

**Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
Teleconference
April 27, 2015**

Members Present

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Mr. Paul Batson via teleconference
Ms. Allison Dean Love
Dr. Louis Lynn, via teleconference
Admiral Charles Munns, via teleconference
Mr. Kim Phillips, via teleconference

Staff Present

Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Sandra Carr
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Trena Houpp
Dr. MaryAnn Janosik
Dr. John Lane

Other Commissioners Present:

Ms. Dianne Kuhl

Members Absent:

Dr. Evans Whitaker

Guests

Dr. John Beard, Coastal Carolina University,
via teleconference
Dr. Ronnie Booth, Tri-County Technical
College, via teleconference
Dr. Stephanie Frazier, S.C. Technical
College System, via teleconference

Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University, via
teleconference
Dr. Hope Rivers, S.C. Technical College
System, via teleconference

1. Welcome

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and stated the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Consideration of Memorandum of Agreement between the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the S.C. Technical College System Regarding the Approval Process for Selected Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs

Dr. Horne introduced the item, and the Committee moved (Munns) and seconded (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Janosik provided an overview of the issue and more specifically an explanation of House Bill 3170. She explained that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for consideration allows a concurrent review of Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree programs proposed by the technical colleges by both the Commission and the S.C. Technical College System. She commented that the MOA, created by representatives from CHE and the S.C. Technical College System, is being presented as an alternative to legislation which would eliminate Commission authority in the approval of such AAS degrees. Dr. Rivers expressed her support and appreciation for the opportunity for the two agencies to work together on this solution.

Admiral Munns expressed his support for the initiative and explained that Commissioners are strong advocates of the technical college system. He commented that the MOA was developed with the desire to work for the good of higher education in the state. He informed the Committee

that he believed the MOA will be accepted by legislators on the House Higher Education Subcommittee and House Education Committee as an alternative to HB 3170. Mr. Batson, Dr. Lynn, and Mr. Phillips also expressed their support for the MOA.

Dr. Lynn asked about duplication between and among technical colleges. Dr. Rivers responded that the 16 technical colleges are located strategically across the state and that local commissions monitor the potential of duplication and carefully consider programs offered at each college.

Ms. Love asked whether the MOA was reviewed by an attorney and whether CHE received an attorney's opinion in writing. She also asked whether the MOA in any way circumvents our requirements under the state statute or sets a precedent for other colleges to ask for a deviation in the program approval process. She also questioned whether the MOA needed a regular review or reporting process. Dr. Janosik responded that an attorney did not review the MOA because both CHE and the SC Technical College System view the document as a friendly agreement, comparable to other MOAs the agencies have with other partners. Dr. Rivers answered that the SC Technical College System attorney was aware of the main points being considered in the document and determined the document did not need a formal legal review because it is considered a friendly agreement, similar to transfer and other agreements already in place. Ms. Carullo and Dr. Janosik responded that the MOA does not circumvent the statutory requirements of either agency. Dr. Janosik and Dr. Rivers stated that the MOA does not set a precedent for other colleges to ask for a deviation because the MOA in question specifically addresses a very narrow niche of programs. Admiral Munns responded that a review of the MOA will be a normal part of business for both agencies, but a review of the MOA does not need to be placed in the MOA itself.

Ms. Love asked that staff further define the expedited timeline as referred to in the document. Dr. Rivers responded that the details will be worked out in the near future according to both agencies' calendars. Dr. Janosik highlighted the last paragraph of the MOA and assured the Committee that both agencies will work together to establish procedures. Admiral Munns announced that processes regarding approval of AAS programs will be clarified in the near future by staff and the Committee.

Admiral Munns encouraged the Commission and specifically Commissioners to engage in consistent conversation with the SC Technical College System and its board members in order to discuss pressing issues and to create meaningful and workable solutions. Mr. Batson agreed.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Memorandum of Agreement between the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the S.C. Technical College System regarding the approval process for selected Associate of Applied Science degree programs.

3. Other Business

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.