



Minutes of the Council of Presidents
March 30, 2022
USC Alumni Center
900 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Council of Presidents Members Present:

Dr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Luther (Fred) Carter, Francis Marion University
Dr. John Catalano, USC-Salkehatchie
Dr. Walt Collins, University of South Carolina-Lancaster
Col. Alexander Conyers, South Carolina State University
Dr. Richard Cosentino, Lander University
Dr. Galen DeHay, Tri-County Technical College
Dr. Susan Elkins, Palmetto College
Dr. Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Richard Gough, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Tim Hardee, South Carolina Technical College System
Dr. Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. Daniel Heimmermann, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Andrew Hsu, College of Charleston

CHE Staff

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive Director

Dr. George Hynd, Winthrop University
Dr. Patricia Lee, Williamsburg Technical College
Dr. Randy Lowell, University of South Carolina-Union
Dr. Forrest Mahan, Aiken Technical College
Dr. Keith Miller, Greenville Technical College
Dr. Stacey Moore, York Technical College
Dr. Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. Jeffrey Perez, South Carolina Independent Colleges, and Universities
Dr. Kevin Pollock, Central Carolina Technical College
Dr. Ronald Rhames, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College
Dr. Lisa Saladin for Dr. Cole, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Sally Selden, The Citadel
Dr. Mike Sonntag, University of South Carolina-Sumter
Dr. Mary Thornley, Trident Technical College
Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Dr. Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College
Dr. Kyle Wagner, Northeastern Technical College

Other Guests Present

Adam Taylor, Lander University



I. Welcome and Introductions

AI Panu

Council of President (COP) Chair AI Panu called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and welcomed all meeting attendees. The meeting agenda was posted on the CHE website with proper notice of the meeting. The meeting was held in compliance with FOIA. There were no public guests or media in attendance. Attendance was recorded.

II. Approval of Minutes

AI Panu

COP Chair AI Panu introduced the draft minutes of the October 6, 2021, Council of Presidents' meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Dr. Marilyn Fore motioned to approve the minutes as presented, and Dr. Mary Thornley seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Discussions:

AI Panu

Enrollment Management Recommendations – Sector Committees

Dr. Tim Hardee provided the report on behalf of the technical colleges. Enrollment strategies for the sixteen colleges vary according to the location of the college, but the vast majority of strategies center around affordability, accessibility, and relevance. Strategies also align closely around local industry business partnerships. Dr. Hope Rivers noted that by being flexible when scheduling classes, Piedmont College has developed partnerships with local industry and has experienced an increase in re-admits. The technical colleges are also increasing their focus on wrap-around services - assisting the students through graduation and employment. Some technical colleges, which have similar degree programs, are recruiting jointly when visiting out of town. Palmetto College (including the USC two-year schools) is helping the two-year college sector students transfer to a bachelor's degree within the USC system.

When asked why enrollment in technical colleges is declining, Dr. Mary Thornley explained that the students are slowly recovering from COVID. Dr. Tim Hardee added other enrollment factors include the state's low unemployment rate, students remain on the sidelines waiting, and others are achieving their employment goals quicker with certificates. It was also suggested that the state consider adopting state-wide articulation agreements, instead of the burden of each technical college having to review department-specific articulation agreements from each of the comprehensive universities.

Dr. Fred Carter reported on the enrollment issues for the Comprehensive Universities. Decreased enrollment was a result of an occurrence from the previous year when one of the research universities, heavily recruited out-of-state students, resulting in a substantially large number of out-of-state tuition abatements. Several state legislators voiced opposition to this, so the following year, the research university heavily admitted more in-state students, which decreased the number of students attending the comprehensive universities. Also, it was noted that as universities work to increase diversity among their students, the Historic Black Colleges lose students. With only a fixed number of in-state students, the state universities and colleges compete with each other, so it is necessary to recruit out-of-state students. It was noted that when speaking with the legislators, the Commission of Higher Education and the universities should develop a talking point strategy that communicates the benefits of recruiting out-of-state students.

Three years ago, the general assembly agreed to provide tuition mitigation funds to accommodate changes in enrollment management. The COP discussed how state universities/colleges are not

like the other state agencies, whereas the state covers all of the personnel costs for state agencies. The legislators might consider fully funding personnel costs and fully funding tuition mitigation, instead of the universities/colleges having to use the tuition mitigation funds to cover salary increases, bonuses, and increases in insurance costs.

Dr. Lisa Saladin and Dr. Bob Jones provided the ten strategy points for improving enrollment for the research institutions.

1. Include increasing state scholarships for more graduate scholarship funding and rural scholarship.
2. Enhance philanthropic campaigns scholarships.
3. Work with SC AHEC (SC Area Health Education Consortium), and work with rural middle and high schools to prepare these students.
4. Increase the number and scope of online programs and certificate programs.
5. Work with the other universities and colleges to identify paths for common transferable courses.
6. Tinker with full-term scholarships - such as pro-rated scholarships for half terms/summer terms
7. Lower scholarship GPA requirements to what is needed to succeed in college.
8. Aggressively market to both in and out-of-state students.
9. Engage in the programs in secondary schools.
10. Collectively admit in-state students first, then admit out-of-state students, which will help keep the costs affordable for in-state students.

