

**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meeting
April 23, 2019**

In attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair (phone)
Mr. Charles Munns, Vice Chair (phone)
Mr. Paul Batson (phone)
Mr. Charles Dalton (phone)
Ms. Terry Seckinger (phone)

CHE Staff Present

Mr. Mike LeFever, Interim President & Executive
Director
Ms. Laura Belcher, Operations Director
Mr. Andrew Roof, Administrative Coordinator
Mr. Georges Tippens, Program Manager
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Executive Committee Members Absent

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Approval of Minutes (March 27th, 2019)

Wes Hayes

Vice Chair Munns moved and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2019, meeting as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

2. Review of the May 02, 2019, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

The Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the Commission's upcoming meeting on May 2, 2019.

Chair Hayes asked Interim President and Executive Director Mike LeFever if there is anything from the prospective President & Executive Director and Legislative Reports of which the Committee should be forewarned. Mr. LeFever expressed the necessity for an executive session to be held, as he said the Commission needed to receive counsel on the legality of its authority to intervene at institutions exhibiting signs of financial distress. Additionally, as a further need to have an executive session, he stated the Commission needed to receive updates concerning personnel matters.

Mr. LeFever reminded Chair Hayes that his Chairman's Report should raise discussion of the timing of a strategic planning session expected to be held in conjunction with the Commission's August 1st meeting. Chair Hayes then asked Commissioners who had attended previous strategic planning sessions information about session logistics and general content. Vice Chair Munns recalled for Chair Hayes that previous sessions typically were separate events from Commission meetings that occurred over two days and one night, with activities commencing at a reasonable hour in the mornings to permit Commissioners to arrive from out-of-town. Commissioner Seckinger, accounting for the agency's search for a new president and executive director among other activities, expressed her thought that the August session's content should be pared down and that another, more extensive should be scheduled nine-months post. Commissioner Batson agreed with Commissioner Seckinger's suggestions. Chair Hayes asked Mr. LeFever if he thought it a solid plan for the Commission to maintain its meeting on Thursday, August 1, and hold its strategic planning session the next day, Friday, August 2nd. Mr. LeFever expressed no objections to this proposal. Finally, Chair Hayes stated he would suggest the aforementioned dates to the full Commission during his Chairman's Report at the upcoming meeting.

Upon inquiry from Chair Hayes, Mr. LeFever briefly overviewed his Legislative Report.

Commissioner Seckinger said the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing would have no report but would provide an update on activities to advance teacher recruitment and advocacy.

Commissioner Batson will relay to the Commission the knowledge he and other Commissioners gleaned from a panel discussion on student loan debt and defaults held by the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services during its meeting on April 4, 2019. He noted his report would be purely for informative purposes.

Commissioner Dalton announced he would not be in attendance at the May meeting and that Commissioner Batson would deliver the Committee on Finance & Facilities' report on his behalf. Commissioner Batson asked Mr. Georges Tippens, facilities program manager, if a project proposed by Francis Marion University had been removed from the upcoming meeting agenda. Mr. Tippens said the project had been postponed to the June meeting, as he was waiting to receive more documentation from Francis Marion. Commissioner Batson didn't anticipate too lengthy a discussion for any of the proposed projects.

Commissioner Dalton recounted an interview he, Commissioner Seckinger, and Vice Chair Munns conducted of a president and executive director candidate on April 15, 2019. He then reviewed the schedule for upcoming interviews of other candidates.

3. Other Business

Commissioner Seckinger mentioned that issues with PRAXIS scoring were raised at the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs' (ACAP) October 2018 meeting. Noting the imperatives of the state's teacher shortage, Commissioner Seckinger suggested to Chair Hayes that they jointly meet with Superintendent Molly Spearman to discuss developments in the initiative for the state to adopt PRAXIS composite scoring. Chair Hayes expressed the need to carefully review the best strategy to maintain CHE's strong partnership with Superintendent Spearman and the S. C. Department of Education. Vice Chair Munns agreed with Chair Hayes' caution.

4. Adjournment

A **motion** was made and **seconded** for the Executive Committee to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.