

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Meeting held at  
Baxter M. Hood Center, Schumacher Board Room, York Technical College  
375 S. Anderson Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730  
March 01, 2018  
3:30 p.m.

***Minutes of the Meeting***  
**March 1, 2018**

**Commissioners Attending**

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

**Commission Members Absent**

Mr. Devron Edwards (excused)

**Guests Attending**

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Dr. Robert Knoepfel, Clemson University
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University	Dr. George Petersen, Clemson University
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina Union	Dr. Jeff Priest, University of South Carolina Aiken
Ms. Michelle Cook, Clemson University	Mr. Cam Reagin, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina	Mr. Charles Robinson, York Technical College
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University	Dr. Darlene Shaw, Medical University of South Carolina
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University	Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Mr. Brian Enter, University of South Carolina Aiken	Mr. Greg Thompson, Clemson University
Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, University of South Carolina	Mr. David Yancey, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Debbie Jackson, Clemson University	
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University	

**Commission Staff Present**

Mr. Jeff Schilz	Ms. Katie Philpott
Ms. Laura Belcher	Mr. Andrew Roof
Ms. Carrie Eberly	Mr. Keeran Sittampalam
Dr. John Lane	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Chairman Hofferth convened the meeting at 3:41 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Introductions**

Ms. Belcher introduced the guests in attendance.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Tim Hofferth**

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Seckinger), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2018, CHE meeting.

**3. Presentation**

There was no presentation.

**4. Chairman's Report**

**Tim Hofferth**

Chair Hofferth discussed the Commission's town hall events, specifically commenting on their success in drawing attention to access, affordability, and sustainability in South Carolina's higher education system. He noted several inquiries he had received regarding venue selection, and asked Ms. Belcher to inform the Commission and guests of the procedure for venue identification and acquisition. Ms. Belcher explained that staff first seek to leverage the connections of Commissioners who reside in the city or local area in which the Town Hall will be held. She continued by stating staff then proceed to research public spaces that will be easily accessible by the community. Chair Hofferth thanked CHE staff for their diligence in coordinating the town halls, and he mentioned a suggestion to host the events on high school campuses.

**5. Vice Chair's Report**

**Dianne Kuhl**

Vice Chair Kuhl reminded the Commissioners to complete their ethics forms by the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline; otherwise, she noted, a \$100-a-day fine would be incurred until submission. After issuing this reminder to the Commission, she transitioned to a discussion of the CHE Service Learning Award program, a program that will be suspended for this year in order to be studied and revised. She summarized the program's history and concluded with the fact that the number of applicants has declined in recent years, and a majority of the applications do not meet the program's qualifications. She explained these trends created concern for the program's efficacy and inspired consideration for modifications. Consequently, Vice Chair Kuhl stated that the program would be revised to better emphasize service learning and community outreach, and reiterated that no award will be issued for the 2018 academic year.

**6. Interim President and Executive Director's Report**

**Jeff Schilz**

President Schilz informed the Commission of a meeting, held two days prior, of chief financial officers from public four-year institutions who compose a working group tasked with the development of a uniform methodology for determining the cost to educate students. He noted that meetings of this nature have not been convened for some time, but that the meetings held in the last month have been productive. President Schilz reminded the Commissioners of an upcoming meeting of public board chairs scheduled for March 15. At the conclusion of President Schilz's report, Chair Hofferth asked about the agency's budget presentation to the Senate Finance Subcommittee. President Schilz stated that Senator Peeler chaired the Subcommittee and noted the Subcommittee's other members in attendance. He explained that the conversation concentrated primarily on the general challenges facing higher education, including enrollment trends, rather than the agency's budget.

**7. Legislative Report**

Ms. Philpott stated that the House Ways & Means budget deliberations took place last week, wherein they produced their version of the upcoming year's budget. Appropriations to the CHE, she noted, were

approximate to the previous year's finalized budget, with an additional \$95,000 in pass through funds allocated to the agency for the University Center of Greenville. Ms. Philpott then presented information on H. 4931, a bill that would provide the technical colleges the authority to offer and award applied baccalaureate degrees in manufacturing. She explained the bill was considered favorably by the House Education & Public Works Subcommittee, technical colleges, and industry in the upstate, and that the subcommittee is now interested to learn the CHE's position on the legislation. Chair Hofferth expressed the necessity for the Commission to deliberate its official perspective thoroughly, and then ceded the floor to Commissioner Seckinger.

