

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

**Minutes of the Meeting
Main Conference Room
February 7, 2019
3:15 p.m.**

Members Present

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair
Dr. Bettie Horne
Mr. Charles Munns

Staff Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Mr. Kevin Glears
Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Mr. Jesse Kimbrough
Mr. Frank Myers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Emily Wells
Ms. Leslie Williams

Guests Attending

Dr. Ansley Abraham, Director, SREB State
Doctoral Scholars Program
Ms. Nicole White, Doctoral Scholar
Dr. Sybil Nelson, Doctoral Scholar
Dr. Charlie Spell, SC State University
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Ms. Celillus Spell, SC State University

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Paul Batson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Laverne Sanders confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced the newest member to the Student Services Division, Ms. Emily Wells. Ms. Wells is the Program Manager for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program and the SC Need-based Grants Program.

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Munns), and **carried** to approve the minutes of October 4, 2018.

2. Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars (*For Information, No Action Required*)

Dr. Woodfaulk introduced Dr. Ansley Abraham, Director, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Scholars Program and the SREB Doctoral Scholars who were in attendance. She provided an overview of the SREB Program. Dr. Woodfaulk explained

that the program is very successful in supporting minority and underrepresented doctoral students. She introduced the two Doctoral Scholars, Ms. Nicole White and Dr. Sybil Prince-Nelson, and she provided a brief overview of their research. Ms. Nicole White is a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of South Carolina and is studying Clinical Community Psychology. Dr. Sybil Prince-Nelson received her Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

Dr. Ansley Abraham provided an overview of the SREB Doctoral Scholars programs. He explained where the state of South Carolina ranks among other states in the nation. Dr. Abraham presented a profile of the SREB Doctoral Scholars program in South Carolina.

Commissioner Batson inquired about funding for the SREB Doctoral Scholars program. Dr. Abraham explained that the program is funded by the states. He stated that South Carolina supports 15 slots per year that are shared between University of South Carolina (USC), Clemson University and MUSC.

Ms. Nicole White gave an overview of her studies in Clinical Community Psychology. She spoke about being an SREB Doctoral Scholar and the benefits that the program has provided to her. Ms. White stated that she will present her dissertation in March 2019. Commissioner Munns asked Ms. White what she would hope to do next. Ms. White stated that after she has completed her doctoral work at USC she hopes to obtain an internship. She said after her internship year she would like to work as a clinical professor and serve as a mentor to students.

Dr. Sybil Nelson provided an overview of her research and stated that she is currently on the faculty at the Citadel. She explained that her research emphasis was on statistical algorithms and her dissertation focus was on the classification and prediction of disease outcomes based on genetic and environmental factors.

The Committee members congratulated the two Doctoral Scholars and commended Dr. Abraham on the success of the Program especially in South Carolina.

3. **SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) FY2017-2018 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Reports** *(For Approval)*

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a summary overview of the SC-PRRMT Quarters I and II Reports. She explained that in FY2018-19 there were 83 participants in the program. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that seven of the 83 SC-PRRMT participants graduated in December 2018. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that presently there are 88 participants and SC-PRRMT is projecting that three participants will graduate in Spring 2019. She explained that there has been an increase in the number of SC-PRRMT sites and presently there are eight sites for FY2018-19. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that funding for the program in FY2018-19 is \$339,482 and there was a carryforward from FY2017-2018 in the amount of \$306,777. The total amount of the appropriations received, collections revenue and carried forward is \$646,259. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the average forgivable loan for fall 2018 was \$2,604. She also stated that 40% of the students in the SC-PRRMT Program passed

the Praxis exam. During Fall 2018, 30 students applied, and 15 students were eligible for the program. In Spring 2019, there were 36 students who applied, and 12 students were eligible for the program.

Commissioner Munns commented that the SC-PRRMT Program is making good progress. Commissioner Munns inquired about what happened to the 60% who did not pass the Praxis exam. Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers stated that the SC-PRRMT students continue to take the Praxis exam as necessary. She explained that SC State University (SCSU) was awarded a three-year grant from the Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity to provide teacher preparation which will, in turn, offer free tutorial sessions to the students for the Praxis exam. She stated at the end of the SC-PRRMT program students will receive funding to take the Praxis exam. She stated that the Praxis exam tutorial began in Spring 2019.

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers stated that SC-PRRMT opened two new sites in Spring 2019. She said the new sites were opened in Lee County School District and Lexington School District #4.

The Committee **moved** (Munns), **seconded** (Horne) and **carried** to approve the SC-PRRMT Quarter I and II Reports.

4. **College Transition Need-based Grant Program** (FY2018-19) (*For Information, No Action Required*)

Ms. Emily Wells provided an overview of the SC Need-based Grant Program. She stated that in 2017-18 there were 29,964 SC Need-based Grant recipients.

