

Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)
November 6, 2019

Members Present

Chair Admiral Charles Munns
Vice Chair Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne, Ph.D.
Commissioner Ben Satcher, Jr.

Staff Present

Dr. Jennifer Almeda
Dr. Argentini Anderson (via teleconference)
Ms. Laura Belcher
Dr. Samuel Grubbs (via teleconference)
Dr. John Lane
Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Julissa Nixon
Mr. Andrew Roof
Dr. Regine Rucker (via teleconference)
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Dr. Lishu Yin (via teleconference)

Guests

Ms. Jenna Adkins, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Grier Bethea, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Heather Bonilha, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Claudia Bornholdt, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Floyd Bowles, Midlands Technical College (via teleconference)
Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Coastal Carolina University
S. Vinson Burdette, Aiken Technical College (via teleconference)
Dr. Nancy Carson, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Jeannie Chapman, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina Columbia
Ms. Amanda Darden, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Mark DeMastro, College of Charleston
Commissioner Linda Dolny, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University (via teleconference)
Commissioner Eddie Dyer, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Dr. Dennis Earl, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Clif Flynn, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Ms. Sandra Hackley, Midlands Technical College (via teleconference)
Ms. Kira Hamilton, Coastal Carolina University
Chair Wes Hayes, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Ms. Rebecca Hubbard, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Edward Jadallah, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Christina Joseph, Midlands Technical College (via teleconference)
Ms. Taylor Johnston, Lander University
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University
Dr. Toshua Kennedy, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Dr. Dale Layfield, Clemson University

Dr. Shirleatha Lee, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Dr. Lucas McMillan, Lander University
Mr. Donald Miles, University of South Carolina
Columbia
Mr. Edward Pavalle, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Charles Privette, III, Clemson University
Dr. Hope Rivers, South Carolina Technical
College System (via teleconference)
Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel
Ms. Samantha St. Andrews, Coastal Carolina
University
Mr. Joseph Scogin, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Sally Selden, The Citadel

Dr. Darlene Shaw, Medical University of South
Carolina
Ms. Sandy Singletary, Lander University
Dr. James Solazzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Kristen Starnes-Ott, University of South
Carolina Columbia (via teleconference)
Ms. Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Dr. Rosline Sumpter, South Carolina Technical
College System (via teleconference)
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of
South Carolina
Ms. Elizabeth Vermont, Coastal Carolina
University

Welcome

Chair Munns called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Nixon confirmed a quorum by introducing the Commissioners present, and confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Minutes

- a. **August 27, 2019**
- b. **October 3, 2019**

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.**

2. The Teacher Shortage and Educator Preparation: Amanda Darden and Coastal Carolina University Teaching Fellows

Chair Munns introduced the item. Dr. Lane introduced Ms. Darden, and welcomed Dr. Jadallah, Dean of Education, who summarized the teacher shortage statewide. He highlighted two programs at Coastal Carolina University (Coastal): Teaching Fellows and Call Me MISTER. Students in Coastal's Teaching Fellows program, Ms. Elizabeth Vermont and Mr. Joseph Scogin, summarized the program on Coastal's campus, including fundraising activities. Committee members commended the Fellows' participation in the program and asked how the students decided to enter the teaching profession and where they obtained their information on the profession. Coastal Teaching Fellows discussed their individual experiences which led to their desire to enter into the profession.

3. Program Proposals

a. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S., Cybersecurity

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Brown) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Flynn noted the increased demand for cybersecurity professionals and a talent gap in the University of South Carolina Upstate (USC U) region, stating there was no cybersecurity degree in the region. He noted the proposed program would require no new faculty; USC U will seek ABET accreditation; and that USC U will initiate conversations with technical colleges about pathways for students pursuing a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. Committee members inquired about external certifications, job placement for program graduates, and program collaboration. Dr. Flynn noted the proposed program will deliver content that will prepare students to sit for examinations, but that certifications are managed at the industry level. He explained there are exciting opportunities available for cybersecurity graduates in the Upstate and USC U is working to strengthen articulation agreements between institutions.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity at the University of South Carolina Upstate, to be implemented in Fall 2020.