Commissioner Seckinger, stating her concern for the lack of communication, emphasized the Commission's purview encompasses all aspects of the state's higher education system, including the technical colleges. She stated the potential consequences of permitting such programs would be significant, and would constitute reach into another sector of the education system. She expressed concern about the feasibility of technical schools offering baccalaureate degrees, and mentioned the "2 + 2 Step-Up" model, wherein technical colleges provide two-year technical training and graduate pupils to either the workforce or four-year institutions. Ultimately, Commissioner Seckinger concluded that each institution cannot be all things to all people: there exist sectors, and they each have their own particular strengths. Before opening the discussion to the public, Chair Hofferth intervened to have other Commissioners share their thoughts on the issue.

Speaking first, Commissioner Batson disagreed with Commissioner Seckinger, though he appreciated some aspects of her perspective. First, he noted the absence of any policy requiring the technical system to bring to the CHE in advance any legislation concerning the technical system. Second, he observed nothing procedurally unusual in this instance. Due to the extensive hands-on activity demanded by the degree, he stated that the required coursework could not be completed within two or three years. Commissioner Batson concluded the proposed program is driven by the needs of the workforce and is aligned with goals outlined in the *Public Agenda*.

Commissioner Munns expressed concern for potential redundancy and consequential cost increases of the proposed program—two points with which Commissioner Horne concurred. With regard to the first point, Dr. Horne expressed concern that a technical college's offering of such a program might be a step into another sector's domain of operation. To the second point, she raised the effect on program costs of specialized faculty, which would be required for adequate administration. Commissioner Batson asserted that the program would be additive, not duplicative, and would geographically facilitate access for a wider population. For external perspective, Commissioner Seckinger invited Dr. Maryanne Fitzpatrick, University of South Carolina System Vice President, to provide comments. She noted that USC-Upstate has offered for approximately ten years an engineering technology management degree, which accepts all courses fulfilled by an engineering technology associate's degree. Continuing, she praised the mechatronics degrees offered at technical colleges, but stated that these degrees were ultimately insufficient to the needs industry. Consequently, she posited that comprehensive institutions should more vigorously pursue applied manufacturing bachelor's degrees. Additionally, she noted that USC-Upstate has tremendous "2+2" partnerships with the technical colleges, with more transfer students from technical schools enrolling than freshman each year. By her estimation, this program would be a mistake, opening too many doors with unforeseen consequences.

Vice Chair Kuhl stated that more information is needed to soundly assess the viability of an applied baccalaureate degree program. Furthermore, she agreed with Commissioner Batson that the technical college system was correctly following procedure, and she stated that a market demand exists for this program. Commissioner Love inquired if other states have implemented similar programs, which Commissioner Batson affirmed. To demonstrate the absence of a cost burden, he cited Greenville

Technical College’s use of its own money to purchase the needed machinery and to construct the education center.

Joining the conversation, Chair Hofferth agreed with Vice Chair Kuhl: more information is needed, as it is difficult with the present knowledge to ascertain the consequences. According to the Chairman, the Commission’s decisions should be informed from macroscopic observation and should benefit the entire higher education system, not just one sector. Chair Hofferth stated the Commission, therefore, must thoroughly examine and determine its concerns with the program before issuing its recommendation. Chair Hofferth thus asked if there existed with the Commissioners enough initial concern to postpone endorsement of the bill.

Commissioner Batson requested Chair Hofferth clarify his question and explain the seeming deviation from the typical approval procedure. The Chairman explained that, due to time constraints and the unknown effects of the program, it is important for the Commission to gain a more complete understanding before making a decision. Vice Chair Kuhl agreed that developing a position on the program is preliminary, which prompted Commissioner Phillips to recommend reviewing the proposal through the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). Commissioner Seckinger emphasized that there were no qualms with the program, just the methodology employed in pursuing it.

For the sake of time, Chair Hofferth concluded the discussion and dispatched CAAL Chair Seckinger to collect information. He then ceded the floor to Ms. Philpott to finish her legislative report.

Ms. Philpott stated that copies of H.4182 and S.542 were sent to each of the Commissioners, and reminded the Commissioners that the House Ways & Means Higher Education and Public Works Subcommittee requested the Commission’s position on the legislation. She provided a brief synopsis of the bill for context, and Chair Hofferth expressed opposition; Commissioner Lynn stated that others may have a different perspective on the legislation, however. Finally, Ms. Philpott summarized S.937, which extends the State Technical College Board’s control of Denmark Tech from November 2018 to January 2019.

## 8. Committee Reports

### 8.01 Report of the Executive Committee

**Tim Hofferth**

The Committee had no report.