Ms. Wells explained that the College Transition Program (CTP) is a non-degree need-based program for students with intellectually disabilities. She stated that College Transition Programs around the nation are eligible to receive Title IV funding and must be approved by the Department of Education. The CTP Need-based Grant Program is presently administered at Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, University of South Carolina and Winthrop University. Ms. Wells stated that in 2017-2018, \$350,000 was appropriated to the CTP Need-based Grants Program.

Commissioner Batson asked about the maximum allowable award amount. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that \$7,500 is the maximum allowable award amount. Commission Batson inquired about how students discover the CTP Need-based Program. Dr. Woodfaulk responded that students learn about the program through outreach and advertisement through the CTP institutions and the school counselors once the student is identified as intellectually disabled with possible potential to participate in the CTP Program.

Commissioner Horne asked about the need-based funding. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that presently SC has more students with need due to increases in tuition and fees. Students may have higher need due to the institution's costs. Each students' need is calculated based on the cost to attend the institution.

Commissioner Munns stated that as the discussion of higher education is presently going on within the SC General Assembly, advocacy for need-based funding must continue. Commissioner Batson requested that Dr. Woodfaulk speak with Interim President Mike LeFever about the SC the Need-based Grant Program.

5. **Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program, 2017-2018 Summary** *(For Information, No Action Required)*

Ms. Wells provided an overview of the qualification for the Palmetto Fellows program. She explained that approximately 90% of the students retained the scholarship after their freshmen year. Ms. Wells reported that there was a total of 3,701 Palmetto Fellows applicants. She stated that 3,514 students were determined to meet the academic requirements to become a Palmetto Fellow recipient. Ms. Wells stated that as of August 2018, 3,016 students completed the designation form. She said that 2,735 students selected in-state colleges or universities, 268 students elected to attend an out-of-state institution, 13 students forfeited their scholarship to take a GAP year or attend a two-year institution, and 498 students had not yet completed the designation form.

Commissioner Batson inquired about the number of Palmetto Fellows enrolled at Clemson University and USC Columbia. He asked why there were fewer students at USC-Columbia compared to Clemson University. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that it may be due to several factors including the number of engineering programs available at Clemson University.

6. **Compliance with Section 301 of Public Law 115-251 to include Chapter 31 Participants (Instate Tuition)** *(For Information, No Action Required)*

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that Chapter 31 would allow veterans or covered individuals who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance to pay in-state tuition regardless of domicile. She stated that the proposed bill is presently on the floor of the SC House of Representatives. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that an update will be provided to the Committee regarding the status of the bill. Commissioner Munns stated that staff should work with the Finance and Facilities Committee so that there will not be any abatement.

7. **Tucker Hipps Transparency Act** *(For Information, No Action Required)*

Dr. Woodfaulk provided an overview of the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act. She explained that the Act mandates institutions to report any violations by fraternity and sorority organizations regarding hazing, drinking, etc. on their respective websites. She explained that the Act is temporary and will end this year. Dr. Woodfaulk stated, however, that a bill is going before legislators during this session to place the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act in permanent statute.

She explained that a link to each institution's website is provided on CHE's website. Dr. Woodfaulk also stated that CHE staff meet with the institutional contacts twice a year to

determine if the websites are easily accessible and violations are being reported in compliance with the Act. She stated that violations for misconduct by fraternity and sorority organizations must be reported within the timeframes mandated in the Act. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that CHE staff is working with legislative staff on the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act amendment to place the Act in permanent law.

8. Other Business

a. Proposed Committee Meeting Dates for 2019

Commissioner Batson presented the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services meeting dates for 2019. He explained that he requested to add a March meeting date. Commissioner Batson also stated that, as requested from the Committee, there needs to be a discussion on federal student loan debt. Commissioner Batson inquired about how the Committee would like to set an agenda for a meeting to discuss federal student loan debt. He said that the Committee's previous discussions were to have representatives from each of the three sectors of higher education in SC discuss student loan debt as students exit their institutions, and what type of counseling students receive when they incur debt. He inquired if there is a process regarding student loan debt and scholarship appeals. He also asked about how CHE could determine why student loan debt has grown so much while enrollment has not increased.

Commissioner Munns stated he would not be able to attend a meeting on March 7, 2019. Commissioner Batson stated that this discussion could be placed on the agenda in April so that everyone would have the opportunity to attend the meeting. He requested a motion to accept the proposed meeting dates and strike through the March 7, 2019 meeting date. He stated that the discussion of student loan debt would be placed on the April 4, 2019 meeting agenda.

The Committee **moved** (Horne) and **seconded** (Munns) and **carried** to approve the 2019 proposed meeting dates and removing the March 7, 2019 date from the meeting schedule.

9. Adjournment

There being no additional items before the Committee, Commissioner Batson requested a motion for adjournment. A **motion** (Horne) was made, **seconded** (Munns), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.