

**Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education**

November 05, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown
Commissioner Charles Dalton
Commissioner Linda Dolny
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Charles Munns
Commissioner Ben Satcher
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mark Smith
Commissioner Patrick White

Excused Members

Commissioner Devron Edwards

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Monica Goodwin
Dr. John Lane
Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Christine Brown, Medical University of
South Carolina
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina,
Palmetto College
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Mr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Lil Hayes, SC House Education and Public
Works
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Dr. Martha Moriarty, University of South
Carolina, Beaufort
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston
Dr. Hope Rivers, SC Technical College System
Dr. David Schechter, USC Upstate
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina -
Beaufort
Dr. David Slimmer, Lander University
Dr. Charlie Spell, SC State University
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of
South Carolina
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South
Carolina, Aiken
Ms. Elizabeth White, Central Carolina Technical
College

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

I. 1. Introductions and Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Ms. Belcher introduced the Commissioners and guests in attendance. She confirmed a quorum of the Commission and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the October 1, 2020 CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Munns seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes expressed gratitude to President Monhollon and staff on their work with the CHE Operational Plan. He also thanked staff for their commitment and work during the current pandemic conditions, and President Monhollon for his continued work with university presidents.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon thanked staff for the work done in rebranding the CHE identity, then introduced and described the new CHE logo. President Monhollon then shared an update regarding the status of the CHE office lease, stating that the CHE is on schedule to move by mid-December.

President Monhollon next provided an overview of the Operational Plan for the Public Agenda. In summarizing the main objectives, President Monhollon stated the main objectives of the draft operational plan include: moving the attainment goal of 60 percent to 2030 instead of 2025; adding an equity component to the attainment goal; and support initiatives geared to ensure access and affordability, promote students post-secondary success, and strengthen the workforce. President Monhollon shared that he would like to launch a SC Opportunity Project for Equity, which is envisioned to address inequity in educational outcomes within higher education. President Monhollon described actions essential in achieving the goal: ensure education is accessible and affordable, increase need-based financial aid, reduce student cost for higher education, and increase dual enrollment opportunities. In discussing top priorities, President Monhollon stated that the development of a statewide transfer and articulation framework, reformation of remedial education, implementation of math pathways and clearly defined degree pathways remain key focal points. In addition to realigning CHE staff to address top priorities, President Monhollon shared that he has connected with consultants to assist in identifying potential grant opportunities to fund initiatives.

Next, President Monhollon addressed comments shared by Commissioners regarding retention, socioeconomic based inequity and potential initiatives relating to the operational plan, to which he acknowledged the importance. Commissioner Seckinger added that the charter school sector should be included as part of the secondary system, to which President Monhollon responded would be taken into consideration. Commissioners Munns, Dyer and Horne explained that the operational plan could be broadened to include urban and rural as opposed to targeting a racial group. Commissioners then engaged in deeper conversation regarding components of the operational plan.

President Monhollon then provided an update on COVID-19 as it relates to institutions of higher education (IHE) spring plans. He stated that institutions are on normal schedules, with several starting a

week later than normal and some canceling spring breaks. Regarding the FY 2022 budget, President Monhollon shared that the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) will release revenue estimates early next week. He then provided a brief update regarding fall enrollment and stated that Full Time Equivalency (FTE) data will be available and shared with Commissioners in December.

In conclusion, President Monhollon shared the creation of two advisory committees; one designed to develop a survey on mental health conditions and challenges on college campuses, and a second, student advisory committee, aimed to give students a voice in CHE work.

5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward shared that post-election, there has been turnover in the Legislature to include fourteen House seats and six Senate seats. She further stated that she plans to connect with those legislators to introduce them to the CHE and the higher education institution system. Next, Ms. Ward shared that CHE presented its 2021-22 agency budget to the Governor's Office, and plans to provide a written summary of the report to the SC House Ways and Means by December 4. Regarding communication initiatives, Ms. Ward shared that CHE is currently developing a social media calendar to increase communications regarding higher education, and is continuing the CHE rebranding project. Commissioner Seckinger requested a list of new House and Senate members, to which Ms. Ward agreed to share.

Due to technical difficulties, Commissioner Seckinger motioned, and Commissioner Brown seconded to change the order of the agenda allowing Chair Hayes time to rejoin the meeting when possible, to which the motion unanimously passed. Commissioner Munns presented the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing Report ahead of the Executive Committee Report.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes called on Vice Chair Horne to provide an update on the review of the CHE Bylaws. Vice Chair Horne provided a brief summary regarding suggested amendments to the CHE Bylaws. President Monhollon explained that the main change to the CHE Bylaws is to adjust the frequency of CHE business meetings to a minimum of eight. Chair Hayes called for a vote to approve the Bylaws as presented, and the Bylaws were approved unanimously.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns introduced the items from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. He reported the Committee had two items on the agenda.

A. Program Proposals

1. Lander University, B.A., Entrepreneurship
2. Lander University, B.S., Cybersecurity
3. Lander University, B.S., Data Science
4. University of South Carolina, Columbia, M.S., Business Analytics

Commissioner Munns shared that proposals one, three, and four were unanimously recommended by staff, ACAP, and CAAL for recommendation, however; proposal two (Cybersecurity) was unanimously recommended by CAAL, not by ACAP (by majority). Commissioner Munns then moved to have the four proposals approved, and by vote the motion was passed unanimously.

B. EIA Center of Excellence One Year Awards

Commissioner Munns shared the item as informational and discussed history of the award. Dr. Lane informed the Commission that the award is aimed at sponsoring centers at institutions across the state to service students in high-need, low-performing school districts. Chair Hayes asked how much funds would be carried over, to which Dr. Lane replied \$550,000.

Finally, Commissioner Munns shared an update regarding the process of CAAL's review of program proposals. Chair Hayes thanked Commissioner Munns for the Committee's efficiency efforts.

6.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services

Commissioner Batson shared that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services has items on the consent agenda for approval by the Commission, and one additional item to discuss as an informational topic.

A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) 2019-2020 Annual Fourth Quarter Report

B. Proposed Regulatory Changes:

1. SC Hope Scholarship
2. LIFE Scholarship
3. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Commissioner Batson shared a brief summary of the two proposals, then recommended the CHE approve the full consent agenda. Both the SC-PRRMT Report and proposed regulatory changes to the state scholarship programs were approved unanimously. Commissioner Dyer asked for clarification regarding the issue of high school rank reports provided to the institutions, to which Dr. Woodfaulk shared that CHE has been in collaboration with the SC Department of Education to assist high schools in providing the high school rank reports to the institutions.

C. SC National Guard College Program Annual Report and Presentation

Commissioner Batson described the informational item and invited any questions. He also thanked Dr. Woodfaulk for her work and that of her staff.

6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the CHE meeting and had nine permanent improvement projects and one lease proposal from the College of Charleston to consider. Commissioner Dalton stated that all projects were previously presented to the full CHE in either phase one or two and posed no issues.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

1. Clemson University
 - a. Dunlap Property Acquisition
 - Revise Scope (Phase II)
 - b. Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
 - Increase Budget (Phase II), Change Source of Funds
2. Greenville Technical College
 1. Greenville – Benson Campus Amphitheater and Student Plaza
 - Phase II Budget Increase

3. Medical University of South Carolina
 - a. Basic Science Building Air Handler Units 4 and 4A Replacement
– Phase II Budget Increase
4. Spartanburg Community College
 - a. Spartanburg – Powers Building Renovations
 - b. Welchel Property Acquisition I
– Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - c. Welchel Property Acquisition II
– Increase Budget (Phase II)
5. University of South Carolina – Columbia
 - a. West Campus Parking Development
– Increase Budget (Phase II)
6. University of South Carolina – Upstate
 - a. Information Resource Center
– Phase II Budget Increase, Change Source of Funds, Revise Scope.

B. Lease Request

2. College of Charleston
 - a. 360 Concord St.

Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the nine permanent improvement projects and one lease, and the projects were approved unanimously.

C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during October

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the October Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals. Mr. Tippens shared that one project was approved to include USC Upstate revising the scope of its 2014-2015 maintenance needs project, which was funded by lottery funds to add a sprinkler system. Mr. Tippens next shared that he approved a lease request from MUSC for 99 parking spaces to be utilized by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Mr. Tippens shared the total annual cost is \$159,000 and would be paid for by parking fee revenue.

Chair Dalton asked Mr. Wilson to describe the 2020-21 First Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Wilson summarized the report.

7. Other Business Announcements

A. Consideration of Proposed 2021 CHE and Executive Committee Meeting Calendars

President Monhollon shared the CHE Meeting calendar, which would reduce the number of business meetings by three. Commissioner Brown asked how long the Commission will meet remotely, to which President Monhollon expressed the challenge of locating a large enough space in consideration of pandemic conditions. President Monhollon also shared that remote meetings help to cut Commission costs relating to travel and renting space. Commissioner Munns endorsed meeting remotely until pandemic conditions have changed. Commissioner Munns motioned to accept the proposed CHE meeting schedule, and Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Public Comment

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any public comment. There were no comments from the public.

9. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.