

DRAFT

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

August 7, 2014

Commission Members Attending

General John Finan, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice-Chair
Ms. Dianne Kuhl
Admiral Charles Munns
Mr. Kim Phillips (phone)
Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Dr. Jennifer Settlemeyer (phone)
Mr. Hood Temple

Commission Members Absent

Ms. Elizabeth Jackson
Ms. Leah Moody
Ms. Natasha Hanna

Staff Attending

Dr. Richard Sutton, Executive Director
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Mr. Clay Barton
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Courtney Blake
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Stephanie Charbonneau
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Dr. Rachel Harvey
Ms. Trena Houpp
Dr. MaryAnn Janosik
Dr. John Lane
Ms. Vicki Pratt
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Tanya Rogers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Catherine Team
Ms. Leslie Williams
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Mr. Jeremy Borden, Post & Courier
Dr. Warren Carson, USC Upstate
Dr. Cherry Daniel, College of Charleston
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Ms. Anne Harvin-Gavin, SC Student Loan Corporation
President Thomas Elzey, SC State University
Dr. Evelyn Fields, SC State University
Dr. Kris Finnigan, University of SC Columbia
Mr. Chris Fraser, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University
Ms. Nancy Jeter, SC State University
Ms. Blythe Littlefield, SC House Ways & Means Committee
President Glenn McConnell, College of Charleston
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston
Dr. Bob McNamara, The Citadel
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Dr. George Petersen, Clemson University
Dr. Jeff Priest, University of SC Aiken
M. George Ramsey, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Eddie Shannon, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Mr. Adam Taylor, Lander University
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Ms. Jane Turner, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement
Dr. Karl Wright, Claflin University

1. Introductions

- Tanya Rogers

Ms. Rogers recorded and announced the names of all those in attendance as listed above. She also stated that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Commissioner Temple recognized President Glenn McConnell, stating that this meeting marked his first CHE meeting attendance since his recent installment as the President of the College of Charleston. Commissioner Temple provided enthusiastic remarks about President McConnell's significant accomplishments during his service in the SC Senate and as the state's Lieutenant Governor and he expressed appreciation for President McConnell's willingness to share his talents within the field of higher education.

Chairman Finan then recognized and welcomed President Thomas Elzey of SC State University, also in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

- John Finan

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Horne), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2014 CHE meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- John Finan

Chairman Finan reported briefly on his efforts to determine when replacements would be made to fill some of the Commission appointments with expired terms. He stated that the announcements of those replacements won't likely take place until they can be confirmed by the General Assembly after it goes back into session in January 2015. Chairman Finan also reported that he was in the process of determining new CHE committee assignments, taking into account individual preferences, and that each Commissioner would serve on two committees for two consecutive years. In response to Chairman Finan's request about the status of the work of the Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs, Commissioner Munns reported the CHE bylaws were being reviewed for possible revisions. He stated that, once the new committee assignments are made, the bylaws require that each committee elect a chair as soon as possible thereafter. He also reported that the bylaws require that a Vice Chair of the Commission be elected, after which Chairman Finan invited Commissioners to send him nominations for this position and that this election would take place at the next scheduled CHE meeting.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Richard Sutton

Dr. Sutton provided a general update on his activities and other events related to higher education since the June 5, 2014, CHE meeting. Topics of his report included the proposed mission change for the College of Charleston and information about his recent meetings with presidents of the comprehensive and research institutions as well as with Dr. Jimmie Williamson, Executive Director of the SC Technical College System. The primary focus of these meetings was the upcoming the upcoming FY 2015-2016 budget proposals and structural realignment. The details of Dr. Sutton's report may be found in **Attachment I**.

5. Legislative Report

During his report, Dr. Sutton referred to Ms. Carullo's previously distributed wrap-up of the 2014 Legislative Session, as she was unable to be present for this meeting.

6. Approval of Appointments to the Higher Education Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Accountability Review Steering Committee pursuant to Proviso 118.16 of Act 286 of 2014 - John Finan

Chairman Finan reported that the FY 2014 Appropriations Act had provided non-recurring funds to selected universities for the purpose of a higher education efficiency, effectiveness and accountability review. He stated further that the Act directed that the funds be used by a thirteen member steering committee to procure, execute, and oversee implementation of this review. He reported that the CHE had been tasked, by way of a majority vote of the Commissioners, to select three institutional representatives to serve on the steering committee to include a President, a Chief Financial Officer, and a Board Trustee. Chairman Finan reported that those recommended individuals were: Dr. Fred Carter, President of Francis Marion University, Mr. Ed Walton, Chief Operating Officer, University of South Carolina, and Ambassador David Wilkins, Chair of the Clemson University Board of Trustees. Commissioner Munns inquired as to whether the selected individuals would be at liberty to discuss their progress with members of the Commission as the work of the steering committee moves forward. Dr. Sutton, who is also appointed a member of the steering committee in his capacity as Executive Director of CHE, replied that the appointees would be free to communicate and keep Commissioners informed. He stated further that the committee would begin its work by discerning the scope of the study which will determine how the appropriated funds will be expended by each institution. Commissioner Kuhl noted that Mr. Walton was formerly USC's Chief Financial Officer but is currently serving as the institution's Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer. She requested verification that the legislature deems Mr. Walton qualified to serve on the review committee in his current capacity, after which Ms. Blythe Littlefield, representing Representative Brian White, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, confirmed that they did. Additional information about this agenda item may be found in **Attachment II**.