### 8.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Terrye Seckinger**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. Program Proposals**

1. Clemson University, MAT, Teacher Residency in Early Childhood Education
2. Clemson University, MAT, Teacher Residency in Elementary Education
3. Clemson University, MAT, Teacher Residency in Secondary Education
4. Clemson University, Ed.D., Education Systems Improvement Science
5. University of South Carolina Beaufort Mission Statement Change
6. Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2015

Commissioner Seckinger introduced the programs proposed under the Committee’s consent agenda and expressed support with their quality. She described the first three programs as “condensed master’s degrees” with significant emphasis on praxis. She commented on the innovative design and utility of the

Ed.D. in Education Systems Improvement Science. Subsequently, she introduced to the Commission the University of South Carolina-Beaufort's (USCB) mission statement change. The mission statement, she stated, was carefully crafted to specify USCB as the sole institution within the University of South Carolina system that could offer a particular teaching master's degree or computational science master degree program. She emphasized that these changes were prompted by Beaufort's local market demands. Lastly, she presented the Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen to the Commission, and informed everyone of the Committee's undertaking to modernize some aspects of the report. The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

**B. Report on Program Modifications, October 20, 2017-February 1, 2018**

*(For information, no action required)*

Commissioner Seckinger presented the report for information purposes.

**8.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Paul Batson**

**A. S.C. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarterly 2 Report**

*(For Approval)*

Commissioner Batson requested the Commission's approval of the S.C. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers' (SCPRRMT) quarterly report. According to him, the Committee's assessment of the report found some improvement in the number of students actively involved in the program and that the program has extended its operations to a number of new sites. Ultimately, Commissioner Batson affirmed the program's efficacy, though he would prefer it be a bit more effective. A **motion** to approve the report was made by Commissioner Batson, **seconded** by Commissioner Seckinger, and **approved** unanimously.

**8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

**Dianne Kuhl**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Interim Capital Projects**

1. Northeastern Technical College
  - A. Industrial Training Center Renovations and Expansion (Bennettsville & Pageland) – Increase Budget, Add New Source of Funds
2. USC-Aiken
  - A. USC Aiken Maintenance Building – Establish Project (Phase I)
  - B. USC Aiken Penland HVAC Renovation – Establish Project (Phase I)
3. Coastal Carolina University
  - A. Williams Brice Renovation and Repair – Establish Construction Budget (Phase II)
4. Medical University of South Carolina
  - A. Basic Science Building (BSB) Exterior Envelope Repairs – Establish Construction Budget (Phase II)
  - B. Courtenay Drive Garage Upgrades– Establish Project (Phase I)

**B. Lease Approval**

1. Medical University of South Carolina – 22 West Edge Lease Addendum for Information Solutions

Vice Chair Kuhl discussed the purposes, costs, and funding sources of the consent agenda's six proposed capital projects and one lease approval. Beginning her review, however, she removed item 4.A, as more detailed and accurate information would be needed to assess the project adequately; and she added that, because the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) will not reassemble until April 25, the Medical University of South Carolina will not be negatively affected by the delay in the Commission's consideration. After completing her overview of the remaining items, and specifying the removal of item 4.A, she **motioned** on behalf of the Committee for the consent agenda's approval, and as it did not require a second, was thereafter **passed** unanimously.

**C. Other Business**

1. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for February 2018  
*(For Information, No Action Required)*

Vice Chair Kuhl presented the items to the Commission for information.

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

Commissioner Kirkland informed the Commission that he has not yet received either a report or response from the Inspector General, whom legal counsel contacted the month prior requesting a status update. He stated another letter from legal counsel would be sent to the Inspector General. Chair Hofferth, noting that the Commission has received partial reports, asserted that the subcommittee would weigh-in once all of the reports that are in hand.

**8.06. Report of Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee--SCCORE**

Commissioner Kirkland invited President Schilz to inform the Commission of the progress made on SCCORE. President Schilz noted that many conversations have been with schools, which have expressed some degree of interest in participating. He explained that once meetings are planned to talk with a few more schools. Once this has occurred, the subcommittee will meet to take further action.

**9. Other Business**

- A. Technical college baccalaureate degree  
*(For Information, No Action Required)*
- B. Institutional accreditor reports  
*(For Approval)*

Under item B, Chair Hofferth explained SLED's investigation of Florence-Darlington Technical College, and noted that the Commission has received no information regarding the issue. As the CHE is statutorily required to oversee all of higher education, Chair Hofferth proposed a recommendation: the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) would send the Commission copies of the reports they provide to the institutions regarding accreditation review. CAAL Chair Seckinger agreed with this recommendation. Chair Hofferth asked the Commission to consider approving this recommendation, but no action was taken during the meeting.

**10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**11. End of Business Meeting**

A **motion** was made, **seconded**, and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m.