

**Minutes**  
**Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**  
**April 7, 2016**

**Members Present**

Chair Terrye Seckinger  
Dr. Louis Lynn  
Admiral Charles Munns  
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Kim Phillips  
Dr. Evans Whitaker

**Staff Present**

Mr. Clay Barton  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Carrie Eberly  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Trena Houpp  
Dr. John Lane

**Other Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Allison Dean Love

**Guests**

Ms. Amy Allen, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University, via teleconference  
Dr. Connie Book, The Citadel  
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Cheryl Cox, Spartanburg Community College, via teleconference  
Dr. Diane Delach, Lander University  
Dr. Jeremy Dickerson, Coastal Carolina University  
Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University  
Dr. Kristia Finnigan, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Clif Flynn, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Dr. Sedat Gumus, University of Georgia  
Dr. Les Hall, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Ms. Laura Hester, Lander University  
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University, via teleconference  
Dr. Ed Jadallah, Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Amelia Joseph, The Citadel  
Dr. Corey Lee, Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Lak Lewyanvoon, The Citadel  
Dr. Lee Lindner, College of Charleston  
Dr. Learie Luke, South Carolina State University  
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston  
Mr. Tom Nelson, Lander University  
Dr. Chris Nesmith, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Judith Neufeld, Lander University  
Dr. Rick Segal, Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Darlene Shaw, Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Dave Slimmer, Lander University  
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Joshua Thornhill, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Peggy Torrey, TransformSC  
Mr. David Virtue, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Brandi White, Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Joe Winslow, Coastal Carolina University

## Welcome

Chair Seckinger called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. and announced the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. She introduced Dr. Lane who referred to a recent memo about the education program modifications as a result of the Read to Succeed Act. Dr. Lane reminded institutions about the upcoming deadline to submit those program modifications.

### 1. Consideration of Minutes of January 7, 2016

Chair Seckinger requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2016 meeting. The motion was **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.**

### 2. Program Proposals

#### a. The Citadel, B.S., Nursing

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Book explained that The Citadel is proposing to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in the greater Charleston area. She discussed the need for nurses in the armed forces. She also informed the Committee that the program is a four-year degree but that The Citadel is finalizing a 2+2 articulation agreement with Trident Technical College. She stated that other nursing programs in the area have waiting lists, emphasizing the need for more nursing education opportunities. She assured the Committee that The Citadel has secured clinical sites for students and referred to the agreements found in the proposal packet.

Commissioner Munns asked about the need for the program. Dr. Book responded that ROTC first brought the need for the program to the college's attention. Commissioner Munns referred to the ACAP suggestion of a statewide study of clinical sites. He asked for more information about CHE's role in that study. Ms. Houpp responded that the S.C. Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education has been concerned about the availability of clinical sites for many years and referred to the recent trend of non-public postsecondary programs being able to pay clinical sites which public institutions simply cannot do. She continued by stating that the Council is exploring the idea of a statewide study.

Chair Seckinger asked that the program's evaluation information be shared with CHE staff. Dr. Book informed the Committee that a private donor has provided the funds to cover the start-up costs for the first three years of the program.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at The Citadel, to be implemented in Spring 2017.

b. The Citadel, Center for Cyber, Intelligence, and Security Studies

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Book explained that The Citadel brought the center proposal to ACAP in Fall 2015, but withdrew it from consideration at CAAL in order to revise the proposal with more accurate budget information and more information about possible collaboration. Dr. Book explained that the Center will be interdisciplinary and The Citadel has applied for NSA/DHS Center of Academic Excellence designation in Cyber Defense Education.

Commissioner Munns asked about the need for the Center and the research to be conducted. Dr. Book explained the type of research expected and stated the institution refers to its faculty as teacher/scholars because research is required, but not at the same level as that of a R1 research institution. She stated that faculty members are expected to spend 60% of their time teaching, 20% in service to students and 20% to research and scholarship. Commissioner Lynn asked about faculty in the graduate program. Dr. Book clarified that the Center is focused on undergraduate studies and will provide an experiential component for students in the Honors program. Commissioner Lynn asked about the sectors that the Center will study. Dr. Book explained that the cyber discipline is focused on business, healthcare and the military. She shared that institutions are beginning to offer cyber classes in their general education curriculum.

