

**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
August 1, 2019
2:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair
Mr. Charles Munns
Mr. James Battle
Dr. Bettie Horne
Dr. Cleveland Sellers

Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Lisa Collins
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. DaVaris Hatten
Mr. Jesse Kimbrough
Mr. Frank Myers
Ms. Emily Wells
Ms. Leslie Williams

Guests Attending

Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan Corporation
Dr. Charlie Spell, SC State University
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Ms. Cathy Franklin, Executive Director, Carolina
Cluster Career Pathways
Ms. Tondaleya Jackson, Benedict College
Mr. Jesse Outen, Benedict College
Dr. Kimberly Stephens, Benedict College
Dr. Corey Amaker, Claflin University
Mr. Kimoni Hickman, Voorhees College
Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, Voorhees College
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Ms. Lillian Hayes, Education and Public Works
Committee, SC House of Representatives

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Paul Batson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Lorinda Copeland introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

A **motion** was made (Sellers), **seconded** (Munns), and **carried** to approve the minutes of June 6, 2019.

Commissioner James Battle requested to have the Commission on Access & Equity and Student Services' meeting agenda adjusted. Commissioner Battle **motioned** to nominate Commissioner Batson to continue to hold the Chair position on the Committee. The motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Charles Munns and **carried**.

Commissioner Batson **motioned** to nominate Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne to be the Assistant Chair. The motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Battle and **carried**.

Commissioner Batson informed the Committee that Commissioner Munns will not serve on the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services for the upcoming year and thanked him for his service to the Committee.

2. FY2018-19 Annual Report and Consideration of the FY2020-21 EIA Appropriations Request for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at SC State University
(For Approval)

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk provided a brief overview of the SC-PRRMT program. She explained that SC-PRRMT provides services and financial and academic support for students pursuing a teacher education career who are mainly from rural areas of the state. Many of the students are non-traditional students such as teacher aides and others who are in the community and will likely remain in the community. Most of the funding is applied toward forgivable teacher loans. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that in 2013 the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommended monitoring the number of students in the program and the graduation rates as part of the expansion report. She reported that the SC-PRRMT program presently has 88 participants. Commissioner Batson requested an update of the SC-PRRMT program annual activities. Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers provided an update of SC-PRRMT's FY2018-19 program activities. Ms. Myers reported that there was a total of 88 participants enrolled in SC-PRRMT in FY2018-19. She stated that all ten graduates (100%) met the certification requirements and that nine participants have obtained employment in SC public schools. The total disbursement for the ten graduates over the four years of attendance was \$149,996 and the average cost for the ten graduates was \$14,999. Since its inception, 239 graduates have been placed in SC public schools as of May 2019; 110 graduates placed in state declared critical-needs subject areas; and 215 graduates placed in critical-geographical schools.

Ms. Thomas-Myers reported that 86% of the SC-PRRMT program participants achieved cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or better for the academic year 2018-29. Participants continue to further their education after graduation. Many obtain master's degrees, doctorates and national school board certification. Some of the participants have acquired positions as principals, assistant principals, district administrators and certified school counselors.

Ms. Thomas-Myers informed the Committee that SC-PRRMT is currently serving students through online and face to face classes by recruiting in various school districts. Some sites are combined if a district does not have enough participants. Presently, there are combined SC-PRRMT sites that are located in Clarendon, Marion, Marlboro, Hampton, Jasper, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkley, Fairfield and Winnsboro, Florence, Williamsburg, Horry, Lee, Dillon Counties, Lexington School District 4, Moncks Corner and Richland 1 and 2 School Districts. She stated that Superintendent Molly Spearman sent a support letter in July 2019 to the school districts at the request of the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee. Ms. Thomas Myers provided the new expansion sites for FY2019-20. The new sites locations are Lexington,

Newberry, Lee, Aiken, Edgefield and Saluda school districts. Ms. Thomas-Myers reported that plans for FY2020-21 are to expand sites in the upstate of S.C. as well. Ms. Thomas-Myers reported proposed budget request for FY2019-20 is \$339,482. She stated \$15,000 is for administrative cost and \$324,482 is for scholarships.

Dr. Charlie Spell explained that moving forward that SC-PRRMT will place more emphasis on recruitment and graduation. He stated, however, that the budget request remains the same as the previous year. Dr. Spell explained that SC-PRRMT will require additional staff to focus on these areas and additional funding will be needed in the future. Commissioner Horne commended SC-PRRMT's positive response in addressing the concerns about high administrative cost. The program is moving in the right direction by focusing efforts on support of students. She said with the growth of the program, she would be supportive of increases in the administrative cost.

Commissioner Munns asked what happened to the 60% who did not pass the Praxis exam. Dr. Spell explained that students may take the Praxis exam as many times as needed until passing the exam. He said upon passing the Praxis exam, the participant will move toward becoming a candidate for a teacher certification.

