

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting held at
Poynor Adult Education Center, Room 2-A
301 S. Dargan St., Florence, S.C. 29506
May 3, 2018
1:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting
May 3, 2018

Commissioners Attending

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair	Mr. Richard Jones	Mr. Kim Phillips*
Ms. Dianne Kuhl, Vice Chair*	Ms. Allison Dean Love*	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Devron Edwards*	Dr. Louis Lynn*	
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Mr. Charles Munns	

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Paul Batson (excused)
Mr. Ken Kirkland (excused)

Guests Attending

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Mr. Chris Kennedy, Francis Marion University
Mr. Eric Brown, S.C. Technical College System	Mr. Jeffrey Perez, Winthrop University*
Dr. Lynn Cherry, College of Charleston*	Dr. Jeff Priest, University of South Carolina*
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina*	Aiken

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

*Indicates attendance by phone.

Chairman Hofferth convened the meeting at 1:30 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 April 5, 2018, CHE meeting.

3. Presentation

There was no presentation.

4. Chairman’s Report

Tim Hofferth

Chair Hofferth provided no report.

5. Vice Chair's Report

Dianne Kuhl

Vice Chair Kuhl had no report for the meeting.

6. Interim President and Executive Director's Report

Jeff Schilz

President Schilz introduced a new report, *Minority Enrollment Trends in South Carolina*, which he stated arose from legislators' frequent requests for data pertaining to in-state minority enrollment. He noted the report could be accessed from the homepage of the agency's website.

7. Legislative Report

Ms. Philpott apprised Commissioners of several bills of interest. She stated that H.4182, known as the Higher Education Efficiency Act, which would more greatly remove CHE from the capital projects approval process, did not pass in the House before the legislative crossover date; however, in the Senate, it was provided a committee hearing from which it was passed favorably. For the Senate to take up the bill, Ms. Philpott explained, a two-thirds vote was required, and as this was not the case, the Senate consequently voted to recommit the bill to the Education Committee.

Ms. Philpott informed Commissioners that H.4931, which would permit technical colleges to offer and award applied baccalaureate degrees in manufacturing, was scheduled on the Senate calendar for second reading. She estimated that the bill would likely pass by the conclusion of legislative session.

After overviewing these bills, Ms. Philpott presented information concerning the most recent, various versions of the 2018-2019 state budget. She estimated that the conference committee would convene the following Tuesday, May 8, as the Senate did not concur with a House amendment. To better illustrate the comparisons among the various budgets as they related to CHE, Ms. Philpott provided each Commissioner with comprehensive spreadsheets of their appropriations to the agency in the Governor, House, and Senate budgets. She noted that both the Governor's and Senate's versions appropriated funds for the agency's transition to the Division of Technology Office and the upgrade of its integrated technology (IT), though the Senate provided the latter through lottery funding. Additionally, these budgets allocated greater funds for PASCAL, a consortium of academic libraries in S.C. for which CHE is the fiscal agent, and the Governor's budget, furthermore, gave extra funds for Southern Region Education Board (SREB) contract programs.

Commissioner Seckinger asked Ms. Philpott who the Senate and House budget conferees were; Ms. Philpott responded thusly: Senators Leatherman, Matthews, and Bennett would represent the Senate; and Representatives White, Cole, and Clyburn would represent the House.

Chair Hofferth inquired of the budgetary effects of alterations to the grading scale. Ms. Philpott responded that S.1123, which pertains to grade scale changes, did not pass out of its special Senate subcommittee and did not pass before the crossover deadline; therefore, any financial adjustments related to changes to the grade scale would not occur during the upcoming fiscal year. On a related note, however, Ms. Philpott called attention to decreased allocations for the lottery reserve trust fund, which was established by the House of Representatives in its version of the budget to address expenses associated with a "Christmas Day glitch" and potential increases in scholarship outlays.

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

The Committee had no report.

8.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Paul Batson

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| <p>CONSENT AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Year-Round Palmetto Fellows B. S.C. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Preliminary Recruitment Plans
<i>(For Information)</i> C. College Application Month Report 2017
<i>(For Information)</i> D. Harry W. Colmery Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Reform Act of 2017 (Valor) & GI Bill Payment Rates <i>(For Information)</i> |
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As Commissioner Batson was unable to attend the meeting, Commissioner Edwards, who serves as Vice Chair of the Committee, described those items which were submitted for approval and those solely for information purposes. Commissioner Edwards stated the proposed new Palmetto Fellows Scholarship application process, the only item submitted by the Committee for approval, would be of greater use to stakeholders. President Schilz added that the proposal was borne out of discussions of the Council of Presidents’ Scholarship Task Force, wherein enrollment managers at the universities expressed a desire to review the applications sooner; and this proposal, he noted, conformed to these recommendations. The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Dianne Kuhl

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| <p>CONSENT AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Interim Capital Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical College of the Lowcountry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Construction of the Lowcountry Culinary Arts Institute and Interpretive Center—Establish Project and Preliminary Land Acquisition (Phase 1) |
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- B. Other Business**
 - 1. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for April 2018
(For Information)

Vice Chair Kuhl informed the Commission that the Committee on Finance & Facilities had no report to provide, as its sole item for approval would be postponed at the request of the submitter, Technical College of the Lowcountry, until the June meeting.

