



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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CHE Response to August State Fiscal Accountability Authority Vote

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Despite the decision made by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority at its August 23, 2016 meeting, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) stands firm in its mission to protect South Carolina families from runaway spending by universities.

“We are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to ensure the health of our universities and to protect the interests of South Carolina's students and taxpayers,” said CHE Chairman, Tim Hofferth. “We're going to be asking more questions, requesting more information, and looking harder into the details of these projects so that they receive the most complete vetting process possible before coming to a vote. The days of ‘rubber stamping’ requests that come before the CHE are over.”

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, established in 1967, serves as the coordinating board for SC's 33 public institutions of higher learning. It acts both as an oversight entity on behalf of the General Assembly and as an advocate for higher education. The Commission is responsible for ensuring a balance between student and taxpayer interests and institutional policies, aspirations, and needs.

The Commission thanks Governor Nikki Haley and Treasurer Curtis Loftis for their commitment to fiscal responsibility, and for their concern regarding the negative impact of runaway spending, not only for students and their families, but for the state as a whole. At a time when South Carolina has the highest cost of education in the Southeast for both two-year and four-year institutions, and the eighth highest tuition in the nation, it is vital for members of State Government to recognize the issues and trends in higher education, and to think long term in order to strategically position the state to meet our citizens' needs.

The CHE is committed to the goals of Access, Affordability, and Excellence in higher education. "We're not worried about doing the easy thing," says Hofferth. "We're going to do the right thing."

Any questions or requests for further information should be directed to the contact information listed above.

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