Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
December 3, 2007 (Fifth Meeting), 9:00 a.m.
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices
Columbia, South Carolina

In attendance:

Study Committee Members Present
Mr. Daniel Ravenel, Chair
Col. Claude Eichelberger
Representative Jerry Govan
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Dr. John Montgomery
Mr. Bobby Marlowe

CHE Staff
Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons
Ms. Alyson Goff
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Study Committee Members Absent
Mr. Boone Aiken
Dr. Dori Helms

Guests:
Mr. Daniel Dukes, College of Charleston and Francisco Marion University
Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways & Means Committee
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education & Public Works Committee
Ms. Robin Moseley, Senate Education Committee
Mr. Eddie Shannon, S. C. Tuition Grants

Agenda Item 1, Call to Order and Introductions
Mr. Daniel Ravenel called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The names of committee members, guests, and Commission on Higher Education staff were noted for the record.

Agenda Item 2, Consideration of Minutes of the October 22, 2007, Meeting
The minutes from the October 2 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item 3, Discussion, Advisory Group Progress Updates
Mr. Bobby Marlowe provided an update from the Organization and Plan Implementation Advisory Group. The group met on November 29 and considered information presented to them about the structure and operation of the Georgia Board of Regents. As a result of that presentation and discussion that followed, the group uniformly concluded it did not favor a Board of Regents system, but agreed that the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) may need additional authorities. He reported that the group also discussed CHE’s authorities and whether more CHE involvement is needed in the areas of facilities, in-state and out-of-state enrollment balances, and in the establishment of collaborative grant opportunities. Discussion among the study committee followed as to the importance of guidance from a statewide perspective of issues such as mission or enrollment overall. Mr. Marlowe explained that his advisory group's intent is to come closer at its next meeting to answering the question of where CHE authority

Approved 1/18/08
should be modified to enhance implementation of a statewide higher education plan. He noted the meeting had not yet been scheduled but would be held in early January.

On behalf of Dr. Dori Helms, who was unable to be in attendance, Dr. Gail Morrison provided an update from the Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning Advisory Group. Dr. Morrison reported that the group had met on November 30, focused its discussion on missions, and generally concluded that South Carolina's institutional missions were in alignment with their descriptions in Act 359. Other matters discussed included: 1) concern about the state investing money in private colleges without having any oversight authority; 2) limitations of mission statements; and 3) the need to focus on more academic program planning. The group intends to gather data and do a gap analysis on academic program plans at each of the institutions in an effort to determine areas of program need and reveal where collaboration may reduce duplication.

Dr. Layton McCurdy provided an update from the Enrollment Advisory Group. He stated that the group had met on two occasions, and has developed a draft document containing its observations and recommendations (available upon request). Dr. McCurdy also shared a copy of a recent Post & Courier article entitled, *Gap in College Success a Concern*. Dr. McCurdy commented on the need to improve capacity to deal with any increased enrollments and the need for a better coordinating function to share best practices for programs aimed at increasing enrollments. Discussion followed concerning the recommendations contained in the draft document.

Mr. Scott Ludlow and Dr. John Montgomery provided an update from the Funding and Institutional Cost Advisory Group and the Building, Facilities, and Information Technology Advisory Group which met jointly on November 27. He stated the group concluded that the state's institutional funding focus should be on quality academic functions and infrastructure. It also agreed that the current funding model used by CHE does not include adequate money for facilities needs and does not consider unrestricted resources. Recommendations included: 1) alternative course delivery methods and marketing those courses both in-state and out-of-state; 2) scrutinizing facility utilization; 3) ensuring appropriate amounts of designable space in buildings; 4) reviewing administrative space and providing economic incentives to accomplish administrative functions collaboratively; and 5) evaluating outsourcing of non-core activities. Conversation followed which included comments about observing the funding methods of other states in the region as well as those of other entities such as our own state's technical college system and of private and for-profit institutions.

Representative Jerry Govan provided an update from the State Scholarships and Grants Advisory Group. He stated that the group had gathered on three occasions and would meet again on December 6 at 2:30 p.m. At those meetings the group received an overview of all the state scholarships, heard from individuals impacted by the scholarship system, and discussed the objectives of financial aid programs. The group will deliver final recommendations on how to improve the scholarship system at the December 6 meeting. Conversation followed which included comments about whether it would be beneficial to acquire facts about what surrounding states are doing in terms of costs and state appropriations, as well as about determining the education and general costs of educating a college student in South Carolina.

Agenda Item 4, Discussion: Next Steps
The Committee agreed that their next meeting should be facilitated meeting/retreat. Discussion took place about possible dates and locations for that event. Chairman Ravenel will poll the group via e-mail to try to determine an appropriate date and will also speak with Dr. Dori Helms about the possibility of having the event at the Clemson Madren Center.

Agenda Item 5, Other Business
There was no other business to discuss.

Agenda Item 6, Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.