

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education  
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

Meeting Held At  
Marriott Hotel, Azalea Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
299 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306

**Minutes of the Meeting  
April 5, 2018  
12:30 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair  
Mr. Devron Edwards, Vice Chair  
Mr. Richard A. Jones  
Mr. Charles Munns

**Staff Present**

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Dr. John Lane  
Mr. Gerrick Hampton  
Mr. Frank Myers  
Ms. Laverne Sanders  
Ms. Tanya Weigold

**Guests Attending**

Dr. Charlie Spell, SC State University (Telephone)  
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers SC State University (Telephone)

**1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Paul Batson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made by all in attendance. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. A **motion** was made (Munns), **seconded** (Edwards), and **carried** to approve the minutes of February 1, 2018.

**2. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers  
Preliminary Recruitment Plans *(For Information)***

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk provided follow up information from the February 1, 2018 meeting regarding a proposal from the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT).

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers provided the SC-PRRMT proposed budget and recruitment plan for FY2018-19. She explained the justification for additional funding for SC-PRRMT. She stated that all positions excluding the Program Manager were phased out of the program and that presently the Program Manager position performs all the personnel responsibilities for the program. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that to develop additional sites in 2018-19, extra funding and additional personnel is needed for the SC-PRRMT program. She provided the proposed budget cost for additional program support personnel. The proposed personnel costs for a full-time recruiter is \$40,000 and an the proposed personnel costs for administrative assistant is \$30,000. The total cost including fringe benefits is \$94,500.

Dr. Charlie Spell stated that SC State University has articulation agreements with Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and Midlands Technical College. He stated SC State University is finalizing agreements with Denmark Technical College and Piedmont Technical College. Dr. Spell stated additional funding is needed for program expansion. He explained that to be able to maintain academic intervention for program participants, the program will need additional adjunct professors.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that additional funding is also needed to continue conducting statewide recruiting efforts. She stated that this includes travel, supplies and materials. She explained that the academic intervention budget line is to support SC-PRRMT's Academic Intervention Program to include academic formal reviews and assistance for program participants who are preparing for the PRAXIS core, PRAXIS II and the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) examinations. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that SC-PRRMT proposed additional funding is \$250,000 for FY2018-19.

Ms. Thomas-Myers provided the projected recruitment plan for FY2018-19. She stated that in the recruitment projections, SC-PRRMT will maintain current sites and establish additional sites, coordinate with school districts, award forgivable loans, increase the number of program graduates and monitor student progress by visiting established sites. Ms. Thomas Myers provided the tentative recruitment schedule for SC-PRRMT potential sites.

- Marion/Clarendon/Barnwell/Bamberg
- Moncks Corner/Berkeley/Charleston
- Richland School Districts One and Two/Fairfield/Winnsboro
- Marlboro/Georgetown/Williamsburg/Florence/Horry
- Allendale/Colleton/Hampton 1 and Hampton 2/Jasper
- Lexington/Newberry/Abbeville/Aiken/Edgefield/Laurens/McCormick/Saluda
- Kershaw/Lee/Sumter/Chester/Lancaster/Union/York
- Anderson/Cherokee/Greenville/Oconee/Pickens/Spartanburg

Ms. Thomas-Myers provided the projected number of students and the projected number of graduates for SC-PRRMT for the next five years.

Commissioner Charles Munns asked if SC-PRRMT was requesting additional funding for FY2018-19 or FY2019-20. Ms. Thomas-Myers replied that the additional funding is for FY2018-19. Mr. Munns asked how would CHE request additional funding since FY2018-19 budget was previously approved. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that additional funding could not be requested for the current budgetary year. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that SC-PRRMT staff understood from the February 1, 2018 meeting with the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services that the request was for additional funding for FY2018-19 although the budget was previously approved. Chairman Batson stated that his understanding was the Committee asked SC-PRRMT to provide suggestions about improving the program outcome. He asked if SC-PRRMT's additional funding request would be valid if it was deferred to the next budgetary year and if SC-PRRMT would be able to perform their responsibilities within the budget for the current fiscal year. Dr. Spell stated that SC-PRRMT would work within the budget. Mr. Batson requested SC-PRRMT

review their proposal and defer the proposal until FY2019-20. Commissioner Munns stated that he agreed with the request in the proposal SC-PRRMT presented for a recruiter. However, he questioned the program's request for an administrative assistant. Commissioner Munns asked if it would be possible for a recruiter to perform administrative duties. Dr. Spell stated that if the recruiter is full time, it would be difficult to perform the administrative duties because of the recruiter's schedule. Commissioner Munns asked for an explanation regarding budget for the proposed Academic Intervention program and the need for expansion. Dr. Spell explained that SC-PRRMT's participants are non-traditional students. He stated that it has been a long time since the participants were familiar with basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics. Dr. Spell explained that most of the students need extra assistance to prepare for exams such as the PRAXIS examinations and the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) examinations. Commissioner Munns requested that outcomes of the Academic Intervention be included in the FY2019-20 proposal.

