

**Minutes**  
**Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**  
**March 9, 2017**

**Members Present**

Chair Terrye Seckinger  
Dr. Louis Lynn  
Admiral Charles Munns  
Mr. Kim Phillips, via teleconference

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Allison Dean Love  
Dr. Evans Whitaker

**Staff Present**

Dr. Argentini Anderson  
Mr. Clay Barton  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Sandra Carr  
Ms. Carrie Eberly  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Anna Grubic  
Ms. Courtney Hatfield  
Ms. Sarah Hearn  
Ms. Trena Houpp  
Dr. John Lane  
Ms. Tanya Rogers  
Dr. Regine Rucker  
Ms. Peggy Simons  
Dr. Kimberly Walker

**Guests**

Dr. Stephanie Burgess, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University  
Dr. Clif Flynn, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Dr. Stephanie Frazier, S.C. Technical College System, via teleconference  
Dr. Hossein Haj-Hariri, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Tara Hornor, The Citadel  
Dr. Hsein Juang, Clemson University  
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Dr. Jed Lyons, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston  
Dr. Lucas McMillen, Lander University  
Dr. Georgia Narsavage, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Mr. Tom Nelson, Lander University  
Dr. Jeff Priest, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Mr. Phillip A. Quintana, Apollo Group, Inc. via teleconference?  
Dr. Alicia Ribar, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Alan Shao, College of Charleston  
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort, via teleconference  
Dr. Elaine Worzala, College of Charleston

## Welcome

Chair Seckinger called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and announced the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

### 1. Consideration of Minutes of January 12, 2017

Chair Seckinger requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting. The motion was **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Munns) and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the minutes as submitted.**

### 2. Program Proposals

- a. University of South Carolina Columbia, Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- b. University of South Carolina Columbia, Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Family Nurse Practitioner
- c. University of South Carolina Columbia, Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Chair Seckinger introduced the items, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval of Agenda Items 2a, 2b, and 2c. The Committee considered the items concurrently. Dr. Burgess explained the programs are not new to the University, but have been modified to meet accrediting body standards. She presented a map of South Carolina that highlights the medically underserved areas, where most of the programs' graduates practice. Commissioner Munns asked about the source of the map and Dr. Burgess responded it is generated by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Chair Seckinger asked for more information about the accrediting body. Dr. Burgess explained that the nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Chair Seckinger expressed support for the programs. Dr. Burgess referred to multiple employment recruitment requests received by USC from primary care practices. Commissioner Lynn asked about competition with other institutions offering similar degrees. Dr. Burgess replied that Clemson and MUSC have similar programs, but given the high need for graduates of these programs, they are not in competition with each other. Commissioner Lynn asked what impact current students would experience. Dr. Burgess answered that the course curriculum will not change, but that USC is elevating the three concentrations to majors.

Dr. Crews informed the Committee that the programs have many part-time students so the enrollment numbers do not translate exactly to completion numbers within completion time for the program. Chair Seckinger asked whether USC can accommodate more students in the programs. Dr. Burgess responded affirmatively that USC could through online curriculum. Commissioner Munns asked about Board of Trustees approval. Dr. Crews answered that the Board approved the programs. Commissioner Munns commented about the process of approval and specifically supported the effort of parallel review by the institutional board and CHE. He then asked why USC brought the programs as new programs when they are modifications to current programs. Dr. Crews responded that USC and CHE worked together for several years to bring forward these changes. She then stated there were discrepancies between what USC was offering and what was reported and recorded in the CHE inventory. She continued by stating that

after discussion with CHE, they decided that presenting the changes as new programs would be a faster process because program modifications would have required two separate rounds of modifications, first to add concentrations to the programs and then to elevate the concentrations to majors. Ms. Houp presented more information about the process timeline, including changes to correct internal discrepancies first between the USC Provost's office records and the College of Nursing records and then discrepancies with the CHE Inventory for all levels of nursing programs; she stated CHE staff have been working closely with USC to correct these discrepancies since 2014. She also commented that a change in CIP code prompts new program approval according to CHE policies and procedures. Commissioner Munns commented that he wants to ensure that information provided through the program proposals are necessary to approve the programs. He questioned the necessity of the policy regarding CIP code change, and Dr. Lane explained that a change in CIP code represents a curriculum change substantive enough to constitute a new program. USC representatives agreed that the process has been a learning experience for them and that the development of program proposals for CHE approval will help in presenting information to the nursing accrediting agencies. Ms. Houp also added that the current policies and procedures are being revised and CHE staff are considering a change that allowst, with the agreement of CAAL, de-elevation at the staff level, which would have been considered for these program changes.

