

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting held at
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, S.C. 29201
12:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting
September 6, 2018

Commissioners Attending

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair	Ms. Linda Dolny	Ms. Dianne Kuhl
Mr. Ken Kirkland, Vice Chair	Mr. Devron Edwards (phone)	Mr. Charles Munns
Mr. Paul Batson	Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. James Battle	Mr. Richard Jones	

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Kim Phillips (excused)

Guests Attending

Ms. Jennifer Almeda	Mr. Craig Parks, University of South Carolina Columbia
Ms. Jordan Bartlett, S.C. Technical College System	Mr. John Peterson, University of South Carolina Columbia
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Mr. Eddie Shannon, S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities
Mr. Jim Colbert, Lander University	Dr. Charlie Spell, South Carolina State University
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina	Mr. David Taylor, University Center of Greenville
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University	Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State University
Dr. Tara Horner, The Citadel	Dr. Jane Turner, CERRA
Dr. Roy Jones, Clemson University	
Mr. Derrick Magee, University of South Carolina Columbia	
Mr. Rick Moul, PASCAL	
Ms. Janice Owens, South Carolina State University	

Commission Staff Present

Mr. Jeff Schilz	Dr. John Lane
Ms. Anika Ali	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Argentini Anderson	Ms. Katie Philpott
Ms. Laura Belcher	Mr. Andrew Roof
Dr. Saundra Carr	Mr. Kenneth Turner
Mr. Christopher Glenn	Mr. Bryce Wilson
Ms. Lane Goodwin	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Monica Goodwin	Dr. Lishu Yin
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	

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, seconded, and carried to go immediately into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. No motion resulted from the session.

1. Introductions

Ms. Belcher introduced the guests in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Tim Hofferth

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

3. Presentation

President Schilz introduced Mr. David Taylor, President of the University Center of Greenville, who attended the meeting to present to the Commission an overview of the mission and operations of his institution. Mr. Taylor emphasized the economic and workforce concentration of his institution's activities. Commissioner Munns inquired how member institutions are incorporated into the University Center of Greenville. Mr. Taylor answered that the Center has a board of trustees which authorizes membership approval. He then presented a list of the Center's board members and their affiliations, which, he noted, showed the institution's workforce-orientation. He explained to the Commissioners the services and resources supplied by the Center to the community, and he especially discussed a program that partnered the institution with Greenville County Schools to help graduate socioeconomically disadvantaged youth in the community who were otherwise unlikely to complete their secondary education.

Using a waterfall chart, Mr. Taylor presented the economic impact of University Center of Greenville graduates, who he conjectured would produce nearly \$919 million in income over a ten-year period. Finally, to demonstrate the importance of the Center's activities, Mr. Taylor showed life-time income disparities between people with varying levels of educational attainment (i.e. high school graduates, associate's degree holders, and bachelor's degree recipients). Commissioner Munns asked about the University Center of Greenville's funding sources. Mr. Taylor answered that some funds are received from the State and others come from member institutions. Commissioner Horne asked about the University Center of Greenville's classroom occupancy rate, which Mr. Taylor claimed was approximately 50 percent. Commissioner Seckinger estimated that the University Center of Greenville's model could be replicated throughout the state, even in rural pockets, without producing competition.

Chair Hofferth thanked Mr. Taylor for his thorough presentation. Mr. Taylor replied by offering his hospitality should Commissioners visit Greenville or like to host a future meeting at his facility.

4. Chairman's Report

Tim Hofferth

After Mr. Taylor concluded his presentation, Chair Hofferth informed the Commission that he and President Schilz had a meeting scheduled with Senator Sheheen the following week to discuss S.1239, the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

5. Vice Chair's Report

Dianne Kuhl

Vice Chair Kirkland had no report for the present Commission meeting.

6. Interim President and Executive Director's Report

Jeff Schilz

President Schilz, citing time constraints, deferred his report to the October 4th Commission meeting.

7. Legislative Report

Ms. Philpott informed the Commission that staff had been able to more intensively review S.1239 since the Council of Presidents' August 13th meeting, and proceeded to describe its pertinent details. She noted that the bill prescribed a proportional funding model for higher education, where any increase or decrease in base funding would mirror general fund fluctuations. She explained the bill would establish an approximately \$175 million Higher Education Opportunity Trust Fund, of which \$125 million would derive from online sales tax revenue and \$50 million would be sourced from both the general fund and lottery. Ms. Philpott noted that 90% of those dollars would go to institutions based on their reported number of full-time South Carolinian undergraduates; the remaining 10% would be awarded by need to full-time, in-state undergraduate students.

Due to the creation of the trust fund, the bill would initiate a one-year abeyance of tuition and mandatory fee increases, Ms. Philpott reported. She further explained that after one year and the trust fund had been fully dispersed, the bill would proscribe institutions from annually raising tuition above either the higher education price index or 2.75%--whichever is less.

Ms. Philpott continued by stating the bill would introduce the Higher Education Facilities Repair and Renovation Fund, which would devote \$25 million annually to the maintenance and upgrading of current facilities but not to new construction. She added all increases or cuts to this proposed fund would also have to be proportional to those made to the general fund. Commissioner Seckinger asked where funds for such an initiative originated. Ms. Philpott believed they came from the Capital Reserve Fund but told Commissioner Seckinger she would confirm this information and provide her a definitive answer.