b. University of South Carolina Upstate, M.S.N., Nursing Leadership

c. University of South Carolina Upstate, M.S.N., Nursing Education

Chair Munns introduced the items for concurrent consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. USC U representatives explained the need for the program, emphasizing faculty and professional vacancies in nursing. USC U currently offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program in Clinical Nurse Leader and proposed to offer additional programs in Nursing Leadership and Nursing Education. Committee members inquired about the validity of the nursing shortage, differentiation between multiple proposed nursing programs, matriculation to graduation, targeting of students who do not pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nurses, and advertising in consideration of limited seats for programs. USC U representatives verified the existence of a nursing shortage, specifically in South Carolina, and the estimated time to graduation. USC U representatives also stated additional educators are necessary to accommodate the number of students interested in the field.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science in Nursing degree in Nursing Leadership and the Master of Science in Nursing degree in Nursing Education at the University of South Carolina Upstate, both to be implemented in Spring 2020.

d. University of South Carolina Columbia, Ed.D., Educational Practice and Innovation

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. The University of South Carolina Columbia (USC C) representatives explained the proposed program is a change to USC C's current Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program, with the proposed changes including the program CIP code, program name, and addition of a new concentration in Education Systems Improvement. USC C

representatives also explained changing the program name will create a path for educators and administrators to help solve immediate problems in their schools and school districts. The proposed new concentration would provide students expertise in research skills in educational system improvement. Committee members requested clarification on how graduates of the proposed program would provide immediate solutions to educational issues, coursework in social justice, and how the proposed program would help service homeless children. USC C representatives explained that: 1) the institution's partnership with The Carnegie Project would enable students to engage in relevant research projects which could build capacity for change in their individual settings, 2) the core curriculum is extant from the current program, and 3) the proposed program would help improve educational systems that will help homeless students and meet other community needs.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted four to one** (Munns, Brown, Horne, and Satcher voting in favor, Seckinger voting against) **to commend favorably to the Commission** the Doctor of Education degree in Educational Practice and Innovation the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2020.

e. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S.N., Master's Entry Practice Nursing

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. USC C representatives explained the need for the program, emphasizing USC C aims to mitigate the nursing shortage and provide adult learners with a non-nursing bachelor's degree the opportunity to become nurses in a shorter amount of time, while earning a master's degree rather than a second baccalaureate. They also explained degree completers of the proposed program can enter the profession as direct care nurses in various settings. Committee members inquired about entry criteria for the proposed program, specifically the meaning of "academically eligible" for adult learners, and employment opportunities post-graduation. USC C representatives clarified the definition of "academically eligible," which means to complete prerequisite courses and degrees for the proposed program, and then explained the multitude of employment opportunities currently available for master's degree-trained nurses.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science in Nursing degree in Master's Entry to Practice Nursing (MEPN) at the University of South Carolina Columbia, to be implemented in Fall 2020.

f. Midlands Technical College, A.A.S., Engineering Fundamentals

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Horne) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Midlands Technical College (MTC) and the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) representatives explained MTC has offered the first two years of an engineering degree for students who would transfer to USC C for over three decades and the proposed program would allow students to seamlessly transfer to USC C without taking unnecessary coursework. Representatives also explained while previous engineering transfer arrangements were very popular for students, the proposed program would simplify the process to transfer to USC C. USC C representatives expressed support for the program. Committee members inquired about system-level approvals, requested assurances of transferability, and shared concerns about general education course requirements. Dr. Sumpter confirmed the proposed program had been appropriately approved through the SCTCS process and cited the system's effectiveness in developing

articulation agreements. MTC representatives noted all the proposed program's courses are part of the pathways to the degrees, would be transferrable to USC C because MTC's subject matter, and that engineering instructors are approved by USC C's engineering program. A CAAL member noted that SCTCS could market this program for people who presently work at engineering firms but do not have a degree, noting the importance of strong articulation agreements in many fields.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Associate in Applied Science degree in Engineering Fundamentals at Midlands Technical College, to be implemented in Spring 2020.

g. Medical University of South Carolina, M.S., Speech-Language Pathology

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Seckinger) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) representatives explained 10 medical speech and language pathologists are hired yearly in the Charleston area, the proposed program would create a career pathway for Communication Sciences and Disorders undergraduates, and would be part of a planned collaboration within the MUSC system to offset its zero tuition increase this fiscal year. Committee members requested clarification on USC C's objection to the proposed program at ACAP and inquired about the proposed program's use of faculty members. Dr. Crews explained USC C is concerned about the loss of clinical internship placements for USC C's students. MUSC representatives responded the institution will continue their clinical partnership with USC C and clarified there are nine to 10 MUSC-system clinical placement sites in the Charleston area. CHE staff affirmed the findings of likely availability of field experience opportunities based on a 2018 CHE-led study. MUSC representatives explained only a small faculty pool would be needed because adjunct clinical faculty members with expertise are engaged in the program instruction.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Medical University of South Carolina, to be implemented in Fall 2021.

