

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29201

1:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting
August 4, 2016

Commission Members Attending

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair
Ms. Dianne Kuhl, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Mr. Devron Edwards (phone)
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne (phone)
Mr. Kenneth Kirkland
Ms. Allison Dean Love
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Charles Munns
Mr. Kim Phillips (phone)
Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer (phone)
Mr. Hood Temple

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Evans Whitaker

Staff Attending

Mr. Gary Glenn, Interim Executive Director
Mr. Clay Barton
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Saundra Carr
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Carrie Eberly
Mr. Kevin Glears
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Anna Grubic
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Sarah Hearn
Ms. Trena Houpp
Ms. Elizabeth Jablonski
Dr. John Lane
Mr. Frank Myers
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Mr. Morgan O'Donnell
Ms. Peggy Simons
Dr. Erica Von Nessen
Ms. Tanya Weigold
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Lynn Cherry, College of Charleston
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent
Colleges and Universities
Dr. Jeff Priest, USC Aiken

Chairman Hofferth convened the meeting at 1:08 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Introductions

- Tanya Rogers

Ms. Rogers announced the names of the guests in attendance as listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Tim Hofferth

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2016 CHE meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Tim Hofferth

Chairman Hofferth introduced the newest commission member, Commissioner Ken Kirkland, to the group. He then recognized Ms. Julie Carullo and Ms. Beth Rogers for their service, commitment, and dedication to higher education. Chairman Hofferth then informed members that he met with staff prior to the meeting to reaffirm how highly their role in carrying out day to day responsibilities is valued.

Regarding CHE meetings and operations, Chairman Hofferth revealed the plan to go paperless. He explained that everything commissioners need to access would soon be made accessible on iPads, which would reduce the ongoing problem of operational delay among committees and the Commission as a whole. He then gave Ms. Monica Goodwin the floor to better explain the transition to technology-based operations.

Chairman Hofferth provided an update as to where the Higher Education Foundation currently stands. Discussion then ensued regarding the Foundation's role in the state and its ability to provide CHE with funding alternatives that did not rely solely on state funding. The mention of state funding led to a short briefing on the current legislative state of affairs, specifically focusing on legislating through appropriations and continuing to function as strongly as possible with the funding received.

To conclude his report, Chairman Hofferth gave an update on the current standing of the Coastal Carolina University Brooks Stadium expansion project. He explained that the General Assembly had approved the budget, Governor Haley then vetoed the workaround proviso drafted by Representative White, and the House of Representatives and the Senate had overridden the Governor's veto. Chairman Hofferth then informed the board that the Joint Bond Review Committee had recently met and approved the project, approving an additional \$1.9 million for the project. He applauded the hard work the CHE members and staff put into vetting the project and stated that the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, where the project will either be officially approved or denied, would be holding their meeting on August 23rd.

Commissioner Seckinger stated for the record her strong disappointment with both bodies of the legislature regarding the CCU project. She confirmed that CHE did its due diligence by sending every member of the General Assembly information regarding concerns, vetting criteria, and project details prior to the project being on the floor of both chambers for voting. She shared her concern regarding the unfortunate situation CCU's students will be put into and wanted all of higher education to understand the detrimental impact the circumvention of CHE will have on everyone in the state should the project receive final approval.

4. Vice Chair's Report

- Dianne Kuhl

Vice Chair Kuhl reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Two-Day Working Session to take place at the USC Alumni Center on August 17th and 18th. She explained the purpose behind organizing the session the way it was organized and broke down both days by time and speaker in order to make sure all members were informed prior to arrival. She stressed the importance of the information to be discussed and concluded by stating that the primary purpose of the work session was to provide commissioners with tools needed to better analyze universities in an objective manner.

5. Interim Executive Director's Report

- Gary Glenn

Mr. Glenn began his report by informing the Commission that the accountability report is due on September 15th and that he has been working on it. He also noted that he had received the 2017-18 budget documents. Since the CHE last met, he attended the SHEEO conference, at which he had heard numerous interesting ideas.

The first notable topic he explained was a reverse transfer process, which allows students that attended two-year institutions and transferred to four-year institutions to transfer credits back toward an Associates Degree. He highlighted the fact that this process would provide the ability to reduce the "some college" education level that exists in South Carolina today. Discussion ensued regarding degree requirements and curriculum levels between two-year and four-year institutions. Mr. Glenn then reported on remedial education, which if improved, would be another opportunity to remove one of the barriers to college completion within the state.

Mr. Glenn then explained the importance of dual enrollment and dual credit courses, which involve high school students taking college classes. He stated that there are numerous issues with the process as it currently stands, including funding, and informed the body that he has already met with representatives from the Department of Education who have ideas as to options to consider in addressing the process.

Mr. Glenn passed out the data in **Attachment I**, which shows South Carolina as having the highest cost of attendance in the Southeast for both two-year and four-year universities. He believes that the numbers in that data are too high for South Carolina and has asked staff member Erica Von Nessen to dissect and simplify the information on the graphs. In doing that, Mr. Glenn stated that CHE can then consider the best way to intervene and assist in student learning and costs. Discussion occurred regarding the data and how it relates to the Coastal Carolina project and the state as a whole, and it was understood that one of the issues holding the CHE back has been the packaging of information in a manner that is difficult to understand.

For Academic Affairs, Mr. Glenn introduced Ms. Peggy Simon, who has moved divisions from Veteran's Affairs to Licensing, and informed the body that Peggy's former position at CHE had already been posted and closed. He also stated that the Program Manager position currently posted closes on August 5th, and clarified that the new position will help Director John Lane with program approvals and more. A quick update on SARA was given, saying that it is continuing to move forward with ten institutions already approved, four currently in the approval process, and two at CHE currently in process. Mr. Glenn then recognized Mr. Clay Barton for his work in advancing SARA.

Mr. Glenn, on the topic of Student Affairs, introduced Tanya Weigold (formerly Tanya Martin), as the newest member of the scholarship team at CHE. He also reported that Dr. Karen Woodfaulk was nearing the end of the new late application appeal process for Palmetto Fellows scholarships for students that would have missed the aid as a result of administrative errors at their schools. The appeals process had been put in place and a process had been developed that would not penalize students when someone else fails to submit proper documentation on their behalf, penalizing only those who are at fault, which can include the principal or school counselors, for example. Mr. Glenn then explained the appeals process in more detail and stated that nine students fell under the new appeal process umbrella

so far, with three students currently under review and six currently going through the appeals process.

Regarding affordability, Mr. Glenn reported that he asked Dr. Karen Woodfaulk to work with her team to put together debt management training to further educate students who are in the process of filling out college applications and/or FAFSA. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that there are a variety of different ways to go about this training to show all options available to students.

For GEAR UP, Mr. Glenn announced that the vacant position was posted, closed, and a new candidate had been selected. The candidate is Michael Jackson from South University, who currently serves as an enrollment advisor at South.

In the Fiscal Affairs, Mr. Glenn informed the body that the final budget report was in their packet (**Attachment II**) and that there were no lapsed state funds this year. He explained that EEDA numbers show CHE was unable to spend effectively but that they were working to fix that problem this fiscal year. A short discussion about the final budget report occurred, centering around the \$400K carried over in salary and fringe due to the unique situation with an Executive Director.

Mr. Glenn reminded the body that the CFO position closes August 5th, and that a decision would hopefully be made soon as to who would be hired. He also stated that the Facilities Accountant position had been elevated from “coordinator” to an accounting position, and that it would be posted in the next week for a short time frame. With this position, he hopes to bring someone in to alleviate the workload on the current staff, and clarified that it may or may not be a CPA.

Mr. Glenn mentioned the Joint Bond Review Committee, citing Chairman Hofferth’s coverage of the most recent meeting in terms of the Brooks Stadium project, and reported that all other projects advanced by the CHE to the Committee were approved. He also pointed out that a key consideration in the JBRC’s deliberation somehow became North Carolina State’s requirements to play at Coastal Carolina in the future, not the Sun Belt Conference’s requirements to become a member.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Tim Hofferth

Chairman Hofferth stated there was no report from the Executive Committee.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

- Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Seckinger reported for information purposes that the committee was investigating for-profit universities in the state and that statutory authority and responsibility of the CHE in this matter is being reviewed by the committee as well.

6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Jennifer Settlemyer

There was no report from the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services.

6.04 Report of Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs

- Dianne Kuhl

There was no report from the Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs.

6.05 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

-Hood Temple

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

1. Clemson University - Tennis Center Construction
2. Tri-County Technical College - Industrial Technology Center Renovation

B. Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Advisory Committee

1. Membership Recommendation

C. Other Business (For Information, No Action Required)

1. Final Budget Report for FY 2015-2016
2. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for June and July

Commissioner Temple stated that Agenda Item **6.05A1** was a seminal project for multiple reasons as it sets the tone and tenure of how the vetting process will be moving forward. He pointed out that the new, complete vetting process would give the university the opportunity to gather hard numbers once initial approval occurred and report it back to CHE, giving them the opportunity to look at issues and decide from a funding standpoint if the project should move forward. Accordingly, Clemson had been asked to report back regarding the project by February, and Commissioner Kuhl clarified that the university did not have to wait until January 30th to bring it forward. She also assured the body that Coastal Carolina was aware of what CHE was asking many times during the vetting process. Chairman Hofferth reminded the members that as a part of the new process, they would not have to be a member of the committee to sit in on the meetings.

Commissioner Temple then reported that Agenda Items **6.05A1**, **6.05A2**, and **6.05A3** were before the Commission as a **motion** for approval from the Committee on Finance and Facilities via the consent agenda. The motion did not need to be seconded and **passed unanimously**. Details about these items may be found in **Attachment III**.

Agenda Items **6.05C1** and **6.05C2** were reviewed by the Commission. In regards to Item **6.05C2**, Commissioner Batson pointed out the staff approval for Winthrop University. Mr. Glenn stated that 100 percent of the funding was provided by legislation specifically for that project and that no additional funding was necessary for completion. He further explained that the staff had approved the project under the authority of the Legislature, which trumps CHE.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Love brought attention to the Public Agenda Ad Hoc Committee, stating that there needs to be an update given on it because the public should not think that it is not underway. She stated that the committee will be relying heavily on Dr. Tom Layzell to give direction in the next couple of weeks, but that infrastructure needs to be in place before the committee can be officially initiated. Chairman Hofferth asked that it be reviewed after the Working Session, when there will have been two full days with Dr. Layzell and DR. Rhoda which will allow loose ends to be tied together.

Commissioner Love also provided an update on the Executive Director search, stating Kim Aydlette, the director at the Division of Human Resources, informed her of the selection panel having met on August 3rd. The panel was on the verge of making a selection on which search firm(s) they would use, but if and when that occurred, the Executive Director Search Committee might not be ready to reconvene due to the nature of the Commission's current needs.

Commissioner Temple informed the body that he will be participating in an education summit at Converse College on September 14th in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged members to attend and to give their input on the topic.

Commissioner Kuhl recognized Erica Von Nessen for the Workforce Presentation she put together and shared with the Commission that Tom Layzell and Rich Rhoda viewed it and then sent it to NCHEMS due to how impressed they were with it.

8. Adjournment of Business Meeting

At approximately 3:46 p.m., a **motion** was made (Love), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** for the meeting to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah R. Hearn
Sarah R. Hearn
Recording Secretary

Attachments (III)

*Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.