Minutes of
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2007 (First Meeting)
11:30 a.m.
SC Commission on Higher Education Offices
Columbia, South Carolina

In attendance:

**Study Committee Members Present**
Mr. J. Boone Aiken, III
Col. Claude Eichelberger
Rep. Jerry Govan
Dr. Doris R. Helms
Mr. Scott Ludlow
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Dr. John Montgomery
Mr. Robert W. Marlowe
Mr. Daniel Ravenel

**Study Committee Members Absent**
none

**CHE Staff**
Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Alyson Goff
Mr. Gary Glenn
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**
Ms. Joren Bartlett, S.C. Technical College System
Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Governor's Office
Mr. Jim Byrd, S.C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Mr. Daniel Dukes, College of Charleston and Francis Marion University
Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways & Means Committee
Mr. Michael Hollings, Lander University
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education & Public Works Committee
Mr. Will McCain, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Robin Moseley, Senate Education Committee
Mr. Craig Parks, Senate Finance Committee
Mr. Tommy Preston, University of S. C.
Mr. Eddie Shannon, S.C. Tuition Grants Agency
Mr. Steve Smith, Tri-County Technical College
Dr. Harry Stille, Private Researcher
The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Dr. Layton McCurdy who initiated discussion about the election of a Chairperson for the group. A motion was made (Ludlow), seconded (Marlowe), and carried to elect Mr. Daniel Ravenel as the committee's Chair.

Mr. Ravenel accepted the position and emphasized the importance of maintaining a statewide perspective in the committee's work. He encouraged committee members to review previous study information which had been provided to them, including the Foundations for the Future report, the Report of the Presidents' Accountability Workgroup, and the Report of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force. He noted that staff would be required to help with the committee's work. Following discussion, it was decided that assistance would be drawn principally from the Commission on Higher Education staff; House and Senate staff may be called on to assist as well.

Dr. Garrison Walters was asked to comment on how the committee might proceed. In response Walters emphasized the need for an Action Plan that focuses on short-term (three to four years) activities that will strengthen South Carolina’s economy and quality of life; the plan should be specific not only in what should be done but in the responsibility of various parties for implementation. Walters stated his belief that higher education has had substantial assistance from outside consultants in recent years and that the need now was for South Carolinians to build a plan of their own. Dr. Walters suggested including input from other state entities such as the Department of Commerce and the New Carolina (South Carolina’s Council on Competitiveness).

A skeleton framework to guide the committee in the development of an action plan, prepared by Dr. Doris Helms, was distributed and reviewed. Following discussion, the committee concluded that Dr. Helms' framework provided an excellent building block for its work. Chairman Ravenel recommended that an electronic version of Dr. Helms' framework be e-mailed to each of the committee members.

The committee members discussed the schedule and location of the committee's future meetings. Dr. Walters recommended the creation of advisory groups to assist with the committee's various tasks. Chairman Ravenel requested that Dr. Walters take the lead in drafting suggestions for the committee on how these groups should work and in which areas they could operate as well as for making suggestions about possible speakers. Dr. McCurdy recommended that the committee re-read the report of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force and also requested that they be sent an electronic version of Dr. Bob Becker's presentation to the Task Force in June of 2006.

Committee members discussed the implementation of the statewide plan once it is formulated. It was noted that the Commission on Higher Education will need to be a central body in the implementation of any action plan. The importance of governance and accountability was also noted.

The following schedule was developed for the committees' next three meetings. Each will take place at the Commission's offices, located at 1333 Main St., Suite 200, Columbia, SC.

Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 22, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.