

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Access & Equity and Student Services Committee
Large Conference Room

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2010
11:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller, Chair
Dr. Raghu Korrapati

Members Absent

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Guy Tarrant
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Guests Present

Ms. Sylvia Chitty
Wando High School

Mr. Marshall Conner
Trident Technical College

Dr. Venus Holland, Superintendent
Lexington School District

Ms. Debra Huggins
SC Department of Education

Mr. Jeff Locke
CollegeNet

Mr. Joseph Montgomery
Voorhees College

Dr. Sabrina Moore
SC Department of Education

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Altheia Anthony
Ms. Chanda Jackson-Booker
Mr. Derrah Cassidy
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Mr. Pinkney Epps
Ms. Nan Ford
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Rae McPherson
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams

Mr. Scott Newman
Brookland-Cayce High School

Mr. Jim Rosemond
Clemson University

Ms. Drucilla Russell

Ms. Connie Scrivens
University of South Carolina

Ms. Suzette Stille
College of Charleston

Ms. Gerry Weaver
SC Department of Education

1. Introductions

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced those in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller requested a motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2009. Dr. Raghu Korrapati **moved** to accept the Minutes and the Minutes were approved.

3. College Application Week

Ms. Mosteller complimented Wando High School of Mount Pleasant, SC on the superb job of establishing a College Application Week program. She stated that there are be a variety of reasons why students have problems when applying for college. Ms. Mosteller explained that students targeted to be served during College Application Week should be students that may not ordinarily apply for college. She said that College Application Week should be a service to students and guidance counselors.

Mr. Derrah Cassidy explained that schools were selected throughout the state. He stated that 36% of each senior class participated. He said that each student completed an average of two college applications. Ms. Sjanna Coriaty said that the number of African American and Caucasian applicants were equal. She stated that 54% of the females and 46% of the males attended College Application Week. Ms. Coriarty said 98% required assistance from the volunteers. Dr. Woodfaulk shared some of the lessons learned. She stated that some students wanted to apply for the next fall term, but some of the information was not yet available. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Commission would like to explore how College Application Month can be of greater assistance for the high school counselor. Ms. Sylvia Chitty stated that Wando High School had to do a lot of preliminary work for the College Application Week. She said the students signed up to receive a pass to attend the event. She stated that Wando High School received wonderful support including great community support. Ms. Chitty explained that a worksheet was provided to the students to get the students prepared. Ms. Mosteller inquired about the dialogue with the counselors and students. Ms. Chitty replied that many students can do without the application assistance. She said College Application Week really helped the students at Wando High School. She stated that the fee waiver process for students should be improved for students in need of a waiver. She explained that the fee waiver form had to be submitted after the college application was processed. Dr. Woodfaulk asked why some institutions do not have a fee waiver to assist the students. Mr. Marshall Conner stated that Trident Technical College does not have a fee waiver, but he will take this back to his office. Mr. Jim Rosemond stated that Clemson University has a fee waiver process. He said students can forward a hard copy of the form for the fee waiver.

Dr. Woodfaulk reported that classes were brought in one at a time at TL Hanna High School. She said that this was very successful. Ms. Drucilla Russell stated that she was concerned about securing enough college representatives to

assist at the College Application Week programs. Mr. Connor said that October is a difficult month to get representation because of all that happens during the month of October at the institutions. Mr. Rosemond stated that he concurred and that it is tough to manage this at his institution. Ms. Connie Scrivens suggested looking at the schedule. Ms. Russell stated that she is interested in the feedback and if there would be personnel available in the high schools for College Application Week. Mr. Joseph Montgomery stated that the planning should be provided as soon as possible to the schools. Mr. Cassidy stated that the schools have been contacted and 30 have confirmed. He said that the dates were confirmed for many of the schools. Ms. Mosteller suggested that volunteers could possibly come from fraternities, sororities, Palmetto Fellow recipients and faith-based agencies, etc. to offer assistance at College Application Week. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that Ms. Cynthia Bennett, of the SC Chamber of Commerce, is working with the Commission to get the local chambers to offer assistance. Mr. Montgomery stated that TRIO could assist with helping students with the application process. He said TRIO staff would not require a lot of training.

Ms. Debra Huggins asked whether the Commission had a mechanism to track the colleges to which the students applied. Ms. Coriarty replied that there is an online survey but all of the students did not complete the survey. Mr. Jeff Locke added that if the application is completed that it can be tracked. Ms. Scrivens asked if it was possible for the students to sign up in advance. Ms. Coriarty replied that some schools did have an advance sign up and some did not. Ms. Scrivens stated we could develop a comprehensive list of the students who applied during College Application Week and the percentage of students who actually enrolled in a SC college or university. Mr. Montgomery stated that if a large number of applications are captured through College Application Week that he could adjust his schedule.

Mr. Cassidy reviewed the timeline for the 2010 College Application Week. Ms. Mosteller inquired about the counselors' experience and how to best prepare the students. Ms. Chitty stated that the counselors were very busy during the fall semester. She said the students have to be sold and talked about College Application Week to the students. Ms. Chitty stated that the counselors made calls to the parents. Ms. Mosteller asked if there were any other avenue to take. Dr. Sabrina Moore stated that she liked the idea of sending letters to the superintendants. Dr. Woodfaulk said she would like to eventually see the high schools sustain the College Application Week efforts.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laverne Sanders
Laverne Sanders
Recording Secretary