



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
December 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 Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mark Smith
Commissioner Patrick White

Members Excused

Commissioner Devron Edwards

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Dr. Mariam Dittmann
Ms. Monica Goodwin
Ms. DaVaris Hatten
Mr. Rick Moul

Dr. Regine Rucker
Ms. Christina Seale
Ms. Shakara Smith
Ms. Crystal Standifer
Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk



Guests

Dr. Theresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Dr. Chris Cox, Clemson University
Dr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Dr. Daniel Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Columbia
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Mr. John Morgenstern, Clemson University
Ms. Reinell Thomas Myers, SC State University
Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges &
Universities

Dr. Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Ms. Rosalyn Sumter, Technical College System
Office
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Dr. Kimberly Walker, Technical College System
Office
Dr. Jennifer Weibank, Horry Georgetown
Technical College
Dr. Patrick Wamsley, Medical University of South
Carolina

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 November 4, 2021, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Munns seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked Commissioners and CHE staff for all their hard work.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon announced new CHE hires: Tina Seale, Compliance Auditor in the Office of Fiscal Affairs and Crystal Standifer, Program Coordinator with the State Approving Agency. He extended congratulations to Tanya and Tim Weigold for the birth of their daughter. In honor of recognizing Veterans Day, President Monhollon shared that the CHE's Fun Committee organized an office event celebrating CHE staff who served in the US military. He thanked Mr. Frank Myers, Mr. Kevin Glears, Mr. Bryce Wilson, Chair Hayes, Commissioner Batson, Commissioner White, and Commissioner Munns who served in the armed services.

President Monhollon asked Commissioners whether there was interest in resuming offsite campus visits starting with the CHE meeting scheduled in March. He proposed visiting South Carolina State University and Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College at which presidents have expressed interest in hosting. President Monhollon added that Denmark Technical College could be a possibility but could pose a challenge given the limited amount of time. Commissioners agreed with resuming campus visits in March. Commissioner Dyer suggested that the Commission consider visiting a private campus for a future meeting, to which President Monhollon suggested that presidents from Claflin University and Voorhees College be invited to the March CHE Meeting. Commissioner Sellers expressed the importance of visiting Orangeburg to get a better sense of resources needed and to evaluate how to better serve the students in that region.

President Monhollon provided highlights of his recent activities. He shared that he and CHE staff attended the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) annual conference in Washington. President Monhollon also joined other SHEEO members in a meeting with Secretary of Education Miguel A. Cardona regarding the Biden administration's higher education agenda and attended the investiture of



President Dwaun Warmack at Claflin University; and attended Senator Leatherman's memorial service. President Monhollon reported that newly available federal data suggests that online education has become more popular and will continue to increase. According to IPEDs data, President Monhollon reported that at least fifty-two percent of students took at least one online course. Commissioner Munns asked if the data considered degree seeking programs, to which President Monhollon confirmed.

Commissioner Seckinger asked whether there is a report on the success rate of online learning, to which President Monhollon said that information is not available. President Monhollon reported that according to the National Association of Colleges of Nursing, student enrollment in nursing programs has increased in 2020 despite pandemic concerns. President Monhollon said there is a shortage in clinical sites, faculty and resources, which impacts student access.

President Monhollon shared a timeline of events relating to CHE's actions in ensuring REACH Act compliance. He said that the CHE completed the following: presented the CHE's plan of compliance to the Commission on June 3; distributed a draft plan to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHE) on July 9; presented procedures which were approved by CHE on September 2; gave IHE a deadline to submit syllabi by October 1; compiled and distributed an interim report to the General Assembly; updated the Commission on the interim report; shared the submitted syllabi with Commissioners on December 1; and plans to submit the final report to the General Assembly in May. He explained that the Act requires undergraduates to complete reading of five founding documents. President Monhollon said that the CHE staff will work with institutions that require additional guidance and that no determination of compliance or noncompliance has been determined by the CHE at this time.

In reviewing the submitted syllabi, Commissioner Smith assessed that there were several institutions that did not indicate that the required readings were being implemented and, in some cases, seemed to present the documents negatively. He asked whether the CHE has an approach in addressing this concern, to which President Monhollon responded that it would be a challenge to assess whether a syllabus presents a founding document negatively. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the REACH Act topic could be an agenda item for the next CHE Meeting and whether the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing



(CAAL) should consider the item ahead of the next full CHE meeting. Commissioner Munns responded that the topic is not a CAAL issue, and that the CHE staff is responsible for ensuring compliance.

Commissioners Dyer, Seckinger, and Smith requested that commissioners have an opportunity to review the final report before it goes to the General Assembly in May.

Commissioner Seckinger asked whether CHE staff is ensuring that the three-hour statute requirement is met, to which President Monhollon confirmed. He explained the complexity of assessing whether a course is compliant and contains all five required components. Commissioner Seckinger suggested that the CHE consult with general counsel at the General Assembly to get clarification on ensuring compliance.

Commissioner Munns expressed support to revisit the topic during the February CHE meeting, but does not think that additional intervention is required by general counsel.

