

**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  
December 5, 2019  
2:30 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Assistant Chair  
Mr. Jim Battle  
Dr. Cleveland Sellers  
Dr. Mark A. Smith

**Guests Attending**

Ms. Jane Turner, President and CEO  
Center for Educator Recruitment,  
Retention & Advancement (CERRA)  
Mr. Ray Jones, Vice President  
SC Student Loan Corporation

**Other Commissioners Present**

Ms. Terrye Seckinger

**Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Ms. Lorinda Copeland  
Mr. Kevin Glears  
Dr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Mr. Jesse Kimbrough  
Mr. Frank Myers  
Ms. Colette Reamer  
Mr. Austin Ridge  
Ms. Leslie Williams

**1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

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

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced Ms. Colette Reamer as the newest member to the Student Affairs Division. Ms. Reamer will direct the AmeriCorps program. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the AmeriCorps Program will serve nine S.C. high schools in Promise Zone areas along the I-95 corridor. She stated that there will be 22 AmeriCorps members placed in the high schools serving as graduation coaches.

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Sellers), and **carried** to approve the minutes of October 3, 2019.

**2. South Carolina Teachers Loan Program Regulation Changes Article II Subarticle B of General Regulations Relating to Borrowers Section 62-120 (6) (7) (For Approval)**

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the SC Teachers Loan Program is a forgivable loan program which allows the SC Student Loan Corporation to administer loans to SC teachers in geographic or subject areas of critical need in the state. She further explained that a committee was formed - the SC Teachers Loan Advisory Committee - to assess the SC Teachers Loan Program and its impact in recruiting students and retaining teachers in the state. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that upon review by the SC Teachers Loan Advisory Committee, a regulatory recommendation was made to remove the present eligibility language under Article II. Subarticle B section 62-10 (6) (7). She explained that in order to be eligible for a forgivable loan, an individual must meet certain requirements prior to enrolling into a teacher education program at an eligible college or university. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that presently in order to be eligible to receive the forgivable loan, two semesters of collegiate work must be completed for entry into a teacher education program. She explained that recipients must also pass a basic skills test as determined by the State Board. If the student has one year or less of collegiate work, the undergraduate must earn at least the mean score on the ACT or the SAT for the state. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that in addition, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 after two semesters. The SC Teachers Loan Advisory Committee is concerned about how to recruit students into teacher education programs with the current SC Teachers Loan Program requirements. After discussion, the Committee recommended that CHE strike items (6) and (7) from section 62-10, which would basically allow students to meet the requirements of the individual teacher education programs at the institutions to allow students to be eligible for a SC Teachers Loan.

Ms. Jane Turner, Chair of SC Teachers Loan Advisory Committee, stated that all the recommendations from the SC Teachers Loan Advisory Committee were previously approved by the Commission approximately a year ago. She stated that the recommended change would only apply to incoming freshmen and sophomores. She stated that the intent for the recommended change is to make the SC Teachers Loan Program more accessible to freshmen and sophomores by removing some of the hurdles and allow them to be eligible for the forgivable loan.

Commissioner Battle **motioned** to amend the SC Teachers Loan regulation, Article II, Subarticle B of General Regulation Relating to Borrowers, section 62-120 to remove the present eligibility language (6) and (7) and allow students to indicate an intent to teach in South Carolina in an area of critical need as defined by the State Board. The motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Sellers and **carried**.

**3. Guidance: Residency for Tuition/Fees and State Scholarship/Grant Purposes of U.S. Citizen Students with Undocumented Parents (For Approval)**

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that based on state law, students are categorized as independent or dependent for residency purposes with regards to access to instate tuition/fees and scholarships/grants. She stated that if the student is dependent, the law provides that

students are presumed to have the same residency status as their parents, spouse, or guardian. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the Commission provides guidance to the institutions in determining the residency status of dependent students, including students who are presumed to be dependent upon parents who are undocumented. She said under this guidance, an institution considers the student's circumstances and makes a determination through an institutional appeal process since a presumption of status is rebuttable. Dr. Woodfaulk further stated that in cases where U.S. citizen students are dependent upon Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the same situation may occur. She said allowance for consideration of these students is not in the title of the guidance. The recommendation from staff is to change the title of the present guidance to include U.S. Citizen students who are dependent upon DACA parents. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that in cases where a U.S. citizen student is dependent upon a parent in DACA status, this addition would allow for that student the opportunity to rebut the residency decision at the institutional level. She stated that CHE staff is requesting a change to add language to the title of the current document, making the new title Residency for Tuition and Fees and State Scholarships Purposes of U.S. Citizen Students with Undocumented or DACA Parents. For clarification, this addition would not address DACA students but instead, address U.S. citizens students who happen to be dependent upon a parent who is undocumented or has DACA status.

Commissioner Horne asked about the frequency of occurrences that this happens to students. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that such cases are unique, and it appears that DACA parents have now come of age to have children who are attending high school. These are the students who are addressed in the title change.

Commissioner Horne **motioned** for modification to the title of the residency guidance document, making the new title "Residency for Tuition/Fees and State Scholarship/Grant Purposes of U.S. Citizen Students with Undocumented or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Status Parents." Commissioner Sellers **seconded** and the motion **carried**.

#### **4. Other Business**

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that two public hearings will go before the Commission on January 9, 2020, for two regulations that were previously approved by the Committee:

1. There will be a public hearing on the approved proposed amendments to the regulation for the Determination of Rates of Tuition and Fees. Clarification has been given to a definition currently used in the regulation. The definition of "independent" is amended to clarify the type of loan that can be used towards establishing support. Additional language is also being added to allow for the use of student and private loans towards meeting the cost of attendance measure.

Also, language has been added to allow for the inclusion of those individuals who are receiving vocational rehabilitation funds. They will be eligible to receive tuition at the in-state rate.

2. SC National Guard College Assistance Program regulation is being amended to have a fuller definition of a "full" ROTC Scholarship if a student is receiving such

funds. The definition clarifies that a student who receives a ROTC Scholarship that does not cover the full cost of attendance may also receive benefits from the SC National Guard College Assistance Program.

Commissioner Mark Smith made a recommendation for proposed legislation to present a tax credit or a tax incentive program for employers who hire graduates in the state. Under the proposal, an employee who worked five years would have their educational loan forgiven at 20% over a five-year period, to eliminate some of the financial burden from the state. Commissioner Seckinger stated that some of the technical colleges work with companies that will provide internships for students as a way of introducing them to their businesses. As a start, she suggested the possibility of exploring businesses that invest in students by paying off their student loans. Chairman Batson requested that Dr. Woodfaulk gather some research on Commissioner Smith's recommendation to find similar programs or states where this may have been done.

## **5. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laverne Sanders