The COP Discussed economic impacts, special appropriations, and tuition mitigation funding. Dr. Fred Carter suggested, for this year, to first request non-recurring funds to offset the funds for the \$1,500 bonuses. All agreed.

Need-Based Scholarship Allocations Among Sectors and Carry-forward Budget Authority

COP Chair Al Panu framed the discussion. The need-based scholarship funds have increased from \$20 million to \$60 million. President Fred Carter proposed to keep comments minimized and let the process continue to unfold with the committees. Dr. Rusy Monhollon stated that the CHE has had proposals presented and discussed. Fiscal impacts have also been discussed. There is another upcoming meeting for further conversations next week. Any recommendations from the committees will be considered and finalized by April 23rd, the last scheduled meeting for the CHE Access and Equity and Student Services committee. Any recommendations coming out of the committee will then go to the full Commission for consideration at the next regular business meeting. The council discussed expanding the extended budget authority to an 18-month-wrap-around instead of one fiscal year. Dr. Fred Carter suggested the Council work to get the 18-month wrap-around as a proviso in the senate budget. All agreed.

Transfer Articulation

The General Assembly passed Proviso 117.152 (Transfer Student Credits). The proviso directed the CHE to work with the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and public institutions to develop policies that guarantee students who have earned an Associate degree in the Arts or Science from a public two-year institution receive at least 60 transfer credits and are given a junior status at a public four-year institution. Last year, the CHE, along with representatives from public institutions, partnered with SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers Association) and Gardner Institute to look at ways to effect transfers that would work more equitably for all students. The idea is to create a set of standards for transfer and articulations by which all state institutions will agree to abide by. As nothing has been determined yet, nothing has been finalized. It was acknowledged that faculty involvement will be crucial for

setting up the details. It was agreed that a statewide agreement would provide students with a better path forward when transferring. Six of the ten comprehensive universities recently supported a lobbyist group's language for an articulation agreement, which has been circulated among the House as a proviso. Other ideas; a statewide transfer portal. It was suggested that the state may consider agreeing to a two-plus-two plan, which would allow students to easily transfer credits to comprehensive universities, allowing the students to stay on track to graduate in four years. To move a comprehensive transfer plan forward, a task force comprised of representatives from all public institutions will need to draft a common core agreement, the rights and responsibilities, and a mechanism for appeal.

Status of Bills of Interest

Dr. Rusty Monhollon provided an update on the status of several higher education bills:

- He noted that of the five Critical Race Theory bills, three were primarily directed to K-12. The Education and Public Works Committee of the House met, combined, and passed a revised "CRT" bill that removes higher education institutions from the legislation entirely, leaving the focus exclusively on/in K12.
- The SC House 4605 Freedom from Ideological Coercion and Indoctrination bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Public Works.
- There is strong interest in the in-state tuition bill for North Carolina and Georgia students. If it is not passed this year, it will most likely be passed next year.
- Bunnie Ward, (CHE Director) is due to participate in Friday's statewide call with the board of nursing. The CHE has been asked by the House Education and Public Works Committee to take the lead in bringing the various groups together to talk about a comprehensive approach to the nursing shortage.
- Proviso 117.162 permitting students to retain counsel for disciplinary hearings has been introduced.
- SC Representative Bill Taylor, who introduced a bill to limit tenure, is open to the CHE facilitating a tenure and workload study in exchange for pulling the bill back this term. A third-party vendor will be needed to conduct the study. Who will fund the study needs to be decided.

Per Capita vs. Formula Funding Allocation Methodologies

Requested to be placed on the agenda by Dr. Michael Benson. However, he noted that there was no need for discussion; he wanted a little history of the process in South Carolina.

Complete College Agenda and South Carolina

South Carolina became the 39th state to sign onto the Complete College America initiative. The CCA is a network of higher education reformers reshaping the college experience to assist students with the completion of their college degrees. This will allow SC colleges/universities to tap into national resources, expertise, and shore up best practices.

VII. Old Business

COP Chair Panu asked if there was any old business to discuss. There was no old business to discuss.

VIII. New Business

COP Chair AI Panu asked if there was any new business to discuss. It was decided that the next meeting would be on June 1, 2022, at which a new President of the Council will be elected. The date may be changed if needed. As the presidency transfers each year among the sectors, the next president will come from a two-year college.

Dr. Hsu requested to discuss the need to eliminate some of the capital project's duplication in the approval process. It was agreed that a small task force should be formed to see if the state is following best practices and if could improvements be made. Chancellor Al Panu agreed to organize the task force.

Announcement: The CHE and the SCICU are co-hosting the first-ever Higher Education Day on April 6th to thank the General Assembly. Over sixty students are scheduled to attend.

The Council of Presidents meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

