

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

October 1, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

**Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown  
Commissioner Charles Dalton  
Commissioner Linda Dolny  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer  
Commissioner Devron Edwards

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley  
Commissioner Charles Munns  
Commissioner Ben Satcher  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Patrick White

**Excused Members**

Commissioner Mark Smith

**Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Monica Goodwin  
Dr. John Lane  
Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens  
Ms. Bunnie Ward  
Mr. Bryce Wilson  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Ms. Renee Bussey, Orangeburg Calhoun  
Technical College  
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Mr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University  
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University  
Ms. Twaina Harris, Claflin University  
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina, Columbia

Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University  
Ms. Hope Rivers, SC Technical College System  
Dr. David Schuster, USC Upstate  
Mr. Charlie Spell, SC State University  
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University

**All Attended by Phone or Video Conference**

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 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 the September 3, 2020 CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner White motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes explained that there will be discussion during the Executive Committee Report regarding the CHE Bylaws.

### **4. President and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon welcomed Commissioner Hugh Mobley as a new Commissioner to the CHE, and thanked Commissioner Battle for his service to the Commission. He then shared an update regarding the status of the CHE office lease. He stated the lease has been executed and the Commission will move as early as the week before Thanksgiving or the week after the December CHE meeting. He next shared that Commission staff have been working on revamping the Commission's brand to include a new logo, website, letterhead, and various other templates.

President Monhollon next provided an overview of the operational plan for the Public Agenda. He explained that Senior Staff conducted a couple of meetings with HCM Strategists, and as a result, developed two subgroups; one focused on transition to post-secondary education, and the other centered on post-secondary success. He shared the committees would develop a prioritized list of strategies, the actions needed to support those strategies, and a set of metrics to monitor the progress. He affirmed that by the November CHE meeting, a draft will be presented to the Commission, and by December, a coherent plan will be in place for approval and implementation.

After discussing the two main objectives of the plan, educational attainment and equity, President Monhollon then asked for feedback from the Commissioners on the draft outline provided. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with listing civic engagement as an objective, to which President Monhollon responded civic engagement is a benefit of increased education, not the objective. Commissioner Munns asked how the work would be implemented between the subgroups, to which President Monhollon responded the subgroups will help in drafting the framework of the operational plan. Commissioner Munns suggested segmenting the initiatives within the four Committees and/or form an ad hoc Committee, which President Monhollon agreed to take into consideration. Commissioner Sellers raised the issue of how the CHE could advance college readiness among high school students. President Monhollon discussed the importance of the issue and stressed the need of coordination between the CHE and the technical college system.

Finally, President Monhollon provided an update on COVID-19 as it relates to the CHE and institutions of higher education (IHE) plans. He shared all universities have students on campus, and all but one are teaching face to face in campus classrooms. He also shared that students will not return to campus following Thanksgiving break but will finish the semester with online-only instruction. As institutions plan for spring semester, he stated most institutions intend to start on their normal schedule, but several are going to start a week later, and not have a spring break. He then transitioned to share an update on Fall Enrollment stating that enrollment was better than projected, with undergraduate numbers statewide down about 1.4 percent. Commissioner Batson requested updated enrollment numbers, to which President Monhollon responded he will follow up.

### **5. Legislative Report**

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward provided an update following the General Assembly's adjournment last week. She shared that the state is operating on a

continuing resolution from the House, and that the CHE has begun the planning and submission of the budget for the next fiscal year 2021-22. She said that the CHE does have two budget requests going forward; one for additional funding for need-based financial aid and the other for non-recurring funds to maintain PASCAL at its current level.

Regarding the CARES Act, Ms. Ward shared that Phase II was passed and signed by Governor McMaster September 25. She explained that Higher Education, local government, and state agencies were allowed \$115 million for reimbursements. She explained that those mentioned entities are authorized to apply for reimbursement of expenditures necessary for the response to COVID-19 that were either incurred or expected to be incurred between July 1, 2020, and December 30 of 2020. Next, she provided an update on the HEROES Act stating, the American Council on Education submitted a letter requesting additional supplemental funding for institutions of higher education.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes called on Vice Chair Horne to provide an update on the review of the CHE Bylaws. Vice Chair Horne provided a brief summary regarding suggested amendments to the CHE Bylaws, and stated that all points were consistent with current practice, but the issue of meeting frequency should be further discussed. Chair Hayes thanked Vice Chair Horne and the Executive Committee for their review, then called on President Monhollon to further the report. President Monhollon shared research in reference to how other state Commissions hold their meetings. He shared that most coordinating boards meet quarterly, some meet five to six times, and two others hold nine meetings. In addition, he explained that some boards hold ad hoc meetings to address more time sensitive issues.