h. Lander University, B.Des., Graphic and Interactive Media

i. Lander University, M.F.A., Visual Art

Chair Munns introduced the items for concurrent consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Jones explained the proposed undergraduate program would provide students with a professional design degree and technology skills in demand by employers and noted there would be no added expense to implement the proposed program, which could perhaps be a model for other state institutions. Dr. Jones explained the proposed graduate program is designed to provide a pathway for students in the region who are pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts and want to continue their education, and that it will benefit the state by expanding the pool of available art instructors. Committee members inquired about the employability of graduates and the use of computer coding in the proposed undergraduate program. Lander University (Lander) representatives noted over 500 related job openings in the state and added students in a related degree have no problem obtaining employment. The Lander representative explained the proposed program would partner with Lander's computer information science students to combine design and technology. A Committee member asked for CAAL to investigate supporting an effort to make coding a foreign language in the State.

Committee members also questioned the feasibility of the institution's growth projections noted in Lander's program proposals and inquired whether the proposed programs would compete with other institutions in the state. Dr. Jones explained Lander is seeking to serve new populations of students and highlighted their work partnering with the University Center of Greenville. He added that the institution is concerned about costs and has not increased tuition in four years partly because of the added growth. The Lander representative also reported the institution substantively enrolls and supports first-generation students and students from the region and is therefore bringing students who may not go to college otherwise into their programs.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Bachelor of Design degree in Graphic and Interactive Media and the Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Art at Lander University, both to be implemented in Fall 2020.

- i. Lander University, B.S., Health Promotion and Wellness
- j. Lander University, B.S., Human Services
- k. Lander University, B.S., Paralegal Studies

Chair Munns introduced the items for concurrent consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Lander representatives explained the first proposed program would provide a pathway for students who are unable to complete a nursing degree to continue to work toward a related undergraduate degree which would prepare them for a variety of employment and graduate opportunities. Committee members inquired about completion and attrition rates for students who were in the nursing program, employability and certification options for graduates of the proposed program, and collaboration with technical colleges. Lander representatives verified that over 50% of the 60% of students that originally attempted a nursing degree graduate from Lander in another area and cited input from employers and student internships to highly employable options and the inclusion of certification components in the curriculum. They highlighted Lander's work and agreements with technical colleges across the state.

Lander representatives explained the need for the remaining two proposed programs, citing increased student interest, and emphasizing the industry and educational partner organizations' demands for programs that address the employment needs of local communities. Committee members inquired how the university will monitor, manage, and control the faculty need and the potential impact on tuition with the projected increased student enrollment and the difference in earned income from 4-year versus 2-year programs. Dr. Jones confirmed Lander's current increased enrollment, program partnerships and employer interest, and minimized program costs based on use of current resources. He continued to explain Lander maintains focus on improving operations, updating current programs, and monitoring new programs to better meet the need of traditional and non-traditional students. Dr. Jones noted that the difference in income is minimal, but the bachelor's degree is the "gateway" for better employment opportunities, and hiring is trending away from two-year credentialed candidates.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion and Wellness (HPW), the Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services, and the Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies at Lander University, all to be implemented in Fall 2020.

m. Horry-Georgetown Technical College, A.A.S., Teacher Education

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Horne) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Ms. Hubbard of Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) explained the proposed program would be a 2+2 pathway with Coastal Carolina University (Coastal) to help address the state's teacher shortage. The proposed program, an elevation of an existing concentration, would better prepare students who want to become teaching assistants and paraprofessionals, as well as those who intend to transfer to Coastal to pursue teacher certification. The proposed program currently has a pool of students in its existing Associate of Arts program, along with plans to recruit in local high schools and school districts. Committee members asked for clarification about seamless transfer from HGTC to Coastal and about the proposed program's admission criteria. SCTCS and HGTC representatives explained the MOU with Coastal includes detailed logistics which allow students to meet with advisors from both institutions, and that students must have "C's" or better to enter the program. Committee members suggested SCTCS work with the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement (CERRA) and incorporate CERRA grant programs such as Teaching Fellows into the proposed program.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Associate in Applied Science degree in Teacher Education at Horry-Georgetown Technical College to be implemented in Spring 2020.

n. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Religious Studies

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Brown) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Coastal representatives explained the need for the proposed program as the result of growth in an existing Religious Studies minor; the proposed program can fill a niche with a focus on religion in public life, the only program of its kind in South Carolina. The representatives also verified institutional approval and the characteristics that distinguished the program from similar programs in the state. Committee members expressed concerns about the proposed program being previously withdrawn and any proposal amendments as a result of the withdrawal, and then inquired about faculty and specialties planned for the proposed program. Coastal representatives responded, noting that upon reflection of their options for program consideration during discussion at the May 14, 2019 CAAL meeting, the delegation decided to withdraw for future consideration, and deferred to minutes from the May 2019 meeting for additional information. Representatives confirmed the proposal was not amended from the previous submission and emphasized the importance given to faculty recruitment to support effective instruction of the curriculum.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted four to one** (Munns, Brown, Horne, and Satcher voting in favor, Seckinger voting against) **to commend favorably to the Commission** Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies at Coastal Carolina University, to be implemented in Fall 2020.

- o. Clemson University, M.S., Agriculture
- p. Clemson University, Ph.D., Agriculture

Chair Munns introduced the items for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Clemson University (Clemson) representatives explained the proposed programs would fill a need for advanced level agricultural degrees in the state, including the need for graduate programs for working professionals. Representatives also mentioned prospective employer feedback indicating a need for advanced agricultural degrees. Committee members inquired about post baccalaureate certifications in conjunction with the Department of Education, collaboration with John de la Howe School for recruitment, and projected enrollment. CHE staff clarified information regarding the post baccalaureate certificate. Clemson representatives verified looking into recruitment options at the John de la Howe School. They also indicated that projected enrollment for the program was based on an established need and was within the ability of the University to manage.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Science in Agriculture and the Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture degrees at Clemson University, both to be implemented in Spring 2020.

- q. Clemson University, M.W.F.R., Wildlife and Fisheries Resources

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Satcher) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Clemson representatives presented the proposal and explained that the current master of science in Wildlife Fisheries and Biology is primarily comprised of working professionals and that Clemson identified a need for a non-thesis option to promote completion opportunities and highlight the value of the credential for students. Committee members inquired about the procedural processes of modifications and proposal submissions and the proposed program responses to global climate change. Clemson representatives expressed support for the need of a procedural process but requested time to reflect on improvements to the process and stated that the course of study includes offerings related to the subject such as restorative ecology.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the Master of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at Clemson University, to be implemented in Spring 2020.

- 4. **Consideration of University of South Carolina System Mission Statement Change**
- 5. **Consideration of University of South Carolina Mission Statement Changes**
 - a. University of South Carolina Columbia
 - b. University of South Carolina Lancaster
 - c. University of South Carolina Sumter
 - d. University of South Carolina Salkehatchie
 - e. University of South Carolina Union

Chair Munns introduced the items for concurrent consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** (Seckinger) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. USC C representatives explained the proposed mission statement changes would reflect the institution's organizational changes.

Dr. Lane explained the proposed mission statement changes were elevated from staff approval to Commission approval due to the aggregate of changes.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the University of South Carolina System, University of South Carolina Columbia, University of South Carolina Lancaster, University of South Carolina Sumter, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, and University of South Carolina Union mission statement changes.

6. Amendment of SC Code of Regulations 62-6: Licensing Criteria

Chair Munns introduced the item for consideration and the Committee **moved** (Munns) and **seconded** a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane explained the proposed amendment to the licensing criteria regulation would make permanent the emergency joint resolution (2019 Act 102) to protect near-degree students in the event of a sudden licensed institutional closure. Students near graduation were no longer enrolled in an institution to confer a degree due to closure, but because of the "25% rule," operating institutions could not provide final remaining coursework to confer degrees without risk to licensure. The change to enable the Commission to approve such teach-out plans for near-degree students, such as institutional closure, enabled the Commission to authorize institutions to provide a degree-completion option for S.C. residents enrolled in affected programs.

Upon remaining discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission the

7. Discussion: Doctoral Program Development at Comprehensive Institutions

Chair Munns introduced the item for brief discussion. Chair Munns requested feedback on whether doctoral programs at comprehensive institutions are a good idea, whether there are any hurdles the Commission should consider, and whether the Commission should take a proactive role on this issue or take such proposals as they come forward individually. Institutional representatives explained they support professional, applied doctorates at comprehensive institutions especially as program accreditors are requiring advanced training, including program elevations to terminal degree levels. Dr. Lane cited national and regional trends affecting doctoral programs as well.

8. Report on Program Modifications, May 9 – October 30, 2019

(For information, no action required)

Chair Munns introduced the item for information only.

9. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.