Chair Seckinger asked about the Center's relationship with the College of Charleston. Dr. Book responded that The Citadel and the College share a graduate certificate program in Cybersecurity and a joint Master's program in Computer and Information Sciences. Chair Seckinger also asked how students under the age of 21 are able to obtain national security clearance. Dr. Book answered that the students gain the clearance only if allowed by employers who then shepherd the students through the six-month process.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Center for Cyber, Intelligence, and Security Studies at The Citadel, to be implemented upon approval by the Commission.

c. Coastal Carolina University, M.Ed., Instructional Technology

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Settlemyer) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Byington explained that Coastal does not view this program as new as it is the elevation of one of three tracks in an existing Master of Education program to a stand-alone degree. He informed the Committee that the Commission approved the elevation of the Special Education track to a stand-alone degree program in 2013 and that Coastal plans to bring forward the third track, Literacy, within the year. He stated that the Instructional Technology track has had strong enrollment and the program has support from local school districts. Chair Seckinger asked for the graduation rates for the current Master of Education program. Dr. Dickerson responded that the graduate rates are 85%-90%.

Commissioner Munns expressed his concern about duplication of the program in the state. Dr. Byington shared it is not uncommon to have duplicate online education programs in a state because of the relationships with teachers in local school districts. Dr. Jadallah commented that 85% of the current program's students are from the local region and that the discipline of

instructional technology is contextually-based and therefore it is necessary to cultivate strong relationships with teachers.

Commissioner Munns mentioned the Commission's charge to help create a strategy for higher education in the state and that duplicate programs provide the opportunity to think about the need in the state and whether more or fewer programs are needed. He referred to the proposal which stated that the program has statewide appeal which leads to the question of the number of similar programs in the state. He then asked the Coastal representatives their opinion on the adequate number of instructional technology programs needed for the state. Dr. Byington responded that it is not uncommon for more than one institution to offer the program in a state and that Coastal plans to continue to serve a majority of students from the local region with this program. Commissioner Munns clarified his concern and asked Dr. Byington whether the state can support two online degree programs in instructional technology. Dr. Byington answered affirmatively.

Commissioner Munns then questioned how the state should analyze online programs and should the role of local roots be a metric to an online program's success or continuation. Dr. Byington responded that local roots are important in attracting students. Dr. Jadallah answered that education programs might need to be analyzed differently since professional development for teachers is continuous throughout a career. Chair Seckinger responded that it might not be possible to systemize a metrics tool.

Chair Seckinger asked Dr. Finnigan to speak regarding a similar program at USC Columbia. Dr. Finnigan reported to the Committee that the USC program currently has 20 students which is only a third of the capacity of the program. She also clarified a comment by stating that USC is open to working collaboratively. Dr. Jadallah responded that Coastal is open to collaboration as well. Chair Seckinger expressed her support for collaboration.

Chair Seckinger asked about the nature of in-service learning in a 100% online program. She also asked about technology support for online students. Dr. Winslow responded that the Coastal Office of Online Learning (COOL) provides technology support for online faculty and students. He stated that field experiences for this program are imbedded mainly through the capstone course and online portfolios. Dr. Dickerson added that students' field experiences are video-taped and that faculty in this program have round-the-clock virtual office hours.

Chair Seckinger asked for Coastal to report back to the Commission about collaboration with USC.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to the Master of Education degree in Instructional Technology at Coastal Carolina University, to be implemented in Fall 2016.

d. College of Charleston, B.A., A.B., Meteorology

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and suggested that the Committee consider this item along with agenda item 3a, the program modification to add a concentration in atmospheric physics to the Bachelor of Arts and Artium Baccalaureatus degrees in Physics. The Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval.

Dr. McGee agreed with Chair Seckinger's suggestion since the two programs are closely related. He explained that the two programmatic changes represent a re-organization of

undergraduate programs in the Physics and Astronomy Department. He stated the College has four undergraduate programs in this department: B.S., Astrophysics; B.A. in Astronomy; and B.S. and B.A. in Physics. Dr. McGee informed the Committee that the College has offered a minor and a concentration in Meteorology in the Physics program for 16 years and the concentration has been successful. He stated the concentration has a limitation in that the program does not align with professional association expectations. He stated that most graduates of the concentration have pursued research opportunities or moved towards a graduate degree in Meteorology. He continued by explaining the College has slowly been building its faculty in the area of atmospheric science, atmospheric physics and meteorology.

Dr. McGee informed the Committee that the proposed new program in Meteorology will be the first in the state and that the College has the infrastructure and faculty to offer the program. He stated the College had discussions with CHE staff regarding its concerns about the College offering a Bachelor of Arts degree as compared with a Bachelor of Science degree. He explained the College has a rich history of liberal arts and that there is little evidence to indicate students have been disadvantaged by B.A.s. Commissioner Munns expressed concern about hiring opportunities for graduates who have a B.A. degree in science as compared to a B.S. He continued by stating that in a competitive scientific job market, a company would more likely hire an employee with a B.S. degree in the field than an employee with a B.A. degree in the same discipline. Dr. McGee responded that CHE does not have a statewide policy regarding the distinction between the B.A. and the B.S. He explained that the College's B.S. programs typically require more credit hours than the normal 36-hour B.A. programs. He stated that by offering the degree as a B.A., students would have the opportunity to double major. Dr. McGee informed the Committee that nine other meteorology programs in the country are offered as a B.A. Commissioner Munns asked whether there was job placement data for those programs. Dr. McGee answered no.

Dr. Linder reported that the Weather Service only receives a handful of resumes and therefore would not overlook the B.A.-trained applicants. He also explained that employers concentrate on an applicant's course list. Chair Seckinger asked about the placement rate for the current meteorology concentration. Dr. McGee responded that graduates have been able to find employment or graduate school opportunities. Dr. Linder responded that half of the graduates have matriculated to graduate school.

Commissioner Munns asked the College to describe its evaluation process and then asked whether the College would consider polling graduates about the benefits and disadvantages of the B.A. degree in the job market. Dr. McGee agreed to the assessment. Chair Seckinger expressed her respect for the College's mission and liberal arts history, but wanted to relay that CHE is concerned about graduation rates and workforce development. She reiterated Commissioner Munns's opinion that the B.S. degree might be more advantageous to students seeking employment in this sector. Dr. McGee expressed the College's same concerns about workforce development and stated that if the College discovers the need to change the degree from a B.A. to a B.S. to make graduates more marketable, it will make that change.

Commissioner Munns asked about a statement on the executive summary that alluded to USC offering to collaborate but the College deciding not to and instead offer the program alone. Dr. McGee responded that the College is not opposed to collaboration but that the College decided it was not the best time to pursue a joint degree. He clarified the reasoning by stating the program is taught traditionally and the curriculum is not currently suitable to be taught online. He added that joint programs are often quite complex to coordinate and often more expensive to execute. Dr. Finnigan responded that USC has considered proposing a meteorology program

but decided it did not have the faculty expertise to do so. She noted that a collaborative program could present a shared strength. Commissioner Munns encouraged the College towards collaboration when it is conducive to do so.

Chair Seckinger asked why the College decided not to combine the atmospheric physics concentration and the meteorology program. Dr. McGee explained that there are a series of focus areas (meteorology, atmospheric physics, atmospheric science, and climatology) in this field and experts do not agree as to what the master fields are and what the subfields are. He stated the Physics faculty at the College concluded it was best to keep the most physics-oriented subfield (atmospheric physics) in the Physics degree and to create a separate degree program for meteorology with a concentration in operational meteorology. Dr. Linder further explained that students who want to know how weather works should pursue a more concentrated physics subfield while students who want to know how to forecast weather need to concentrate on meteorology.

Commissioner Munns **moved that the motion to approve the B.A. in Meteorology be revised** to strike the sentence in the staff recommendation: "However, staff invites the Committee to review with the College the merits of the program as a Bachelor of Science and Artium Baccalaureatus with a second concentration in Atmospheric Physics." He further moved that a new sentence be added to the motion: "However, CAAL requests the school continue to assess the optimal characterization between the B.A. and B.S." Chair Seckinger asked for a second to the amendment. Commissioner Lynn **seconded the amendment to the motion** and then asked how an assessment would be conducted. Commissioner Munns answered that CHE will trust the institution to conduct a fair assessment and Dr. Lane added that the College could use a SACSCOC monitoring report template. The Committee members then discussed timeline details. Dr. Lane reminded the Committee that the program's start date is Fall 2017 and Chair Seckinger then suggested that an assessment time be set one to two years after the program starts. Commissioner Munns stated a time limit does not need to be placed in the motion.