He next shared potential revised schedules that could reduce the number of meetings to eight and still meet the needs of the Commission. Commissioner Batson motioned; Vice Chair Horne seconded that the proposed symmetrical calendar be accepted and placed into the CHE Bylaws. Commissioner Munns proposed not accepting the motion, stating the he is unsure how the calendar will impact CAAL's work. Commissioner Dyer added that campus presidents should be polled to determine their thoughts on the change before voting to change the calendar. President Monhollon suggested amending the Bylaws to read, "The Commission shall meet at least eight times annually on the first Thursday of the calendar month with scheduled exceptions," then work through the logistics of the actual schedule. Commissioner Batson then amended his motion to read, the CHE will meet eight times a year minimum with the details of the meeting date to be scheduled or determined at the appropriate time. Commissioner Dyer seconded, the motion carried and will be voted on in November.

### **6.02 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 three items on the agenda.

#### **A. Project Lead the Way**

Commissioner Munns shared a summary on the informational item, Project Lead the Way, which is a nonprofit company that introduces stem curriculum primarily for grades K-12. He explained that CHE received a request from the South Carolina Department of Education to research the program, which the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing found to be a good program. He shared that Dr. Monhollon will draft a letter to the SC Department of Education indicating its positive evaluation.

B. Continuing Award for EIA Centers of Excellence Competitive Grant

Dr. Lane provided a summary of the grant and said that activities within the program will proceed under a continuing resolution for 2021. He shared that, under a five-year award, the program provides professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers of students in low performing, high need, school districts within the state.

C. Annual Report on Licensing Activities, FY 2019

Commissioner Munns provided a summary of the Annual Report on Licensing Activities. He shared a comparison of enrollment numbers between non-profit, for profit and all public institutions.

Commissioner Munns stated that CAAL has created an ad hoc committee to review their process for reviewing proposals. He explained that the ad hoc committee will provide a proposal to CAAL by the end of October and will then provide an update to the CHE in November.

### **6.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services**

Commissioner Batson shared that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student services has one item on the consent agenda for approval by the Commission, and two additional items to discuss as informational topics.

A. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) 2019-2020 Annual Report and FY 2021-2022 Budget Report

Commissioner Batson shared the successes of the program and that eighty-five students are enrolled. He explained that the budget request for the coming year is equivalent to the last two-year requests, therefore, the Committee recommended the CHE approve the budget. The budget was approved unanimously.

B. SC Student Loan Corporation: SC Teachers Loan Program

Commissioner Batson provided a summary of the program and new provisions being taken to lessen the impacts of financial burden during the pandemic.

C. Carolina Cluster Career Pathways Program: Benedict College, Claflin University, and Voorhees College

Commissioner Batson shared that the report describes activities that the institutions have developed and been involved with to help prepare students for the workplace.

He then mentioned that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services would convene immediately following the Commission Meeting.

### **6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the CHE meeting and had two items to present.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approval

1. Medical University of South Carolina

a. Basic Science Building Air Handler Unit #1 (West Side) Replacement

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the project. Mr. Tippens explained that Medical University of South Carolina sought recommendation of the Commission on Higher Education to begin the Phase II construction stage of replacing a 200,000-cubic feet per minute (cfm) air handler with two 100,000 cfm air handlers that would serve six floors on the west side of the campus's Basic Science Building. He shared that the projected cost for the project is \$4.9 million, which Commissioners questioned. He explained that MUSC staff discussed the drivers behind the relative high project costs, which according to staff, is added infrastructure costs associated with replacing a single unit with two smaller units. He also shared that staff explained two units would result in operating cost savings. Commissioner Munns questioned whether the Committee asked MUSC staff if the proposed air handler would help reduce pathogens in the air, such as COVID-19. Commissioner Dalton stated the Committee had and that MUSC staff stated the new air handler would.

## 2. Northeastern Technical College

Mr. Tippens explained that Northeastern Technical College sought recommendation of the Commission on Higher Education to begin the Phase I design stage of a project to perform renovations to its Marlboro Campus, which consists of a single, 43,000-square foot former Winn-Dixie grocery store in Bennettsville, South Carolina. He then explained the demand for certain programs, such as the need for its diesel technology and manufacturing program due to the college's proximity to the Dillon, South Carolina inland port.

Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of both projects, and the projects were approved unanimously. He then shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities has elected their Chair and Vice Chair, Commissioner Dalton and Commissioner Dolny respectively.

## B. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during September

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the September Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals. He shared that six projects were approved, of which three were closing out projects in reducing their budgets, and three were increasing project budgets. He shared that USC requested an increase in budget of \$150,000 as a transfer from another project with an excess budget. He further explained that two approvals included statutory appropriations, with one from York Technical college for \$2.5 million, and a second from USC Union for \$1.4 million. He shared that he approved two lease requests.

## 7. Other Business Announcements

Commissioner Munns shared three points: USC Aiken was ranked the top regional college in the South by the US News and World Report, statistics relating to veteran employment numbers and a request for a OneDrive account that Commissioners could work collaboratively. Commissioner Horne recognized Commissioner Dolny for work she has done with Lander University in establishing a food pantry for students. Commissioner Batson announced that the Committee of Access and Equity will meet immediately following the CHE meeting.

## 8. Public Comment

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

**II. 9. End of Business Meeting**

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.