

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
February 07, 2019

Commissioners Attending

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

Commissioners Absent

Mr. Jim Battle
Mr. Devron Edwards

Guests Attending

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Mr. Time Drueke, Winthrop University
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University*	Ms. Donna Foster, Agency Head Salary Commission
Mr. Dwight Cauthen, Silver Crescent LLC	Ms. Pam King, The Citadel*
Dr. Lynn Cherry, College of Charleston*	President Keith Miller, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Mark Cothran, Clemson University	
Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina*	

*Attended by phone

Commission Staff Present

Mr. Mike LeFever	Dr. John Lane
Ms. Anika Ali	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Dr. Argentini 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 12:19 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 Horne motioned at 12:21 p.m. to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Satcher and was carried. The Commission exited executive session at 1:18 p.m. and resumed its regularly scheduled business.

2. Approval of Minutes

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's January 10th meeting. Commissioner Seckinger motioned and Commissioner Horne seconded to approve the set of minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Munns motioned to amend the agenda to add under the Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing a consideration for the interim president and executive director to submit to the General Assembly a letter enclosing a report concerning teacher training and retention. Seconded by Commissioner Seckinger, the motion was unanimously approved, and the agenda was thus amended.

3. Chairman's Report

Wes Hayes

A. Consideration to Establish the Search Committee for the next President & Executive Director *(For Approval)*

Chair Hayes began his report by reviewing the activities undertaken to advance the search for a permanent president and executive director. He reminded the Commission of a motion made at the January meeting to allow the chair to assemble a committee to seek and recommend to the Commission suitable candidates for the position. He then announced the committee would be comprised of himself, Vice Chair Munns, and Commissioners Batson, Kuhl, and Seckinger, with Commissioner Kuhl serving as the committee's chair. After providing this information, Chair Hayes asked if any motion would be made to formally approve and establish the committee as presented. Commissioner Satcher moved, and Commissioner Horne seconded, to establish the Search Committee for the next President & Executive Director. The motion was unanimously carried, and the committee was established.

Following the establishment of the committee, Chair Hayes had a draft document detailing the committee's formal responsibilities distributed to each of the Commissioners. He then informed the Commission that the charge had been developed and recommended for the Commission's approval by the committee during an informal meeting earlier in the morning. Chair Hayes especially noted the charge's request for the committee to recommend to the Commission one or more qualified candidate(s) for consideration. Subsequently, he opened the floor to discussion.

Vice Chair Munns cautioned the newly formed committee to intensively consider whom it recommends for consideration, for once the number of candidates has been reduced to three, their candidacy for the position becomes public information; thus, he explained, potential rejection by the Commission could be injurious to deferred candidates' reputations. Advising this, he advocated for the approval of the proposed charge. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve the charge for the Search Committee for the next President & Executive Director as written. The motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Satcher, was carried unanimously, and the committee was charged thusly.

4. & 5. Interim President and Executive Director's and Legislative Reports

Mike LeFever

Interim President & Executive Director Mike LeFever provided to the Commission an update of the agency's activities during the preceding month.

Mr. LeFever informed the Commission that the agency developed a procurement manual at the recommendation of an audit. It was completed and transmitted to the Department of Administration for comments. Furthermore,

he announced that training for the manual was expected to begin within the next few weeks. He lastly expressed his opinion that the manual will facilitate and improve agency divisions' budgeting and tracking.

He informed the Commission that a commendatory resolution was sent to various representatives of Clemson University to congratulate the Tigers for their victory in the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship. Mr. LeFever then announced that Chair Hayes had been invited to address an audience at a luncheon being hosted by Clemson University on February 26th in honor of Clemson Day at the State House, and that the resolution would be formally presented there by Chair Hayes to President Clements.

Continuing his report, Mr. LeFever recounted several presentations he had given over the previous month to various legislative committees. He especially noted a subcommittee specifically formed by the Senate to review S.298. He concluded by informing the Commission that he will give a presentation to the Senate Education Subcommittee the following week on February 13th.

Commissioner Dolny asked Mr. LeFever if his upcoming presentation would concern S.298. He replied that it would not, stating instead that it would resemble the general presentation he gave to the House Education and Public Works Committee during its orientation for new members. Following up, Commissioner Dolny asked if any informative literature on S.298 had been developed by the agency to assist Commissioners in the event they are asked about the legislation. She clarified that the literature about which she was inquiring would not be furnished to the media.

Commissioner Kuhl similarly shared concern that the Commission had not reached a consensus on S.298, and emphasizing that none had been established, she expressed concern with several comments made in public settings describing a position on the legislation which the Commission had not yet reached. Concluding, she voiced her support for aspects of the legislation but maintained opposition to its removal of CHE from the capital project review and recommendation process.

Commissioner Seckinger suggested the agency provide Commissioners with copies of the bill as amended and referred Commissioners to Chair Hayes should they have questions as the bill develops. Mr. LeFever, addressing Commissioner Seckinger, stated that the legislation had not yet undergone any amendments.

Mr. LeFever concluded his report by reviewing activities throughout the preceding month that advance the Commission's capital priorities: College Readiness, College Planning and Affordability, Educational Attainment, Economic and Workforce Development, and Teacher Advocacy.

Prompted by the information provided by Mr. LeFever, Commissioner Dolny inquired about the status of the career pathways report that Ms. Michelle Paczynski of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce stated would be available in late January. Dr. John Lane informed her that the supply analysis for the report was still ongoing and was expected to be completed before the end of the quarter.

Before Mr. LeFever began his legislative report, Commissioner Dolny thanked him for the recently reintroduced legislative tracking report and highlighted its usefulness. Mr. LeFever appreciated her remarks and commenced to reviewing for the Commission several noteworthy legislative updates.

