

**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Meeting
November 20, 2019**

In attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair (phone)
Mr. Paul Batson (phone)
Mr. Charles Dalton (phone)
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne (phone)
Mr. Charles Munns

CHE Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive Director
Ms. Laura Belcher, Operations Director
Ms. Monica Goodwin, IT Manager
Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs
Mr. Andrew Roof, Administrative Coordinator
Mr. Georges Tippens, Program Manager
Ms. Bunnie Ward, Director of Gov. Affairs & Com.
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Executive Committee Members Absent

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 02:02 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Approval of Minutes (October 29, 2019)

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes called for approval of the minutes of the October 29, 2019, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Munns moved and Commissioner Batson seconded approval of the minutes. Receiving unanimous consent, the minutes were approved as presented.

2. Review of the December 5, 2019, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes introduced discussion of the proposed agenda for the upcoming Commission meeting on December 5.

Chair Hayes thanked CHE staff for their work in coordinating the Commission's tours of Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) and its meeting in November.

Chair Hayes asked Dr. Monhollon when the next offsite meeting would be. Dr. Monhollon answered February and relayed that Francis Marion University's president, Dr. Carter, offered to host the Commission in the spring. Vice Chair Horne and Commissioners Batson and Munns each voiced support for this recommendation. Vice Chair Horne motioned and Commissioner Batson seconded to hold the Commission's February meeting at Francis Marion University. Dr. Monhollon thanked Committee members and stated he would include notice of this in his upcoming president & executive director's report.

Chair Hayes asked Dr. Monhollon about the presentation being given by Ms. Melanie Barton, education adviser to Governor McMaster. Dr. Monhollon communicated that Ms. Barton's time would be limited, so he recommended the meeting's start time be adjusted to accommodate her schedule. In addition to Ms. Barton's presentation, Dr. Monhollon added that he would discuss his proposed additions to the CHE bylaws regarding the Council of Presidents. He assured the Commission would take no formal action on his proposal but simply engage it in discussion.

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Ward to give an overview of her prospective legislative report. She said she would provide the Commission an updated legislative tracking matrix incorporating first-round pre-filed legislation. She added that she would give an update on the activities of the Higher Education Opportunity Act's (S.298) working group, whose next meeting she stated was tentatively scheduled for December 3. Lastly, Ms. Ward informed the Committee that Legislative Council had been developing an amendment to S.298.

Commissioner Munns announced that he would not be able to attend the Commission's upcoming meeting in person but planned to participate via telephone. He stated Commissioner Seckinger and Dr. Lane would be on stand-by to give the report in the event his telephone call gets cut short.

Commissioner Munns stated one Commissioner expressed at the committee level objections to two programs proposed on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing's (CAAL) consent agenda: 6.04.A.4.University of South Carolina Columbia, Ed.D., Educational Practice and Innovation & 6.04.A.14.Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Religious Studies.

Dr. Monhollon told the Committee that he received information on the Commission's proper role and the limits of its authority in program approval at nonpublic postsecondary institutions seeking licensure. He reminded the Committee that plans were being made to have a representative from the Attorney General's office attend the January meeting to provide more in-depth training on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Dr. Monhollon stated he viewed the session as being aimed at board development and education.

Chair Hayes expressed approval of the session and asked if it would be open to the public. Dr. Monhollon answered that it would, as it did not satisfy the qualification criteria for executive privilege.

Commissioner Dalton, relaying a recommendation previously made by Commissioner Dyer, also suggested the Commission get assistance from a financial consultant to examine at a future meeting how college enrollments are trending. Chair Hayes asked which Committee would be assigned the report. Commissioner Dalton thought the report would fall under the Committee on Finance & Facilities and would be open to institutions for comment. Acknowledging the importance of awareness for uncomfortable issues and trends, Commissioner Munns cautioned to keep the tone uncontroversial. Commissioner Dalton and Dr. Monhollon agreed. Dr. Monhollon explained that it was Commissioner Dyer's intention to have an objective third party present the information.

Chair Hayes suggested the report be postponed to sometime in the spring, after the Commission's February meeting at Francis Marion University.

Dr. Monhollon mentioned an article from Inside Higher Education, which reported the Massachusetts Legislature's directive to the state's Department of Higher Education to develop a contingency plan.

Commissioner Batson stated his Committee would meet after the Commission meeting. He also relayed to the Committee that Dr. Monhollon visited Greenville, had dinner with President Miller, toured Greenville Tech's facilities, and attended its board meeting. He thanked Dr. Monhollon for coming and conveyed several Greenville Technical College's Area Commission members' enthusiasm for Dr. Monhollon's leadership of the agency.

Commissioner Dalton stated the Committee on Finance and Facilities' report would be straightforward and brief. He asked Mr. Tippens if he would change the Committee's meeting time to 11:30 am.

3. Other Business

There was no other business

4. Adjournment

At 2:38 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee.