

**Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education**

July 30, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Charles Munns
Commissioner James Battle
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown
Commissioner Charles Dalton

Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Linda Dolny
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne
Commissioner Ben Satcher
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Mark Smith

Excused Members

Commissioner Devron Edwards
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Patrick White

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Monica Goodwin
Dr. John Lane
Mr. Andre Roof
Dr. Regine Rucker

Ms. Shakara Smith
Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Lishu Yin

Guests

Dr. Hasanul Basher, SC State University
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Dr. Claudia Bornholdt, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College
Mr. Scott Cochran, Spartanburg Methodist College
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Mr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Molly Epsey, Clemson University
Dr. Monica Gray, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Sarah Hottinger, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina, Columbia
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University
Mr. Jeremy King, Clemson University
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Dr. Pamela Martin, Coastal Carolina University

Mr. James Mikolowsky, Hunt Institute
Dr. Nancy Muller, College of Charleston
Ms. Laura Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Dr. Hope Rivers, SC Technical College
Dr. Karen Roof, The Citadel
Dr. Sally Selden, The Citadel
Mr. Patrick Sims, Hunt Institute
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
Ms. Madeline Smith, Clemson University
Mr. Charlie Spell, SC State University
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina, Aiken
Ms. Jasmine Todd, Central Carolina Technical College
Mr. Anderson Wrangle, Clemson University
Ms. Valeria Zimany, Clemson University

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

I. 1. Introductions and Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Ms. Belcher introduced the Commissioners and guests in attendance. She confirmed a quorum of the Commission and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of both the June 4, 2020, regular meeting and the June 22, 2020 special called meeting and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked Commission staff for their outstanding work. He then extended a special thanks to Dr. Monhollon for the work he is doing with college presidents, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Public Hearing on Regulatory Amendments

Commissioner Seckinger motioned and Commissioner White seconded to move into the public hearing, and the motion carried. Chair Hayes called the public hearing to order to consider the proposed change to the SC National Guard College Assistance Program for service members to receive an education benefit. He then provided details of the proposal informing that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services, after collaboration with the SC National Guard and the SC Technical College System, approved a proposed change in the regulation to allow the inclusion of less than one-year certificates and certification programs for eligible service members. He also informed that Notice for the public hearing was published in the State Register and Dr. Woodfaulk confirmed there were no written requests to provide comments at this hearing. Chair Hayes opened the floor to any comments or questions. He then moved, and Commissioner Batson seconded that the public hearing close, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon discussed the formation of the SC Higher Education Recovery Advisory Group (SCHEAC) composed of diverse constituencies, which met to develop recommendations and strategies for implementing the Public Agenda. He then introduced two Hunt Institute staff members, Patrick Sims and James Mikolowsky, with whom the CHE partnered to support the work of the SCHEAC. He reported that the advisory committee's work helped to identify key priorities and goals to help ensure that South Carolinians have access to higher education. He then asked the Commissioners to share any feedback regarding the SCHEAC recommendations. Commissioner Batson commented that the report was impressive and inquired on next steps. Dr. Monhollon commented that he would like the full Commission to weigh in on future actions, but staff would begin to work on a draft implementation plan. He stated that the draft would then be presented to the full Commission. Commissioner Munns then motioned and Commissioner Brown seconded that Dr. Monhollon and CHE staff move forward in developing an

operational plan to guide the work of the Commission. Chair Hayes asked if there were any comments or questions. Commissioner Seckinger asked how the SC HEAC recommendations related to the Commission's strategic plan. Dr. Monhollon clarified the distinction between the strategic plan and the public agenda. He then mentioned there being a broad consensus across the state on putting forth recommendations and prioritizing goals to aid in implementing the public agenda, which will pave the way forward for the CHE work. Chair Hayes requested that Commissioner Munns reintroduce his motion. Commissioner Munns motioned and Commissioner Brown seconded that Dr. Monhollon and CHE staff move forward in developing an operational plan to guide the work of the Commission using the recommendations set forth by the SC HEAC, and the motion carried. Dr. Monhollon thanked the Commission and Hunt Institute staff for their feedback and assistance.

Next, he discussed the re-opening plans of institutions of higher education and mentioned that all institutions would have some variation of online, hybrid and traditional in-person fall course offerings. He explained that Technical Colleges will operate on the normal schedule. Then, he discussed the financial implications of COVID-19 on higher education institutions and enrollment projections in response to the alterations in fall plans as mentioned. He shared that public institutions incurred \$82 million in costs through June, not to include lost revenue, and have, therefore, begun to implement cost saving measures. He also mentioned that the Commission has been consistently collecting financial data from institutions and sharing those findings with the legislature. He next discussed trends to monitor over the next few months: waitlist and summer "melt," enrollment volatility, gap year/semester, differential pricing, mergers and acquisitions, and outlook for 2021 relating to the recruitment process of new students. Commissioner Horne asked whether the Commission's plans would be widely acceptable given the current pandemic conditions. Dr. Monhollon clarified that Commissioner Horne was referring to the vast plans across the 33 institutions and stated that the institutions have worked diligently and intricately to develop plans that would be safe and conducive for their college communities. Commissioner Seckinger asked about the business implications for continuing education to support learning new skills. Dr. Monhollon responded that institutions, public and private, engage in continuing education currently.

Commissioner Batson asked if Dr. Monhollon were aware of any institutions that would be subject to gap year occurrences. Dr. Monhollon responded that several inquiries were received by the Commission regarding if students would lose their scholarships if they decided to take a year off from their studies. He then asked Commissioners for feedback on the CHE statement of support. Chair Hayes, Commissioners Dalton and Batson expressed support for the draft letter Dr. Monhollon presented. Commissioner Smith suggested adding a sentence stating the CHE supports reopening in the fall but has not mandated those plans. Dr. Monhollon suggested that the letter be sent under both his and Chair Hayes' signature incorporating feedback from Commissioners. Dr. Monhollon next shared that the CHE is in Phase II of the state government workforce re-entry plan as of July. He shared that most staff members are working remotely and coordinating their in-office access needs. He stated that the State will likely not move to Phase III for several weeks and that staff will be offered flexibility to work remotely post pandemic, which will reduce office space requirements. He then updated the Commission regarding the CHE building lease, which will be reconsidered at the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) on August 18.

6. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward provided an update on the state budget. She shared that the General Assembly will convene September 15 to pass the final budget FY2020-21, distribute the CARES Act funding, and take up other matters. She shared that the Board of Economic Advisors Legislature forecasted \$40 million above budget and that the Education

Improvement Act (EIA) revenues through June will be down \$33.5 million below the February estimate. She explained that there are two Commission programs funded fully or partially by the EIA; SC African American Teacher Loan Program and the Centers of (Teaching) Excellence. She reported that the lottery revenue through June was \$492.8 and exceeded the estimate and that final results for fiscal year 19-20 will be discussed at the August 24 Board of Economic Advisors meeting and the fiscal year 20-21 budget will be discussed at the August 31 meeting.

She then informed the Commission that she is monitoring the consideration of fund allocations to higher education through the proposed federal aid package, Health Economic Assistance Liability Protection in Schools Act. She mentioned that the CHE has sent letters to our congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of higher education are considered when making the allocations. Then, she shared an update regarding funding of the online learning initiative through the CARES Act, which would increase access to internet and broadband connectivity. Lastly, she updated the Commission that our website is in the process of being updated to include fall re-opening plans for higher education institutions.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

No report.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns introduced the items from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. He reported the committee had a consent agenda, two individual program proposals, and three reports.

- A. Consideration of Central Carolina Technical College Mission Statement Change
Commissioner Munns described the mission statement change on the Consent Agenda.

- B. Program Proposals

Commissioner Munns highlighted that there were originally 62 proposals, but that number was reduced considering current pandemic conditions. He then opened the floor for questions or comments. Chair Hayes asked if there were any questions and called for the vote on the motion to approve the consent agenda, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Munns then described two proposals for discussion, both from Coastal Carolina University: the B.A. & B.S. in Sustainability and Coastal Resilience, and the B.F.A. in Visual Art ACAP unanimously recommended both for approval. He stated that CAAL unanimously recommended the Visual Art program for Commission approval and voted four to one in favor of the Sustainability and Coastal Resilience program. Following Commissioner Munns' description of the two proposals, staff from Coastal Carolina were welcomed to share further details surrounding the programs. Then, Commissioner Seckinger shared her rebuttal not to approve the B.A. & B.S., Sustainability and Coastal Resilience program because of its relevance and affiliations with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) program. She then engaged in an extensive conversation with Coastal Carolina representatives and Commissioners regarding the origins of the program, its relevance and funding.

