

# **SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

1122 Lady Street, Suite 300

Columbia, SC 29201

12:00 p.m.

## ***Minutes of the Meeting***

**March 2, 2017**

### **Commissioners Attending**

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

### **Commission Members Absent**

Mr. Devron Edwards (excused)

### **Commission Staff Present**

Mr. Gary Glenn, Interim Executive Director  
Mr. Clay Barton  
Ms. Sandra Carr  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland  
Ms. Carrie Eberly  
Mr. Kevin Glears  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Ms. Monica Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Mr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. Sarah Hearn  
Ms. Devon Hollimon  
Ms. Trena Houp  
Dr. John Lane  
Ms. Yolanda Myers  
Mr. Frank Myers Jr.  
Mr. Morgan O'Donnell  
Mr. Edward Patrick  
Ms. Vickie Pratt  
Ms. Regine Rucker  
Ms. Laverne Sanders  
Ms. Peggy Simons  
Dr. Kimberly Walker  
Ms. Tanya Weigold  
Ms. Leslie Williams  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

### **Guests Attending**

Ms. Amber Barnes, USC Columbia  
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Dr. Tena Crews, USC Columbia  
Mr. Michael Hughes, Executive Budget Office  
Mr. Rick Kelly, USC Columbia  
Mr. Rick Moul, PASCAL  
Dr. Hope Rivers, SC Technical College System  
Ms. Carol Routh, Clemson University

Chairman Hofferth convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

A **motion** was made (Kuhl), **seconded** (Kirkland), and **carried** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. No motion resulted from Executive Session.

At 1:18 p.m., the meeting returned to regular business.

## **1. Introductions**

**Vickie Pratt**

Ms. Pratt introduced the guests in attendance.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Tim Hofferth**

A **motion** was made (Seckinger), **seconded** (Love), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2017 CHE meeting.

## **3. Presentation**

**Ed Patrick, CFO**

Mr. Patrick gave a presentation (**Attachment I**) on the remaining seven indicators of the Financial Indicator Matrix for the purpose of further familiarizing Commissioners with the indicators' meanings, how they could be used to assess trends, and to inform the commissioners on the financial health of the public colleges and universities.

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

**Tim Hofferth**

Chairman Hofferth spoke about an article published in the paper regarding Denmark Technical College (**Attachment II**). He stated that analytics at the college were a concern and that CHE should have had the ability to make a determination on this situation. He indicated that there were problems getting the information from the Technical College System. Discussion occurred regarding data that CHE was able to interpret that had already been collected as part of statute, such as enrollment at Denmark Tech dropping 73 percent over a five-year period and appropriations increasing during that same period of time. Chairman Hofferth elaborated that an appeal had been made to numerous members of the General Assembly to help collect further information from the Technical College system, but no response had been received. Commissioner Kuhl stressed the need to look at institutional trends as a whole using the Financial Indicator Matrix and Commissioner Kirkland asked why no one had made CHE aware of a potential crisis at Denmark Tech beginning in 2012. Dr. Hope Rivers of the Technical College System stated that information in the newspaper article was already being retracted as of the start of the CHE meeting and that the Technical College System was willing to work with CHE to address this issue.

House Proviso 11.21, which would remove CHE's ability to vet any auxiliary, maintenance, or renovation project and would instead send those projects directly to the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC), was discussed. It was established that 534 million dollars in projects were vetted by CHE through December 31, 2016, and that if the proviso was adopted, 70 to 80 percent of the projects making up the 534 million dollars would go to JBRC. Chairman Hofferth discussed the negative impact the proviso could have on the state in terms of fiscal accountability and having the ability to mitigate the risk of institutional failure in the future. Commissioner Seckinger stated her concern regarding the families of the state that could be priced out of supporting a college student should less fiscal accountability be held for South Carolina's institutions and encouraged lawmakers to carefully evaluate the proviso and its unintended consequences.

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

**Dianne Kuhl**

Vice Chair Kuhl reported that during the Executive Committee meeting on February 21, a public comment period was adopted to be added to the CHE agenda beginning in April. This was due to contact from the public asking for a way in which the Commission as a whole could be addressed. Each speaker would have a specific amount of time to make a comment and would need to sign up 72 hours in advance. Commissioner Love asked

that procedures for making public comment be clearly articulated to members of the public prior to signing up to speak, to which Commissioner Kuhl assured the commissioners that the procedures would be clear.

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

**Gary Glenn**

Mr. Glenn presented Commissioners with a press release issued by SHEEO regarding the Project Pipeline Repair Initiative that he and Dr. John Lane attended a couple of weeks prior to the CHE meeting. He explained the purpose of the initiative, which was to encourage African-American males to consider a profession in teaching, and stated that CHE was working in partnership with Claflin University to accomplish this goal.

