

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29201  
10:30 a.m.

***Minutes of the Meeting***  
**January 7, 2016**

**Commission Members Attending**

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair  
Ms. Allison Dean Love, Vice Chair  
Mr. Paul Batson  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne  
Ms. Dianne Kuhl  
Dr. Louis Lynn  
Mr. Charles Munns  
Mr. Clark Parker  
Mr. Kim Phillips  
Ms. Terrye Seckinger  
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer  
Mr. Hood Temple

**Commission Members Absent**

Dr. Evans Whitaker

**Staff Attending**

Mr. Gary Glenn  
Dr. Argentini Anderson  
Mr. Clay Barton  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Camille Brown  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Elizabeth Caulder  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland  
Ms. Carrie Eberly  
Ms. Renea Eshleman  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Mr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. Trena Houpp

Dr. John Lane  
Mr. Frank Myers  
Ms. Yolanda Myers  
Ms. Vickie Pratt  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Ms. Tanya Rogers  
Ms. Peggy Simons  
Dr. Erica Von Nessen  
Ms. Leslie Williams  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Ms. Dona Ayers, Capital Information Affiliates  
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Dr. Eric Brown, SC Technical College System  
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University  
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University  
Dr. Kris Finnigan, University of SC Columbia  
Ms. Stephanie Frazer, SC Technical College System  
Ms. Lil Hayes, House Education & Public Works Committee  
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Mr. Andrew Lindemann, Davidson & Lindemann, P.A.  
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston  
Mr. Rick Moul, PASCAL  
Dr. Hope Rivers, SC Technical College System  
Dr. Darlene Shaw, Medical University of SC  
Dr. Jimmie Williamson, SC Technical College System

Chairman Hofferth convened the meeting at 10:45 a.m. 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) and **seconded** (Seckinger) to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 CHE meeting. Following Commissioner Love's recommended amendment to the section entitled,

Vice Chair Report on Action Items, the **motion carried** and December 3 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

### **3. Guest Presentation:**

***State Budget Outlook, Mr. Craig Parks, Senior Research & Budget Analyst, SC Senate Budget Committee***

Chairman Hofferth reported that Mr. Parks' presentation would not take place as anticipated as extenuating circumstances had prevented him from being able to attend this meeting. He also stated that Mr. Parks' presentation would be rescheduled at a date to be determined in the future.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

**- Tim Hofferth**

Chairman Hofferth began his report by thanking CHE staff for all their hard work over the holidays on the analysis of CHE's statutory responsibilities. He also reported that much effort had been and will continue to be put into the development of the proposed FY 2016-17 CHE Budget that will be presented to the Higher Education and Technical College Budget Subcommittee of the House Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

#### **A. Update on the House Education and Public Works Higher Education Governance Ad Hoc Committee**

Chairman Hofferth reported that recommendations were being developed as a result of vetting and analysis of the CHE statutes that were presented to the House Education and Public Works Higher Education Governance Ad Hoc Committee on December 14, 2015. He commended Mr. Glenn and Commissioner Love, respectfully, for their excellent deliveries of information about CHE's operational aspects and CHE's vision and the process of achieving it during the presentation. In addition, Chairman Hofferth expressed appreciation for Commissioner Temple's presentation of comments offered from an historical perspective given his number of years of service to CHE. Chairman Hofferth also thanked Ms. Lil Hayes, Research Analyst for the House Education and Public Work Committee, for her very helpful assistance with this process.

#### **B. Consideration of Consultation for Creating a Public Agenda**

Chairman Hofferth provided enthusiastic and positive comments on the Commission's work, in conjunction with CHE staff, to develop a public agenda and strategic plan which will focus on fundamental change and attempt to engage all higher education entities in working collaboratively and efficiently.

Chairman Hofferth reported that national higher education consultants, Dr. Tom Layzell and Dr. Rich Rhoda, would be attending the Commission's February 4, 2016 meeting, after which Commissioner Love provided background information about each of them. Commissioner Love stated that, during his report, Mr. Glenn would be providing additional information about the details of the work to take place with Dr. Layzell and Dr. Rhoda.

### **5. Vice Chair's Report**

**- Allison Dean Love**

Commissioner Love reported briefly on the Action Items List, currently under development with the assistance of Dr. John Lane, the purpose of which is to maintain a central tracking system of Commission-level responsibilities with regard to both CHE strategic-level and operational items. She stated that work was continuing on this project and that it would be shared with Commissioners as soon as it has been reviewed thoroughly for accuracy.

Commissioner Love commented on the status of the CHE commitment to excellence statement, previously discussed at the December 3, 2015 Commission meeting and originally intended to be finalized at this Commission meeting. She informed the Commissioners that this document will be considered and further developed by the Governmental and Administrative Affairs Committee at its meeting on January 19.

Chairman Hofferth noted that the purpose of the Action Item List is to facilitate the delivery of CHE progress reports to members of the General Assembly as well as to help identify and assist with tracking the progress of other policy/administrative needs. In response to Commissioner Munns' question about whether the Action List had been posted on the CHE website, Commissioner Love stated that it had not and that work was taking place to determine the best way to share it as it is updated so frequently.

## **6. Update on Executive Director Search**

**- Allison Dean Love**

Commissioner Love reported that the last meeting of the Executive Director Search Committee had taken place on December 1, 2015, at which time the committee voted to no longer pursue a relationship with the search firm, Gomez and Associates, Inc. Commissioner Love stated that the Executive Director Search was temporarily suspended for the holiday period and the committee would meet again fairly soon. She reported that updating the RFP for the solicitation of a new search firm was in progress. She also stated that it did not appear any changes were needed to the Search Committee's charge and that a copy of the most recent version of the charge, updated on October 1, 2015, would be distributed to each Commissioner.

Commissioner Munns commented that the Executive Director Search should remain at the top of the Action List in light of academic schedules and the effect they might have on potential candidates' plans for the future. Commissioner Seckinger then thanked CHE staff for all their extra efforts during this transitory period, stating that Commissioners were working hard on the possibility of acquiring additional CHE personnel in order to provide some relief.

Chairman Hofferth then recognized Dr. Jimmie Williamson, President and Executive Director of the SC Technical College System, who provided brief comments, emphasizing the importance of access and affordability to higher education as well increasing higher education participation rates in South Carolina.

## **7. Interim Executive Director's Report**

**- Gary Glenn**

Mr. Glenn began his report by recognizing retired CHE staff member, Ms. Renea Eshleman, for her 27 years of service to the agency and to the state. He commented on her exemplary and dedicated service within the licensing area of the Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing, resolving hundreds of student complaints while fostering positive yet firm relationships with school personnel. He commented on the patience with which she mentored other CHE licensing staff, the irreplaceable magnitude of her institutional knowledge, and her offering of a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on to many members of the CHE staff. Mr. Glenn also noted Ms. Eshleman's period of tireless service as the Interim Director of the Division of Academic Affairs & Licensing, her many professional and artistic accomplishments, and the countless times she has coordinated and/or photographed a variety of CHE activities. With the assistance of Commissioner Temple, he also shared remarks provided from some of the leaders of schools with whom Ms. Eshleman has worked.

Following enthusiastic applause, Chairman Hofferth and Mr. Glenn presented Ms. Eshleman with a framed certificate of appreciation for her service. Commissioner Temple then recognized former Commissioner, Dr. Raghu Korrapati, who had served on the Commission for a number of years and was attending this meeting in honor of Ms. Eshleman.

After expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Commission's Interim Executive Director, Mr. Glenn called attention to a recently shared email from Mr. Mike LeFever, President of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. Commissioner Temple then noted the previous evening's passing of Senator Billy O'Dell, commenting on the honor and integrity with which he represented his constituency and the state. Sentiments and remembrances of Senator O'Dell were then shared by several Commissioners.

Mr. Glenn then provided updates on personnel changes within CHE. He announced that: 1) Dr. John Lane had been named as the Director of the Division of Academic Affairs; 2) Ms. Lane Goodwin would be replacing Ms. Renea Eshleman as Program Manager for Licensing; 3) Ms. Yolanda Myers had moved from her role as Facilities Coordinator to a new role within the Division of Fiscal Affairs as the Human Resources Coordinator, assisting Ms. Marian Jones with CHE's human resources responsibilities; 4) Ms. Vickie Pratt had been selected as the new Facilities Coordinator, moving from her role with the GEAR UP program within the Division of Student Affairs; and 5) Mr. Gerrick Hampton would return to his role with the scholarship team within the Division of Student Affairs following his service with the GEAR UP program. Mr. Glenn also announced that: 1) Ms. Carrie Eberly had come on board at CHE as the new Compliance Scholarship Auditor; 2) three candidates had been identified and will soon be interviewed for the Assistant Director for Fiscal Affairs position; 3) the Director of Fiscal Affairs position had been reposted; 4) Dr. Tom Layzell and Dr. Rich Rhoda had been retained on a temporary basis as special consultants to CHE for the purpose of assisting with CHE's public agenda; and 5) Mr. Grant Jackson had been retained on a temporary basis to serve as CHE's Communication Specialist.

