

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education  
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
Francis Marion University  
Hendrick Room  
February 6, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members Present**

Mr. Paul Batson, Chair  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne  
Mr. Jim Battle  
Dr. Cleveland Sellers  
Dr. Mark A. Smith (Via phone)

**Commissioners Present**

Mr. Charles Dalton  
Ms. Linda Dolny  
Ms. Terrye Seckinger

**Guests Attending**

Dr. Charlie Spell, SC State University  
Ms. Reinell A. Thomas Myers, SC State University  
Senior Master Sergeant Steven David, SC Air  
National Guard  
Master Sergeant Paul Mead, SC Army National  
Guard  
Dr. Eric Brown, SC Technical College System  
Mr. Robert Crenshaw, Apprenticeship Carolina  
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina

**Staff Present**

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Mr. Andrew Roof  
Ms. Laverne Sanders  
Mr. Georges Tippens  
Ms. Bunnie Ward

**1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Paul Batson called the meeting to order. Ms. Laverne Sanders introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Battle), and **carried** to approve the minutes of December 5, 2019.

**2. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)  
FY2018-2019 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Reports (For Approval)**

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Program Manager for SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at South Carolina State University (SCSU), provided an update of the SC-PRRMT program. Ms. Thomas-Myers reported that the sites for FY2019-2020, Fall 2019, were in the school districts of Moncks Corner/Berkeley/Charleston, Richland District One, Richland Two, Fairfield, Winnsboro, Georgetown, Williamsburg,

Florence, Horry, Jasper, Barnwell, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro, Clarendon, Bamberg, Lee, Lexington #4 and Swansea. She also explained that two additional sites were established in Newberry School District and Laurens 55 for Spring 2020. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that presently there are 12 participants in the Newberry/Laurens site.

Commissioner Batson asked about the students' impression of the teaching profession. Dr. Charlie Spell, Chairperson, Department of Education, SCSU, replied that students today do not desire to become teachers. He stated that SC-PRRMT must start reaching out to students at the secondary level or even earlier, before they reach college age. He stated that there is a need to reach out to middle school students about the teaching profession. He also reported that students enrolled in the program must be encouraged to stay in the program. Commissioner Battle asked if it is difficult to recruit students into the teaching profession and whether present difficulties in recruiting students into the teaching profession exists nationally. Dr. Spell answered that there is a national struggle recruiting students into the teaching profession.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that SC-PRRMT will continue to recruit students in fall 2020 at the established sites. She stated that a teacher recruitment fair was held in Edgefield County in Fall 2019, and 25-30 students attended the event. Ms. Thomas-Myers reported that she will visit additional school districts between Summer and Fall of 2020.

Commissioner Horne **motioned** to accept SC-PRRMT's FY2019-20 Quarter Report I and II. Commissioner Battle **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

### **3. South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Regulation (For Approval)**

Dr. Woodfaulk provided an overview of the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP) proposed regulatory changes. She stated that changes were recommended by the SCNG and SC State Technical Board. Dr. Woodfaulk explained the basis for the changes is to expand the opportunities to receive the SCNG CAP funding for the SC National Guard members. She reported the current amount remains the same and that each national guard member receives a maximum amount of \$18,000. Dr. Woodfaulk stated students may use their SCNG CAP award to attend the technical system, a two-year or a four-year program.

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the removal of the 130-credit hour requirement for SCNG CAP recipients was previously approved by the Commission and the SC National Guard will move forward with presenting this change to the legislature. She stated language that limited access to the program was removed so that the program could be further expanded to allow SCNG CAP eligible service members to receive funding if pursuing less than one-year certificates and allow members to use SCNG CAP funding for a second associate degree. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that many of the service members go through military training and earned enough credit hours for their first associate degree, but not necessarily in their chosen career field. She also explained that some service members may want to pursue other career options after their first associate degree. Changes to the requirements will allow service members to pursue a second associate degree, or perhaps a second bachelor's degree.

She reported in order to receive the CAP funding, a service member must have completed the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or Basic Military Combat Training. She explained that on occasion, the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or Basic Military Combat Training assignments may not be available to service members prior to starting college. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that, as expressed by the SCNG, sometimes service members will wait six or seven months before receiving a training assignment. Dr. Woodfaulk stated this unavailability leaves a service member in a situation where they cannot take advantage of SCNG CAP funding. The SCNG CAP Advisory Committee recommended that eligible service members be given the opportunity to receive SCNG CAP funds if, under certain circumstances, training slots are not yet available. She said SCNG can determine if a slot is yet not available for service members. Under the Exception to Policy (ETP) the SC Air and Army National Guard members, if given permission, would be allowed to receive SCNG CAP funding if they have not yet received entrance assignments to AIT or BMT training. Chairman Batson asked if there had been situations where members have been denied SCNG CAP funding because a slot was not available for a service member to enter basic training. Dr. Woodfaulk reported that according to SCNG, due to the SCNG CAP funding requirements, funding had to be denied if service members did not have the opportunity to enter basic training.

Senior Master Sergeant Steven David, SC Air National Guard, explained that service members sometimes must wait ten to twelve months before they can begin basic training. He stated that the Air Force initially serves the active duty members first, and then the reservist, and lastly the service members. He reported occasionally, even though service members have been sworn into the National Guard, sometimes they are not able to serve until 2-3 years after they have made their commitments.

Mr. Robert Crenshaw, Area Director, Apprenticeship South Carolina SC Technical College System, explained the service members can obtain apprenticeship credentials at their place of employment, which helps them to develop professional and leadership skills at their place of employment. This opportunity for service members, in turn, builds long term sustainability for employers and helps employers recruit skilled employees to fill vacancies.

A motion (**Battle**) was made, seconded (**Horne**), and **carried** for approval of proposed language to the SCNG CAP regulation to include less than one-year certificates, certification programs, approval of eligibility for service members with bachelor's degrees to earn certificates, certifications, and second associate degrees, and approval of proposed language regarding the required training for service member eligibility and SCNG CAP funding. If approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education, the proposed regulation will be submitted to the SC General Assembly for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.

#### **4. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (For Information)**

Dr. Woodfaulk provided an overview of the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act. Dr. Woodfaulk stated the Act requires public institutions to report violations regarding hazing, drinking, etc. by members of campus social organizations. This information will assist students and families when making decisions about joining a fraternity or sorority on campus. She explained that the Act

was placed into permanent law during this past legislative session. Dr. Woodfaulk reported that links to each public institution's website, with exception to The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and The Citadel, are provided on CHE's website. She stated that MUSC and The Citadel reported to CHE that their institutions do not have campus fraternities and sororities.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Batson presented the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services meeting dates for 2020.

### **5. Adjournment**

There being no additional items before the Committee, Commissioner Batson requested a motion for adjournment. A motion (**Battle**) was made, seconded (**Horne**), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.