

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
August 26, 2014
Teleconference

Members Present

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Ms. Natasha Hanna, via teleconference
Admiral Charles Munns
Mr. Kim Phillips, via teleconference

Other Commissioners Present:

Brig Gen John Finan
Ms. Terrye Seckinger, via Teleconference

Staff Present

Mr. Clay Barton
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Sandra Carr
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Dr. Rachel Harvey
Ms. Trena Houp
Dr. MaryAnn Janosik
Dr. John Lane
Dr. Richard Sutton
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Seanna Adcox, Associated Press
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Olivia Burns, S.C. Senate Education Committee
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University, via teleconference
Dr. Warren Carson, U.S.C. Upstate, via teleconference
Ms. Martha Casto, S.C. Senate Medical Affairs Committee
Dr. Kris Finnigan, U.S.C. Columbia
Dr. John Hester, Francis Marion University, via teleconference
Ms. Shirley Hinson, College of Charleston
Dr. Debbie Jackson, Clemson University, via teleconference
Ms. Blythe Littlefield, S.C. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston
Dr. Darlene Shaw, M.U.S.C., via teleconference
Dr. Charlene Spearen, Allen University

Introductions

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and stated the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of the College of Charleston Mission Statement Revision

Dr. Horne introduced the item and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Phillips) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Janosik provided background information regarding the College's initial submission for a mission statement revision. She explained that according to statute, the mission statement revision would entail a sector change in order for the College to offer doctoral degree programs. She commented that at the August

7th CAAL meeting, members asked staff to work expeditiously with the College to present the mission statement revision request at a special CAAL meeting on August 26. She explained that staff determined that the legislatively-approved University of Charleston will serve as the College's research institution and therefore the College would not change sectors. Dr. Janosik also stated that this specific request has prompted larger questions especially in regards to the sector definitions currently in statute and that the Commission might consider pursuing legislative change which would align higher education institution sectors with Carnegie or SACS classifications.

Dr. McGee thanked the Commission and Commission staff for considering the College's request and working closely with the College in such an efficient manner. He then commented on the condition regarding SACS and stated that the College has received a letter from SACS stating that SACS would approve a change in mission once the first doctoral degree is approved. He also elaborated on the 1992 legislative amendment which created the University of Charleston.

Dr. Horne asked for more information about the differences between the sector definitions in S.C. law and those used by SACS. Dr. Janosik responded that SACS allows comprehensive institutions to offer limited number of doctoral programs without having to be a full research university whereas in S.C. law if an institution wants to offer doctoral programs, it must be a research university.

Admiral Munns expressed his support for both recommendations in the agenda item document, to approve the mission statement revision for the College as well as to pursue potential legislative change to re-define sector descriptions to better align with SACS and Carnegie classifications.

Ms. Hanna expressed her support for the College's mission statement revision. She remarked that she is troubled that the state does not allow comprehensive institutions to offer doctoral degrees. She then expressed support for the Commission to pursue legislative change which would allow other comprehensive institutions to offer a limited number of doctoral degrees.

Dr. Horne asked whether Dr. Sutton wanted to comment on the subject. Dr. Sutton thanked the staff for their hard work and agreed that this decision meets immediate needs and also prepares the Commission to pursue legislative change regarding sector definitions.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the College of Charleston's request to change its mission with the following conditions:

- Approval by the College of Charleston Board of Trustees of the Proposed CHE Staff Mission Statement Revision (Appendix IC), or an acceptable revision that maintains the integrity of the College of Charleston as a comprehensive four-year institution but designates a research institution--the University of Charleston, SC--that will function as a separate entity within the College of Charleston under the provisions of Section 59-103-15. The University of Charleston, SC will offer targeted doctoral degrees that support the economic growth and development of the Lowcountry region.
- Confirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) that the College of Charleston's mission statement change does not constitute substantive change according to its accreditation guidelines.

- Submission of a doctoral build-up plan to the Commission that responds adequately to questions raised by CAAL members at their August 7, 2014 meeting; and subsequent recommendation by staff and approval of the plan by CAAL and the Commission.

Two assumptions support this recommendation:

- 1) That the unique statutory authority of the College of Charleston and the University of Charleston, SC, establishes a distinct bifurcation of institutional autonomy that is not found at any other public four-year comprehensive university in the state;
- 2) That the Commission's authority to "review and approve mission statements to ensure it is within the overall mission of that particular type of institution" [Section 59-103-45(6)] allows it to designate the University of Charleston, SC as a research institution while maintaining the designation of the College of Charleston as a four-year university.

Further, the staff recommends to CAAL that this approval pertain only to the College of Charleston and its designated research institution, the University of Charleston, SC, with no further extension to South Carolina's other four-year comprehensive institutions. The College of Charleston's situation is unique, and its request for a mission statement change has been reviewed in light of these circumstances.

CAAL members expressed strong support for a second, separate proposal to the Commission seeking statutory change that would re-define sector designations in the state of South Carolina. These revisions should be made so that the statute [Section 59-103-15(B1-4)] is consistent with definitions used by regional accrediting agencies (such as SACS-COC), or the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The Committee further supports this proposal as one of the Commission's strategic priorities for 2015.

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.