Commissioner Munns asked about employment numbers listed in the proposal for the M.S.N. in Family Nurse Practitioner. He specifically referred to page six of the proposal where it states that 150 jobs in the field are available annually, but USC, along with other institutions' programs, will produce more graduates than available jobs. Dr. Burgess responded that the annual number of available jobs, 150, might be conservative and additional positions to fill might be found through an Internet search for similar jobs in SC. She also mentioned that approximately 8% of the program's graduates move out of state.

Commissioner Munns referred to the costs chart found in each proposal and asked USC to justify the revenue gained through these programs. He specifically referred to revenue being listed at four times the amount the programs cost. He then asked whether tuition should be lowered to make costs and revenue more even. Dr. Narsavage informed the Committee that the College of Nursing splits revenue with the institution at large and then she commented that the expenses' chart only includes new costs. She stated that fees are directly tied to expenses for clinical experience. Commissioner Munns expressed confusion as to why the two charts (Costs and Sources of Finance) do not mirror either total costs or new costs, rather than a combination of the two. He then asked about the new costs associated with faculty members in comparison to another section of the proposal stating there were to be no new costs for faculty members. Dr. Burgess explained that faculty costs include costs to meet accreditation standards: a 1:6 faculty-to-student ratio and a minimum of two check-offs, which are daylong and can only be completed for a maximum of two students per day per clinical faculty. Commissioner Munns asked whether the programs were revenue-generating or cost-generating. Dr. Burgess answered that they are revenue-generating. Commissioner Munns expressed concern about the amount students pay in total to USC. He then asked for revised charts prior to the CHE meeting, pending CAAL approval today. Dr. Crews commented that the tuition found in the program proposals is the same tuition charged to all nursing students.

Committee members also encouraged USC to consider more collaborative opportunities with similar programs at other institutions in the state. Commissioner Munns then repeated his request that USC submit a justification of the financial aspects of the programs, including whether the programs are revenue-generating or cost-generating. Commissioner Phillips echoed Commissioner Munns' concerns about the revenue-to-cost ratio and expressed support for the request for more information.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degrees in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Family Nurse Practitioner; and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

- d. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S., Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurial Engineering

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Munns) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Crews explained the program is unique in that it combines innovation and entrepreneurship with the engineering field. She informed the Committee that the Engineering Department will partner with the Darla Moore School of Business for some of the courses for the program. Dr. Haj Hariri explained that entrepreneurship involves taking existing ideas and learning how to monitor them while entrepreneurial engineering involves developing new value and determining whether new ideas need to be furthered. Commissioner Lynn asked with what engineering fields will the program engage. Dr. Haj Hariri answered the program takes into account all engineering fields.

Chair Seckinger expressed her support for the program. She commented that students who enroll in graduate school without any work experience might have a disadvantage in this type of degree because they are limited in being able to connect the curriculum with real world problems and solutions. Dr. Haj Hariri responded that work experience enhances a student's education, but this degree will give those students without work experience a headstart in the workforce after earning the degree. He mentioned that some of the graduate students will have work experience. Commissioner Lynn asked for information about the delivery of the program and whether it will be taught on a specific campus. Dr. Lyons responded the degree will be delivered at the main campus and be housed in the engineering department. Chair Seckinger asked whether USC will market the program to engineering firms in order to recruit current employees to earn certificates in this field. Dr. Haj Hariri responded that USC is considering that goal for the future and also developing various ways to market the program. Commissioner Lynn asked whether USC has considered sponsoring an "entrepreneur-in-residence" with the program. Dr. Haj Hariri answered that USC is considering an incubator experience with the degree and will partner with different companies to enhance the educational experience.

