

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Meeting held at  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
12:30 p.m.

***Minutes of the Meeting***  
**October 3, 2019**

**Commissioners Attending**

Mr. Wes Hayes, Chair	Ms. Linda Dolny	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Paul Batson*	Mr. Edgar Dyer	Dr. Cleveland Sellers
Mr. Jim Battle	Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Dr. Mark Smith
Ms. Julie Godshall Brown	Mr. Chuck Munns*	Mr. Patrick White
Mr. Charles Dalton	Mr. Ben Satcher	

**Commissioners Absent**

Mr. Devron Edwards (excused)

**Guests Attending**

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Ms. Belinda Keiser, Southeastern Institute
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University*	Mr. Robert Keiser, Southeastern Institute
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina Union	Dr. Jeff Perez, SCICU
Mr. Dwight Cauthen, Silver Crescent Consulting	Ms. Melissa Stowasser, Trident Technical College
Ms. Janet Clark, Southeastern Institute	Mr. Adam Taylor, Lander University
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University	Mr. Tim Vanlorn, Southeastern Institute
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina Columbia*	Ms. Ronni Waldman, Southeastern Institute
	Ms. Fran Welch, College of Charleston*
	Mr. Ken Wingate, Sweeney & Wingate

\*Attended by phone.

**Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Anika Ali	Ms. Julissa Nixon
Dr. Jennifer Almeda	Ms. Stacey Price
Dr. Argentini Anderson	Mr. Andrew Roof
Ms. Laura Belcher	Ms. Peggy Simons
Dr. Saundra Carr	Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Monica Goodwin	Ms. Bunnie Ward
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	Mr. Bryce Wilson
Ms. DaVaris Hatten	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Whitney Jett	Dr. Lishu Yin
Dr. John Lane	

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:31 p.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. It was determined there was a quorum of the Commission.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's September 5, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Seckinger motioned and Commissioner Satcher seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes, noting the position of vice chair was left vacant after Commissioner Munns' recent election as chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL), called for nominations to fill the position. Commissioner Satcher nominated Commissioner Horne. Commissioner Dalton then motioned and Commissioner Dolny seconded to close nominations. The nominee, Commissioner Horne, was confirmed by unanimous vote to succeed Commissioner Munns as the Commission's vice chair.

## **4. President and Executive Director's Report**

**Rusty Monhollon**

Dr. Monhollon first announced the hiring of Ms. Bunnie Lempeis Ward as the agency's Director of Government Affairs and Communications. Welcoming Ms. Ward, he described her educational background and professional experiences prior to joining the Commission.

After this introduction, Dr. Monhollon summarized the Commission's budget request submitted by the agency on September 20th to the Governor's Executive Budget Office (EBO). For FY 2020-21, Dr. Monhollon stated the agency requested:

- \$32,000,000 for need-based grants, to be distributed over four years;
- \$1,500,000 in recurring general funds for PASCAL;
- Authority to spend Other Funds by an increase of \$1,000,000;
- \$225,000 in new recurring general funds;
- \$100,000 over two years to fund the salary of a temporary employee overseeing a financial literacy pilot program; and
- \$50,000 to facilitate a campus safety conference.

Furthermore, Dr. Monhollon stated the agency also requested in its budget request:

- Modification to Provisos 117.155 (Higher Education Tuition Mitigation) and 3.5 (LEA: FY 2019-20 Lottery Funding); and
- Deletion of Provisos 11.11 (SmartState) and 11.18 (Suspended Governor's Professor the Year Award).

With these, Dr. Monhollon concluded his overview of the budget request and transitioned to reporting on the upcoming meeting of the S.C. Higher Education Advisory Committee, which he noted was being assembled with the assistance of The Hunt Institute. The meeting, he noted, would be held on Thursday, October 24 in Columbia, and that he would report on the group's discussion at the Commission's meeting in November.

Dr. Monhollon apprised the Commission of the agency's search for a lease of new office space, as the current lease at 1122 Lady Street is set to expire at the end of June 2020. He stated the first group of proposals were insufficient to the needs of the agency, so a restructured request accounting for an increase in staff was made and submitted to the Department of Administration for the drafting of a new Request for Proposals (RFP).

Dr. Monhollon announced the Council of Presidents meeting, which was originally scheduled for October 17, was postponed to January 7, after determining the availabilities of institutions' leaders. Vice Chair Horne expressed the importance of extending invitations to the presidents of two-year institutions. Dr. Monhollon described a tentative agenda for the Council's meeting: the presidents would convene for a board-style meeting in the afternoon and afterwards would be invited to attend a social hour with dinner.

Lastly, Dr. Monhollon stated that planning was underway for the Commission’s November meeting in Conway.

He then introduced guest presenter Ms. Melissa Stowasser, assistant vice president of community partnerships at Trident Technical College.

**A. Presentation on Trident Technical College’s *Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships Program*, Given by Ms. Melissa Stowasser**

Ms. Stowasser presented on the Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships (CRYA) program, a regional collaborative focused on addressing critical workforce needs in the Lowcountry and mentoring young adults in developing technical job skills. In her presentation, she described the program’s apprenticeship model, the occupational areas in which training is offered, demographic trends, and success stories of past apprentices. The Commission received this presentation enthusiastically and expressed great appreciation for its innovative approach to education.