He stated that the agency aided the legislature with H.3639, which concerns veterans, dependents, and vocational rehabilitation services, to ensure its compliance with federal education standards. Next, he provided them an update on S.419 and H.3759, companion omnibus PK-12 education bills, as he noted some facets pertained to the Commission's domain of operations. Commissioner Seckinger inquired if any changes to the bills had been made. Mr. LeFever informed her that no changes had been made, adding that the committees overseeing the two pieces of legislation were still gathering input from stakeholders.

Commissioner Batson asked Mr. LeFever if he had received any word regarding the agency's budget request. Mr. LeFever answered that no information of a monetary nature had been communicated to him, and he apprised the Commissioners of an upcoming subcommittee meeting to review proviso proposals. He informed the Commissioners that the review of provisos usually is the final stage before the House Ways & Means Committee convenes to develop its budget bill.

Commissioner Kuhl asked Mr. LeFever for information regarding S.283, also known as the Higher Education Enterprise Act. Mr. LeFever informed her that the bill was still being read by the Senate Education Committee. Commissioner Seckinger then asked if the bill had attracted any more sponsors, to which Mr. LeFever replied that he was unsure but would check.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Wes Hayes

The Committee had no report.

6.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Seckinger called Commissioners' attention to a report produced by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement (CERRA) detailing the state's supply and demand for teachers. She then announced to the Commission her Committee's recommendation to transmit CERRA's report to members of the General Assembly. The item, which was brought forward as a motion from the committee and therefore did not require a second, passed unanimously.

Before concluding her report, Commissioner Seckinger thanked staff in the agency's Academic Affairs Division, particularly Ms. Lane Goodwin, for their efforts in addressing ECA school closures, and she drew Commissioners' attention to an article from Education Dive highlighting their efforts.

6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Paul Batson

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

6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Dianne Kuhl

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Interim Capital Projects

1. Spartanburg Community College
 - A. Spartanburg – Powers Building C-Wing Renovations
-Establish Project
2. University of South Carolina Upstate
 - A. USC Upstate Smith Science Building Renovations
-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.

Commissioner Kuhl apprised the Commission of her Committee's discussion of abatements and fee waivers from its meeting earlier in the day. She stated that her committee engaged institutions to ascertain the definitions of abatements and fee waivers and to determine if these data reported by schools were clearly understood on

both ends. Furthermore, citing a statute limiting an institution's ability to grant fee waivers to a maximum of 4% of the student body, she informed the Commission that only six of the state's sixteen technical colleges were legislatively compliant. Highlighting this example, she inferred there might be some confusion about how these data are collected and reported, and she voiced her committee's desire to better develop their clarity for all parties. Commissioner Kuhl thanked institutions for their engagement at her committee's prior meeting and expressed eagerness to collaborate with them in resolving issues of clarity with abatements and fee waivers.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Seckinger invited Dr. John Lane to explain to the Commission the actions taken throughout the preceding month to address the state's shortage of primary and secondary school teachers, a phenomenon which the Commission identified as critically in need of correction. Dr. Lane did so and gave Commissioners a descriptive one-page document for their reference.

8. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

9. Training

Agency Head Salary Commission

Chair Hayes announced the Commission would enter its training session with the Agency Head Salary Commission's Ms. Donna Foster, whom he introduced, and excused guests who did not wish to remain.

Ms. Foster briefly introduced herself and gave summary descriptions of the Agency Head Salary Commission's history, organization, functions, enabling legislation, and the methods by which it establishes state agency head salary structures and ensures accountability.

Commissioner Seckinger asked how the Agency Head Salary Commission determines the need to change ranges for agency heads. Ms. Foster explained that a comprehensive study is completed by the Hay Group every four years to adjust the salary range for agency heads to market norms. Chair Hayes, who had previously served on the Agency Head Salary Commission, added that the agency head's performance was also considered.

Ms. Foster then transitioned to explain salary supplements and how they should be handled. She emphasized the requirement that salary supplements be reported annually to the Department of Administration, who then shares the reported supplement with the Agency Head Salary Commission. Commissioner Kuhl inquired if boards hiring agency heads needed to seek and receive approval from the Agency Head Salary Commission to grant an income supplement, and if so—and considering that a private foundation would be the provisional entity—would the Agency Head Salary Commission have jurisdiction over the amount. Ms. Foster informed Commissioner Kuhl that foundations, if private, would have complete authority over the amount supplemented; however, she stipulated that the Commission, per legislative proviso, would still need to authorize the agency head's salary supplementation. She added that the Agency Head Salary Commission receives an annual report describing agency heads' salary supplements.

Commissioner Batson asked Ms. Foster if the study produced by the Hay Group was available to the public and if the layperson would find it informative. Ms. Foster stated the report could be requested by members of the public, but she was doubtful the typical member of the public would find it useful, as she noted the study was simply provided as composite data.

As the Commission begins searching for its next executive director, Commissioner Kuhl asked Ms. Foster for her opinion on how best to advertise in a job posting the salary for prospective CHE agency heads. Ms. Foster replied that, for newly hired agency directors, the Agency Head Salary Commission favored salaries between

the minimum and midpoint of the established salary range, and that increases thereafter were dependent upon qualifications and performance.

Commissioner Horne inquired about the Agency Head Salary Commission's location within the organizational structure of the state's government. As the Agency Head Salary Commission was comprised of elected officials, Ms. Foster answered, it did not directly report to any other government entity.

Concluding, Ms. Foster offered her services to the Commission as it advances its search for a permanent president and executive director.

11. End of Business Meeting

With a motion (Munns), second (Satcher), and unanimous vote, Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.