A **motion** was then made (Temple), **seconded** (Munns), and **carried** to accept the slate of the three institutional representatives as offered.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee - John Finan

Chairman Finan reported that the Executive Committee had met on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, for the purpose of preparing the agenda for this CHE meeting.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing - Bettie Rose Horne

A. Update on Liaison Activities between CHE and the State Board of Education

B. Consideration of Preliminary Request to Participate in State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Commissioner Horne provided a summary of her most recent liaison work with the State Board of Education and activities related to K-12 education. Her report included information about: 1) the development of new standards to take the place of Common Core Standards; 2) the development of a new assessment tool to take the place of Smarter Balanced Assessment; 3) updates to and recent alterations made to the cut scores of the Praxis II examination; and 4) the use of a student achievement component in the evaluation of teachers. Brief discussion followed about these items during which the importance of on-going dialogue between higher education the and K-12 sector was emphasized.

Commissioner Horne reported that, although much discussion had taken place about South Carolina participating in SARA, Commissioners had not yet arrived at a decision on whether or not to do so. Chairman Finan recommended tabling the recommendation to participate until continued discussion can

take place and additional information can be acquired. Commissioner Munns requested clarification as to whether the CHE staff would be free to continue to explore the pros and cons of participation as they pertain to the students and the universities, as well as to explore what the consequences to CHE would be if SARA were to be implemented in the state. Commissioners agreed that staff exploration could continue, after which they also agreed on tabling the recommendation. Additional detail about what has transpired with regard to SARA may be found in **Attachment III**, a copy of **Agenda Item 7.02B**.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Hood Temple

A. Consideration of SC Student Loan Corporation FY 2014-15 Administrative Budget Request: SC Teachers Loan Program

B. Review of FY 2013-14 Annual Report and Consideration of FY 2015-16 Appropriations Request for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention Minority Teachers (SC PRRMT) at SC State University

Commissioner Temple provided background information about **Agenda Item 7.03A**, details about which may be found in **Attachment IV**. He then stated that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services brought forward as a **motion** to the Commission its recommendation to approve this budget, after which the **motion** was **seconded** (Seckinger) and **carried**.

Commissioner Temple provided background information about **Agenda Item 7.03B**, details about which may also be found in **Attachment IV**. With regard to concerns about the whether the requirements of the SC PRRMT program were being met, Commissioner Temple stated that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services offered as a **motion** that an overall review of the SC PRRMT program be conducted by a specially formed committee, members of which would include a representative from the Education Oversight Committee, the SC Department of Education, and the Center for Education Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA). Pending the outcome of this review, the program's FY 2015-16 appropriations request will be considered by the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services. Commissioner Temple stated further that the spirit of the motion provides for working towards strengthening this important program in any way possible, after which the **motion** was **seconded** (Seckinger).

Brief discussion followed during which Commissioner Munns encouraged the review committee to carefully consider whether the appropriate output is being produced with regard to the money expended for the SC PRRMT program. President Elzey of SC State University commented on the vital importance of the SC PRRMT program in supplying teachers throughout the state and requested that the special committee keep this importance in mind as their review is conducted.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

7.04 Report of Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs - C. L. Munns

Commissioner Munns reported that the Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs had met following the Commission meeting on June 5, 2014, and would meet again on October 2 at 1:00 p.m. He stated that, subsequent to that meeting, an email summarizing the outcome of the June 5 meeting was distributed to each Commissioner which they could share with their respective constituencies. He stated that this practice would continue following each CHE meeting and he invited input from Commissioners if they had recommendations regarding this procedure. Commissioner Munns also reported that the Committee was in the process of examining the CHE bylaws and planned to bring the outcome of this work to the full Commission at the October 2 meeting. He reported that the Committee hoped to contribute to the September 3-4, 2014, Commissioners' Retreat agenda with a session concerning the CHE's legislative agenda and he invited Commissioners to think about what the CHE should advocate for over the next year. Dr. Sutton then remarked that plans for the retreat included inviting some members of the SC legislature.