Ms. Philpott explained that for purposes of lottery scholarship eligibility, the bill would scale grades to the 7-point scale, thus requiring the CHE and the State Department of Education to collaborate to produce a concordance schedule. Commissioner Seckinger thought the bill would scale scholarship eligibility over time toward the 10-point system, but Ms. Philpott responded by stating eligibility would in fact be transitioned toward the 7-point scale. Ms. Philpott added that the bill reduced the STEM enhancement's award duration from three years to two years, with the saved money being reinvested in need-based grants.

According to Ms. Philpott's analysis, the bill would require the General Assembly to issue a bond bill every other year and would remove CHE from the capital project approval process for any maintenance, repair, renovation or auxiliary project; similarly, under the proposed legislation, the CHE's involvement with project review for the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP) would be terminated. She noted that with CHE extricated from this process, projects would receive original approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and thereafter flow to the Executive Budget Office (EBO) and State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA). Lastly, Ms. Philpott explained the bill's requirement of CHE to submit to the General Assembly policy statements intended as regulations or rules.

Chair Hofferth thanked Ms. Philpott for her report and asked Commissioners to direct their questions regarding the Commission's official position on the bill to either him or President Schilz. Commissioner Munns requested that should the Commission decide to advocate against S.1239, he would like all Commissioners to convene to ensure that is indeed the group's consensus. He further expressed his belief that the current bill seemed reasonable.

Ms. Philpott also added that she is awaiting information on the legislature's return to take up the Governor's vetoes.

8. Committee Reports

8.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Tim Hofferth

The Committee had no report.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. CERRA FY 2019-20 Appropriation Request and FY 2017-18 Annual Report

Commissioner Seckinger began her report by introducing Dr. Jane Turner, director of the CERRA program, and then discussed the program’s budget request and its implications. Commissioner Seckinger stated that CERRA’s appropriation request for the 2019-2020 fiscal year included a \$1 million increase, which, Commissioner Seckinger explained, would augment the program’s efforts in recruiting and retaining teachers.

The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

B. New EIA Centers of Excellence Competitive Grants Award, FY 2018-19

(For Information, no action required)

C. Annual Report on Staff-Approved Mission State Modifications, FY 2017-18

(For Information, no action required)

Commissioner Seckinger presented items 8.02.B-C for information purposes only.

D. The Teacher Shortage and advocacy for Educator Preparation

(For Approval)

Commissioner Seckinger introduced item 8.02.D by recounting a discussion about South Carolina’s teacher shortage during the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing’s (CAAL) meeting the prior Thursday, August 30th. The dialogue among the various stakeholders attending that meeting, Commissioner Seckinger stated, resulted in an agreement that a statewide initiative should be developed to confront the teacher shortage, and therefore, item 8.02.D was produced. She thanked Dr. Roy Jones of Clemson University and Mr. John Peterson of the University of South Carolina for their input in the proposal. She summarized the proposal as a call for the Commission to advocate through various strategies the recruitment and retention of public school teachers, and noted the proposal aligned with both the Commission’s statutory mandate and the 2017 S.C. Commission on Higher Education’s Public Agenda. Commissioner Munns spoke in favor of the motion and asked that the Commission consider the teacher shortage as a focus in its efforts for the next year.

Commissioner Battle inquired if the proposal, which would involve the Commission in PK-12 affairs, extended beyond the agency’s jurisdiction. Commissioner Munns explained that the proposal was within the Commission’s statutory scope, as it was concentrated on aspects related to the post-secondary education necessary for teacher certification. Commissioner Battle agreed with Commissioner Munns’ determination but wanted to express his concern that others might see the proposal from a differing perspective. President Schilz commented that he spoke on the phone with Superintendent Spearman following the previous CAAL meeting, and she informed him that she would attend the October 4th Commission meeting to further engage the matter. Commissioner Battle concluded by asking that special attention be paid to recruiting people from rural areas into the teaching profession. The item, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. FY 2017-18 Annual Report and Consideration of the FY 2019-20 EIA Appropriations Request for the S.C. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at S.C. State University

Commissioner Batson informed the Commission that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services received during its August 2nd meeting the quarterly report and 2019-2020 fiscal year budget request for the SC-PRRMT program, which were presented by Dr. Charlie Spell and Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers of South Carolina State University. Commissioner Batson reported that the program was expanding its sites throughout the state. Commissioner Batson then explained the differences between the current year's budget request and the previous year's budget. The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

B. SC State Approving Agency (SAA) Updates

(For Information, no action required)

Commissioner Batson presented the item for information purposes.

8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Dianne Kuhl

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

1. Horry-Georgetown Technical College
 - A. Renovation of Grand Strand Buildings 100, 200 & 300 and Campus Infrastructure
-Establish Project (Phase I)
2. Medical University of South Carolina
 - A. 2015-16 Maintenance Needs
-Revise Scope
3. The Citadel
 - A. Daniel Library HVAC Replacement
-Establish Project (Phase I)

Commissioner Kuhl discussed the purposes, costs, and funding sources of the three proposed capital projects. The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, **passed** unanimously.

B. Other Business

1. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for August 2018
(For Information)

Vice Chair Kuhl presented the item for information purposes only.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

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 3:00 p.m.