

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Meeting held at  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
12:00 p.m.

***Minutes of the Meeting***  
**January 10, 2019**

**Commissioners Attending**

Mr. Wes Hayes, Chair	Ms. Linda Dolny	Mr. Charles Munns
Mr. Paul Batson	Mr. Devron Edwards	Mr. Ben Satcher
Mr. James Battle	Dr. Bettie Rose Horne	Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Charles Dalton	Ms. Dianne Kuhl	

**Guests Attending**

Mr. Eric Beddingfield, Greenville Technical College	Mr. AJ Newton, House Ways & Means Committee
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Ms. Michelle Paczynski, S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University	Dr. Jeff Perez, S.C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina Union	Dr. Hope Rivers, S.C. Technical College System
Dr. Lynn Cherry, College of Charleston*	Ms. Carol Routh, Clemson University
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina*	Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina*
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University	Mr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken
Ms. Susan Elkins, University of South Carolina Palmetto College	Dr. Jane Turner, CERRA
Mr. Michael Jackson, House Ways & Means	Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Dick Jones	
Dr. Derrick Magee, University of South Carolina Columbia	
Mr. Keith Miller, Greenville Technical College	

\*Attended by phone

**Commission Staff Present**

Mr. Mike LeFever	Dr. John Lane
Ms. Anika Ali	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Argentin Anderson	Mr. Christopher Robinson
Mr. Clay Barton	Mr. Andrew Roof
Ms. Laura Belcher	Dr. Regine Rucker
Dr. Sandra Carr	Mr. Jeff Thompson
Ms. Lane Goodwin	Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Monica Goodwin	Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. DeVaris Hatten	Dr. Lishu Yin

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:01 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. Commissioner Munns motioned at 12:04 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Batson and was carried.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Wes Hayes**

At 1:13 p.m., the Commission returned to its public business meeting. Chair Hayes welcomed newly appointed Commissioners, Mr. Charles Dalton and Mr. Ben Satcher, and recently recruited interim president and executive director, Mr. Mike LeFever. Chair Hayes then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and the minutes of Interim President and Executive Director Search Committee's December 19<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> meetings. Commissioner Seckinger motioned and Commissioner Battle seconded to approve the three sets of minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **3. Presentation**

Ms. Michelle Paczynski introduced herself and began her presentation on Career Pathways. She described the initiative as an alignment of educational programming with the state's workforce priorities and stated that it's advanced by partnerships between industry and public entities.

Through analysis of labor market information and other data, the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), she stated, had identified construction; diversified manufacturing; healthcare; information technology; and transportation and logistics to be the state's five fastest growing sectors with family-sustaining wages. Supplying this information, she added these sectors had a lot of crossover with other industries in the state.

The state, Ms. Paczynski described, had traditionally approached industrial and workforce issues specifically and without due consideration from a systemic perspective. She continued to say that, under that approach, industry reported burnout, and competitive resources were not optimally deployed. In order to develop a different approach, Ms. Paczynski said public entities more greatly integrated themselves into discussions with industry to ascertain their needs and priorities and better align programs to fulfill them.

Ms. Paczynski highly estimated the importance of sector partnerships, which supply the platforms for career pathways. She then explained the difference between career pathways systems and programs. The former, she stated, aligned public partners with business and industry to ensure that students and job seekers moved seamlessly through training and education institutions and had opportunities to build skills that meet industry demand; the latter, she described, offered a clear sequence of stackable credits and credentials to provide students and job seekers industry-relevant skills, and advanced education to secure employment in high-demand occupations.

Ms. Paczynski then explained the eight steps to build career pathways:

1. Develop Industry Lead Sector Partnerships
2. Build Team of Public Partners
3. Identify Critical Occupations
4. Inventory of Relevant Education and Training Programs
5. Understand Critical Competencies
6. Build Career Pathways Programs
7. Create Career Pathway "Maps" for use by all public partners
8. Create Process for Continuous Improvement.

She concluded her presentation by reiterating DEW's commitment to being responsive to workforce needs, thanking the Commission for its support, and referencing a report on career pathways she expected her agency would publish near the end of January.

Commissioner Dolny thanked Ms. Paczynski and asked her how the prospective report could be accessed. Ms. Paczynski assured her that the report would be available online. Commissioner Batson asked if a list of identified critical occupations currently existed and, if so, how frequently DEW intended to update it. Ms. Paczynski confirmed that a list existed, that it would be annually updated, and that it could be referenced in the report.