Mr. Glenn concluded his remarks by stating that CHE's FY 2016-17 Budget Presentation would be presented on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, as referenced by Chairman Hofferth earlier in this meeting. He reported that revisions to that request were in the process of being made and that the total amount of requested funding would be higher than originally anticipated.

Commissioner Love then introduced Mr. Grant Jackson and provided details about his background and experience, stating that he would be working on a communications strategy for CHE.

With regard to advocacy for CHE and continued communication with members of the legislature, Commissioner Munns noted the importance of commenting on what CHE should do in terms of what is in the best interest of the state, providing a prioritized list of those tasks. Mr. Glenn replied that the review of CHE's statutory responsibilities was almost complete and that the objective of this work was to eliminate those directives that are outdated and no longer applicable as well as to revamp those which may require modifications to provide additional authority. Following Commissioner Munns' emphasis on the need to identify the directives that are deemed most important, brief discussion followed about presenting this information in a focused and proactive manner.

## **8. Legislative Report**

**- Julie Carullo**

Ms. Carullo reported that the General Assembly would be returning to session on January 12, 2016. She commented on the work on the FY2016-17 budget that was underway in the House Ways and Means subcommittees and stated the Governor would release her proposed Executive Budget recommendations shortly. Ms. Carullo also commented on the schedule of the presentations to be made before the House Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical Colleges Subcommittee (**Attachment I**) that had been distributed to each Commissioner at their places as had a document containing information about the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) for which legislation is under development that will allow for South Carolina's participation in this initiative (**Attachment II**). In addition, Ms. Carullo reported that information about legislation to be pre-filed this session and information on legislation carried over from the previous legislative session is being compiled and will be distributed to Commissioners.

## 9. Committee Reports

### 9.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Tim Hofferth

Chairman Hofferth reported that there was no report from the Executive Committee. He stated that work is in progress to shorten the length and strengthen the content of the full CHE meetings.

### 9.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

- Terry Seckinger

There was no report from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. Commissioner Seckinger stated that the committee would be meeting upon conclusion of this CHE meeting.

### 9.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Jennifer Settlemyer

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Report on Proviso 11.41 – Technical College Study

Commissioner Settlemyer reported that Proviso 11.41 directed CHE to examine the viability of a financial aid program that would allow students enrolled in the technical colleges to attend without paying tuition and fees. As a result of that request and in collaboration with State Technical College System office staff, a report was developed which features three possible financial aid program scenarios in this regard, details about which may be found in **Attachment III**. Commissioner Settlemyer stated that this report was being presented by the committee via the consent agenda.

Discussion followed during which Dr. Woodfaulk recognized Dr. Erica Von Nessen for having performed much of the research for this report. Brief discussion followed Commissioner Seckinger's comment about whether some sort of investiture or pay back requirement should be put in place for those students who enroll in but do not complete the required six credit hours. Commissioner Batson stated that the report is currently presented only for the purposes of information and that, should it get to the point where the scenarios it describes are considered by the legislature for approval, ideas about how to enact implementation should then be shared. He complimented the CHE and Technical College System staff for their excellent collaboration on this effort. Commissioner Horne noted the importance of return on investment in higher education and commented briefly on the development of the Greenwood Promise program at Piedmont Technical College, the intent of which is to provide for qualified students to attend that institution at no cost with the possibility of also moving on to attend Lander University or another state college or university.

The **motion** was then voted on and **carried**.

### 9.04 Report of Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs

- Dianne Kuhl

There was no report from the Committee on Governmental and Administrative Affairs. Commissioner Kuhl stated that a rough outline of the table of contents of CHE Policies and Procedures Manual, which has been reviewed by attorney Butch Bowers, will be presented to the committee for discussion at its meeting on January 19 at 10:00 a.m., with a view toward bringing that to the full Commission for consideration at its February 4 meeting.

### 9.05 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Interim Capital Project

1. University of SC Columbia - Football Operations Facility Construction

## **B. Other Business** (For Information, No Action Required)

1. FY 2015-16 CHE Quarterly Budget Report
2. List of Capital Projects & Leases Processed by Staff for December 2015

Commissioner Temple stated that **Agenda Item 9.05 A**, details about which may be found in **Attachment IV**, was presented to the full Commission for approval by consent agenda. He reported that much discussion had taken place about this agenda item at the committee's meeting earlier in the morning, and that the project had been thoroughly vetted.

At Commissioner Temple's request, Chairman Hofferth shared the comments he had delivered earlier at the committee meeting. In summary, *Chairman Hofferth stated that the current process to evaluate capital projects is wholly inadequate to thoroughly and responsibly evaluate these projects. Presently, the superficial evaluation process currently in place provides a false sense of oversight for the General Assembly and other stakeholders who count on the Commission on Higher Education to properly and thoroughly evaluate capital projects.*

*Over the last decade, funding for the Commission on Higher Education has been reduced to minimal levels and as a result, the Commission on Higher Education has limited tools and resources to perform the functions tasked to it by the General Assembly including determining whether projects, like this one and a similar project last month, should be approved and are in the best interest of the State of South Carolina or the institution requesting approval.*

*Until such time as tools and resources are provided to the Commission on Higher Education to perform the tasks already statutorily required of the Commission, the vetting process performed by the Commission on Higher Education remains superficial at best and with very little instructive value.*

Commissioner Temple noted that very pointed questions were answered extremely well by USC representatives during the committee meeting.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**, with **one abstention (Kuhl)**.

Commissioner Temple noted that Commissioner Kuhl's remarks about this project during the committee meeting had been outstanding. He asked that her comments also be brought forward, and an excerpt of Commissioner Kuhl's remarks during that committee meeting follows.

*Commissioner Kuhl stated that the Committee is not being given an adequate amount of information to make this kind of decision and that this is very frustrating for the members of the committee. She stated that she feels good about the athletic department giving money back to the University, but when she looks at this \$50M, she thinks of what other things they could be doing. Commissioner Kuhl stated that she appreciates them being there to answer questions, but it is very difficult to make a decision on this project with limited information and would love to have floor plans and a final funding plan in order to ultimately make this type of decision.*

Commissioner Temple stated that reports under **Agenda Item 9.05 B** had been deferred at the committee level due the fact the meeting had already become more lengthy than anticipated. In response to Commissioner Munns questions about the FY 2015-16 Quarterly Budget Report, Mr. Glenn stated that he would be happy to share additional information with him during lunch and address any concerns.

## 10. Other Business

### A. Executive Session, if needed, to Receive Legal Advice on Active Litigation and/or to Discuss Personnel and/or Contractual Matters

### B. Public Session: Action on Executive Session Matters, if needed

At 12:50 p.m., a **motion** (Temple) was made, **seconded**, (Love) and **carried** for the meeting to go into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on active litigation and/or discussion of personnel and/or contractual matters.

The meeting returned to regular session at 2:15 p.m., after which a **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** that, for the purposes of the RFP for the search firm related to the CHE Executive Director Search, the title of this position be changed to reflect it as Executive Director and President of CHE.

Commissioner Love stated that the Commission needed to move forward with the Executive Director Search expeditiously and that as Executive Director Search Committee Chair, she would be working with Mr. Glenn, Ms. Kim Adyette of the SC Division of Human Resources Division, and Dr. Tom Layzell on language to get the RFP out as soon as possible.

## 11. Update on Commission Action Items

- Allison Dean Love

With the assistance of Dr. John Lane, Commissioner Love provided an update on Commission action items, stating that: 1) work was progressing on the RFP for the Executive Director Search; 2) review of the CHE statutes was continuing with a summary and prioritization of these items to be delivered to Ms. Lil Hayes as soon as possible; 3) the Action Item list would be distributed to Commissioners on a monthly basis; 4) follow-up will take place with regard to posting the Action Item list in an interactive format; 5) the RFP for the Executive Director Search will be re-posted in anticipation of the new search firm being identified within 45-60 days; 6) progress made on filling continuing staffing vacancies may be shared at the next CHE meeting; and 7) for information, Mr. Grant Jackson will serve as CHE's communication consultant.

## 12. Adjournment of Business Meeting

As there was no other business to consider, a **motion** was made (Seckinger), **seconded** (Kuhl), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Beth B. Rogers*  
Beth B. Rogers  
Recording Secretary

### Attachments (IV)

\*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.