

CHE  
10/04/2007  
Agenda Item 4.02H

October 4, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, and Members

**Consideration of Operating Budget**  
**for the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Program**  
**Fiscal Year 2007-08**

**Background**

Attached please find the operating budget approved by the S.C. Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Review Board, at its August 20, 2007, quarterly meeting. The Review Board is charged with overseeing the CoEE program and with annually providing the Commission on Higher Education “a schedule by which applications for funding are received and awarded on a competitive basis” (S.C. 2-75-10). The Commission must also approve the program’s annual operating budget (“all necessary funds for the prudent operation of the board... [S.C. 2-75-70]).

The CoEE program was funded with \$30 million from the South Carolina Education Lottery for fiscal year 2006-07. The Review Board awarded the full \$30 million dollars for the creation of the following six Centers of Economic Excellence:

Health Facilities Design & Testing	Clemson/MUSC	\$5 million
Tobacco-Related Malignancy	MUSC	5 million
Stroke	MUSC	5 million
Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Sciences	USC	5 million
Strategic Approaches to Electricity Production from Coal	USC	5 million
Senior SMART™ Center	USC/Clemson	5 million

To date, the Review Board has awarded \$149 million for the creation of 35 Centers of Economic Excellence and 62 specialized endowed professorships.

**Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission the budget approved by the Centers of Economic Excellence Review Board for FY 2007-08.