Commissioner Munns asked where the University plans to include project management techniques in the curriculum for this program. Dr. Lyons responded that the University offers a course that will be taught by a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Commissioner Munns expressed concern about the revenue-to-costs ratio and specifically asked about the program-specific fees. Dr. Haj Hariri replied the University determined that the program-specific fees can be reduced significantly due to 37.5% of student tuition being returned to the College. Commissioner Munns asked the University to update the chart prior to the program being considered by CHE. Commissioner Lynn asked whether the program will be accredited by a program-specific accrediting body. Dr. Lyons responded that no specific program accrediting body exists but the program will be accredited through the University's SACSCOC accreditation.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science in Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurial Engineering at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

- e. University of South Carolina Beaufort, B.S., Secondary Teacher Education, Biology

Dr. Lane informed the Committee Dr. Eric Skipper withdrew the program and the University plans to work closely with CHE staff to re-submit the proposal at a later date.

- f. Lander University, B.S., Criminology

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Mr. Nelson provided institutional context for the creation of this degree. He informed the Committee that Lander had a criminal justice management program that was terminated due to poor program productivity. He explained Lander is leveraging its criminal justice resources while also developing new resources to change the focus of the program to criminology. He added the program complements other programs at Lander, including the forensic sciences concentration in chemistry. Dr. McMillan reiterated Mr. Nelson's comments regarding leveraging resources at Lander, including expertise in political science; sociology; computer science; chemistry; and cybersecurity. He continued by highlighting the robust internship culture at Lander and confirmed that internships will serve a strong role in this program. He answered a question sent in advance of the meeting by assuring the Committee that the program is a four-year degree and Lander has high confidence that the vast majority of students will finish in four years.

Commissioner Munns expressed his concern about program duplication in the state and employment opportunities for graduates. Dr. McMillan responded the program differs from criminal justice programs offered in the state and that the Lander program will provide broader job opportunities to graduates beyond law enforcement. He continued by stating graduates from the Lander program will have the opportunity to pursue in employment focused on analysis and policy and within state and federal government agencies, such as Homeland Security and the Department of Corrections. He stated that Lander has intentionally made connections in this program to political science, sociology and government.

Commissioner Munns expressed concern about the revenue to costs ratio. Dr. McMillan responded that the costs table needs to be updated to include continuing costs, not simply new costs. Commissioner Munns asked Lander to modify the proposal to include updated financial charts and a statement that explains reasoning behind the tuition cost.

Commissioner Lynn asked about similar programs. Dr. McMillan referred to the programs at Coker College and USC as being the most similar to the propose program. Commissioner Lynn asked whether the program will be accredited by a program-specific accrediting body. Dr. McMillan responded that no specific program accrediting body exists but that the program will be accredited through the Lander's SACSCOC accreditation. Commissioner Lynn asked about Lander's consideration of offering this program as either a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree. Dr. McMillan responded that the program fits the Bachelor of Science definition at Lander and includes more quantitative analysis than qualitative. Commissioner Lynn asked about matriculation opportunities for students to graduate degrees. Dr. McMillan answered that students will be prepared to enroll in Master of Science degree programs, but would be prepared to immediately enter the workforce as well.

Chair Seckinger expressed support for the program, especially highlighting its strong integration of multiple disciplines, and then recognized it as a market niche program. Commissioner Lynn asked about the termination of the criminal justice management and more specifically the teach-out plan. Dr. McMillan responded that when the program was terminated, there were no longer any students in the

program and therefore no need for a teach-out plan. Dr. McMillan reiterated the proposed program was developed to meet student interest, create a way for graduates to broaden their job opportunities in the criminology field, and to leverage existing resources at Lander with new resources identified in the community. Chair Seckinger encouraged Lander to continue to partner with Piedmont Technical College and added the Commission seeks to promote the creation of stackable degrees. She commended Lander's intent to accept many "routes" to this program, including varying levels of completion by a student at Piedmont Technical College.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Bachelor of Science in Criminology at Lander University, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

