

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Meeting held at
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, S.C. 29201
11:30 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting
December 6, 2018

Commissioners Attending

Mr. Wes Hayes, Chair	Ms. Linda Dolny	Mr. Charles Munns*
Mr. Ken Kirkland, Vice Chair	Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Paul Batson	Mr. Richard Jones	
Mr. James Battle	Ms. Dianne Kuhl	

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Devron Edwards (excused)

Guests Attending

Ms. Kim Alexander, Clemson University	Mr. AJ Newton, House Ways & Means Committee
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University	Mr. Craig Parks, University of South Carolina Columbia
Mr. James Colbert, Lander University	Mr. Mike Posey, Clemson University
Ms. Michelle Cook, Clemson University	Ms. Elizabeth Regan, University of South Carolina Columbia
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina	Ms. Bessie Watson, Office of the Inspector General
Mr. Lucas Daprile, The State Newspaper	Ms. Barbara Wheeling, Lander University
Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University	Ms. Theresa Wilson, Clemson University
Ms. Tara Hornor, The Citadel	Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Michael Hughes, Executive Budget Office	
Ms Taylor Johnston, Lander University	
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University	
Mr. Jeremy King, Clemson University	
Mr. Jim Mensch, University of South Carolina Columbia	

*Attended by phone

Commission Staff Present

Mr. Jeff Schilz	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Anika Ali	Ms. Katie Philpott
Dr. Argentini Anderson	Mr. Christopher Robinson
Mr. Clay Barton	Mr. Andrew Roof
Ms. Laura Belcher	Dr. Regine Rucker
Dr. Sandra Carr	Mr. Jeff Thompson
Ms. Lane Goodwin	Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Monica Goodwin	Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. DeVaris Hatten	Dr. Lishu Yin
Dr. John Lane	

Vice Chair Kirkland convened the meeting at 11:42 a.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

Ken Kirkland

Vice Chair Kirkland thanked everyone for accommodating the meeting, which was scheduled for a time earlier than usual, and he informed the Commissioners that executive session would occur after regular business was addressed. Vice Chair Kirkland then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's November 1st meeting. Commissioner Horne motioned and Commissioner Batson seconded to approve the minutes of the November 1st meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. & 4. Chairman's and Vice Chair's Report

Ken Kirkland

Vice Chair Kirkland announced that the Chairman's and Vice Chair's reports would be given simultaneously, citing the transition in which the Commission found itself following the resignation of Mr. Tim Hofferth. He then introduced Senator Wes Hayes, who had recently been appointed by Governor McMaster as Interim Chairman of the Commission, and then briefly summarized Mr. Hayes' history of public service and professional accomplishments. Senator Hayes attended the day's meeting purely for instructional purposes and did not actively chair the meeting.

Vice Chair Kirkland wanted Commissioners to be aware of and consider the Commission's proposed meeting dates in 2019. Vice Chair Kirkland then briefly mentioned the Commission complying with the Office of the Inspector General during its review but deferred greater discussion until executive session, as he stated it pertained to legal and personnel matters. Lastly, he addressed developments in the Commission's response to Senator Leatherman's request for information under *Proviso 91.25*. Vice Chair Kirkland confirmed the Commission's compliance with the request but noted the considerable time needed to review the plethora of relevant material. He stated the Commission would further discuss the matter in executive session.

5. Interim President and Executive Director's Report

Jeff Schilz

Interim President Schilz drew Commissioners' attention to the *2018 Statistical Abstract*, one copy of which was placed at each Commissioner's seat. He explained that the *Abstract* was published annually by the agency but noted the current edition was completed several months ahead of when is typical. Secondly, he informed Commissioners that work to redesign the agency's website was progressing, and he provided an on-screen demonstration of developments thus far. Regarding the agency's *Palmetto Calculator*, Interim President Schilz informed Commissioners that high school counselors were apprised of its development the week prior when promotional cards were sent to them. Following these updates, he announced that Ms. Katie Philpott would be departing from the agency to take an opportunity with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He thanked her for her service and wished her farewell.

Interim President Schilz then overviewed the actions taken during the preceding month to advance the Commission's top priorities.

- **COLLEGE READINESS**. He stated that agency staff engaged meetings with the Department of Education to develop a capacity analysis for dual-enrollment credits across the state and address remedial needs.
- **ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**. He noted the Commission's participation in the Coordinating Council on Workforce Development.

Finally, Interim President Schilz asked Ms. Lane Goodwin to inform Commissioners of the recent closure of Education Corporation of America (ECA) schools and the agency's plan to address resulting problems. Ms.

