Commissioner Horne's request for information on the economic advantages of PASCAL, the statewide electronic library, Dr. Morrison and Ms. Carullo reported that some talking points were currently under development. This document, which will help Commissioners in their efforts to encourage continued funding of this project, will be shared with them as soon as it has been completed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachment I-III

*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.