Chair Hayes then asked if there were any further comments or discussion. Commissioner Horne shared her support of the proposal and both Commissioners Dyer and Munns made a correction to the record. Commission Dyer pointed out that program did not originate in the political science department at Coastal Carolina and Commissioner Munns clarified that the course curriculum is based on sustainability. Commissioner Dolny then called for the question and Chair Hayes, at the request of Commissioner Seckinger, called for a roll call vote. With a vote of ten to one, the motion passed to approve the B.A. & B.S., Sustainability and Coastal Resilience program. Dr. Monhollon mentioned that by statute, Commissioner Smith's position, who was not in favor of the motion, is a non-voting member.

Commissioner Munns then explained the second Coastal Carolina program proposal, B.F.A, Visual Art, which was unanimously approved by both ACAP and CAAL. He explained that Commissioner Brown requested that the full Commission discuss the proposal with Coastal Carolina staff. Commissioner Seckinger inquired why the program was not packaged as a minor to a major as opposed to being elevated to a major. Chair Hayes then called on Coastal Carolina to respond to Commissioner Seckinger's inquiry and to further explain the proposal. Coastal Carolina staff expressed the uniqueness, value, and demand of the program. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comments or questions, then called for a vote on the motion to approve the B.F.A, Visual Art at Coastal Carolina, which passed unanimously.

C. Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2018

Dr. Lane stated the Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen was brought forth unanimously by CAAL to the Commission for consideration. Chair Hayes asked if there were any questions or comments, then proceeded with the vote, which passed unanimously.

D. Annual Evaluation of Associate-Degree Programs, FY 2017-2018

Dr. Lane explained the Annual Evaluation of Associate-Degree Programs offered by technical colleges and the four regional campuses of the University of South Carolina. He stated the Annual Evaluation of Associate-Degree Program was brought forth unanimously by CAAL to the Commission for consideration. Chair Hayes asked if there were any questions or comments, then proceeded with the vote, which passed unanimously.

E. Report on Program Modifications, February 7, 2020 – July 2, 2020 (For Information, No Action Required)

Dr. Lane explained the Report on Modifications did not require any action by the Commission, but rather served as an informational report. He further explained that modifications were made in response to student needs and to improve student access.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee had two items on the consent agenda and one informational item to present to the Commission.

A. Consideration of SC Student Loan Corporation FY 2020-2021 Administrative Budget Request

Commissioner Batson explained that the SC Student Loan budget is considered annually by the Commission. He shared the proposed budget for this year as \$540,000, which the committee commends and recommends favorably to the Commission to accept the budget.

B. SC Program for Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Quarterly Report (Quarter 3)

Commissioner Batson mentioned that the program is effective and motioned that the Commission favorably approve the quarterly report. Chair Hayes asked if there were any questions, then called for a vote to approve the consent agenda, which was approved unanimously.

C. SC State Approving Agency (SAA) Update FY 2019-2020 (For Information, No Action Required).

Commissioner Batson mentioned the informational item and referenced supporting materials.

Chair Hayes thanked Commissioner Batson for his report.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported one permanent improvement item on the consent agenda from Greenville Technical College.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approval

1. Greenville Technical College – Parking Lot R Construction: Barton Campus

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the project. Mr. Tippens explained that the request was on the June CHE agenda, but was pulled at the request of the college. He mentioned that it is \$2.7 million project to build a new parking lot and to rehabilitate an adjacent parking lot. He stated that the proposal received a favorable recommendation from the committee. Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the project. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the project was passed unanimously. Mr. Tippens then provided an update on eight staff-approved project requests. Following his report, Mr. Wilson shared the 2020 fiscal year budget report. He mentioned that the administrative dollars allocated were \$2.6 million, and the Commission utilized \$2.4 million of the budgets. He projected that \$400,000 will remain and carry over to the next fiscal year. Commissioner Dalton then provided an update on the policy and procedural manual that will be utilized in considering permanent improvement projects. He reported that the committee plans on presenting the manual during the full CHE meeting in September. Chair Hayes asked if there were any questions and thanked Commissioner Dalton for their work.

8. Other Business Announcements

Commissioner Horne confirmed the voting results as ten to one in reference to the Coastal Carolina B.A. & B.S., Sustainability and Coastal Resilience proposal.

9. Public Comment

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any public comment. There were no comments from the public.

10. Executive Session

Commissioner Horne motioned and Commissioner White seconded to go into executive session. The Commissioners went into executive session from 3:10 to 3:33 p.m. for personnel purposes. Chair Hayes mentioned that no action was taken in executive session.

II. 11. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.