Commissioner Edwards asked how many of the SC-PRRMT participants are already involved in the teaching profession. Dr. Spell stated that approximately 90% of the participants are involved in the teaching profession. Commissioner Edwards inquired whether academic intervention has been in place prior to this year. He asked if the Academic Intervention program is something new for participants to receive assistance to stay on target and reach their goal. Dr. Spell acknowledged that that the program was new. Dr. Spell further stated that the participants must pass the state PRAXIS Core exam, reading, writing and mathematics to be a teacher education candidate, normally after the first two years. He explained that with the implementation of common core, the state has a gap. Dr. Spell stated program participants need assistance to master the required exams. He stated that once students are admitted into teacher education that participants must pass the PRAXIS II exam. Dr. Spell stated that the intervention provides assistance with all of the examinations. Commissioner Edwards stated that assistance should be provided to participants within their coursework and not through a separate program. Dr. Spell explained that all universities provide assistance to their teacher education students to pass their exams.

Commissioner Munns asked S.C. State University staff to work with CHE staff to work through the questions that were asked at the meeting and provide a proposal with staff recommendations to approve, not approve, or modify the proposal.

### **3. Year Round Palmetto Fellows *(For Approval)***

Ms. Tanya Weigold provided background information of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship program and explained the current application process for Palmetto Fellows. She explained the current application award periods -- the Early Award and the Late Award.

Ms. Weigold explained the proposed Palmetto Fellows Scholarship application process. She stated that staff is proposing to open the application process early in September and close the application process late April. She stated counselors would be able to submit Palmetto Fellows applicants as soon as students meet academic eligibility. Commissioner Munns asked if the institutions were in support of the change in the application process.

Ms. Weigold replied that the institutions were in support of the change and would be able to provide the award information to recipients sooner. Commissioner Richard Jones asked if anyone has brought up any concerns about changing the process. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that the proposal was shared with the larger institutions for review. She stated that the institutions endorsed the proposed process. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the proposed application process will require changes in the regulations through the regulatory process.

Commissioner Munns **motioned** approval of the proposed new Palmetto Fellows application process. Commissioner Jones **seconded** the motion and the motion **carried**.

#### **4. College Application Month Report 2017** *(For Information)*

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a brief history of College Application Month (CAM). Mr. Gerrick Hampton provided additional background information about the CAM program. He stated that CAM began in 2009 with funding from the U.S. Department of Education and that a small pilot was held on the I-95 corridor. He said the goal is to increase the number of students who apply to college.

Mr. Hampton explained the different formats the high schools used for CAM events. Some of the different formats include: a one-day setting, have evening events and some school have their events over a month period.

Mr. Hampton provided a list of new schools for CAM for Fall 2017. He stated that 231 South Carolina high schools registered to hold CAM events and approximately 47,746 high school seniors had the opportunity to participate in a CAM event at their respective high schools. Mr. Hampton explained that the Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (CACRAO) partner with CHE to provide college representation to high school's CAM event if the school has registered by a specific time. He stated that the actual number of seniors that signed in at the events were 22,617.

Mr. Hampton stated that CHE has started a partnership with the State Treasurer's Office. He explained that the Treasurer's Office agreed to sponsor two \$529 scholarships to CAM students who will be selected through a random drawing. He stated that two students were randomly selected for CAM 2017 - a senior from Dutch Fork High School and a senior from Fort Mill High School.

Mr. Hampton explained that registration College Decision Day open and 80 high schools have registered for College Decision Day. Mr. Hampton stated that there is a goal to have 110 schools registered for 2018. He explained that the goal is to celebrate students' decisions to attend a post-secondary institution after graduating high school.

Mr. Hampton stated that staff is working to transition the College Goal SC program to the fall to take advantage of the new October 1 release date of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). He stated that 26 pilot high schools held College Goal events on the high schools' campuses in Fall 2017. CHE staff is currently working with the State TRIO, Technical College System and the South Carolina Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA) to provide support at the Fall College Goal SC Events.

Commissioner Edwards asked if staff is working to get more schools to be a part of CAM. Mr. Hampton stated that staff is working to get more representation from institutions. He stated that colleges try to stay within their geographic footprint but the Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (CACRAO) would allow institutions to go any geographic area if they do not recruit on behalf of their specific school. Mr. Hampton explained that the number of institutions providing application fee waivers has decreased. He said staff is working to get more institutions to provide fee waivers on certain days.

**5. Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Valor) and GI Bill Payment Rates (For Information)**

Mr. Frank Myers provided background information for the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. He stated that the Act allowed veterans additional time to use their GI Bill benefits because it removes the current 15-year time limit to use their GI Bill. Mr. Myers stated as long as eligible recipients have VA benefits, they may use their GI Bill benefits their entire life.

My Myers stated that veterans may have their benefit restored if they were attending a college or university that close. Reservists who lost their benefit under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) may also have their benefits restored. He stated the VALOR Act streamlines the approval process for Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training (OJT) under the GI Bill. Mr. Myers stated the Apprenticeship Programs usually range from two to five years in length. He stated the On-the-Job Training Programs range from six months to two years of full-time training. Mr. Myers stated that the SC State Approving Agency provided technical assistance with OJT and Apprenticeship enrollment packets and documentation to 160 veterans this year. He provided the Post 9/11 S.C. top six military housing payment rates, the Apprenticeship/OJT GI Bill payment rates and the tuition for academic years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Mr. Myers provided program approvals for FY 2017 and the first quarter of FY 2018.

**Other Business**

A **motion** (Munns) was made, **seconded** (Edwards), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laverne Sanders