

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Large Conference Room

Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
August 29, 2007

Commission Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Chairman
Mr. Dan Ravenel

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Bettie Horne
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Staff Present

Dr. Gary Walters
Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Karen Wham
Ms. Deborah Henning
Mr. Spencer Feaster
Mr. David Giesen
Ms. Rae McPherson College
Ms. Monette Foster
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Mr. Pinkney Epps
Ms. Arlene Criswell
Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Mr. Reginald Adams

Guests Present

Ms. Daphne Carter, Francis Marion University
Ms. Sandi Oliver, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Michael Zeigler, Claflin University
Ms. Angela Fowler, York Technical College
Ms. Cynthia Peachy, USC-Columbia
Mr. Ed Miller, USC-Columbia
Mr. Keith Reeves, Clemson University
Mr. Jerry Knighton, Clemson University
Ms. Pearl Givens, MUSC
Mr. Ron Jackson, Spartanburg Community College
Ms. Cleo Martin, Technical College of the Low Country
Mr. Russ Bumba, SC Tech System
Ms. Becky McIntosh, Piedmont Technical College
Ms. Jewell Whitney, Greenville Technical College
Ms. Annie Belton, SC State University
Mr. Michele Bowels, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Gwendolyn Harris, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Charlene Minus, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Ms. Sylvia Robinson, SC State University
Ms. Sandra Davis, SC State University
Mr. Glenn Schumpert, USC Aiken

1. **Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cynthia Mosteller. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced Dr. Garry Walters, Commission Executive Director. Introductions were made by all in attendance. Mr. Dan Ravenel **moved** to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2007 meeting. The motion was **approved**.

2. **Need-based Grant Methodology**

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk explained the different categories of the Need-based Grant allocation methodology pertaining to the number of recipients per sector. She gave the total funding for the methodologies.

Mr. Dan Ravenel asked if the Commission has the authority to determine the manner in which Need-based funds are allocated to institutions. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the allocation of Need-based funds, based on FTE, is outlined in state statute. Mr. Ravenel asked if the current methodology was a legislative act or was it initiated by the Commission. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that it was originally initiated by the Commission. She also stated that it is now in statute, so the Commission would have to make a change to the Need-based Grant methodology by proposing an amendment to the existing law.

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller asked which methodology made the most sense. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk replied that all of the varied methodologies have their merits in some way or the other. She stated that if the Commission could receive additional Need-based Grant funding, changing the methodology might be a legislative concern. The Commission would need to look at what can be done with the current methodology. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Pell Grant methodology may better address student need. She also stated that this does not necessarily mean that the student is going to be awarded the funding since the institutions maintain flexibility in awarding the funds. Dr. Woodfaulk stated any methodology that addresses the fact that there are more Pell Grant eligible students at the institution is helpful in ensuring that Need-based Grant funds are allocated to the neediest students in the state.

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller recommended that if a student attending a two-year institution is a LIFE Scholarship recipient and the total amount of the award was not needed (example: the student attends a two-year institution), there should be an arrangement where the excess funds could be held until the student moves on to a four-year institution. Mr. Dan Ravenel stated the institutions are the only entities that have the records on individual students. He said the institution would be asked to keep numbers that may or may not apply to their situation. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk stated that the Commission can identify LIFE Scholarship recipients as soon as their information is entered into the Commission's data system. Mr. Dan Ravenel stated that we would need information concerning the economic impact and how much more money is required to put into the "bank" than is now being distributed. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the average amount awarded among the two-year institutions for the LIFE Scholarship was significantly lower than the average amount awarded at the four-year institutions. However, she stated that the cost of tuition has risen significantly at some of the two-year institutions.

3. Proposed Scholarship Regulations

a. LIFE Scholarship

Dr. Tajuana Massie presented a summary of the LIFE Scholarship regulations. Dr. Massie explained that the regulation for the base LIFE Scholarship award has not changed. She stated, based on Act 115, a new regulation for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement was developed, which includes information pertaining to the base award as well as information concerning the new requirements for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement. The LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Regulation indicates which students can be awarded, the criteria that must be met in order to be awarded, and the maximum award amount of \$2,500 in addition to the base award of \$5,000. Dr. Woodfaulk added that 2007 is a transitional year and the 14 credit hour requirement will go into affect next year. Ms. Cynthia Mosteller asked if students enrolled at two-year institutions were eligible for the new LIFE Scholarship Enhancement. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that beginning with the Fall 2007 freshmen class and thereafter, students must meet the 14 credit hour requirement. If students are enrolled in a two-year institution, they must complete coursework by the end of their first year of enrollment in order to meet the 14 credit hour requirement, even though they are not enrolled in a four-year institution to receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement award.

b. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Mr. Reginald Adams stated that some of the requirements for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement are the same for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. Yet, all eligible freshmen will receive up to \$6,700 in Palmetto Fellows Scholarship funds and all sophomores, juniors, and seniors will now be awarded up to \$7,500. Mr. Adams stated that unlike the base Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, AP, IB and dual enrollment courses will be allowed to meet the 14 credit hour requirement for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. Dr. Gail Morrison asked about the requirement for the list of approved majors to be submitted each year from the institutions to the Commission for approval. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that if an institution would like for a major to be approved for the purposes of receiving the Scholarship Enhancements, a request would need to be submitted to Academic Affairs.

c. HOPE Scholarship

Mr. Gerrick Hampton stated that there are two major changes with the SC HOPE Scholarship. Mr. Hampton said the award amount changed from \$2,650 to \$2,800 due to an increase in the book allowance. In addition, he stated that students cannot be convicted of a second or subsequent alcohol or drug related misdemeanor to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship. The same requirement is stipulated in the regulations for the LIFE Scholarship Program and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program.

d. Need-based Grant

Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams stated that the only change to the Need-based Grant Program was that students cannot be convicted of a second or subsequent alcohol or drug related misdemeanor to receive a Need-based Grant.

e. Residency

Mr. Gerrick Hampton stated that changes to the South Carolina Residency Regulations came about from suggestions from the residency officers around the state. Mr. Hampton stated that the regulation clarifies exactly what is a “dependent student.” He said the regulation eliminated the voter registration card as proof of residency. Mr. Hampton stated the proposed regulation strengthens the appeals process at the institutions.

4. Proposed Guidelines Revision for Access and Equity Undergraduate Scholars and Graduate Incentive Scholarship Programs

Mr. Michael Brown stated the Access & Equity Program is a statewide program designed to increase minority participation at the colleges and universities. One way to increase minority participation is to address financial need. Mr. Brown stated that the Access and Equity Undergraduate Scholarship and the Access & Equity Graduate Incentive Scholarship guidelines have not been reviewed or revised in twenty years. Mr. Brown reported the revisions to these guidelines included language changes such as: wording change from “traditionally” underrepresented races to “historically” underrepresented races; GPA requirement increases; language to address technical colleges’ legislative mandated mission policies; increase of scholarship award amounts due to higher tuition; and clarification of the Commission’s and institutions’ responsibilities. Mr. Brown also reported that these guidelines are minimum requirements and institutions can implement additional guidelines. A **motion** was made Mr. Ravenel to accept and approve the proposed revisions to the Access and Equity Undergraduate Scholarship and the Access & Equity Graduate Incentive Scholarship Regulations. The motion was **adopted**.

5. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laverne Sanders
Laverne Sanders
Recording Secretary