To aid in the Committee Academic Affairs and Licensing's activities, Commissioner Seckinger asked Ms. Paczynski to refer her and her colleagues to websites with current information on S.C. occupational needs. Ms. Paczynski offered to collaborate with Dr. John Lane, director of Academic Affairs, to compile such a list.

Chair Hayes thanked Ms. Paczynski for her presentation and expressed eagerness to receive DEW's report.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

**Wes Hayes**

##### **A. Election of the Vice Chair**

Chair Hayes noted the Commission's vice chair position was vacant and asked if anyone would put forth nominations. Commissioner Batson motioned, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded, to elect Commissioner Munns, and by a unanimous vote, he was confirmed the Commission's next vice chair.

##### **B. Confirmation of Mike LeFever as Interim President and Executive Director**

Chair Hayes reminded the Commission that a new committee was formed at its previous meeting to seek and hire a new interim acting president and executive director. Chair Hayes then apprised the Commission of that committee's recent activities, noting it met twice and interviewed candidates. He introduced Mr. Mike LeFever as the committee's nominee for the interim acting president and executive director position and asked for a motion to approve his hire. Commissioner Kuhl motioned, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded, to confirm Mr. LeFever as the interim acting president and executive director. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson added that he thought the search and selection committee was remarkably collegial.

Chair Hayes announced that Mr. LeFever was given a letter of hire from the Department of Administration's Division of Human Resources that complied with established requirements.

Chair Hayes stated that the Inspector General's report regarding the agency's hiring process for the president and executive director position was released to the public that day, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Chair Hayes asked if the Commission needed to take any action in response to the report.

Commissioner Batson expressed his opinion that the Commission learned a great deal over the preceding three months, and he praised Mr. Brian Lamkin, the state's Inspector General, for his professionalism and thoroughness. He added that the report resulting from his investigation was constructive for the Commission and the state at-large. He then motioned to authorize the interim president and executive director to draft, with ultimate approval to be given by the Commission's chair, a response to the Inspector General that would address three things: one, the method by which future executive director compensatory matters will be handled; two, the actions that will be taken to rectify issues with the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation; and three, the need for the Commission to receive some education from the Agency Head Salary Commission on compensation protocol. Vice Chair Munns seconded. Before being confirmed, Commissioner Battle asked about the procedure the draft response would follow in its transmission to the Inspector General. Commissioner

Batson clarified the process he intended with his motion, which would have the acting interim president and executive director draft the report and provide it the Inspector General upon receiving the approval of Chair Hayes. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Hayes announced the Commission would begin a search for a permanent executive director very soon, as Mr. LeFever would only serve in his role for a short term. Chair Hayes then expressed that his leadership would be characterized by a desire to build consensus among higher education stakeholders.

## **5. Vice Chair's Report**

The Vice Chair had no report.

## **6. & 7. Interim President and Executive Director's and Legislative Reports**

**Mike LeFever**

New Interim President and Executive Director Mike LeFever thanked the Commission for welcoming him and proceeded to provide his report. He informed the Commission that a response to a procurement audit was submitted on January 4, 2019, to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA), referencing the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Administration regarding day-to-day business functions like procurement. Mr. LeFever then apprised the Commission of the upcoming submission of a report on South Carolina State University (SCSU), as required by Act 286. Commissioner Batson asked if the Commission provided input in the report. In response, Mr. LeFever recounted the requirements imposed on SCSU and explained that the Commission's role in the process is to certify for the General Assembly the data in the report. Next, Mr. LeFever confirmed that on January 5, 2019, the Commission submitted to the House and Senate its abatement report, as required by proviso.

Noting a vacancy in the government affairs manager position, Mr. LeFever volunteered to assume some legislative duties until someone could be hired. With the assistance of Dr. Samuel Grubbs, a policy analyst, Mr. LeFever announced that the agency will once again publish and regularly update its legislation tracker report, which will concisely describe and timely apprise developments of legislation particularly interesting to higher education.

Next, he drew Commissioners' attention to copies of the agency's FY 2019-2020 budget request placed at each of their seats, and he stated the House Ways & Means Higher Education Subcommittee, headed by Representative Simrill, would hear its presentation at its meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. He also informed Commissioners that the House Education & Public Works Committee invited him to give a brief, informative presentation on the agency's organization, mission, and functions at its upcoming orientation.

