



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
September 2, 2021, 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 Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mark Smith
Commissioner Patrick White

Members Excused

Commissioner Devron Edwards
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Monica Goodwin
Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Ms. Shakara Smith
Mr. Georges Tippens
Mr. James Vant
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Eric Bedingfield, Greenville Technical College

Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University



Dr. Mark P. Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Ms. Sarah Dowd, Trident Technical College
Dr. Daniel Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Jenna Hallman, CERRA
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Columbia
Dr. Keith Miller, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston
Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges &
Universities
Ms. Karen Roof, The Citadel
Mr. John Scott, Lander University

Mr. Eddie Shannon, SC Independent Colleges and
Universities
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College
System
Mr. Adam Taylor, Lander University
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of
South Carolina
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina
Aiken

All Attended either In-Person, 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. 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 August 12, 2021, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Mobley motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Dolny seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes stated that CHE Bylaws are to be reviewed yearly and requested that Vice Chair Horne lead a committee in conducting the review. He then thanked President Monhollon and staff for their work in executing a successful CHE annual retreat.



4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon announced CHE personnel actions: Ms. Tanya Weigold is the new Scholarship/Grants Coordinator for the Office of Student Affairs; three offers have been extended for the positions of Workforce Development Manager; Licensing Coordinator and Program Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs; and interviews are currently being conducted for the Director of Academic Affairs position. He shared that CHE has resumed hybrid schedules as of September 1; the agency has multiple reports due this month and that Mr. Frank Myers was awarded the President's Award from the National Association of State Approving Agencies.

President Monhollon provided an update on new statutes and Provisos in which CHE is required to ensure compliance: Act 26 REACH Act; Proviso 11.20 Doctoral Professional University Classification; Proviso 117.152 Transfer Students; and Proviso 117.176 Longitudinal Funding Report.

President Monhollon reported that he has been meeting weekly with presidents to discuss their fall plans and how to keep students, faculty, and staff safe on campus. He shared that the SC Supreme Court ruled that Proviso 117.90 did not prohibit higher education institutions from requiring masks on campus. President Monhollon said that there has been an insignificant amount of opposition on wearing masks and shared that some Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) have introduced various vaccine incentives for students, including gift cards, apparel, and free tuition. He stated that vaccination rates across campuses ranged from 65 to 95 percent for faculty and 40 to 70 percent for students.

President Monhollon provided a preliminary update on fall enrollment numbers, illustrating a change from 2019 to fall 2021. He reported that research institutions enrollment numbers have increased, while the comprehensive and regional institutions have decreased. He stated that independent colleges and the technical college system data are not available. President Monhollon next provided an update on the Council of Presidents stating that presidents were impressed with the CHE's retreat and has requested that the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) meet with the Council at the next meeting.



President Monhollon listed his recent activities, which included meeting with Senator Turner, and Representatives McDaniel and Simrill; attendance at the State Chamber's Washington Night; and interviews for the Director of Academic Affairs position. President Monhollon reiterated the primary goals and priorities of the Public Agenda Implementation, which are to increase postsecondary attainment, enhance access and affordability, ensure student success, and strengthen the state's workforce. According to a projection conducted by CHE staff, President Monhollon reported that by 2026 there could potentially be an increase of 15,000 undergraduate students, but after 2027 there will be a decline to approximately 6,000 more students than we have currently.

Commissioner Smith commented that the ongoing nursing shortage is a significant concern to be considered, and asked how the Public Agenda addresses the crisis, to which President Monhollon responded that IHL are trying to increase the number of seats available and mentioned that there are other fields where critical shortages exist such as trades jobs and teaching. Commissioner Dolny added that Greenville Technical College expressed that there has been a shortage in clinicals openings. President Monhollon concluded by stating that 30 percent of the workforce has a high school diploma or less and that a higher percentage of students come into the state than leave the state, which makes it essential to better align workforce needs with higher education.