Dr. McGee repeated his suggestion for CHE staff to initiate a conversation at ACAP regarding a potential policy about the use of B.A. as compared with B.S. Dr. Lane agreed.

Chair Seckinger **called for a vote for the motion amendment and it passed unanimously.**

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the Bachelor of Arts and Artium Baccalaureatus degrees in Meteorology with a Concentration in Operational Meteorology to be implemented in Fall 2017. The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing requests that the College continue to assess the program to determine whether it would be more advantageous to offer it as a Bachelor of Science program. The Committee also **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program modification to add a concentration in Atmospheric Physics to the Bachelor of Arts and Artium Baccalaureatus degrees in Physics.

- e. Lander University, B.S., Chemistry, with Secondary Education

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Mr. Nelson indicated his intent to answer questions about cost and duplication that were transmitted on behalf of Commissioners. Dr. Neufeld responded to concerns about costs and stated that in regard to education courses, there is little new cost to offer the proposed program. Dr. Slimmer

clarified that only one new course will be added for the program since the University is already teaching the chemistry and education courses. Dr. Neufeld also responded to concerns about unnecessary duplication of similar programs in the state by explaining the great need for STEM teachers overall and particularly for Chemistry teachers. Commissioner Munns asked whether all institutions in the state need this degree. Dr. Neufeld reiterated that the great need for science teachers and Chair Seckinger referred to the dearth of STEM graduates in the state.

Chair Seckinger stressed the importance of teachers having strong content knowledge and recommended students pass core subject content with a 3.0 GPA. She continued by stating that strong content knowledge will allow teachers and students to be successful in the classroom and it will help reduce attrition in the teaching profession. Commissioner Munns asked about the negative consequences for requiring a 3.0 in content knowledge for this program. Dr. Neufeld responded that the program would lose some students who might need more chances to master the content. Chair Seckinger responded that those students will not have as much confidence in the classroom in regards to content knowledge which will have adverse effects on success for them and for students. Dr. Neufeld replied to the discussion and stated that the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is requiring institutions to move toward a 3.0 GPA. Chair Seckinger also highlighted the success of other SC institutions that have required students to major in a content area and minor in education.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with Secondary Education at Lander University, to be implemented in Spring 2017.

f. Lander University, B.S., Mass Communications and Media Studies

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Mr. Nelson introduced Ms. Hester who explained that Lander is revising a current program by terminating the stage-focused theater area. She stated that this revised program is focused on mass communications and media studies. Dr. Lynn asked about students who are still in the theater concentration. Ms. Hester responded that they are in a teach-out program. Dr. Lynn asked why this program is a B.S. instead of a B.A. Mr. Nelson explained that in the communications discipline there is not much difference between the B.A. and the B.S. Chair Seckinger expressed her appreciation of the role that internships play in the program.

Commissioner Munns asked about the credentials of the faculty. Mr. Nelson presented two key SACSCOC standards from the *Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*:

Standard 3.5.4 - "At least 25 percent of the course hours in each major at the baccalaureate level are taught by faculty members holding an appropriate terminal degree, usually the earned doctorate, or the equivalent of the terminal degree."

And

Standard 3.7.1 - "The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, an institution gives primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including, as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards,

continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty.”

Mr. Nelson informed the Committee that Lander surpasses the 25% threshold by a large margin in regards to Standard 3.5.4 for this Communications program. He also stressed the second portion of Standard 3.7.1, which highlights professional accomplishments of faculty beyond earned degrees in the discipline field. Mr. Nelson also stated that even though Lander has decided not to pursue specific program accreditation for this program, the University consulted the standards of that accrediting body and found the body places value on both degrees earned in the field and professional experience.

Commissioner Munns asked about the program’s math requirement, stating that he observed only one math course for a B.S. degree. Ms. Hester responded that the curriculum included in the program proposal does not take into account general education requirements that include two lab science courses, one math course and one analytical thought course. She also pointed out the media technology course.

Chair Seckinger asked that the University provide feedback to CHE regarding internships and graduate placements.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and Media Studies at Lander University, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

g. Medical University of South Carolina, B.S., Healthcare Studies

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff’s recommendation for approval. Dr. Shaw explained that the proposed program is a two-year online program whose main target audience is technical college system graduates. She informed the Committee that the program will have two concentrations: Pre-health Professions and Health Promotion. Commissioner Munns expressed his admiration for the program’s partnership with the technical college system. He asked about the program’s ability to increase student body diversity. Dr. Shaw responded that the program, and the Pre-health Professions concentration in particular, will enlarge the pipeline to professional schools for diverse populations.

Chair Seckinger commended the program and expressed specific support for the program’s 3.0 GPA standard for students with an associate degree. She asked about online support services. Dr. Segal answered that the University provides ample technological and course-specific support services for online students. Dr. Shaw referred to the University’s current online programs and stated the University is committed to best practices and also has a 24-hour hotline.

Commissioner Munns asked whether the University plans to accept out-of-state students. Dr. White replied that the University will consider out-of-state students on a case-by-case basis, but its main target audience is technical college system graduates from S.C. Commissioner Lynn asked about diversity. Dr. White responded that the University defines diversity broadly to include race, gender, age, geographic location, etc. Commissioner Lynn asked about cost of the program. Dr. White answered that the cost is \$7,500 per semester. Commissioner Munns asked

how the cost differs from traditional-on campus programs. Dr. White responded that the tuition is the same regardless of delivery format.

Chair Seckinger praised MUSC for its strong evaluation and assessment plan and asked that MUSC share its results after the program's first year. Dr. Shaw agreed to do so. Chair Seckinger asked about the communication networking efforts to reach the various higher education sectors in the state. Dr. White answered that she has been diligently communicating with the technical college system to recruit students for this program. Commissioner Lynn asked whether MUSC will accept students from a four-year institution. Dr. White replied that MUSC will consider those students on a case-by-case basis.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina, to be implemented in Fall 2016.

h. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S., Physician Assistant Studies

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Commissioner Munns asked whether the 95% graduation rate referred to in the proposal is a four-year or six-year graduation rate. Dr. Allen answered that is a five-year graduation rate. Dr. Hall added that that rate is comparable to similar programs. Commissioner Munns expressed concern about unnecessary duplication. He asked why the program is needed in the Midlands specifically. Dr. Hall replied that there is a great need in S.C. for primary care providers and that the state currently ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states. Dr. Hall stated that MUSC has a program in this field and FMU will start a program soon, but that the total number of graduates for those programs will be 100. He explained that currently the state has to import Physician Assistants from neighboring states and the Midlands area has an acute need for PAs. Dr. Hall also stated that graduates of this program tend to stay in the local area and therefore the Midlands will better be able to meet the current need. He shared that the proposed program has sought two clinical site partners, the Veterans Administration (VA) and Palmetto Health, and will be able to train 30 graduates.

Commissioner Munns asked about the inclusion of medical economics and healthcare costs in the curriculum. Dr. Allen assured the Committee that those topics are woven throughout the whole curriculum. Commissioner Lynn asked about accreditation. Dr. Allen replied that the University will seek specific discipline accreditation and has already planned the first site visit. Commissioner Lynn asked about the potential for private funding. Dr. Hall responded that the University might pursue educational research grants in the future and that the VA plans to provide equipment for the program.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the program leading to a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Spring 2017.

### 3. Program Modifications

a. College of Charleston, B.S., A.B., Physics, Add concentration in Atmospheric Physics

[Please refer to the discussion and action under Agenda Item 2d.]

- b. College of Charleston, M.Ed., Teaching, Learning and Advocacy, Add four concentrations in Diverse Learners; New Literacies; Science and Mathematics; and Curriculum and Instruction

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. McGee expressed the College's apologies for offering three of the four concentrations for this degree program for three years without Commission approval, citing the institution's misinterpretation of Commission policy. He continued by stating the concentrations allow teachers to build on their professional competencies and deepen subject matter knowledge. He explained that graduates of the degree learn new pedagogies and are informed of the larger education policy environment.

Commissioner Munns asked about enrollment. Dr. McGee replied that historically the degree has garnered an average of 40 enrollees but that in recent years the enrollment has dropped to the mid-20s. He continued by stating the College hopes to build the enrollment back to 40 with the addition of this fourth concentration. Commissioner Munns asked about delivery format. Dr. McGee responded that the program will be offered traditionally on campus but during afternoons, evenings and weekends to accommodate full-time teachers. Commissioner Munns expressed concern about unnecessary duplication in the state. Dr. McGee explained that the target audience for the degree is comprised of current teachers in the local school districts.

Chair Seckinger led a discussion about the importance of content knowledge mastery. Dr. McGee expressed the College's understanding of the importance of teachers' content knowledge.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission a modification to add four concentrations in Diverse Learners; New Literacies; Science and Mathematics; and Curriculum and Instruction to the Master of Education degree in Teaching, Learning and Advocacy at the College of Charleston, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

- c. South Carolina State University, M.B.A., Add Healthcare Management concentration to the Lowcountry Graduate Center

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Luke informed the Committee that the Lowcountry Graduate Center's (LGC) Director, Nancy Muller, approached the University about offering this concentration at the Center. Dr. Luke shared that the program will be offered through blended delivery. Commissioner Lynn asked about faculty and Dr. Luke explained that some faculty will travel to Charleston and that local adjuncts will be hired to support the program. Dr. Luke addressed concerns about duplication by explaining that while other MBAs are offered in the Charleston area, no other Healthcare Management concentration within a MBA is offered in the region. Commissioner Munns asked about the cost to SCSU to expand the program to the Center. Dr. Luke answered that financial projections showed revenue will be generated by the expansion and that offering the program at the Center is an example of efficiency.

Dr. Lane reminded the Committee that the University will learn of SACSCOC's review of the University's accreditation status in mid-June. Dr. Luke provided a handout with current financial information for the University.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission a modification to add the Healthcare Management concentration of the Master of Business Administration degree at the Lowcountry Graduate Center for South Carolina State University, to be implemented in Summer 2016.

#### **4. Role of The Citadel's Board of Visitors in the Program Approval Process**

Chair Seckinger introduced the item and explained that institutions are required to provide the date on which their respective Boards of Trustees approves new program proposals. She continued by stating the Commission's *Policies and Procedures for New Academic Programs, Program Modifications, Program Notifications, Program Terminations, and New Centers for SC Public Colleges and Universities* includes an exemption for The Citadel Board of Visitors. She stated the Committee's concern about unequal and unfair policies and explained the goal of this discussion is to bring the Board of Visitors into compliance. She reported that CHE staff studied the history of the exemption and neither CHE staff nor The Citadel staff could locate the origin of the exemption.

Chair Seckinger then asked Dr. Book to provide The Citadel's perspective. Dr. Book explained that the Board of Visitors reviews and approves institutional strategic plans, which contain planned degree program. She added that multi-year strategic plans are reviewed annually by the Board and therefore the Board is kept abreast of any changes to plans including status updates on new degree programs. She stated as an example of the process, the proposed nursing degree was included in the LEAD plan from March 2015 and therefore the date on which the Board approved the LEAD plan would be the date the Board approved the program.

Commissioner Munns argued that the exemption needs to be removed from the *Policies and Procedures*, and The Citadel needs to provide evidence of the Board of Visitors review and approval, even if it is only the date the Board approved the strategic plan containing preliminary program planning statements. Commissioner Love, as a member of The Citadel's Board of Visitors, assured the Committee the Board is aware and supportive of new degree programs.

The Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) to terminate the current exemption found in Section II.A.3 of the *Policies and Procedures for New Academic Programs, Program Modifications, Program Notifications, Program Terminations, and New Centers for SC Public Colleges and Universities* that states: "Note: New program proposals from The Citadel, which does not require Board of Visitors approval for new programs, must meet all other institutional requirements for approval."

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the termination of The Citadel Board of Visitor exemption as it relates to new program approval.

#### **5. Adoption of TransformSC's Profile of the South Carolina Graduate**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Settlemyer) and **seconded** (Munns) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Torrey explained the status of House Bill 4936 that endorses the *Profile*. Chair Seckinger asked why the *Profile* is being placed in statute. Dr. Torrey answered that TransformSC did not request that

it be placed in statute, but reminded the Committee that the statute language is vague and will allow the *Profile* to remain a dynamic document open to revision. Chair Seckinger expressed her appreciation for the inclusion of soft skills. Commissioner Lynn asked how the *Profile* will be measured. Dr. Torrey responded that TransformSC is studying assessments which incorporate measurements for soft skills.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission adoption of TransformSC's *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*.

## **6. Revised Policies on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane introduced Ms. Houp who led a recent task force of institutional representatives. Ms. Houp explained that the task force met to determine a consistent way the new AP courses (AP Research and AP Seminar) could be awarded college credit, given that the courses do not focus on a specific discipline. She informed the Committee that the task force met several times and decided that for the initial implementation of these courses, college should award general elective credit. She explained that one exception was made by the task force in that institutions may review the individual capstone projects and determine, based on the subject matter, whether credit should be awarded in a matching specific discipline.