Chair Hayes addressed S. 298 at the conclusion of Mr. LeFever's report. He stated the bill would create additional sources of funding for higher education from new tax revenues, in exchange for institutions agreeing to freeze tuition. He informed the Commission that he had engaged Senator Sheheen, the bill's primary sponsor, in discussions, and that the Commission would continue to monitor the bill and provide its input when requested.

Vice Chair Munns inquired if the Commission would advocate for the bill. Chair Hayes answered that he hoped the Commission would advocate on its behalf, but the Commission's consensus, and thus its advocacy, was not yet certain. Commissioner Battle asked if Senator Peeler cosponsored the bill. Commissioner Dolny confirmed he was cosponsoring. Chair Hayes added that Senator Peeler, having been elected President of the Senate, had to relinquish his chairmanship of the Education Committee but could retain his chairmanship of the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee. Commissioner Seckinger asked who filled his position in the Education Committee. Chair Hayes informed her that Senator Hembree, Horry County, was the new chairman.

Commissioner Kuhl expressed support for a number of the bill's facets, noting they were positive, but was concerned over other elements, such as the effect on CHE's role in recommending capital improvement projects. She expressed her hope that the Commission would be able to provide input to help shape the bill as it progresses.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **8.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

**Wes Hayes**

#### **A. Consideration of Waiver of CHE Regulation 62-6(D) (For Approval)**

Chair Hayes introduced the *Consideration of Waiver of CHE Regulation 62-6(D)* put forth by the Executive Committee and requested Commissioner Seckinger provide for the Commission justification for its approval. Commissioner Seckinger recounted from the previous month the disaccreditation and closure of Virginia College and Golf Academy of America schools. As students were displaced by the closures, Commissioner Seckinger stated that efforts were taken to assist them with transferring to public technical schools. The regulation as was presently written, she explained, was an impediment to this process, as it required that 25% of a pupil's curriculum be completed at the degree-granting institution.

To facilitate matters, Commission Seckinger informed the Commission that the Executive Committee's proposal recommended the South Carolina General Assembly waive for students affected by the closures the impositions of the regulation. Commissioner Kuhl asked if it was an institution's prerogative to accept the displaced students and their credits, which Commissioner Seckinger affirmed. Chair Hayes emphasized the proposed regulation only requested the General Assembly waive the regulation. Commissioner Seckinger stated she had sent the proposed resolution to members of the House and Senate education committees to seek their help.

Commissioner Seckinger also addressed \$10.00 fees imposed on students requesting transcripts. She informed the Commission that staff recommended these fees be waived for students of the recently closed schools. Regarding both the regulation and fee waivers, Commissioner Dalton asked if they applied solely in this instance or could be applied to similar situations in the future. Commission Seckinger told him they could apply in the future.

Commissioner Kuhl asked if other states had instituted regulations similar to *62-6(D)*. Dr. Lane informed her that other states did indeed have similar regulations but also provided stipulations for cases like the Virginia College and Golf Academy of America closures. Dr. Lane also confirmed that the regulation as presently written could drive students out of South Carolina.

Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve items *8.01.A. Consideration of Waiver of CHE Regulation 62-6(D)* and *9.01.A. Request for Temporary Waiver of Transcript Request Fee for Students of ECA Colleges*. Seconded by Commissioner Batson, the two proposals were approved unanimously.

### **8.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

**Terrye Seckinger**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

### **8.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Paul Batson**

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

### **8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

**Dianne Kuhl**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Interim Capital Projects**

1. Clemson University
  - A. Chapel Construction
    - Increase Budget
2. Medical University of South Carolina
  - A. New College of Pharmacy addition and Innovation Instructional Redesign Renovation
    - Establish Project

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

### **B. List of Capital Projects and Leases Processed by Staff for November and December 2018**

*(For Information, No Action Required)*

Commissioner Kuhl presented the item for information purposes only.

## **9. Other Business**

### **A. Request for Temporary Waiver of Transcript Request Fee for Students of ECA Colleges**

*(For Approval)*

The proposal was discussed and approved during the Report of the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Batson took a moment to congratulate the Clemson Tigers on their recent victory in the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to have a resolution drafted to formally congratulate them. Commissioner Dalton seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **10. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

## **11. End of Business Meeting**

With a motion (Battle), second (Satcher), and unanimous vote, Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.