A pamphlet from the Senate Oversight Committee was given to Commissioners, and Mr. Glenn informed all in attendance that CHE would be reviewed by the committee to determine if agency laws and programs were being implemented as intended by the General Assembly. Mr. Glenn felt the review would be an affirmation of the SWOT book already published by CHE.

Mr. Glenn addressed the Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) program and the potential proposed changes to its implementation under review by CHE staff and members of state institutions. He addressed a point of concern from several of the Technical Colleges in response to a letter he had sent regarding the use of LTA funds for dual-enrollment students. He clarified that there should have been a sentence immediately after that statement which ensured funding would be sought to support from a more appropriate funding source. It was established that the proposal had not been considered by the commissioners, that staff was in the very early stages of looking at options for this, and other revisions to the scholarship programs and that staff would advance recommendations to Commissioners for a vote once the options were fully vetted by the staff. He reminded the commissioners that a small group had met once to address the issues and that more meetings were scheduled to take place to allow representatives from all institutions to have a voice in the discussion.

An update on CHE's budget request was provided. It was noted that the CHE portion of the funding for EIA Centers of Excellence had been struck from the budget, along with lottery administration funds and that a complete lack of support from the House budget writers was still in place. Mr. Glenn expressed his disappointment with the House actions especially given the seven and a half hours of testimony given before the Ways and Means Higher Education subcommittee.

## **7. Committee Reports**

### **7.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

**Tim Hofferth**

The committee had no report.

### **7.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

**Terrye Seckinger**

The committee had no report. Dr. Paula Gregg was recognized for her retirement from the Commission. She was thanked for her numerous years of service to the state and for the level of expertise she brought to her position at CHE. She received a round of applause and a standing ovation from all in attendance.

### **7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Paul Batson**

Commissioner Batson provided an update on the Scholarship and Grants Advisory Committee and stated that a meeting would be occurring after the CHE meeting, along with regional meetings, which would be taking place at a later date to allow members of the public to have input throughout the process. He stated that a larger technical college presence would be at committee meetings moving forward.

Dr. Woodfaulk thanked members of her staff in Veteran Affairs for their hard work and provided updates on regulations that were currently being deliberated by House committees.

### **7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

**Dianne Kuhl**

Commissioner Kuhl reported on a meeting that had taken place the day prior between committee members, finance staff, and staff of the Department of Administration and the Executive Budget Office regarding the

Financial Indicator Matrix. She informed Commissioners that she and Commissioner Kirkland would be holding quarterly meetings with finance staff and encouraged other Commissioners to implement similar meetings with their committees' staff.

Information items (**Attachments III, IV, V, and VI**) were introduced and accepted with no additional discussion.

Mr. Patrick provided an update on staff trips to institutions and technology updates scheduled to take place over the upcoming months.

**7.05 Report of Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee—Boards of Trustees Code of Conduct** **Ken Kirkland**

Commissioner Kirkland reported that the committee was trying to solicit a group of community leaders, Commissioners, institution presidents, and Boards of Trustees members to create a best practices model that would serve as a guide for boards across the state. Work of the committee was temporarily suspended in order to allow more members the chance to participate in addition to the fourteen members already agreeing to serve. Commissioner Kirkland indicated that more information would be provided at the April meeting.

**7.06 Report of Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee—Public Agenda** **Allison Dean Love**

On behalf of Commissioner Love, Dr. John Lane reported on a teleconference with himself, Mr. Glenn, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Layzell, and Dr. Rhoda where they discussed the path forward for the Public Agenda. The 2009 Action Plan would be converted into acting strategies along with current data and the strategies would be in alignment with best practices from other states. The committee would be working with the Chamber of Commerce in addition to other groups from across the state to accomplish this goal and to create actionable metrics. Drs. Layzell and Rhoda made a recommendation to revise the schedule for completion of the Public Agenda in accordance with the 2017-2018 Legislative Session in order to gain as much support as possible.

**8. Other Business**

Proposed provisos were discussed in terms of the history leading up to the provisos and other background information and what the provisos would mean if adopted. Chairman Hofferth asked that the written version of the provisos and their effects on CHE be included in the March monthly update (**Attachment VII**).

Chairman Hofferth recognized the College of Charleston for its four Fullbright Scholars recipients, Winthrop University for its achievement in minority student academic performance and for its basketball team's number one seed in the Big South Conference. He also recognized Lander for its record increase in applications and admitted students over the past year.

**9. End of Business Meeting**

A **motion** was made (Phillips), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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

**Attachments (VII)**

*\*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.*