

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND FACILITIES
FEBRUARY 14, 2017
2:30 P.M.
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1122 LADY STREET, SUITE 300
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

Committee Members Present

Commissioner Dianne Kuhl, Chair via phone
Commissioner Ken Kirkland via phone
Commissioner Paul Batson via phone
Commissioner Louis Lynn via phone
Commissioner Kim Phillips via phone

Mr. John McIntyre via phone
Mr. Jeff Perez via phone
Ms. Carol Routh via phone
Mr. Bill Tripp via phone
Greg Weigle via phone

Guests Present

Commissioner Seckinger via phone
Lt. Col. Jay Beam via phone
Ms. Beth Bell via phone
Ms. Stacie Bowie via phone
Col. Joseph Garcia via phone
Mr. Rick Kelly via phone
Mr. Ward Logan

Staff Present

Mr. Edward Patrick
Ms. Carrie Eberly
Ms. Yolanda Myers
Mr. Morgan O'Donnell

For the record, notification of the meeting was made to the public as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Kuhl called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Ms. Myers introduced guests in attendance.

The following matters were considered:

II. 2017 Proposed Meeting Schedule and Deadlines

Commissioner Kuhl began the meeting by calling for discussion on the Finance and Facilities meeting schedule. Members reviewed the schedule and wanted to ensure that staff would have enough time to the review project approvals submitted by the institutions. Mr. Edward Patrick stated that any changes made by the Commissioners during their review will result in the agenda being updated. The updated agenda will be sent to the Commissioners prior to the next meeting.

After discussion, it was recommended that the proposed schedule be approved as presented.

With no further questions, it was moved (Phillips), seconded (Kirkland) and voted to approve the 2017 Proposed Meeting and Deadlines Schedule.

III. Capital Projects – Staff Approval Criteria

The committee discussed the types of project approvals staff could currently approve. After Discussion, it was recommended that staff be allowed to approve the following actions:

1. Decrease Budget
2. Close project
3. Change project name
4. Cancel project
5. Leases which are less than \$1,000,000 in a five year period
7. Legislatively authorized projects up to the amount provided. If the project budget is over the funded amount, the project will require approval by the committee
9. Preliminary land studies

Following further discussion, Mr. Edward Patrick suggested omitting items 6 and 8 from the staff approval criteria to allow more time for review.

Commissioner Kuhl suggested that projects submitted and approved without conditions, prior to the February 2017 change in evaluation procedures, be grandfathered in, providing that there is no change in the project scope or source of funding, and that the funding request does not increase over 10% of the total budget or 2,000,000, whichever is less.

With no further questions, it was moved (Batson), seconded (Phillips) and voted to approve the revised Staff Approval Criteria, omitting items 6 and 8, and approving the recommendation to grandfather previously approved projects.

Commissioner Lynn requested that a list of grandfathered projects be forwarded to the committee.

IV. Capital Project Appeals Process

Commissioner Kuhl stated that the committee does not have an appeals process in the event that the committee declines to recommend a project. The committee discussed a new Appeals process that would allow institutions to have an opportunity to bring projects to the full commission if a recommendation was not favorable and providing that there is no substantial change. She recommended that the institutions have two-weeks to bring additional information for consideration at the next Finance and Facilities committee meeting or to request that it be advance without recommendation to the full commission. If the full commission chooses not to approve the project, the institution would have the opportunity to bring the project back to the committee if they have a substantial change.

Mr. Rick Kelly, from the University of South Carolina, offered an institutional perspective, stating that an appeals process allows options to keep the project alive, and that having extra days could work to be beneficial to everyone.

Members of the committee felt that this process would be a benefit and will hopefully have an outcome agreeable to everyone. The appeals process will be updated in the Finance and Facilities section and forwarded to our institutions.

With no further questions, it was moved (Lynn), seconded (Kirkland) and voted to approve the new Capital Project Appeals process.

With no further business, Commissioner Kuhl adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda L. Myers
Recorder

**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.*