

**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL  
December 15, 2016**

In attendance:

**Executive Committee Members Present**

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair (phone)  
Ms. Dianne Kuhl, Vice Chair (phone)  
Ms. Allison Dean Love (phone)  
Ms. Terrye Seckinger (phone)  
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer (phone)

**CHE Staff Present**

Mr. Gary Glenn, Interim Executive Director  
Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs  
Ms. Sarah Hearn, Executive Assistant

Chairman Hofferth opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Tim Hofferth**

A **motion** was made (Love), **seconded** (Settlemyer), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

**2. Chairman's Report**

**Tim Hofferth**

Chairman Hofferth reported that there would be a macro overview of where CHE stands on multiple topics at the full meeting on January 5, 2017, after which he planned to give the floor to the subcommittees as they continue to be the most important part of CHE meetings. No other specific topics were identified in the report.

**3. Vice Chair's Report**

**Dianne Kuhl**

Vice Chair Kuhl stated that she hoped assistance with public relations and CHE's website redesign would be finalized by the January 5 CHE meeting. Mr. Glenn indicated that efforts on both of these issues were progressing nicely and that he would continue to provide updates as additional information became available.

**4. Discussion of the Agenda for December CHE meeting**

**4A. Operational/Administration**

**Gary Glenn**

For his report, Mr. Glenn informed the committee that the lottery tuition assistance award amount for Spring 2017 had been reduced to \$1,140 from its previous amount of \$1,200. This was due to increased demand for funds in fall 2016, which was unexpected. He added that he suspected that the increase was due, in part, to the increased number of dual-enrollment students using the money. He was in the process of collecting data to test this assumption and would look at recommendations moving forward, as the funds were not intended to be used for dual-enrollment students when the program was created. Chairman Hofferth asked if the individual institutions were aware of the change in funding amount. Mr. Glenn responded that institutions were aware of the reduction.

Mr. Glenn then reported that CHE, in conjunction with the Technical College System, had sent a letter to the SC Department of Education in order to set a standard for incoming college students who were tested in the eleventh grade on the ACT. The standard would apply to additional student evaluation for the need for remedial education. He further reported that the Tech System had set the cutoff ACT score at 22 for Mathematics and 19 for English and that CHE had concurred with those scores. Students who scored at or above the cutoff would no longer need to be tested for remedial education and would be automatically accepted into transfer-level courses, effectively placing them into credit-ready courses. He added that the Department of Education believed the

standards were too high, but the Education Oversight Committee expressed their approval of the new standard. Vice Chair Kuhl inquired regarding the highest score a student can achieve on the ACT, to which Mr. Glenn stated the highest score for each section was a 36. The new standard would be slightly lower than the national standard, which is 23 for Mathematics and 19 for English. It was clarified that the new standards would not be used as an admissions standard, but simply as a standard for determining the need for remedial coursework. He concluded his remarks on this area of his report by stating that the ACT scores would be accepted for one year, after which students could be tested again.

Mr. Glenn informed the committee that the appropriations summary for 2017 had been completed. This report showed funds available for support of higher education through the General Fund. Scholarship funds totaling \$30 million were shifted to institutions as recurring operational funds, which were then replaced with lottery dollars, and the percentage of state funds from the state increased from 7 percent to 7.1 percent. CHE funds, Technical College administration funds, and tuition grants funding decreased from 8.5 percent to 8.1 percent due to a shift along with other appropriations. The total state appropriation increased nearly \$1 billion in 2016-17.

Mr. Glenn informed the committee that the budget presentation to the Higher Ed subcommittee of Ways & Means was scheduled for January 10, 2017. He added that the six-month budget update would be available after December 31, 2016.

Mr. Glenn stated that CHE was currently holding close to \$12 million in lottery scholarship funds to be dispersed primarily to Clemson University, and that he was working with the budget office to find solutions to the cash flow issue caused by moving all scholarship support to lottery funds. As such, the funds are now available to CHE on a quarterly basis rather than “up front”, as they were previously available when the funds were provided by state appropriations as well as lottery funds.

Dr. John Lane provided an update on the U.S. Department of Education’s recent decision to terminate accreditation for the ACICS accrediting body. Institutions such as Miller-Motte Technical College and Virginia College, who had physical locations in South Carolina, were affected. The Federal Government gave students attending institutions formerly accredited by ACICS eighteen months of accreditation credit in order to remain eligible for Federal Aid. That decision also gave institutions the opportunity to pursue other federally recognized accreditation or for students to transfer to other accredited institutions.

