

**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher
Education Executive Committee Meeting
April 28, 2020**

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Mr. Charles Dalton

Executive Committee Members Absent

Mr. Charles Munns

Other Commissioners Present

Ms. Terry Seckinger

CHE Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive
Director
Ms. Laura Belcher, Operations Director
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Chief Information Officer
Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs
Mr. Andrew Roof, Public Information Coordinator
Mr. Georges Tippens, Facilities Program Manager
Ms. Bunnie Ward, Director of Governmental
Affairs & Communications
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Approval of Minutes (March 20, 2020)

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee’s meeting on March 20, 2020. Vice Chair Horne motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commission Dalton and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved.

2. Review of the May 7, 2020 CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes introduced the May 7, 2020 CHE draft meeting agenda and opened the floor for discussion. Chair Hayes inquired about agenda item 3.A. *Consideration of Changes to State Scholarship Regulations*, which at the time of the Executive Committee meeting was submitted for the Commission’s approval. Dr. Monhollon provided background information for the proposed regulatory modifications and asked Dr. Karen Woodfaulk to further explain these to the committee. Dr. Woodfaulk did so and answered ensuing questions from committee members.

Learning from Dr. Woodfaulk that the proposed modifications might occasion an increase in the number of scholarship-qualifying students and thus also the state’s fiscal obligations, Chair Hayes expressed concern that this could place too much pressure on the General Assembly, which may divert general funds from post-secondary institutions to make up the difference.

Commissioner Batson asked whether the General Assembly would need to approve these regulatory changes. Dr. Monhollon clarified that it is not yet certain CHE has the authority to make these, even given the special permissions granted by Governor McMaster’s COVID-19-related executive orders. Dr. Monhollon expressed that it would be preferred for the General Assembly to approve the proposed regulatory changes, especially because of their estimated fiscal impact.

Instead of the Commission voting for approval of the regulatory changes, Dr. Monhollon suggested the Commission express endorsement of them.

Transitioning, the Executive Committee discussed regulatory changes to the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program, which Dr. Monhollon assessed could be made with minimal financial impact. He requested Dr. Woodfaulk explain the proposed regulation change. She did so.

Dr. Monhollon overviewed the information he would report during the upcoming Commission meeting. He informed the Executive Committee of the status of the agency's relocation to new office space.

Ms. Bunnie Ward updated committee members on recent legislative activity. She asked that CHE keep legislative staff apprised of regulatory developments. Chair Hayes agreed.

Chair Hayes asked Dr. Monhollon about the proposed incorporation of the Council of Presidents guidelines into the Commission's bylaws. Dr. Monhollon recounted the development process for the guidelines and explained that they were originally proposed for passage at the Commission's April meeting, but complications related to COVID-19 necessitated postponement. Ms. Laura Belcher then described the bylaw revision process timeline. There was no other discussion on the matter.

Dr. Lane stated the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing would meet prior to the Commission meeting on May 7, to discuss the College of Charleston's electrical engineering proposal. He added that Commission Munns would provide the Commission a report of the committee's discussion, with no action by the Commission. Commissioner Seckinger asked if The Citadel had been notified of the College of Charleston's appeal. Dr. Lane confirmed The Citadel had been notified and added that the two schools had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Commissioner Dalton stated the Committee on Finance & Facilities would meet at 2 pm on May 5. He explained the committee would meet earlier in the week to maintain proper alignment with the Joint Bond Review Committee's meeting schedule.

Circling back to the scholarship regulation change item, Chair Hayes asked that it be presented under the president and executive director's report as an information item.

3. Discussion of Changes to State Scholarship Regulations (For discussion only, not for approval)

Discussion was held during the *Review of the May 7, 2020, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda*. Please refer to the above section.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Adjourn

Commissioner Batson **motioned** and Commissioner Dalton **seconded** for the Executive Committee to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 a.m.