g. College of Charleston, B.S., A.B., Commercial Real Estate Finance

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. McGee explained the program meets industry needs and represents a response to marketplace trends. He specifically referred to employers seeking business graduates with more specific foci in their degrees. He stated the College is responding to industry by elevating minors and concentrations within the business field to full majors. He informed the Committee that the College has been successful with its real estate concentration, but students and local employers requested that a separate degree be offered in the real estate finance field. He emphasized the degree is not focused on training students to be real estate brokers but to understand overarching commercial real estate applied finance and theory. Dr. McGee referred to the proposal and the section regarding employer support letters and the employer survey, which showed substantial preference for future employees who have a specific focus of commercial real estate finance. He stated the target pool for students will derive from current students at the College in other concentrations in the business school.

Commissioner Munns asked whether the degree program will focus on success in the field only in the region or whether the skills and knowledge gained in the program will be translatable in the field in other regions of the nation. Dr. McGee acknowledged the unique aspects of the program which would be easily applied to the Charleston area but that the historically-preserved real estate market can be applied in the South and along the East Coast. He emphasized that the overall knowledge base earned through the program is adaptable to any other region. Commissioner Lynn asked whether graduates would take the broker licensure exam. Dr. Worzala responded the graduates could sit for the exam but that employment opportunities stretch far wider than brokerage for graduates of this degree. Commissioner Lynn asked about similar programs in other states. Dr. McGee answered similar but not identical programs can be found at the University of North Carolina, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University and several institutions in Florida.

Chair Seckinger expressed her concerns about the program and specifically commented on the limited translatability of the program to other industries beyond the real-estate market. She stated a finance or marketing degree would better serve graduates, not only in their short-term employment but in their long-term careers. She shared her concern that the finance areas of the degree seem to be not robust enough for it to be characterized as a finance degree. She suggested the College offer a marketing or finance degree with a concentration in real estate. Dr. McGee responded that the finance knowledge of the degree program can be found in courses beyond the five specifically titled finance courses referenced by Chair Seckinger. He continued by stating the faculty members who will be teaching in this program are knowledgeable in both finance and real estate. Dr. Worzala replied that professionals in the field want the

College to offer a full degree program in the field. She again referred to the industry survey section of the proposal. Commissioner Munns asked whether the industry members who participated in the survey reviewed curriculum for the program. Dr. Worzala answered that they were given a broad overview of the curriculum but not the specific list of courses or course content.

Chair Seckinger suggested that more finance courses be required in the program and that the program name be changed to place the word finance first in the title. Dr. McGee responded that the College has already re-named the program once and to move through the institutional process to re-name it a second time will delay the implementation of the program. He clarified, however, the College's commitment to continue to refine the proposal with CHE staff. He agreed with Chair Seckinger and her emphasis on transferable skills and assured the Committee that every student in the School of Business is trained in overarching core business principles. Dr. Worzala explained that students will have the choice to highlight an emphasis area by the electives they choose to study, i.e., a student who wants to focus more on finance can choose finance courses for all his or her electives. She referred to the list of courses on page 12 and highlighted courses that contain strong finance content.

Dr. Shao explained the role of the fifty-member School of Business Board of Governors in the development and approval of any business program curriculum, and stated this advisory committee strongly supports this program. He reiterated an earlier point by explaining that graduates from this program will have a solid business background to aid their success if they choose not to focus their careers on commercial real estate. Commissioner Munns asked how students are advised in choosing their emphasis areas within the School of Business; and then how will the program be assessed. Dr. Shao answered that in order for the School of Business to keep its business-specific accreditation, it must show continual assessment and improvement in all programmatic aspects, including curriculum which is analyzed annually. Dr. Worzala responded the College, through the Carter Real Estate Center, has many opportunities to provide information regarding real estate-related programs to potential students. Dr. McGee stated the School of Business has a central advising center, all students receive the same business curriculum to begin their progress toward a degree, and then they self-select specific programs. Dr. Shao added the School offers a robust mentoring program which helps students decide the direction they want to pursue.