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

Ken Kirkland

As Commissioner Kirkland was unable to attend due to other obligations, no report was provided for the Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee—Boards of Trustees Code of Conduct.

8.06. Report of Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee--SCCORE

As Commissioner Kirkland was unable to attend due to other obligations, no report was provided for the Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee—SCCORE.

9. Other Business

A. Institutional Accreditor Reports *(For Approval)*

B. Academic Degree Program Productivity *(For Information)*

Commissioner Seckinger summarized the proposed memorandum as a request for accreditors to notify the Commission of issues arising at the state's colleges and universities. Commissioner Seckinger recommended the proposal be approved, and made a motion.

Before the motion could be seconded, Commissioner Horne asked why the recommendation did not originate from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. Citing the inclusivity of the requests made in the proposal—that it was not specifically concentrated on academic issues—Commissioner Seckinger explained that it was unnecessary for the motion to originate from the Committee.

Commissioner Horne inquired whether other states have made similar requests for state oversight agencies to receive institutional reports from accreditors. Dr. Lane replied that he was unaware of any instances of accreditors furnishing institutional reports to state agencies, but he noted that he was also unaware if any similar requests had been made.

Chair Hofferth reaffirmed that the Commission is statutorily assigned to make recommendations concerning higher education, and concluded that those recommendations should be as thoroughly informed as possible. As a body invested with the protection of students, taxpayers, and families, Chair Hofferth stressed the importance of the Commission to be informed of growing issues in a timely manner, so it may act decisively and in the public's best interest.

Commissioner Seckinger mentioned a recent conversation she and Dr. Lane had with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), wherein the accreditor stated that stakeholders could request copies of institutional reports. Commissioner Horne expressed her concern that this measure might be perceived by institutions as an overstep, and she suggested that the Commission request the colleges and universities provide these reports. Ultimately, Commissioner Horne expressed, she would like to have more background information before a vote is taken on the proposal.

Chair Hofferth emphasized the statutory imperative for the Commission to be knowledgeable of developments at South Carolina's colleges and universities which may adversely affect the state. Vice Chair Kuhl offered two suggestions: one, that the tone of the proposal be revised as more of a request; and two, that the Commission should request the accreditor to notify it immediately upon the initiation of an institution's probation. As SACSCOC is neither a federal nor state entity, and consequently is not subject to requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Chair Hofferth stated that the proposal may need to become a new policy for the Commission. To refine the proposal, Chair Hofferth suggested

submitting it to legal counsel for review and, if necessary, revision; once it has been more thoroughly vetted, the proposal can be voted on at the CHE meeting in June.

The Commissioners then deliberated the proposal's intent and the best means to realize this intent. After this deliberation, Chair Hofferth requested Commissioner Seckinger contact legal counsel to ensure the proposal is within the Commission's statutory authority and is written effectively to correspond with the decisions resulting from the day's discussion.

Commissioner Seckinger began the presentation on program productivity by citing the noncompliance of 152 of 1,087 programs state wide. Dr. Lane then explained the criteria necessary for a program's compliance: at the baccalaureate level, programs must have 12.5 students enrolled with eight completing; at the master's level, programs must have six students enrolled with three completing; and at the doctoral level, programs must have four-and-a-half students enrolled, with two completing. President Schilz clarified that compliance is determined by an examination of five-year averages of the enrollment and completion criteria, and asked Dr. Lane for the source of the policy.

Dr. Lane explained that the policy derived from research of compliance criteria in ten states demographically similar to South Carolina, and that it was approved first by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP), then by CAAL, and finally by the Commission in January 2017.

Dr. Lane described the policy for addressing noncompliant programs: if a program is determined noncompliant, it is classified as in need of termination, exemption, or probation, and, for those scheduled for probation, the university is asked to provide an intervention plan. Chair Hofferth asked how many of the currently 152 noncompliant programs were on probation. Dr. Lane replied that, due to on-going work with the institutions, the number of probationary programs had not been finalized. Chair Hofferth requested Dr. Lane compile a list of noncompliant programs that were not contributory to the economic needs of South Carolina. Commissioner Seckinger advised caution in such an undertaking, though, as some noncompliant programs are unique in the state. President Schilz and Commissioner Horne concurred.

Commissioner Horne expressed her belief that students' academic program selections should be informed by incisive examinations of those programs' varying costs and outcomes. To this point, President Schilz commented that the Education Economic Development Act endeavored to provide such a service through counseling.

Chair Hofferth told the Commissioners that he sent a letter regarding the Student Bill of Rights to the presidents and board trustees of each four-year institution in the state, the outcome of which was the agreement to convene a Council of Presidents meeting to discuss the newly introduced document. After a date for the meeting is confirmed, all Commissioners would be informed, Chair Hofferth assured. Finally, as the next meeting would be in June, Chair Hofferth requested the Commissioners send him notice of their preferred committee assignment.

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 4:42 p.m.