

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

**Minutes of the Meeting
Main Conference Room
October 4, 2018
3:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair
Dr. Bettie Horne
Mr. Richard A. Jones
Mr. Charles Munns

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Mr. Kevin Glears
Mr. Christopher Glenn
Mr. Jesse Kimbrough
Mr. Frank Myers
Ms. Katie Philpott
Ms. Vickie Pratt
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Leslie Williams

Guests Attending

Mr. Brian Gunn, MeasureOne, Inc.
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan Corporation
Master Sergeant Kenneth Monroe, SC Air
National Guard
Master Sergeant Paul Mead, SC Army National
Guard
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Paul Batson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced the newest member to the Student Services Division, Mr. Jesse Kimbrough. Mr. Kimbrough is a Program Coordinator in the State Approving Agency.

A **motion** was made (Munns), **seconded** (Horne), and **carried** to approve the minutes of August 2, 2018.

It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **MeasureOne DNRS** *(For Information, no action necessary)*

Mr. Brian Gunn provided background information on MeasureOne. He explained that MeasureOne was established nine years ago. He stated that the company conducts research and market reporting, assists lenders in establishing new student loan programs through their consulting division and works with lenders and colleges/universities in helping students receive financial credit for their academic progress.

Mr. Gunn's primary focus for the presentation was on loan industry reporting. He stated most of the data are from private student loan lenders. At the end of Mr. Gunn's presentation, Commissioner Batson inquired about how the Committee could use the information provided by Mr. Gunn. Commissioner Munns suggested assessing the information and following up later. Commissioner Batson asked if a similar presentation could be presented on federal loans. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that she would work on having a similar presentation for federal loans.

3. **SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Quarterly Report (Quarter 4, 2018)** *(For Approval)*

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Program Manager for SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT), provided the enrollment figures for Spring 2017-18. She stated SC-PRRMT had an enrollment of 80 students in Spring 2017-18. Ms. Thomas-Myers reported that 36 applicants applied from various SC-PRRMT recruitment visits. She stated 14 applicants were eligible for the SC-PRRMT program. There was discussion about ineligibility for SC-PRRMT because some applicants were unable to receive their transcripts from their previous institutions due to unpaid bills or loans. Commissioner Munns stated that since there is a teacher shortage in SC, perhaps a collaboration with SC institutions be established to allow for an exception on the receipt of prior transcripts so that these ineligible students can receive a teacher's loan. He asked if this was something that could be submitted to ACAP. Commissioner Munns recommended that Dr. John Lane and Dr. Karen Woodfaulk have a discussion on who CHE should have a dialogue with about the transcripts release for teacher loans that are held for non-payment.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the total amount awarded to SC-PRRMT participants at the end of Spring 2018 was \$324,482.00. She stated the average forgivable loan was \$4,097.00. Ms. Thomas-Myers said there were a total of 12 graduates for Fall 2017-Spring 2018. She stated that all 12 of the graduates are teaching in critical-need and/or critical geographic areas of the state.

Ms. Thomas-Myers explained that there are 83 participants for Fall 2018. She said that SC-PRRMT is projecting 8 graduates for Fall 2018. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated 15 school districts were contacted for Fall 2018. She stated that SC-PRRMT reached out to Beaufort County School District, and she is waiting on their response. She

said SC-PRRMT visited with Lee County School District and received 17 applications from the 25 participants who were in attendance.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that SC-PRRMT will continue to meet the projected numbers by recruiting, increasing and adding new sites. Commissioner Munns asked what contributed to the 35% increase of eligible students recruited to SC-PRRMT in FY2017-18. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated SC State University held PRAXIS workshops. She explained that in addition to the workshops, an online program was provided for the participants to help students increase their PRAXIS scores.

The Committee **moved** (Horne), **seconded** (Munns) and **carried** to approve the SC-PRRMT Quarter 4 Report. Further, the Committee recommended that CHE continue to monitor the effectiveness of this program as stated in the proviso. As previously approved by the Commission on September 6, 2018, SC-PRRMT will provide a report to CHE each quarter on the program's progress during FY2018-19.

4. **SC National Guard College Assistance Program Report and Presentation** (*For Information, no action necessary*)

Ms. Lorinda Copeland provided an overview of the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP). The SCNG CAP is in the SC Code of Laws and provides financial assistance to eligible service members in the SC Air and Army National Guard. The SCNG CAP transitioned from a student loan repayment program in AY2007-08.

The 10 year summary of SCNG CAP awards was presented, by branch. Commissioner Batson asked if the number of awards for the Air Guard had declined as reflected. Ms. Copeland and Dr. Woodfaulk responded yes. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Air Guard has the smaller enrollment and that there may be several reasons for the decline. One reason may be the implementation of "flagging" actions. If service members are not in good standing with the Guard, service members are not eligible for the SCNG CAP. MSgt. Kenneth Monroe of the Air Guard stated another change was the requirement for service members to complete basic and technical training before receiving the SCNG CAP. Previously, some service members would receive the SCNG CAP and did not complete the required training. MSgt. Paul Mead of the Army Guard stated that the requirement to complete required training in addition to the implementation of "flagging" actions impacted awards. Commissioner Horne stated that the number of awards decreased by about 50% but the award amount about 30%. Commissioner Horne asked if service members are receiving more awards. MSgt. Monroe responded some service members use the maximum amount and some members do not require the entire amount. Ms. Copeland stated that each service member is counted, but the awards differ and may not be the maximum amount.

An overview of the application, approval, and awarding process was presented. Education demographics for the Air and Army Guard was also presented. Ms. Copeland stated that approximately 70% of service members of both branches could be eligible for SCNG CAP. These service members could use the SCNG CAP for degree levels up to the bachelor's degree. Commissioner Horne stated that she was surprised there is a higher percentage of associate degrees in the Air Guard. MSgt. Monroe responded that the Air Guard has the Community College of the Air Force which offers an associate degree program. MSgt. Mead stated that the Army Guard has an initiative to review degree levels for enlisted service members.

Ms. Copeland concluded the presentation by stating that there is ongoing collaboration between CHE staff and the SCNG CAP representatives regarding program administration and proposed changes. Dr. Woodfaulk disseminated and provided an overview of a news article regarding the collaboration between Lander University and the SC National Guard for special tuition rates.

5. **Other Business:**

a. **CHE-EIA: Teacher Loan Program Proviso (*For Information, No Action Required*)**

Ms. Katie Philpott reported that Ms. Jane Turner, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention & Advancement (CERRA) has provided a draft Proviso that was approved and endorsed by the Commission. Ms. Philpott stated that CHE staff and Ms. Turner met with Representative Jerry Govan, Orangeburg County, and he expressed interest in the Proviso. Ms. Philpott said at this point CHE is waiting for Ms. Turner's decision to meet with legislators. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the Proviso would remove the requirement for borrowers to teach in critically-needs area. The Proviso would also shorten the loan to a three-year loan at 33 percent each year from five years at 20 percent each year.

b. **SC Teacher Loan Borrowers: Notification (Collections) (*For Information, No Action Required*)**

Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan Corporation, stated that the Commission approved the moving of the servicing of the SC Teachers Loan to a servicer that is used by the Corporation. He stated that the servicing is going well, however, Mr. Jones and Dr. Woodfaulk have drafted a letter to notify borrowers who are 180 days in default. Mr. Jones stated a confirmation form will be provided to determine if the borrower is teaching or has fulfilled the required teaching obligation by teaching in a critical or geographic area in the SC public school system.

6. **Adjournment**

A **motion** (Horne) was made, seconded (Jones), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 p.m.