Commissioner Lynn and Chair Seckinger voiced their concern about the program and Chair Seckinger stated she will not be able to vote for the program if it remained the same. She requested syllabi for each course and again asked for the College to change the name of the program. Commissioner Munns referred to the proposal which includes support garnered by non-real-estate corporations for the program. Commissioner Munns asked about the employability of graduates of similar programs at peer institutions. Dr. Worzala stated she has specific histories with most of the peer institutions and confirmed the graduates have robust employability. Commissioner Munns expressed his confidence in the opinions of the School of Business Board of Governors and their expertise in the business field. Dr. Shao informed the Committee of the trend of business schools today as moving degrees from the general field of business to a sharper focused degree. He added that graduates would still be able to pivot later in their career to other aspects of business because of the business course foundation in all programs offered by the School of Business.

Dr. Worzala explained that the College has a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Real Estate but the proposed degree is a unique opportunity to provide graduates interested in real estate finance with a niche degree which will garner strong initial broad employment opportunities without having to earn a graduate degree. Chair Seckinger expressed her support for offering a generalist degree with a concentration in a focused area. Commissioner Munns responded that the College already offers

that, to which Chair Seckinger asked why the College needs this proposed degree. Dr. Worzala responded the industry and students requested it and the faculty expertise warrants the offering of such a unique focused degree program. Dr. Shao reiterated the leaning in higher education business disciplines toward sharper, more focused degrees beyond the generalist degree in business administration. He stated the College has had success offering more specific degrees, such as supply chain logistics. Dr. McGee then offered to add two additional finance courses to the program in the second year of implementation, which would provide 21 credit hours in finance.

Commissioner Munns commented on his confidence in the rigorous process the College used to develop and propose this degree program and he specifically addressed his support for the industry feedback and buy-in; the role of the Board of Governors; the expertise of the faculty, including the business dean; and the interest by the students. Chair Seckinger asked for feedback from Dr. Lane, who then expressed CHE staff's commitment to continue on the path towards approval of the program. He reiterated Dr. McGee's suggested addition of two finance courses, while also acknowledging Chair Seckinger's request to rename the program. Chair Seckinger requested the program be revised in two ways (addition of finance courses and program name change) and then be re-considered by CAAL at a special meeting in April so as to not adversely impact the program's implementation timeframe. Dr. McGee explained the addition of two finance courses will have to be reviewed and approved by various institutional administrators, faculty committees, and the Board of Trustees, and therefore will not be finalized until next academic year. He expressed his desire to start the program in Fall 2017 as originally planned and then assured Chair Seckinger that he would pursue the addition to be implemented in the second year of the program. He shared his apprehension about renaming the program, stating that the term "real estate" would need to be included and that real estate cannot be only an emphasis area. Commissioner Munns reminded the Committee that the industry leaders and the Board of Governors supported the name proposed.

Chair Seckinger asked about a charitable donation from real estate professional. Dr. McGee acknowledged the donation, citing the gift was given previously and represents only one donor. Dr. Shao explained that the program has been in development for years. Commissioner Lynn commented that the Committee does not seem to be in consensus about the program, while Commissioner Munns expressed his support for the program.

Dr. McGee informed the Committee that the College will provide additional information, including support letters and course syllabi, in advance of a special CAAL meeting to be determined.

Commissioner Lynn **moved** to amend the motion in order to set aside the program proposal until the next CAAL meeting at a date to be determined and Chair Seckinger **seconded** the motion.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to set aside** the Bachelor of Science and Artium Baccalaureatus in Commercial Real Estate Finance at College of Charleston.

- h. Clemson University, M.Eng., Civil Engineering with a concentration in Risk Engineering and System Analytics

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. King explained the objective of the program is to provide an opportunity for professionals currently in the workforce to enhance their skills. He added that as professionals explore the field of Risk Engineering, the benefits of knowledge will expand to include the safety of the public when they are faced with natural and man-made dangers. Commissioner Munns expressed support for the program and then asked whether Clemson has the authority to teach out-of-state students through online delivery. Dr. King answered affirmatively and explained Clemson has the authority through NC-SARA for 47 states and then has separate agreements with the remaining states. Commissioner Lynn asked a general question about program development and why programs around the world are not integrated when expertise is spread throughout many regions. Committee members agreed it is an interesting concept to consider and discuss.