Commissioner Munns **motioned** to accept SC-PRRMT's FY2018-19 Annual Report and approve SC-PRRMT's proposed FY2019-20 budget request in the amount of \$339,482. Commissioner Horne **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

3. SC Student Loan Corporation

A. Delinquent Loans Update *(For Information, No Action Necessary)*

Dr. Woodfaulk gave an overview about the Commission's ongoing discussions about student loan defaults and the teachers loan programs. She introduced Mr. Ray Jones, Vice President, SC Student Loan Corporation.

Mr. Jones provided information on student loan delinquency in the state. He stated that the delinquency of the borrowers in the SC Teachers Loan continues to decline. Previous defaulted SC Teachers loans were moved to the SC Student Loan Corporation's collection company, William and Fudge. Mr. Jones stated that \$142,000 has been collected since the transfer to William and Fudge. At the recommendation of the Committee, the SC Student Loan Corporation used the offset of tax revenue which totaled a collection of \$361,000.

Commissioner Batson asked if the SC Student Loan Corporation was able to get legislators on board with EdManage as recommended by the Committee. Mr. Jones replied that to his knowledge, legislators have not proceeded with EdManage. However, SC Student Loan will move forward with EdManage this fall. He stated a pilot program will open and market the program to S.C. colleges beginning in January. Mr. Jones stated, however, the program will be an "at cost" endeavor for the colleges and universities. He stated the number of schools participating would be reduced since the program is at cost.

Commissioner Batson asked how much funding is needed for EdManage if the legislation provided the funding. Mr. Jones explained that the program would probably be at a cost of \$500,000 - \$750,000. Dr. Woodfaulk noted that staff would reach out to the Technical College System and follow up with the Governor's Office regarding EdManage at the pleasure of the Committee.

Dr. Woodfaulk addressed the Committee's previous concern about aggressive loan collection efforts. The Committee requested that the SC Student Loan Corporation monitor William and Fudge to ensure that SC Teachers Loan borrowers are not subject to aggressive collection practices. Mr. Jones stated that the SC Student Loan Corporation is very aware of the phone calls made to borrowers and that William and Fudge is not doing anything improper. He stated also that William and Fudge provides the SC Student Loan Corporation's contact information to the SC Teachers Loan borrower. Mr. Jones explained that the SC Student Loan Corporation is very mindful of the occurrence and the regularity of the telephone calls to the borrowers and has ensured that collection practices are not aggressive.

B. FY20 Legislative Proviso, SC Teachers Loan Program *(For Information, No Action Necessary)*

Dr. Woodfaulk inquired about increasing the SC Teachers loan award amount. Mr. Jones explained that the annual loan limit was increased in FY2018 and effective July 2020. He stated the \$5,000 loan limit for juniors, seniors and graduate students was increased to \$7,500. Mr. Jones explained the reason for the increase was that juniors and seniors are already on schedule to graduate and receiving their educator certificate.

Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Teacher Loan Advisory Committee is presenting as a proposal the removal of the critical-subject and critical-need areas in the regulations. Mr. Jones stated that having critical-subject and critical-geographic areas in the Teacher Loan requirements makes it difficult to administer the Teachers Loan. He explained that because of the teacher shortage in S.C., it would be more beneficial to allow the S.C. Teachers Loan borrowers to teach in any area in the state.

4. Carolina Cluster Career Pathways *(For Information, No Action Necessary)*

Dr. Woodfaulk presented the Proviso for the Carolina Cluster Career Pathways to the Committee members. She stated that matching funds were approved by the SC General Assembly for the Carolina Cluster Career Program during the last legislative session. Dr. Woodfaulk briefly provided information about the Carolina Cluster Career Program. She stated that the program provides a grant to three Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) to receive funding from two sources, the Lilly Endowment, Foundation and the matching funds from the State as approved by the SC General Assembly. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the Commission disburses funding to the three

HBCU institutions (flow through dollars). She stated that the funds are to be used as outlined in the proviso for students and student support services directly related to obtaining employment. Commissioner Batson asked for clarification of the match and whether the institution provides the match money. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the institution is providing the funding through the grant as part of the match and state funding is providing the other part of the match.

Dr. Woodfaulk introduced Ms. Cathy Franklin, the Carolina Cluster's Director. Ms. Cathy Franklin stated the program focuses on students who are graduating and gainfully employed. She provided an overview of the program. Ms. Franklin explained that a five-year, \$6 million grant, was awarded in 2016 from the United Negro College Fund Career Pathways Initiative (UNCF CPI) which is funded by the Lilly Endowment. The Carolina Cluster Career Pathways institutions are Claflin University, Benedict College, and Voorhees College. The goal of the program is to improve employment outcomes and placement of the graduating students.

Ms. Franklin explained that it is important to make sure students understand their career fields. She stated that the Carolina Cluster program works to keep students consistently focused and assess their programs of study. The program looks at whether the courses that the professors are teaching are relevant for the 21st century workforce so students are employable and work ready upon graduation. Ms. Franklin explained that guided pathways provide a roadmap to allow students to know what coursework to take. Students can realize early if they are taking unnecessary courses.

Ms. Franklin described the curricular enhancements that are provided to assist Cluster members. She stated that the curriculum is redesigned to teach what is relevant in today's job market and what employers are in search of. Ms. Franklin explained Carolina Clusters' Integrated Co-Curricular Engagement. She stated Carolina Cluster institutions integrate co-curricular activities to generate more robust student experiences that increase students' awareness, exposure, and skills development.

