

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)
August 30, 2018

Members Present

Chair Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Devron Edwards, via teleconference
Mr. Richard Jones
Admiral Charles Munns

Staff Present

Dr. Argentini Anderson
Mr. Clay Barton
Mr. Christopher Glenn
Ms. Whitney Jett
Dr. John Lane
Ms. Julissa Nixon
Ms. Tanya Rogers
Ms. Peggy Simons
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Lishu Yin

Guests

Dr. Jennifer Almeda
Dr. Melissa Awenowicz, Newberry College, via teleconference
Ms. Melanie Barton, Education Oversight Committee
Dr. Rachel Burns, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. Mark Butler, Anderson University, via teleconference
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University, via teleconference
Dr. Brian Carruthers, Bob Jones University, via teleconference
Dr. James E. Colbert, Lander University
Dr. Michelle Cook, Clemson University
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina Columbia
Joyce Cunningham, via teleconference
Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University
Dr. Stephanie Frazier, South Carolina Technical College System, via teleconference
Dr. Jenna Hallman, CERRA
Dr. Damara Hightower, Benedict College
Ms. Mary Hipp, South Carolina Department of Education
Dr. Tara Honor, The Citadel, via teleconference

Dr. Renée Jefferson, The Citadel, via teleconference
Ms. Taylor Johnson, Lander University, via teleconference
Dr. Roy Jones, Clemson University
Mr. Patrick Kelly, Blythewood High School
Dr. Mark McCann, Columbia International University, via teleconference
Dr. Kathryn McColskey, North Greenville University, via teleconference
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston, via teleconference
Dr. Shelly Meyers, Limestone College/South Carolina Deans Alliance, via teleconference
Mr. Justin Oates, Winthrop University
Dr. Jon Pedersen, University of South Carolina
Dr. Laura Reynolds, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. James Ritter, South Carolina Department of Education
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate
Ms. Rosline Sumpter, South Carolina Technical College System, via teleconference

Guests continued.

Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South
Carolina Aiken
Ms. Jane Turner, CERRA

Dr. Tracy West, Columbia College, via
teleconference
Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Greenville Technical College

Welcome

Chair Seckinger called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Ms. Nixon confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Reorder the agenda.

1. Minutes of May 15, 2018

Chair Seckinger requested a motion to accept the minutes of May 15, 2018, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Commissioner Jones) and **seconded** (Commissioner Munns) and the Committee **voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.**

4. Annual Report on Staff-Approved Mission Statement Modifications, FY 2017-18

(For information, no action required)

Chair Seckinger introduced the item for information only. Dr. Lane explained, per policy, Commission staff approved two non-substantive mission statement changes during FY 2017-18.

3. New EIA Centers of Excellence Competitive Grant Award, FY 2018-19

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Jones) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Committee members asked about the logistics to implement the proposed center and whether the proposed center would adversely affect South Carolina State University's (SC State's) Program for the Recruitment & Retention of Minority Teachers (PRRMT). Dr. Jones explained it will take time for each partner in the proposed center to settle into their roles and pointed Committee members to the systems diagram within the proposal. Dr. Jones and Dr. Lane clarified the proposed center and PRRMT are funded from different sources and would not operate at cross-purposes. Commissioner Munns enquired about the types of activities that would engage high school student participants with the proposed center. Dr. Jones replied that students will be included in the development of the proposed center to foster engagement and the proposed center will make sure high school students have mentors within and outside their school to assist with engagement. Commissioner Munns recommended the proposed Clemson University center look to partner with PRRMT and add a paragraph about that partnership to their annual report.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend** favorably to the Commission the *EIA Centers of Excellence* Competitive Grant Award for FY 2018-19.

2. CERRA FY 2019-20 Appropriation Request and FY 2017-2018 Annual Report

Chair Seckinger introduced the item, and the Committee **moved** (Seckinger) and **seconded** (Munns) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Ms. Turner made comments about the South Carolina teacher shortage and presented the Center for Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement's (CERRA's) FY 2017-2018 annual report. She gave an overview of CERRA's three recruitment programs (PRO TEAM, Teacher Cadet, and Teaching Fellows), their retention effort, and last year's supply and demand report. Committee members asked when the current supply and demand report will be available and what the Commission can do to help CERRA. Ms. Turner stated the updated supply and demand report will be available January 2019, as the school districts had not yet reported their vacancies to CERRA. She continued the Commission can continue to assist with collections on accounts for teaching fellows who did not get the loan forgiveness through service. Ms. Turner explained the increase in CERRA's FY 2019-2020 appropriations request (\$1,000,000) is to cover increased indirect costs from CERRA's host Winthrop University and pay increases for CERRA staff. Committee members requested CERRA add an itemized budget as an addendum to the appropriation request prior to the September CHE meeting

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the CERRA FY 2019-20 appropriation request and the FY 2017-2018 annual report.

5. The Teacher Shortage and Educator Preparation

Chair Seckinger introduced the item and Committee members heard from educator preparation program deans and directors, the Education Oversight Committee, CERRA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), Mr. Patrick Kelly of Blythewood High School, Greenville Technical College, and Commission staff. Constituents expressed a need for longitudinal data on traditional and alternative certification educator preparation programs, high quality clinical experiences funded by the state, incentives for and deterrents to teacher retention, expanded options for alternatively certifying teachers, and barriers to educator preparation. As an example of retention initiatives, Dr. Whirl cited a housing finance incentive program currently available for qualified teachers in Greenville County. Participants discussed barriers to enrolling education majors, specifically Praxis Core scoring and the costs for retaking it. Representatives from SCDE cited changes to Praxis scoring thresholds the State Board of Education implemented in 2017, and that the State Board had the authority to enact further changes including composite scoring, therefore not requiring legislative action. Discussion continued about the merits of no Praxis exam requirements, composite scoring from multiple attempts, and requirements remaining as currently prescribed. Ms. Hipp enquired about academic certificate programs as a path toward teacher preparation, and Dr. Lane confirmed the Commission does consider academic certificates programs (e.g., post-baccalaureate). Dr. Jones stressed the importance of context and strategic advocacy in educator preparation requirements, citing demographics that could better benefit aspiring teachers if sound improvements are successfully implemented. Participants also discussed the financial burdens on the teaching profession, including college debt, lower salaries, out-of-pocket teaching supplies, and now the growing expectancy of working a part-time job during the school year. Upon remaining discussing, the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Seckinger) a motion for Commission staff to prepare a motion to declare the teacher shortage a Commission initiative, have the Commission conduct semi-annual stakeholder working group meetings, and have the Commission and other stakeholders write a co-sponsored letter to the South Carolina General Assembly to highlight the teacher shortage. The Committee **voted** unanimously.

6. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.