

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
October 4, 2018

Commissioners Attending

Mr. Tim Hofferth, Chair	Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Ken Kirkland, Vice Chair	Mr. Richard Jones	
Mr. Paul Batson	Ms. Dianne Kuhl	
Mr. Devron Edwards	Mr. Charles Munns	

Commission Members Absent

Ms. Linda Dolny (excused)
Mr. James Battle (excused)

Guests Attending

Dr. Sean Alford, Aiken County School District	Mr. Rick Kelly, University of South Carolina Columbia
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University	Mr. Kenny Monroe, Air National Guard
Mr. James Colbert, Lander University	Mr. Craig Parks, University of South Carolina Columbia
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina	Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State University
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University	Mr. Eddie Shannon, S.C. Independent Colleges and Universities
Mr. Jim Colbert, Lander University	Supt. Molly Spearman, S.C. Dept. of Education
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University	Mr. David Yancey, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. David Frost, Coastal Carolina University	
Ms. Carla Hawkins, S.C. Dept. of Education	
Dr. Tara Horner, The Citadel	
Mr. Ray Jones, S.C. Student Loan Corporation	
Dr. Sandra Jordan, University of South Carolina Aiken	

Commission Staff Present

Mr. Jeff Schilz	Dr. John Lane
Dr. Jennifer Almeda	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Argentini Anderson	Ms. Katie Philpott
Mr. Clay Barton	Mr. Andrew Roof
Ms. Laura Belcher	Mr. Georges Tippens
Mr. Christopher Glenn	Mr. Kenneth Turner
Ms. Lane Goodwin	Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. DeVaris Hatten	

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

After Commissioner Batson indicated one necessary revision to correct a woman wrongly identified as a man, a **motion** was made (Seckinger), **seconded** (Munns), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2018, meeting.

3. Presentation

Chair Hofferth welcomed Dr. Sandra Jordan, chancellor of USC Aiken, and Dr. Sean Alford, Superintendent of the Aiken County School District, who were attending to give a presentation on their institutions' partnership in the USC Aiken Scholars Academy. Before they began their presentation, Commissioner Munns lauded their efforts within Aiken to serve the community.

Dr. Jordan began the presentation by explaining that the program was borne out of a need to rethink approaches to higher education, so as to make it more accessible and affordable. After she described the program's entrepreneurial spirit, Dr. Alford explained the vision for the fledgling partnership's function in the Aiken community and the admissions process.

Dr. Alford stated that 50 slots are available for each incoming cohort. To award those spaces, Dr. Alford stated that a process was instituted to evaluate applicants' academic performance, work ethic, and desire. Commissioner Kuhl asked what prerequisites were imposed for a candidate's consideration. Dr. Alford responded that applicants must have received a credit for English 1, Algebra 1, Geometry, Computer Science, and a Foreign Language. Dr. Jordan added that she and Dr. Alford were aware of and understood some professionals' contentions with pre-college work, admitting it would be a detriment to a student rather than a service to have them fail courses for which they are unprepared. Commissioner Batson asked if the program's accelerated course-work in years one and two completed a pupil's high school curriculum, which Dr. Jordan confirmed to be the case. Dr. Jordan then further explained the characteristics of the program's educational experience.

She informed the Commission of the Aiken County School Board's and the University's contributions to the partnership, wherein the school board hires the program's principal and teachers, and the University provides support resources. Dr. Jordan noted the program's heavy research emphasis. Dr. Alford added that the school has received from the College Board the same designation as an AP/Capstone School.

Ultimately, Dr. Jordan concluded, program students would be entering college during their 11th grade year, which would be completely paid for, along with their 12th grade year, by the Aiken County School District.

Dr. Jordan then discussed the facilities on USC Aiken's campus dedicated for the program's use and overviewed the University's plan for the program's future on campus. Dr. Alford further explained the partnership's intricate exchange, informing the Commissioners that program students were permitted to participate in extracurricular activities at their home schools. Dr. Alford described the program's ultimate vision: between pupils' junior and senior years, it is expected they will participate in some sort of fellowship or research partnership.

Dr. Jordan stated that an agreement was made with the National Laboratory to bring to USC Aiken retirees, who would be made available to the Scholars Academy.

Commissioner Horne asked two questions: one, is continuation in the program automatic, or must students reapply each year; and two, how are students transported? Dr. Alford explained that the school district does operate buses for students enrolled in the Scholars Academy. Dr. Jordan confirmed that continuation in the program was automatic, so long as students maintained their grades.