A. Voorhees College

Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Voorhees College, introduced the Voorhees College Career Pathways Program. He stated that Career Pathways is having direct conversations with industries and corporate leaders requesting what is needed and what the students should be taught to obtain employment. In addition, relationships are established with corporations to provide internships.

Mr. Kimoni Hickman, Director, Voorhees College Career Pathways, provided an overview of guided pathways. He explained that two vehicles were purchased for mobile transportation of students to learning activities, internships and other areas that are not easily accessible for students. Dr. Hopkins stated that each partnership shares best practices and learn from one another. He stated that each institution has reduced their general education hours. Voorhees College's general education program previously was a 50-credit hour program. However, the

College reduced the program to 40-credit hours. Eight of the forty credit hours are required career pathways seminars. There is a guided career pathway in each of the classifications. Dr. Hopkins explained the importance of students having exposure to careers through internship and apprenticeship.

Commissioner Munns asked about the discovery of the grant by the institutions. Ms. Franklin explained that UNCF announced the availability of the grant and each of the institutions are UNCF institutions.

Dr. Horne inquired about the general education courses. Dr. Hopkins explained that some of the course credit hours were reduced. He stated that Voorhees College used the model from the Association of American Colleges and Universities based on their schematic. He provided an example about social science course requirements that were reduced to two instead of requiring the students to take four social science courses.

B. Benedict College

Ms. Tondaleya Jackson, Executive Director, Benedict Career Pathways Initiative, provided highlights of the program. Benedict College is utilizing funding to help support capacity building specifically to assist the faculty with course delivery and redesign strategies. Benedict College also reduced general education requirements from 61 semester credit hours to 37 semester credit hours subsequently ensuring that students are involved in courses that would allow them to receive the career readiness skills and strategies for the current workforce needs.

Ms. Jackson explained that Benedict College used a variety of engagement strategies within the core curriculum. Benedict College supports travel for students to engage in study abroad experiences. In June 2019, students were sent to two countries, Ghana and China. She stated that the Career Pathways Initiative allowed Benedict College to increase the number of students studying abroad.

Ms. Jackson explained that Benedict College utilizes transportation to support events across the state and region. Transportation was provided to twenty-nine events that included conferences, service-learning activities and career field study. Time is spent at industries where students study and work alongside employees in the field to explore and engage in their major discipline.

C. Clafin University

Dr. Twaina Harris, Career Pathways Initiatives Campus Director, Clafin University, explained that their program focuses on guided career pathways and experiential learning. Scholarships were offered to students in FY2017-18 to attend summer school to either get back on track with their guided career pathways or to make advance progress. Career counseling services were also offered to students who attended five summer bridge programs at Clafin

University. A “focus to career” program is first initiated when students commit to Claflin University. The Career Counseling Office works with students to complete the focus to career, building student’s resumes early, and developing elevator pitches.

Dr. Harris explained that computers were provided in the career service area in order for students to have open access to search for jobs, internships and other opportunities. Opportunities were offered for students to study abroad and gain global experiences in Brazil and China. Students spent a month in Brazil, completed coursework and resided with Brazilian families to learn about the culture and have exposure to the Brazilian environment. Students also spent two weeks in China with the United States/China Exchange Foundation.

Dr. Harris reported that 47 students received the scholarship in 2017-2018. She said 92 students participated in the career readiness workshops in the summer bridge program. Approximately 2,000 students have access to the computers in the career services area. Also, 21 students participated in the Brazil trip and the China trip.

Dr. Harris stated that Claflin University administers a global perspective inventory which is used in collaboration with Iowa State University. She further explained that Iowa State developed the program and Claflin University contracted with Iowa State to administer the pre-test and a post-test to students as they engage in global experiences to measure what knowledge the students are gaining as they participate in the Career Pathways Initiative.

Ms. Franklin highlighted events that the three Cluster institutions are working on together. The Cluster institutions have professional development workshops together. Students and faculty meet at one location to minimize costs. In addition, the Cluster institutions engage in study abroad activities together. She stated that an HBCU Talent showcase will be held on September 16, 2019 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the SC General Assembly approved the SC WINS program. The program allows for eligible students for the SC Lottery Tuition Assistance to receive an increase in their tuition assistance.

Dr. Gerrick Hampton explained that the Commission has been awarded an AmeriCorps Grant. Staff will work with nine high schools in SC Promise Zones. He stated that most of the schools are on the I-95 Corridor. Twenty-four members of the AmeriCorps will be placed in the nine high schools and will work with 30% of the junior classes and 30% of the senior classes that the school identifies as needing the most assistance in completing all the steps in the college access process. Dr. Horne asked about the nine high schools. Dr. Hampton replied that the schools are in Williamsburg, Denmark, Jasper, Aiken and Colleton Counties.

5. Adjournment

There being no additional items before the Committee, Chairman Batson requested a motion for adjournment. A **motion** (Sellers) was made, **seconded** (Horne), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting.