



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
Mr. Jeffrey Schilz, Interim President and Executive Director
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2017

Contact:

Sarah Hearn
Executive Assistant
803-737-2275
shearn@che.sc.gov

CHE REJECTS CLEMSON TENNIS FACILITY PROPOSAL

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Today, the S.C. Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Finance Committee unanimously voted to reject a \$12.5 million tennis facility project proposal submitted by Clemson University because the plan presented included \$0 in private financing or up-front investment.

Over the past few years – in response to requests from public officials – the CHE has committed to taking a harder look at capital projects prior to granting approval. In December, the agency sent all 33 of South Carolina’s colleges and universities guidance on how it will review capital project proposals, including a recommendation that non-academic capital projects “should include a 50 percent private and/or up-front investment.”

In a time when our state is #1 in cost of attendance in the southeast region – and #8 nationally – the CHE remains committed to working with our state’s schools to change the trajectory of these costs and to more closely align resources to academic priorities. Due to the CHE’s new methodology of reviewing non-academic capital projects, the students and taxpayers in South Carolina have saved over \$100 million.

Clemson is a state and national leader in its academic and athletic pursuits. Following the Finance Committee vote today the CHE asked Clemson to revise its project proposal to include private/up-front funding and stands ready to work with the school to craft a proposal that the Commission can approve, which will serve as a standard for all of our state’s schools to follow.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) serves as the state’s coordinating body for higher education. The CHE is committed to promoting quality, efficiency, and affordability in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy, and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly. Information about current activities of the CHE and higher education in South Carolina can be found on the agency’s website: www.che.sc.gov.