5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward announced April 6, 2022, as the date for Higher Education Day at the SC State House. Relating to a budgetary update, Ms. Ward announced that according to the August 26 Revenue Digest, fiscal year 2021 ended with general fund revenues of \$1.296 billion higher than the last fiscal year. Ms. Ward reported that the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) projects that growth is unsustainable without stimulus funds and the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) will consider the 2022 estimates at the next meeting scheduled November 23. She said that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) testimony is taking place today in which the federal budget reconciliation and the infrastructure are being considered. Ms. Ward announced that the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) is in support of the following: maximum funding for college



completion; federal partnerships to strengthen two and four year institutions; increasing the amount for Pell grants for minority institutions; strengthening the nursing teacher pipeline and modernizing IHL facilities. Ms. Ward described the \$62 billion College Completion fund proposed by President Biden, which places high emphasis on high needs institutions, student supports, recruitment of faculty and staff, and free community college with a 55 percent federal match.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to describe the Executive Committee item. President Monhollon described the REACH Act and stated that the CHE has proposed a plan to ensure institutions are compliant with the requirements. He said that institutions' Board of Trustees chairs must assure that the requirement would not add any additional hours to the degree programs and that Presidents/Provost will ensure compliance of the requirements annually by providing a list of courses that satisfy the requirement. President Monhollon stated that the collected materials will be shared with the General Assembly in November. Chair Hayes called for a vote to adopt the plan and it was passed unanimously.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns shared that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered two items on the consent agenda, CERRA FY 20-21 Annual Report and Continuing Awards for EIA Center of Excellence Competitive Grants. Commissioner Munns expressed the importance of addressing the teacher shortage in addition to the nursing shortage. He described the two reports and moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for a vote; the consent agenda was passed unanimously.

6.03. Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Commissioner Batson commended the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services consent agenda for consideration: Quarterly Report (Quarter 3), FY 2020-21 Annual Report, and FY 2022-23 EIA



Allocation Request for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) and three regulatory change items, Determination of Rates of Tuition and Fees, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program, and the LIFE Scholarship Program. Commissioner White asked if there were any consideration of increasing the budget of SC-PRRMT rather than maintaining it at \$339,000, to which Dr. Woodfaulk shared that per the proviso, SC-PRRMT is allocated a percentage of the Center for Educator Recruitment Retention and Advancement (CERRA) funding. She explained that if there was an increase in the funding allocation for CERRA, SC-PRRMT would receive an increase as well. Commissioner Munns shared that there was a \$1.5 million increase in the CERRA budget. Dr. Jenna Hallman, Executive Director of CERRA, shared that there is not a provision that would increase the EIA funds in the current plan, but the plan can be revised. Chair Hayes said that the CHE should consider increasing the budget. Dr. Hallman asked whether she should submit an updated budget. Commissioner Munns requested the CHE be informed of any changes made. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the consent agenda was passed unanimously. Commissioner Batson offered the SC State Approving Agency annual report for information only.

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had twelve proposals from seven institutions; The Citadel, Stevens Barracks Replacement; Clemson University, Development and Alumni Center Construction, Core Campus Safety and Revitalization, and Memorial Stadium Renovation; Coastal Carolina University, Eaglin Residence Hall Renovation; College of Charleston, McAlister Hall Renovation, Silcox PE and Health Center Envelope Repair and First Floor Renovation, and Wentworth Garage Renovation; Greenville Technical College, New Arts and Sciences Building Construction; Medical University of South Carolina, Hollings Cancer Center 3rd Floor Replacement; and Winthrop University, Campus E&G and Auxiliary Building Wi-fi Upgrade and Demolition for Wofford Hall. Commissioner Dalton stated that a primary concern from the Committee was what impact, if any, the projects would have on student fees due to the number of projects planning to issue debt. Commissioner Dalton said that all projects received favorable recommendation from the Committee based on the institutional responses the



Committee received to its questions and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda, which was approved unanimously after Chair Hayes called for the vote. Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee would begin work of its next task force chaired by Commissioner Dyer. He explained that the task force will conduct a study on how tuition revenues are being allocated by IHL. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for August. Mr. Tippens explained that CHE staff approved eight institutional requests, six of which were establishing projects through legislative appropriations, and two were project closures: Greenville Technical College's Benson Campus Amphitheater project and Lander University's Intramural Field Renovation project.

7. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. Commissioner Dyer shared a concern from a parent regarding an in-state residency issue and requested that there be a discussion with presidents regarding a more centralized appeals process. Dr. Woodfaulk confirmed that appeal decisions are currently made at the institutional level and that she would connect with President Monhollon to continue the discussion. Commissioner White proposed establishing a tax credit incentive for businesses or individuals to get involved with supporting teacher and nursing salaries, to which Chair Hayes requested that Commissioner White research what sister states are doing and report back to the board.

8. Public Comment

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

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Horne moved and Commissioner Mobley seconded to go into executive session to discuss HR policies and no action was taken.

II. 10. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.