

**Meeting of the South Carolina  
Commission on Higher Education**

September 03, 2020, 12:30 p.m.  
via Zoom

**Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown  
Commissioner Charles Dalton  
Commissioner Linda Dolny  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer  
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Charles Munns  
Commissioner Ben Satcher  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Mark Smith  
Commissioner Patrick White

**Excused Members**

Commissioner James Battle  
Commissioner Devron Edwards

**Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Monica Goodwin  
Dr. John Lane  
Mr. Andrew Roof  
Dr. Regine Rucker

Ms. Shakara Smith  
Mr. Georges Tippens  
Ms. Bunnie Ward  
Mr. Bryce Wilson  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Dr. Lishu Yin

**Guests**

Ms. Hope Rives, SC Technical College System  
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University  
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina,  
Columbia  
Ms. Tangar Young, SC State University  
Dr. Jeffrey Perez, SC Independent Colleges &  
Universities  
Dr. Jenna Hallman, Center for Educator  
Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement

Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South  
Carolina, Aiken  
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Dr. Kimberly Walker, University of South  
Carolina-Upstate  
Dr. Karen Roof, The Citadel  
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University  
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University  
Mr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University

**All Attended by Phone or Video Conference**

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**I. 1. Introductions and Roll Call to Establish Quorum**

Ms. Belcher introduced the Commissioners and guests in attendance. She confirmed a quorum of the Commission and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the July 30, 2020, CHE meeting and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes shared that Commissioners should have received their CHE standing committee assignments for 2020-21. He then explained that annually the Commission must elect a vice chair and then opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Satcher nominated Commissioner Horne and Commissioner Batson seconded the nomination. Commissioner Satcher then moved to close nominations, and Commissioner Brown seconded. Chair Hayes proceeded with the vote and the motion carried. Chair Hayes announced that Commissioner Horne will remain vice chair and thanked her for her service. He proceeded to thank the Commission staff for their work.

## **4. President and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon shared an update regarding the status of the CHE office lease. He stated the lease was approved by the State Fiscal Approval Authority (SFAA) at its August 18 meeting. He further explained that the Commission has vacated the second floor and plans to transition to the fourth floor early in 2021.

President Monhollon then provided an overview of the operational plan for the Public Agenda. He explained that Senior Staff had a retreat and began discussing the preliminaries of developing the plan and priorities based on HEAC recommendations. He stated that a draft plan will be presented to the Commission at the October meeting, at which Commissioners will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Next, President Monhollon discussed fall re-opening plans for institutions of higher education, some of which included a traditional fall schedule and others a more modified approach. He explained that institutions have incurred or will incur expenses estimated to be about \$122 million, which does not account for lost revenue. They incurred expenses when the pandemic hit in the spring, and have incurred additional costs in preparation for a safe fall reopening with social distancing guidelines implemented. He then shared initial headcount enrollment, which were better than projected over the summer and higher than what the institutions had budgeted. Commissioner Seckinger expressed her belief that a transfer program would be essential to ensure students stay enrolled. Chair Hayes then asked about technical college enrollment, to which President Monhollon responded that systemwide technical college enrollment is down about 5.5 percent. President Monhollon then explained that all institutions of higher education (IHE) have frozen tuition and have exercised different methods of reducing expenses, including furloughs, retirement incentives, voluntary separation, and part-time staff cuts, among others.

President Monhollon shared that most institutions have enough resources to manage the fall 2020 semester, however, there is some concern beyond the spring semester. He next stated that he asked the General Assembly to do the following: continue funding colleges and universities at FY 2020 levels, appropriate funding of the CARES Act to offset COVID-19 related expenses, give institutions flexibility to move funds within their institution to address different needs, and raise the in-state fee waiver from four to eight percent. Commissioner Munns suggested the CHE should discuss with IHEs the prioritization of allocating vaccines to colleges once established. Commissioner Sellers inquired about

IHE plans for addressing quarantined students. President Monhollon explained that each institution has their own individualized plans in place.

## **5. Legislative Report**

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward provided an update on the state budget. She shared that the General Assembly will convene September 15 to pass the final FY2020-21 budget and distribute the CARES Act funding. She stated that some uncertainty exists regarding whether the budget will go forward as a full budget or as a continuing resolution. She then explained ongoing discussion with other governmental relations staff about increasing the in-state fee waiver from four percent to eight percent and about the continuing need for additional need-based scholarships. She explained that the Board of Economic Advisers (BEA) met August 31 and provided a final report for FY 2019-20, and a preliminary forecast for FY 2020-21.

Ms. Ward next shared concerns identified by the BEA including: the potential for additional layoffs with the expiration of the Federal paycheck protection program, additional stimulus actions, and concerns surrounding hiring in 2021. She shared that recurring funds for FY 2020 would be \$86.1 million, with another \$47.6 million that was already appropriated. She reported that the BEA will meet again in October with the regional economist panel to review the data and provide an updated forecast.

Ms. Ward shared that the CHE has also been working with legislative staff regarding a proviso to address concerns related to SAT and ACT test cancellations that occurred during the spring of 2020. She stated that legislative staff has drafted a proviso, which has been forwarded to both the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees to be discussed during the September 15 session. Chair Hayes inquired how much remained at the end of the 2020 fiscal year. Ms. Ward responded the final collections for FY 2020 totaled \$9,793.3 million, which resulted in a revenue surplus of \$462.6 million. Seckinger suggested the CHE evaluate the validity of standardized testing, to which Ms. Ward shared that it is currently being evaluated. Commissioners and Dr. Monhollon engaged in extensive discussion regarding the validity of standardized testing.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes reported that Commissioner Horne agreed to lead efforts in reviewing the CHE Bylaws.

### **6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

Commissioner Munns introduced the items from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. He reported the Committee had three items on the agenda, one item for approval, and two presentations that were on last month's CHE agenda.

#### **A. CERRA 2019-2020 Annual Report and FY 2021-2022 Budget Request**

Commissioner Munns shared an update regarding the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), which is funded to recruit teachers in South Carolina. He stated that the Committee recommends approval of the budget. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comments or discussion, then called for a vote on the motion to approve the CERRA budget, which passed unanimously.

#### **B. Presentation on Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2018**

Dr. Regine Rucker provided a summary of the Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen. Her summary included a breakdown of freshmen enrollment data based on race, gender, residency and a summary of applications received versus actual enrollment over a four-year period. She then discussed short-term and long-term actions that may be taken by the CHE to assist in increasing student access. Commissioner Horne inquired regarding actions to help increase the number of reported African American students entering as freshmen. Dr. Lane replied that CAAL and staff are investigating demographic data in new ways for the same purpose. Dr. Rucker added that more in depth analysis will be done as the data is continuously collected.

C. Presentation on Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs, FY 2017-2018

Dr. Yin provided a summary of the Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs. She shared the following: a summary of the status of program offerings over a three-year period, a comparison of the number of graduates over a two-year period across technical colleges, and a summary of programs that are on probation.

**6.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services**

No report. Commissioner Batson shared that the Committee will meet immediately following the CHE meeting.

**6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee met prior to the CHE meeting and had three items to present.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approval

1. Midlands Technical College

A. Airport Learning Resource Center Improvements

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the project. Mr. Tippens explained that Midlands Technical College sought recommendation of the CHE to begin Phase I of a project to renovate its Learning Resource Center, a 11,275-square foot space in the college's 75,000-square feet academic center building. The request was for \$37, 500.

B. Midlands Technical College – Center for QuickJobs Training and Workforce Development

Mr. Tippens explained that Midlands Technical College sought recommendation of the CHE to begin the construction phase of a project that will demolish two facilities on its Beltline campus and replace them with a 56,500-square foot new facility, which will house their Business and QuickJob programs. He stated that institutional resources will be used to fund the project, but they will also use a \$10 million bond to finalize the project, which will be repaid with County appropriations.

2. USC - Columbia

A. Taylor House Maintenance Renovation. Mr. Tippens explained that USC sought recommendation of the CHE to begin Phase II construction of a project to perform interior renovations on the Taylor House, a 14,000-square foot, 112-year-old

building that previously housed the Columbia Art Museum. He stated that USC has private donations to cover 70 percent of the funding, which will be used to address maintenance to the interior of the house. He shared that the space will primarily be used to house the Rule of Law program.

Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the three proposals. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comments or discussion, then called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

## B. Proposed Review Standards for Permanent Improvement Project Submittals

Commissioner Dalton described the policy for permanent improvement project submittals. He stated that the policy will become effective October 30, 2020 and opened the floor to any questions or concerns. Chair Hayes thanked the committee and task force for their hard work on developing the policy and shared that CAAL will draft a policy similar as well.

### A. Other Business

#### Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during August

Mr. Tippens reported that he approved ten projects with six being close-out projects and four were increasing the budgets. He explained that two projects had money funded by legislative appropriation. He further explained that one project was for Byrd Hall renovation, for which The Citadel received a \$2.5 million appropriation to enter the construction phase on the project. He next described the Technical College of the Lowcountry project, which was presented to the Commission in March, but because of COVID-19 it was not presented to the Joint Board Review Committee (JBRC). He stated that the college retracted the original request to the Commission and submitted a new proposal for \$3.5 million to be funded and supported by legislative appropriation. He explained that the other two approved project increases were from USC, for which he transferred excess funds towards other project completions.

## 7. Other Business Announcements

Commissioner Batson announced that the Committee of Access and Equity will meet immediately following the CHE meeting.

## 8. Public Comment

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any public comment. There were no comments from the public.

## II. 9. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.