



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

December 03, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

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 Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Charles Munns

Commissioner Ben Satcher
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mark Smith

Excused Members

Commissioner Devron Edwards
Commissioner Patrick White

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Monica Goodwin
Dr. John Lane
Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Mr. Benjamin Banks, Francis Marion University
Mr. James Battle, Former Commissioner
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Mr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College

Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Mr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University



Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Sara Hottinger, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Columbia
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Mr. J.W. Kellam, Converse College
Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston

Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Dr. Kimberly Walker, University of South
Carolina, Upstate

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

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 November 5, 2020 CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes acknowledged former Commissioner Jim Battle for his service to the Commission as the representative for the comprehensive campuses. Chair Hayes next called on Commissioner Batson to share a few words of condolence for the late Dr. Fred Fore, former president of Florence-Darlington Technical College, and former CHE Commissioner.

4. Public Hearing



Chair Hayes called the public hearing to order to consider proposed regulation changes to the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and SC HOPE Scholarships, which will clarify the policies and procedures for consistency in administering the scholarship programs at the public and independent colleges and universities in the state. He also informed that notice for the public hearing was published in the State Register and confirmed there were no written requests to provide comments at this hearing. Chair Hayes opened the floor to any comments or questions. Hearing no comments, Chair Hayes moved, and Commissioner Horne seconded that the public hearing close, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon provided an update on the CHE's new branding initiative, which would increase consistency and professionalism across all communication platforms. He next shared an update on the CHE move, which will occur the week of December 14.

In regard to the budget for FY 2021, President Monhollon stated that the state is operating on a Continuing Resolution and that the Board of Economic Advisors made the following projections: a budget increase of 1.7 percent, \$182 million of new revenue, \$987 million in one-time revenue and \$53 million increase in lottery funds. President Monhollon said that the CHE's FY 2022 budget request was quite modest, with \$8 million for need-based financial aid, \$1.5 million for PASCAL and a slight increase for administering financial aid programs.

Transitioning to an update regarding the pandemic and how it impacts higher education, President Monhollon shared that most students are completing the semester from home and most campuses would resume their typical schedules for the spring, some with a slight delay. President Monhollon shared that according to South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) President Jeff Perez, who is a member of the South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee, faculty, staff, and students will be included in Phase II of vaccine administration.

Next, President Monhollon provided a Fall 2020 enrollment update as it relates to full-time enrollment (FTE) data for years 2018 through 2020 for state public institutions.



Commissioner Smith stated that the CHE should take proactive measures to help increase FTE numbers, and suggested that the CHE request research dollars from the legislature to promote new programs.

Commissioner Batson asked that the enrollment data be updated on a regular basis and requested that an update is provided again in the spring and summer semesters. Commissioner Brown requested data that would illustrate whether the decrease in FTE numbers is more related to lack of new enrollment versus lack of retention of current students, to which President Monhollon responded he would work with the CHE staff to assist with the analysis.

President Monhollon concluded his report with two final points. He recognized Dr. Woodfaulk and the Office of Student Affairs for a successful College Application Month and shared that the CHE would undergo some position reorientation to include the creation of a Deputy & General Counsel position, which would be filled by mid-December.

6. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward shared that the first legislative session will begin on January 12, 2021 and that deadlines for the General Assembly pre-file bills are December 9 and 16. She stated that there are education related pre-file bills this session and that there will not be a large omnibus education bill coming forward in the next legislative session. Ms. Ward shared that she is conducting various meetings with key legislators regarding the upcoming legislative session to discuss top priorities and how those relate to higher education. Ms. Ward stated that there will be some turnover in the House Ways and Means Committee and that the House Education Committee has some reassignments, as well. Ms. Ward mentioned that the CHE will provide a summary of CHE work to the new legislative staff to inform them on core services and policies of the Commission. Commissioner Seckinger requested that Ms. Ward send the pre-files to her once they have been received. Regarding the FY 2021-22 budget, Ms. Ward shared that the House Ways and Means Committee will meet the week of January 4. She added that the CHE's budget has been presented to the Governor's and Executive Budget Offices and a presentation will be given to the House Ways and Means Committee prior to the winter holidays.



7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes shared an informal endorsement on behalf of the Executive Committee of the CHE's Public Agenda Implementation Plan as previously presented to the Commission. Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to provide an overview presentation of the Plan. President Monhollon thanked Commissioners and the CHE staff for their suggestions and contributions to the Plan. He next provided a brief overview of the Implementation Plan, next steps, and how progress will be communicated annually. President Monhollon shared that in advancing the Plan there will be some office reorientation and hiring of an outside consultant to assist with acquiring grants to fund some initiatives.