Mr. Glenn concluded his remarks by stating that he planned to introduce CHE’s newest staff members, Dr. Regine Rucker and Mr. Ed Patrick, at the January 5 meeting.

## **4B. Committees**

### **4B1. Academic Affairs and Licensing**

**Terrye Seckinger**

Commissioner Seckinger, referring to the ACT remedial course testing standards established, stated her understanding of the K-12 sector’s frustration due to the transitional period with their new Mathematics and English standards. Dr. John Lane stated that collaboration between the Education Oversight Committee and CHE had been remarkable and had been functioning well. Through the collaboration, discussion had been able to go beyond the details of the ACT and SAT scores.

Commissioner Seckinger stated that for the CHE meeting, there would be programs presented that had been thoroughly vetted. Dr. Lane briefly discussed the CAAL agenda item B, which involved the review of programs based on effectiveness. He stated that institutions were supportive of the process and he looked forward to its passing.

### **4B2. Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Jennifer Settlemyer**

Commissioner Settlemyer informed the Committee that the public hearing legislation pieces needed wording changes and that there were changes to scholarship programs that she intended to bring before the Commission either in the full meeting or in Executive Session. There would potentially be a brief committee meeting held after the CHE meeting in order to set a timeline for the upcoming year. Chairman Hofferth asked when the public hearing would take place in reference to placement on the agenda. It was established that the hearing would take place during the meeting when the Committee's agenda items were normally considered. Commissioner Settlemyer reminded the committee that there were three Doctoral Scholars presentations that were to take place at the beginning of the CHE meeting, with each allotted five minutes per person to speak. Discussion took place regarding the amount of funding the SC Doctoral Scholars program receives, which resulted in Chairman Hofferth requesting that an SREB representative give a two to five minute overview of the program and its return of investment to the state prior to the presentations.

#### **4B3. Finance and Facilities**

**Dianne Kuhl**

Commissioner Kuhl provided an update on the Financial Indicator Matrix training session that would be taking place prior to the CHE meeting on January 5, 2016. She was in the process of finalizing Dr. Fred Carter's attendance in order to facilitate the training session.

It was stated that a special Finance Committee meeting was to be called on Monday, December 19, 2016, in order to discuss additional guidelines for universities regarding the submission of ancillary projects. The guideline would involve a suggestion of fifty percent up-front funding for ancillary projects, even though some projects might be submitted at seventy percent funding or twenty percent funding. The special meeting needed to take place due to running out of time at the last Finance meeting and the need to include the guideline in the same letter that would be sent to all presidents regarding the Financial Indicator Matrix. A special-called CHE meeting was to take place immediately following the Finance and Facilities meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Hofferth stated that the guidelines would go into effect in February 2017 and the importance of giving the institutions as much warning as possible.

#### **4B4. Special Ad-Hoc Subcommittee—Boards of Trustees Code of Conduct**

**Ken Kirkland**

Commissioner Kirkland informed the group that the committee would have a report on its status at the January 5<sup>th</sup> CHE meeting.

#### **4B5. Special Ad-Hoc Subcommittee—Public Agenda**

**Allison Dean Love**

Discussion occurred regarding scheduling Public Agenda meetings the morning of CHE meetings. It was decided that if Dr. Carter was available to conduct the training session, the Public Agenda committee would not be able to meet the morning of January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Love stated that Doctors Layzell and Rhoda created an introduction to the draft plan, which would be given to Mr. Glenn, Dr. Lane, and Dr. Anderson for their review prior to the January CHE meeting. The introduction would be brought back to the Commission in February and would receive public discussion in March, April, and May, resulting in a draft public agenda in June, and would be finalized in July. Commissioner Love stated she had not received any comments from Commissioners since the December CHE meeting. Chairman Hofferth suggested that the committee's meeting take place late afternoon on January 4<sup>th</sup> in order to best accommodate Doctors Layzell and Rhoda, who would be traveling to Columbia.

#### **4C. Other Agenda Items**

There were no other agenda items brought forth.

**5. Other Business**

Commissioner Love asked if the Executive Director Search Committee would be suspended or put on temporary hold, to which Chairman Hofferth stated an answer would be available in one month.

Commissioner Kuhl made a **motion** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues, which was **seconded** by Commissioner Love.

Executive Session adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting was brought back to regular business.

**6. Adjournment**

A **motion** was made (Love), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah R. Hearn*

Sarah R. Hearn  
Recording Secretary