**6.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

**Charles Munns**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Add Programs**

1. Southeastern Institute, North Charleston and Columbia: A.A.S., Diagnostic Medical Sonography; A.A.S., Radiologic Technology; A.A.S., Business Administration; and A.A.S., Information Technology and Network Systems

Commissioner Munns, who telephoned into the meeting, motioned to amend the agenda so as to bring the Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) forward prior to the Legislative Report and the Report of the Executive Committee, as he had another obligation to which he needed to attend and was running short on time. Chair Hayes called for a second, which was given by Vice Chair Horne. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Munns presented the one item on CAAL’s consent agenda, advocating approval of Southeastern Institute’s request for an amendment to its existing license for the purpose of offering new programs. Concerning the proposed programs, he stated that the Committee and staff had examined their quality, the protections they afforded students, and their effect on the current market environment; ultimately, he relayed, these areas were determined to be satisfactory. Further supporting his recommendation, Commissioner Munns reported no objections to the programs from institutions and recounted a prior opinion given by the state’s attorney general, which established that costs to students should not be a consideration in the approval of programs.

Commissioner Seckinger raised a concern for the cost of the programs, and she advised the Commission to seek training from the attorney general’s office on the regulations and statutes governing CHE. To this end, she recommended postponing a vote on the requested license amendment for one month.

At 1:33 p.m., Commissioner Munns left the meeting, but before parting, he reiterated his support for approving the Southeastern Institute’s requested license amendment.

Vice Chair Horne asked Commissioner Seckinger if her recommendation was a counter to the motion for approval implied by the consent agenda. Commissioner Seckinger confirmed this: she motioned to carry over the item to the next month and have the Commission receive training on its responsibility where for-profits are concerned. Commissioner Dyer seconded her motion for the purpose of discussion.

Commissioner Battle commented that no taxpayer dollars would be hazarded by approving the item, and as such, he voiced support for the original motion. Furthermore, observing that Southeastern Institute is a private company and the Commission has no authority to regulate its pricing, he reinforced his opinion. Commissioner Seckinger clarified again that she was not holding up the approval process because of the cost; rather, she wanted the Commission to receive further legal opinion about its charge in the approval process of programs at private, for-profit institutions.

Commissioner Dyer asked Commissioner Seckinger if she was opposed to bifurcating her countermotion. Commissioner Seckinger responded that she was not opposed.

Chair Hayes sought clarification from Commissioner Seckinger: he asked if she was withdrawing from her countermotion the postponement of a vote on Southeastern Institute's request for an amendment to its existing license but retaining the recommendation that the Commission seek training on its legislative charge in approving for-profit institutions' programs. Commissioner Seckinger confirmed his understanding.

Commissioner White cautioned that taxpayer dollars could be at risk should loan default rates for students enrolled at Southeastern Institute be atypically high, thereby contesting Commissioner Battle's assessment. Commissioner Dyer estimated Southeastern Institute's default rate only slightly exceeds the national average. He asked one of the institution's representatives to provide input. The representative stated Southeastern Institute's North Charleston campus had a default rate of 2.1 percent and its Columbia campus had a default rate of 9 percent.

Chair Hayes thanked him for this information and asked if any further discussion was needed. He then reiterated the amendment to her proposed amendment, specifically to proceed with the original motion to vote today but with a request of the attorney general's office for policy advisement. Hearing no opposition, the motion was carried. He then asked for the vote. Being brought forward by a committee, it did not require a second and was passed, with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining.

## **B. Annual Report on Staff-Approved Mission Statement Revisions, FY 2018-19**

*(For Information, No Action Required)*

In the absence of Commissioner Munns, Commissioner Seckinger, as vice chair of the Committee, presented the item for information purposes

## **5. Legislative Report**

**Bunnie Ward**

Ms. Ward stated she was scheduling introductory meetings with legislators for Dr. Monhollon. She also stated she was following up with the Senate Legislative Oversight Subcommittee on Education and Culture to determine when it would meet to consider CHE's oversight report. Lastly, she announced the agency would present its FY 2020-21 budget request to the Executive Budget Office on October 31, 2019.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

**Wes Hayes**

#### **A. Approval of the Commission's Bylaws**

Chair Hayes recounted that, in compliance with the Commission's bylaws, the Executive Committee voted at its August 28, 2019, meeting to recommend revisions to the Commission's bylaws at the October 3 Commission meeting. Chair Hayes presented the recommended changes to the Commission, which he characterized as more technical than substantive. The changes were approved unanimously.

**6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Paul Batson**

Commissioner Batson stated the Committee had no report but would meet after adjournment of the Commission.

**6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

**Charles Dalton**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals**

- 1. The Citadel
  - A. Supplemental Housing
    - Establish Phase II Construction Budget
- 2. Coastal Carolina University
  - A. Eaglin Residence Hall Renovation
    - Establish Phase I

**B. Lease Approval**

- 1. Lander University
  - A. Recreation, Wellness and Sports Complex Lease Replacement

Commissioner Dalton discussed the purposes, costs, and funding sources of the two proposed capital projects and the one lease request. The consent agenda, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, passed unanimously.

**C. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for September 2019**  
*(For Information, No Action Required)*

Commissioner Dalton invited Mr. Tippens to briefly review for the Commission the capital projects processed by staff in the month of September.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business

**8. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**9. End of Business Meeting**

With a motion (Battle), second (Satcher), and unanimous vote, Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.