CONSENT AGENDA**A. Interim Capital Project**

1. Coastal Carolina University - University Place Acquisition

B. Consideration of Operating Budget for the SmartState Program Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15**C. FY 2013-14 CHE Year-End Budget Report**
(For Information, No Action Required)**D. FY 2014-15 Tuition & Required Fees Summary**
(For Information, No Action Required)**E. Building Condition Survey Comparison Between Years 2011 & 2014****F. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for June and July 2014**
(For Information, No Action Required)

Commissioner Temple reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities and presented as a **motion** to the full Commission by consent agenda, Agenda Items **7.04 A & B**, details about which may be found in **Attachment V**. He provided brief background information about **Agenda Item 7.04A** and also emphasized the importance of advocating for the SmartState program as described in **Agenda Item 7.04B**, noting its value in terms of the intellectual talent and economic stimulus it brings to the state. Commissioner Temple recommended that the topic of requesting and maintaining funding for the SmartState program be included on the list of agenda items for the Commission's September 3-4 Retreat.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Temple then reported that **Agenda Items 7.04 C,D,E,&F**, details about which may also be found in **Attachment V**, were presented for information only. He commented in particular on **Agenda Item 7.04D**, the FY 2014-15 Tuition & Required Fees Summary, stating that it contained very helpful information.

In response to Commissioner Temple's request, Mr. Glenn provided background information about **Agenda Items 7.04 C,D,E,&F**.

Discussion followed during which Commissioner Munns inquired about whether any of the carryover funds related to the FY 2013-14 CHE Year-End Budget Report would be revoked and Mr. Glenn explained that the funds would not be as components of the budget allow for unexpended funds to be carried over in various areas. Mr. Glenn also provided other details in explanation of carryover funds related to the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) as well as about decreases in carryover funds related to the state scholarship programs.

8. Other Business

Commissioner Temple began conversation among the Commissioners about the College of Charleston's proposed mission change and the process by and timeline in which this change may be accomplished. He inquired as to whether there was any additional information that the College of Charleston might provide so that topic may come before the full Commission for consideration sooner than the currently anticipated time of November. Discussion followed during which concerns were expressed about exploring the impact of the change, considering the merits of the change in a timely manner, following a good plan of action that will be clearly communicated, and responding appropriately and rapidly in order that the market demand for advanced programs in the Charleston area be met as soon as possible.

In response to Chairman Finan's request to provide information about the timeline for this process, Dr. Sutton reviewed activities related to the mission statement proposal change to date, beginning with July 24 when the CHE received the College of Charleston's revised mission statement proposal which had been approved by the their Board of Trustees on July 23. Dr. Sutton stated that a challenge of this proposed mission statement change is that it concerns issues specific to Charleston while at the same time there also exist similar issues across the state which should be included as part of CHE's analysis. He suggested that perhaps a change in the definition of comprehensive institutions to include the authority to offer limited doctoral degrees should be considered so that these issues and concerns may be addressed statewide. Brief discussion followed about the possibility and implications of calling a special meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing for the purpose of accelerating consideration of the College of Charleston's proposed mission change.

Chairman Finan then invited comments from President McConnell. President McConnell stated that the College of Charleston's intention was to only offer doctoral programs on a limited basis as needed in the Charleston area and that the their primary concern is to protect the College of Charleston as a premiere liberal arts undergraduate institution with the University of Charleston South Carolina (UCSC) acting as the research component of the College of Charleston. He stated further that allowing UCSC to offer advanced degree programs will enable the College of Charleston to fulfill in a timely manner the needs that the Charleston business community has identified. President McConnell reported that the budgets and revenue streams of the College of Charleston and UCSC will be separate and distinct. He stated that he viewed UCSC, in place of the Lowcountry Graduate Center, as becoming the platform to collaborate with the other institutions of higher education in the state to increase educational experiences for the people of South Carolina.

In response to Commissioner Munn's question about whether the approval of the College of Charleston mission change would affect the College of Charleston's cap on student enrollment, President McConnell reported that he did not anticipate that the student body on the historical footprint of the College of Charleston would change and that any growth prompted by the proposed mission change would be accommodated by the their north campus or at locations outside of the footprint. In response to Commissioner Horne's questions about Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation as well as about degree collaboration, President McConnell stated that, as it currently stands, the proposed mission change does not present any substantive change with regard to accreditation and that the Charleston business community has clearly demonstrated the need for advanced degrees applicable specifically to the Charleston economic region, which is the need on which UCSC will focus.

Chairman Finan concluded the discussion by requesting that Dr. Sutton and the CHE staff consider a plan to accelerate the process of considering this mission change proposal and develop and distribute a timeline for that process.

9. Adjournment of Business Meeting

A **motion** was made (Seckinger), **seconded** (Kuhl), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments (I - V)

*Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.