Goodwin stated the Commission had been licensing Virginia College and the Golf Academy of America for approximately a decade. She stated several of these institutions had communicated to licensing staff earlier in the fall their intentions to terminate operations at the close of the semester. Ms. Goodwin stated it was surprising when staff learned that ECA, the parent company for these schools, filed for receivership, which she described as a designation similar to bankruptcy wherein access to Title IV financial aid is retained. After some concern arose during the receivership filing process, Ms. Goodwin recounted the decision to place the institutions on probation, meaning they were prohibited from enrolling new students.

On Tuesday, December 4th, Ms. Goodwin stated that notice was received that the corporation's accrediting agency would withdraw its accreditation effective December 19th. The next day, Ms. Goodwin stated she was made aware of ECA's decision to close all of its campuses within the state. In response to these closures, Ms. Goodwin informed Commissioners that staff had been fielding students' questions, placed information on the agency's website, and was developing plans to communicate this information directly to effected students. She announced that several institutions had contacted the Commission to establish teach-out agreements, and she encouraged public institutions, especially technical colleges, to accommodate these displaced students. Lastly, she stated that CHE was collaborating with the Department of Administration's Division of Technology to secure students' final transcripts.

Commissioner Kirkland asked how students nearing completion would be affected. Ms. Goodwin responded that students who would be completing at the end of the present term would receive a final transcript designating them as a graduate. Vice Chair Kirkland asked how Commissioners should respond if they were to be individually sought for advice. Ms. Goodwin explained the proper procedure, and Interim President Schilz added that the agency's licensing team was quickly developing a program concordance chart for effected students to reference.

Commissioner Horne asked who primarily loaned money to students enrolled at the closing schools. Ms. Goodwin answered that a preponderance of students received federal money and added that a closed school loan discharge program was available to students. Additionally, Ms. Goodwin stated she would write the bond company to attempt to acquire money for students who paid out-of-pocket. Vice Chair Kirkland thanked staff for their efforts and asked that regular updates on the school closures be provided to Commissioners.

6. Legislative Report

There was no legislative report.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Ken Kirkland

The Committee had no report.

7.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Terrye Seckinger

During the Commission's November meeting, Commissioner Seckinger stated the Department of Education would vote at its December meeting to accept PRAXIS composite scores. Since that November meeting, Commissioner Seckinger stated she and Superintendent Spearman had further discussed the matter, and the latter stated that such a vote would be delayed to sometime in early 2019 in order to permit a committee to determine the best path forward. Commissioner Seckinger wanted to publicly correct her previous statement to reflect the Department of Education's postponement of its vote to accept composite PRAXIS scores.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consideration of Greenville Technical College Mission Statement Change

B. Program Proposals

1. Clemson University, B.S., Middle Level Education
2. Clemson University, M.A.T., Teacher Residency in Middle Level Education
3. Clemson University, M.A.T., Teacher Residency in Special Education
4. Clemson University, M.S., Data Science and Analytics
5. Clemson University, M.T.S.A, Transportation Safety Administration
6. Lander University, M.S.M., Management
7. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S., Athletic Training
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.H.I.T., Health Information Technology
9. Winthrop University, B.P.S. (Bachelor of Professional Studies)
10. York Technical College, A.A.S., Surgical Technology
11. Francis Marion University, M.S.N., Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

C. Consideration of Francis Marion University, Baruch Institute for South Carolina Studies (Joint with Coastal Carolina University)

Commissioner Seckinger presented the consent agenda to the full Commission as a motion from her committee and explained the favorable review received for each item. The consent agenda passed unanimously.

D. 2018-19 Meeting Dates and Program Review Cycles

(For Information, No Action Required)

E. Annual Report on Licensing Activities, FY 2017-18

(For Information, No Action Required)

F. Annual Report on Terminated and Approved Programs, FY 2017-18

(For Information, No Action Required)

G. Report on Program Modifications, August 24, 2018-October 18, 2018

(For Information, No Action Required)

Commissioner Seckinger presented the items for information purposes only.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Paul Batson

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Dianne Kuhl

The Committee on Finance and Facilities had no report.

8. Consideration of Proposed 2019 CHE Meeting Calendar (For Approval)

Commissioner Dolny moved and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to approve the Commission's proposed 2019 meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

11. End of Business Meeting

Commissioner Dolny motioned at 12:35 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seckinger and was carried.

At 3:42 p.m., Commissioner Batson moved and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to adjourn executive session and resume the regular business meeting. One action resulted from executive session: Commissioner Battle motioned for the Chair to be given the authority to assemble a committee to immediately begin searching for and hire an acting interim director, who will be confirmed by the Commission at its January meeting. Commissioner Batson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

With a motion (Kuhl), second (Seckinger), and unanimous vote, Vice Chair Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.