



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Commissioners' E-Alert September 2008

Layton McCurdy, M.D., Chairman
Doug R. Forbes, D.M.D.
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis B. Lynn
Ms. Cynthia C. Mosteller
Mr. James Sanders
Mr. Y. W. Scarborough, III
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.
Dr. Mitchell Zais
Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

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Greetings:

Fall semester is well underway across the campuses of the state's colleges and universities. A time of new beginnings that ultimately will lead to the harvesting of new ideas, skills, and perspectives among our students, this fall has also seen intensification of the collective efforts of the higher education community and its stakeholders to develop a new Action Plan for higher education. Led by the Higher Education Study Committee and chaired by former Commissioner Dan Ravenel of Charleston, the new Action plan will focus on four overarching goals: 1) making South Carolina one of the nation's most educated states; 2) increasing research and innovation; 3) improving workforce training and increasing education services; and 4) deploying resources as effectively as possible for maximum educational benefits. Working collaboratively toward these goals with the Commission on Higher Education, the General Assembly, businesses, communities and citizens, the colleges and universities will continue to increase their significant contributions to making South Carolina an even more desirable place to live, learn, and work as we transition to the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

We look forward to bringing you more information through our E-Alerts about the Higher Education Action Plan as it unfolds. In this E-Alert, we are pleased to share with you the Highlights of the Commission meeting of September 4, 2008. We hope you will find it informative and will call on us whenever we can serve you. As always, we welcome your feedback and input concerning higher education in South Carolina.

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
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Highlights of the Commission on Higher Education Meeting, Thursday, September 4, 2008:

Our many guests and visiting college and university representatives were introduced by Dr. Lynn Kelley.

Chairman Layton McCurdy welcomed everyone and called for a motion to approve the August CHE minutes, which were mailed to all commissioners prior to the meeting. He then called on Executive Director Garrison Walters for his report.

Dr. Walters spoke of the well-received "New Front Door Article" which has appeared in many newspapers and national publications. Authored by Dr. Walters, the article refers to the need for a new approach for our adult learners in South Carolina.

During the Legislative Report, Julie Carullo, Governmental Affairs Director, shared information about the recent 3% cut across the board to all agencies by the Budget and Control Board. She also reported on several committees meeting in the House and Senate to talk and study K-12 Funding and overall spending areas.

The recent Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Annual Report was reviewed by Dr. Gail Morrison. She referred everyone to the Executive Summary, which talks about the external funding coming to the state, lists startup and spin off companies developed from research and talks about license, patents and etc. Pages 56-57 feature a short article by Chip Hood which is very helpful in explaining technology transfer. Commissioner Bettie Horne suggest we might invite Paula Harper- Bethea, Chair of CoEE to present to the Commission. Dr. Morrison also suggested that some of the Research Vice Presidents and Endowed Chairs be invited to do so as well.

Dr. Morrison explained that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has been undergoing some changes in procedures including how to treat substantive change at the institutions. The Commission on Higher Education and the State Technical College System will host a workshop for all institutions on November 20, 2008, to help clarify the new requirements.

Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities:

Chairman of the Finance and Facilities Committee, Jim Sanders reported that the Finance and Facilities Committee had met in a retreat the night before to discuss the higher education budget.

Chairman Sanders made a motion to suspend item 1.5 of the Commission on Higher Education *By-Laws, Rules and Procedures* for purposes of considering the Agency Operating Budget by the Commission on Higher Education on September 4, 2008. The motion passed by a three-fourths approval of the members present at the meeting and allowed the waiver of the 48 hour written notice rule. The CHE Operating Budget was discussed, and a motion to approve the budget was made and passed. The budget has been submitted to the Governor's Office for FY 2009-10.

Chairman Sanders presented the Medical University of South Carolina's request for approval of a lease renewal to continue to provide office space for various College of Medicine departments. The Rutledge Tower Building is owned by the MUSC Foundation which leases it to the University Medical Associates (UMA) in its entirety/MA subleases the facility to the University. The request was approved by the full Commission provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

List of Capital Projects and Leases processed by staff for August 2008 were given for information:

Clemson University is requesting approval to establish a project to make necessary HVAC system improvements in Manning Hall, a 400-bed residential facility.

Medical University of South Carolina had several requests: 1) approval to establish a project to replace Clinical Sciences Building Air Handler #6 which is over 30 years old; 2) approval to establish a project to renovate a portion of the 3rd floor of the Clinical Sciences Building, to expand office availability for physicians and mid-level practitioners in MUSC's Department of Neurosciences; 3) approval to establish a project to renovate portions of the first and tenth floors of the Harborview Office Tower to open and support a Neurosciences Clinic on the first floor and to provide offices for physicians, researchers and administrative personnel for the Neurosciences Clinic on the tenth floor ; 4) approval to replace the generator, automatic transfer switches (ATS), and switchgear in the Psychiatric Institute as the existing equipment is beyond its useful life; 5) approval to renovate approximately 16,000 SF on the second floor of the Basic Sciences Building (BSB) for the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. When this project is completed, all Basic Science Departments will be housed in the state-of-the-art facilities suitable to support their research needs; and 6) approval to establish a project to replace approximately 3,500 SF of roof on the south end of the Quad E Building. The existing roof is well past its useful life, has multiple leaks and is a constant maintenance problem.

Under other business:

Commissioner Bettie Horne asked for an update on the Course Alignment Project and the Higher Education Task Force.

The purpose and design of the Course Alignment Project is to make transition from high school to college seamless and maximize student success. Professors and high school faculty are working together on the design. Dr. David Conley will return this Friday (September 12, 2008) for the South Carolina Course Alignment Steering Committee meeting, and Dr. Morrison issued an invitation for all to attend the meeting.

Dr. Walters shared that the preliminary report of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC) would be ready in September and that each of the four goal advisory committees were meeting to work on their areas of the report. The final report is due in December, 2008.

Commissioner Horne also spoke about funding for PASCAL (The Electronic library that serves all colleges, universities, tech schools, both public and private) and how important this issue is to our state. She was interested in how much money it saves and would like talking points given to all Commissioners so that they could speak to their delegations about this important issue. Staff agreed to provide this information.

The Commission on Higher Education meets on the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 2, 2008, at 10: 30 a m and will be held in the upstate at the BMW Zentrum Auditorium. A CHE Forum will be held the first hour of the meeting and will feature business and educational leaders discussing the importance of higher education and the Centers of Economic Excellence program. The public is welcome to attend this forum and the regular CHE Meeting will follow the forum.

"Support for higher education is the lever by which the government can move the entire economy"
Stanford/Hoover Institution economist Paul Romer

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