President Monhollon reported that divisions within the CHE will be referred to as Offices progressing forward. In reference to the CHE's outline of functional responsibilities, Commissioner Smith expressed the importance of specifying an Office within the CHE to focus on securing grants and promoting new initiatives, to which President Monhollon expressed that securing grants is within the Implementation Plan and also stated that he would connect with Commissioner Smith to discuss further. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comment or discussion, then motioned on behalf of the Executive Committee that the Commission endorses the Implementation Plan as presented by President Monhollon. The Plan was endorsed unanimously.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns introduced the items from the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). He reported the Committee had eight items on the agenda.

- A. SmartState Annual Budget
- B. NC-SARA Appeals Process
- C. Biennial Report on Program Productivity 2014-2018
- D. Program Approvals
 1. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Women's and Gender Studies



2. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Women's and Gender Studies

Commissioner Munns shared that the program approval proposals from Coastal Carolina University, items D.1, B.A. Women's and Gender Studies and D.2, B.S. Women's and Gender Studies will be removed from the consent agenda by request. Commissioner Munns then provided an overview of the three consent items: SmartState Annual Budget, NC-SARA Appeals Process, and the Biennial Report on Program Productivity 2014-2018. He motioned that the Commission approve the consent agenda, which was approved unanimously. Commissioner Munns then discussed Coastal Carolina's two proposals, stating that CAAL initially approved the programs earlier in February 2020, but the projects were delayed given pandemic restrictions. Coastal Carolina staff provided an overview of the programs and expressed the importance of further promoting women in STEM-focused programs. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concerns with the program, stating that the curriculum only focuses on gender rather than competency in the workforce. Commissioners Dolny, Sellers and Horne expressed support for the program proposals, while Commissioner Brown expressed the importance in considering market needs. Commissioner Munns then moved to have the two proposals approved. Commissioner Seckinger requested a roll call vote, to which Chair Hayes agreed. With a vote of ten to two, the motion passed to approve the B.A. & B.S., Women's and Gender Studies programs.

E. Proposal Review Ad Hoc Committee

F. Annual Report on Terminated and Approved Programs, FY 2019-20

G. Annual Report on Licensing Activities, 2019-2020

H. Dual Enrollment Data Summary

Finally, Commissioner Munns shared items E. through H. as informational and provided an overview and welcomed any questions or comments. Commissioner Munns then called on Dr. Lane to present more information about item H., the Dual Enrollment Data Summary.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services

No report.



7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the CHE meeting and had seven permanent improvement projects to consider, with all projects approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee. He mentioned that item A.1.b., the Library Learning Complex proposal, was approved, but one Commissioner opposed the project.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

1. Coastal Carolina University
 - a. Kimbrel Library Renovation
 - Phase I Budget Increase, Revise Scope
 - b. Library Learning Complex
 - Increase Budget (Phase II), Revise Scope, Change Project Name
2. College of Charleston
 - a. 2021 Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
3. Francis Marion University
 - a. Medical Education Facility – Preliminary Land & Building Acquisition
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
4. Medical University of South Carolina
 - a. College of Health Professions Land Acquisition: 159 Rutledge Avenue, Charleston, SC
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - b. New College of Pharmacy Addition and Innovative Instructional Redesign Renovation
 - Change Source of Funds (Phase II)
5. Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College
 - c. Otech Health Science Building Mechanical/Electrical Upgrades
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)



Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the seven proposals. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comments or discussion, then called for a vote, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Dalton added that the Committee on Finance and Facilities also reviewed the 2021 Committee Meeting schedule and proposed project submittal deadlines.

B. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during November

Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to describe the November Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals. Mr. Tippens shared that he approved six projects, including three closeouts from Clemson University, Lander University, and USC-Upstate, two cancellations from Denmark Technical College, and the establishment of a legislatively appropriated project. Mr. Tippens explained that the two cancelled projects from Denmark Technical College related to the institution receiving approval to use the funds for general operating purposes rather than capital projects.

8. Other Business Announcements

Commissioner Mobley expressed the importance of advocating for equitable access to broadband online education and targeting groups who have started degree programs, but did not matriculate.

9. Public Comment

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

10. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.