

**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher
Education Executive Committee Meeting
May 26, 2020**

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Mr. Charles Dalton
Mr. Charles Munns

Executive Committee Members Absent

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair

CHE Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive
Director
Ms. Laura Belcher, Operations Manager
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Chief Information Officer
Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs
Mr. Andrew Roof, Communications 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 Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Approval of Minutes (April 28, 2020)

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee's meeting on April 28, 2020. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Dalton seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Review of the June 4, 2020 CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes initiated the discussion of the draft agenda for the Commission's upcoming meeting on June 4, 2020.

Regarding the Chair's report, Chair Hayes commented that the Executive Committee will be involved in the agency head evaluation process. He reported that more information regarding the process and procedure will be provided in the near future.

Chair Hayes asked Dr. Monhollon to summarize his upcoming report.

Dr. Monhollon stated that his report would update the Commission on: the agency's activities regarding the COVID-19 outbreak; institutions' plans for academic operations in the summer and fall terms; the legislature's return in June; and the recommendations arising from the South Carolina Higher Education Advisory Committee's (SCHEAC) sessions. Chair Hayes commented that the report developed by The Hunt Institute was good. Dr. Monhollon agreed but voiced that, in light of the new economic outlook, recommendations may need to be re-prioritized.

Ms. Ward stated she was awaiting an announcement of when the General Assembly would return to session and briefly discussed the Senate Re-Open South Carolina Select Committee.

Then Committee Chairs reviewed their Committee reports for the CHE meeting.

Commissioner Munns stated an item would need to be added to the Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing: a ground rules report on how the committee will approach program approvals during the current period. He conveyed the committee's recognition that programs are long-term investments by institutions, that times are changing, and that, while the committee should continue to review programs, it should also rely more heavily on institutions' boards of trustees to implement their instruction. He stated the agenda item would be a one-page document and would like it to be inserted as 6.02.A, before the consent agenda. Commissioner Munns briefly discussed the College of Charleston's appeal of the Commission's prior rejection of its proposed bachelor's program in electrical engineering. He stated the institution did everything the Commission suggested it consider when the program was originally rejected.

Commissioner Batson said the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would put before the Commission three reports for information only, adding that the committee would propose nothing for approval. He stated the committee would meet upon the Commission's adjournment on June 4, 2020.

Commissioner Dalton stated the Committee on Finance & Facilities, at the suggestion of Commission Dolny, will begin examining its processes and procedures to ensure institutions are being asked the most pertinent questions, so the best possible information regarding projects' financial impact, funding sources, and overall value is being gathered. Chair Hayes asked if any update on a rescheduled Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) meeting had been received. Commissioner Dalton said he had received no word, but he conjectured that it would probably not convene until after the June 9 primary.

3. Other Business

Chair Hayes asked if there was any other business to consider. President Monhollon briefly laid out plans for the Commission Strategic Planning Session to be held on July 30, 2020, (directly after the conclusion of the July 30th CHE business meeting) through the afternoon of July 31, 2020. He informed the Committee that details were being finalized as to exact times and location. He presented his vision for the focus of the Session as being consideration of the recommendations of the SC Higher Education Advisory Committee (SCHEAC). He reminded the members that SCHEAC met three times in the last year for the purpose of making recommendations to operationalize the 2017 Public Agenda for Higher Education.

4. Adjourn

A **motion** was made and **seconded** for the Executive Committee to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.