Commissioner Munns commented that the Aiken Chamber of Commerce was excited by the program, and he expressed his belief that the program is a good use of tax money. Subsequently, Commissioner Batson asked how tuition is set and charged. Dr. Jordan responded that students are charged USC Aiken's dual enrollment tuition fee, emphasizing that pupils become USC Aiken students upon entering their 11th grade year; and Dr. Alford stated that students' tuition is billed to the school district, leaving families with nothing to pay. Dr. Jordan added that students' books are also completely subsidized.

Vice Chair Kirkland expressed amazement that such a program exists and inquired about the process implemented for admission review, which Dr. Alford described as headed by the program's principal and composed of faculty and representatives of USC Aiken who provide their recommendations. Commissioner Seckinger inquired about the means used to market the program to Aiken's K-12 student population. Dr. Alford stated that a comprehensive effort was undertaken to spread awareness of the program. As a follow up, Commissioner Seckinger asked how long the program has been in operation. Dr. Jordan confirmed the program was initiated at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Commissioner Horne cited the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' designation that USC Aiken was the sole authority for its admissions decisions, and asked how this issue was surmounted, considering Scholars Academy students would be defined as USC Aiken students at the start of their 11th grade year. Dr. Jordan explained that the same admissions process will be employed for Scholars Academy students as other dual enrollees. Vice Chair Kirkland inquired if the capacity existed to increase the number of seats allotted for admission from the 50 currently offered. Dr. Alford explained that expanding class sizes is currently infeasible, as physical space for the program is limited. To solve this problem, Commissioner Horne advised they consult Clemson and Tri-County Technical College's expansion of their bridge program.

Chair Hofferth praised Dr. Alford and Dr. Jordan for their innovation, and he stated they would be invited back next year for the Commission to see the program's progress. Chair Hofferth thanked them and asked President Schilz to introduce the second guest presenter of the day, Superintendent Molly Spearman.

President Schilz recalled from the September 6th Commission meeting a discussion of South Carolina's teacher shortage, which arose from concerns expressed during the previous meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. From that discussion, President Schilz was prompted to reach out to Superintendent Spearman, who offered to attend the present meeting to discuss the actions taken by the state to address the shortage.

Commissioner Seckinger expressed appreciation for Superintendent Spearman taking time out of her day to present to the Commission. Superintendent Spearman mentioned quarterly meetings jointly held by Department of Education staff and college deans to talk about issues in teacher education programs. She recounted her surprise during one of the first meetings she attended upon taking office with deans' concerns that PRAXIS scoring hindered teachers' licensing. These concerns, she noted, induced collaboration with ETS, which administers the exam, to reset scores and ensure the material is better aligned.

Superintendent Spearman then addressed suggestions for developing a composite score. She confirmed that the Department of Education is currently considered providing the option, of which she stated she was personally supportive. Before anything can be determined, however, Superintendent Spearman stated she would like college deans' opinions of the proposition. She also informed the Commission that PRAXIS will be introducing a new test that will enter effect sometime in late Spring of 2019.

Superintendent Spearman explained that, at a task force convened the previous year to deliberate strategies for the recruitment and retention of public school teachers, teachers primarily expressed concern with the lack of support they felt they were provided, need for expanded school counseling for students, and insufficient pay. She then briefly described some solutions she endorses that attempt to confront such issues. Commissioner Horne asked if her solutions were devised based on teachers' exit interviews, which Superintendent Spearman confirmed played an informative role. Commissioner Munns reiterated the Commission's position that getting teaching positions filled was of great importance.

Chair Hofferth thanked Superintendent Spearman for attending. Superintendent Spearman concluded her presentation by reminding the Commission that the legislature has done well at supporting people enrolling in education programs.

4. Chairman's Report

Tim Hofferth

During the Chairman's Report, Chair Hofferth discussed Proviso 117.8B, which he emphasized would have had a sizable impact on transparency in higher education had it entered effect. He then commended Governor McMaster for the part he played in having his veto sustained in the legislature, and similarly recognized the Commissioners and staff who assumed responsibility for sharing hard data pertaining to the proviso with legislators. Commissioners Edwards, Kirkland, and Seckinger also voiced that Governor McMaster's efforts were integral to sustaining the veto.

5. Vice Chair's Report

Kenneth Kirkland

Vice Chair Kirkland had no report to provide but expressed pleasure with the positive direction of recent legislative events.