Chair Seckinger asked for more information about the graduate students who will be teaching in the program. Dr. Juang responded doctoral students will assist full professors in the program instruction. Chair Seckinger asked whether industries will contract with Clemson to provide this training to their employees. Dr. Juang answered Clemson is currently cultivating one such partnership. Dr. King added Clemson has a virtual center around this discipline and explained the program will be offered online. Chair Seckinger asked whether Clemson is considering offering a certificate in the same field. Dr. King responded that Clemson already offers stackable certificates. Chair Seckinger asked about the advertising plan for the program. Dr. Juang replied there is not a need for large scale marketing of the program due to robust interest and program capacity. Chair Seckinger asked Clemson to share information about the companies that partner with it on this program after a year of implementation. Dr. King agreed to the request.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Risk Engineering and System Analytics at Clemson University, to be implemented in Fall 2017.

**3. Notification of Change of Corporate Ownership**  
(For information, no action required)  
University of Phoenix

Chair Seckinger introduced the item for information. Dr. Lane provided a summary of the change, stating that a change of ownership occurred at the highest corporate level and has no impact on the University's operation at the S.C. campus. He explained the one campus in S.C. plans to close in 2018 and there is no plan to re-open at a later date. Commissioner Lynn asked about S.C. student records and Ms. Goodwin responded that the University of Phoenix will be custodian of those records.

**4. Report on Program Modifications, January 1-February 28, 2017**  
(For information, no action required)

Chair Seckinger introduced the item for information. Commissioner Munns asked for more information regarding the program modification for the Data Science program at the College of Charleston. Dr. McGee shared that the program was started as a cutting edge program over a decade ago. He added that reducing the 14 concentrations to four is part of the natural evolution for the program and discipline. Commissioner Munns asked whether the program is growing. Dr. McGee replied the program has a healthy enrollment and graduates experience strong employability. Dr. Lane referred to another question of Commissioner Munns about USC's Executive International Master of Business Administration (EIMBA) degree. Dr. Crews provided background information about the degree and explained the success of the program on the recently-added three international campuses.

**5. Other Business**

Dr. Lane presented two additional licensing updates. He informed the Committee that on February 20, 2017, the bankruptcy trustee for the closed ITT Technical Institute filed a motion to allow access to student records for students and state agencies, but only for a limited time (less than one year) before the records are destroyed. He continued by stating the timeline is unreasonable and places the financial responsibility on the states to obtain and maintain the records for students. He explained CHE staff filed a claim against the surety bond to cover costs for student records and/or student tuition reimbursement in September 2016 and received a reply shortly that addressed only student refunds. He shared that on February 24, 2017, CHE staff again requested information about filing a claim against the bond and have not received a reply. Dr. Lane added an objection to the limited timeframe and the financial responsibility to be owned by the states was filed by the Maryland Attorney General office and South Carolina was asked to join the objection. He explained that South Carolina was included in a footnote as an agency supporting the objection but South Carolina is not named as one of the states filing the objection. Chair Seckinger commented that this action to protect student records is an operational issue for CHE staff and she expressed support for continuing to seek access to those records. Ms. Goodwin provided an update that the trustee changed the timeframe but that the objection by Maryland and several other states' Attorneys General is still in place to fight against the states having to shoulder the financial responsibility.

Dr. Lane reported to the Committee upcoming items regarding the closure of Brown Mackie College and the change of ownership of the Art Institute of Charleston and South University, all currently owned by EDMC. He explained the Dream Center Foundation is seeking acquisition of the latter two institutions, and if approved by the U.S. Department of Education, converting them to non-profit organizations, and submitting a new license request to CHE. Commissioner Lynn asked about the number of students who will be impacted. Ms. Goodwin replied the Art Institute has a few hundred students and South University has approximately 800-900 students. Commissioner Lynn asked whether those students are eligible for state scholarship funds. Dr. Lane answered that South University has state legislation allowing its students to receive LIFE scholarship funds.

Chair Seckinger thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.