Ms. Houp also reported that the task force decided to make a few editorial and other small changes to the policy language, making the AP section consistent with the International Baccalaureate section. She stated that an obsolete statement, which allowed institutions to apply for an exemption from awarding credit for AP courses, was removed because the policy statement is inconsistent with state law.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised *Policies on Advanced Placement Credit Awards and International Baccalaureate Credit Awards*.

## **7. Awards for EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence Competitive Grants Program, FY 2016-17**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane introduced Dr. Gregg to present the agenda item. Dr. Gregg introduced Dr. Virtue, Director of AWAKE, the sole recipient of this year's *EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence* grant award. Dr. Virtue explained that the Center's goal is to better align curricula and economic development/workforce needs and goals of the regional economic development authority and specific industry clusters. He explained the Center will initially focus on Barnwell School District 45 and Florence School District Four, which will expand to other districts in subsequent years. He added that pre-service AWAKE Scholars will complete year-long residencies in partner schools and help middle school students achieve academic content while they engage in problems-based, cooperative, and inquiry-oriented learning activities that involve collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and authentic assessment. Dr. Gregg shared that the

superintendent from the Barnwell area is seeking to find host homes for the residents in the local area so students can immerse themselves fully in the community.

Chair Seckinger asked that the Centers' comprehensive report, which is submitted to EOC, also be sent to the Commissioners. Dr. Gregg agreed to share the report.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the Review Panel's recommendation and approve a new Center of Excellence (Teacher Education) award to the University of South Carolina to establish the Center of Excellence for the Advancement of the Workforce and Knowledge Economy (AWAKE) in South Carolina in the amount of \$150,000. The award is contingent upon allocation of funding from the General Assembly.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing **also approved** the continued funding for the existing centers at Anderson University, Francis Marion University, and The Citadel pending submission of formal budget requests and continuation request for funding for FY 2016-17 and final reports for FY 2015-16.

## **8. Revised Guidelines for Teacher Education Competitive Grants;**

### **a. EIA Centers of (Teacher Education) Excellence FY2017-2018**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Settlemyer) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane invited Dr. Gregg to expound on the topic. Dr. Gregg explained the program and then presented minor changes to the Guidelines for FY 2017-18. She informed the Committee that the theme of the grant awards will be "developing innovative professional development programs for Effective Teaching that Focus on the Knowledge, Skills, and Characteristics of the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate* that will improve instruction and achievement at all grade levels in low performing schools."

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the *Guidelines for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)* for FY 2017-18.

### **b. *Improving Teacher Quality*, FY 2016-2017**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Settlemyer) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane invited Dr. Gregg to report on the agenda item. Dr. Gregg shared with the Committee that it is a one-year program focusing on improving content area knowledge for in-service, full-time K-12 teachers and that this year will be the last year of funding. Dr. Gregg stated the program requires a partnership between education faculty and content-area faculty in arts and sciences.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the *Guidelines for the Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Grant Program* for FY 2016-17.

## **9. Report on Program Modifications October 1, 2015-March 30, 2016**

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item for information.

## **10. Other Business**

Commissioner Munns commended the CHE staff for their hard work summarizing the work done at the staff level and at ACAP regarding the program proposals. He expressed his appreciation for the good questions asked by staff. Chair Seckinger agreed.

Commissioner Munns suggested that CHE possibly find a way to incorporate recent research and analysis by Dr. Erica Von Nessen on the connection between degree program enrollment and workforce when reviewing proposals for new institutional degree programs. He stated that using bar graphs of federal and state marketplace information in the proposals would be helpful. He added that if CHE provided the federal and state information, institutions would only need to share local marketplace information obtained through regional employment surveys. Chair Seckinger spoke to the issue of state agencies charging for data. She stated that the SC Department of Employment and Workforce has a tremendous amount of data, but that for CHE to use it, there would be a charge. She voiced her disagreement with that state practice and informed the Committee that she would ask Chair Hofferth to inquire with the Governor to seek a possible solution.

Dr. Lane thanked the Academic Affairs division staff for their hard work.

Chair Seckinger thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Commissioner Lynn moved that the meeting be adjourned. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.