6. Interim President and Executive Director's Report

Jeff Schilz

President Schilz introduced the agency's newest employees: Mr. Kenneth Turner, data researcher and planning administrator; Mr. Christopher Robinson, data researcher and planning administrator; Mr. Georges Tippens, facilities program manager; Dr. Jennifer Almeda, program manager; and Mr. Jesse Kimbrough. Afterwards, he briefly overviewed several noteworthy events that had taken place over the last month. The agency, he stated, hosted another meeting of institutions' chief financial officers and submitted both its accountability report and Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget request. President Schilz announced the upcoming EEDA subcommittee and inaugural SCCORE work group meetings. Finally, President Schilz discussed President Pastides' State of the University Address, during which the latter announced his retirement and recount the story of his family's approach to paying his college tuition and fees. From this anecdote, President Schilz recalled, President Pastides segued into the University of South Carolina's new initiatives to make its education more affordable for students. President Schilz said a video link of the speech would be circulated to the Commissioners once it was received. Commissioner Munns suggested the Commission's priorities and their progress be tracked with greater formality.

7. Legislative Report

Ms. Philpott first thanked the Commissioners for their efforts regarding Proviso 117.8B. She then began discussing the Higher Education Opportunity Act, which she relayed would likely receive a hearing from a specially formed Senate subcommittee later in the month. She informed the Commission that its feedback on the legislation would likely be requested. The Commission thanked Ms. Philpott for her recent work.

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

Commissioner Seckinger ceded the floor to Dr. John Lane, who provided a summary of the letter regarding PRAXIS composite scoring that was sent to Superintendent Spearman. Dr. Lane also discussed the facets of the SC Codes program, which provides free coding education to South Carolinians. Commissioner Seckinger lauded the SC Codes program and continued to discuss initiatives that could be undertaken by CHE to improve the current teacher shortage. Chair Hofferth asked if a one-page summary of the teacher shortage's 5- to 10-year trend could be crafted for the Commissioners who do not interact with the matter on a daily basis. President Schilz reminded the Commission of a report created by the agency for a task force the previous fall which showed major data points for the aspects Chair Hofferth requested, and he suggested that report be placed on Commissioners' OneDrive profiles. Chair Hofferth said that would suffice.

8.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Paul Batson

A. Open Hearing Regarding the Palmetto Fellows Year-Round Process Approved by the Commission on August 2, 2018

Commissioner Batson reminded the Commission that it approved during its August 2nd meeting a year-round application process for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. He then asked Chair Hofferth to open a public hearing on the regulation changes. Chair Hofferth asked if the hearing was in compliance with all pertinent laws, and upon confirmation from Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, he opened the hearing. Hearing no requests for comment, either written or verbal, he motioned to close the hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Horne and approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson reminded everyone that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would have a meeting immediately following adjournment of the Commission meeting.

8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Dianne Kuhl

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

1. Clemson University
 - A. Center for Manufacturing Innovation Building Renovation
-Increase Budget
2. Coastal Carolina University
 - A. Kimbel Library Renovation (Phase I)
-Establish Project
 - B. Academic Enrichment Center Center & Auditorium Land Donation (Phase I)
-Establish Project
 - C. Academic Enrichment Center & Auditorium (Phase I)
-Establish Project
3. Greenville Technical College
 - A. Building 102 Renovation-Barton Campus
-Establish Project (Phase I)
4. Medical university of South Carolina
 - A. MUSC/SCEO PEER Program Energy Performance Contract 2016
-Increase Budget

- B. Basic Science Building Air Handler Units 3 and 5 Replacement
 - Establish Project
- 6. Spartanburg Community College
 - B. Spartanburg Cherokee County Campus Land Acquisition
 - Establish Project
- 7. USC Beaufort
 - B. 2014-15 Maintenance Need
 - Increase Budget
- 8. USC Lancaster
 - B. Increase Physical Plant Repairs
 - Increase Budget, Revise Scope

Commissioner Kuhl discussed the purposes, costs, and funding sources of the ten 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.

C. Other Business

1. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for September 2018
(For Information, No Action Required)
2. 2019 Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan (CPIP) Submissions

Commissioner Kuhl presented *item 8.04.C.1* for information purposes only. Regarding *item 8.04.C.2*, Commissioner Kuhl expressed some concern with the agency’s expected turnaround and the directions provided, and believed the conversation regarding CPIP should commence sooner.

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 3:12 p.m.