Commissioner Sellers expressed support that the CHE needs to further discuss the REACH Act related syllabi. He shared an experience regarding the African American plight after the Civil War and expressed the importance of further education regarding this issue. Commissioner Horne expressed that CHE should be objective in determining compliance or noncompliance, while trusting the syllabi and the agreed upon procedure of reviewing the documents. Commissioner Seckinger requested that President Monhollon reiterate the CHE's role in ensuring compliance, to which President Monhollon explained that CHE's role is to review syllabi and confirm that it includes the five required readings in their entirety and is included in a three-hour credit course. Chair Hayes said that there may be some disagreement on what qualifies as an equivalent course as specified within the requirement, to which Commissioner Seckinger suggested getting a legal opinion. Commissioner Dyer recommended that the CHE make suggestions on how to revise syllabi to satisfy the REACH Act compliance. Chair Hayes said that the REACH Act syllabi can be placed on the February CHE meeting agenda, which will allow Commissioners to review the syllabi and allow staff to complete their review.

President Monhollon provided an update on the Public Agenda. He explained that the goal is to increase high quality secondary credentials to 60 percent by 2030 through reducing achievement gaps. He further described the key priorities including enhancing access and affordability; ensuring student success; and



strengthening and developing the state's workforce. President Monhollon reported on actions that the CHE has taken related to the Public Agenda: increased need-based financial aid; developed retention strategies for statewide scholarships; conducted 247 college access month events across the state; joined Complete College Alliance (CCA); formed a dual enrollment advisory committee; engaged in work related to proviso 117.152, student transfer credit; worked with the SHEEO and the Gardner Institute regarding a statewide transfer project; and engaged in conversations with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, SC Department of Commerce, SC Technical College System, Governor's Office, and the Education Oversight Committee regarding credentialing. He said that CHE staff continues to develop the Commission's communication strategy and that the Office of Communications is in the process of hiring a communications manager and coordinator.

President Monhollon explained the CHE has requested state support in funding the continuation of need-based funding; \$10 million for adult learners; support staff to progress key student success activities and programs; various ASCEND 60x30 initiatives; and restructuring agency operations. Regarding access and affordability, President Monhollon called on Rick Moul, PASCAL, to provide an overview of the affordable learning program. Mr. Moul explained that the initiative is designed to decrease or eliminate the cost of textbooks for students through free online resources. He said that the program launched in 2018 and shares partnerships with several schools. Mr. Moul reported that PASCAL is part of the Open Education Network (OER) and has conducted several outreach webinars to encourage faculty participation in the initiative. He said that the goal is to decrease the cost of courses for students.

He explained next steps stating that PASCAL would require between \$75,000 to \$100,000 to develop the program and to expand the infrastructure, in which funds would be used to develop a portal to identify materials that can be used by faculty. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether there is an opportunity to refresh the online materials, and Mr. Moul confirmed. Commissioner Horne discussed the typical cost to students for textbooks and said that this issue is relevant and ongoing.



5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward provided an updated bill summary of the current legislative session, which includes prefiled bills and existing bills that have crossed over from the previous legislative year. Ms. Ward reported on H3614, which would require students to complete the FAFSA, S16 which would require students to complete a financial literacy course, H3144 which would provide scholarships funds to two-year technical college students with specific eligibility requirements; H3588 relating to the LIFE scholarship requirements; H3591 regarding educator preparation report cards; and H3465 allowing a teacher to renew a certificate without having to meet any additional renewal requirements after 20 years of teaching. Ms. Ward shared that she meets each month with legislative representatives and governmental relations staff from institutions to stay abreast of legislative top priorities relating to higher education.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Horne to provide an update on the CHE Bylaws. She explained that the Executive Committee considered the document provided by President Monhollon and concluded that the document does not need to be included in the CHE Bylaws, but rather as part of new commissioner orientation. Chair Hayes thanked Commissioner Horne and the Committee for their review of the Bylaws.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns said that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) did not have any action items to consider. For information, Commissioner Munns reported that the CAAL is reviewing the licensure procedures for nonpublic postsecondary schools. He said that the proposal will go before ACAP in January, CAAL in February and be presented to the CHE in March.



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

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services had one action item on the consent agenda, SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) FY2020-21 Fourth Quarter Report. He expressed the importance of the program and recommended approval of the report. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the report was approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson mentioned one item for information, SC National Guard College Assistance Program Presentation.

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities reviewed thirteen permanent improvement proposals from seven institutions; Clemson University, Advanced Materials Innovation Complex Construction, Bryan Mall High Rise Renovation, Green Tiger I Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, Johnstone Hall and Union Building Complex, NCEES Building Acquisition; Coastal Carolina University, Land Donation for Future Capital Improvement Projects; College of Charleston Central Energy Facility and Piping Infrastructure Upgrades; Medical University of South Carolina, College of Health Professions President Street Academic Building and Basic Science Building Air Handler Unit #1 Replacement; Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton Campus Oconee Hall Renovation; University of South Carolina Upstate, 151 Smith Circle Property Acquisition and 8000 Valley Falls Road Property Acquisition; and Winthrop University, Campus E&G and Auxiliary Building Wi-Fi Upgrade. Commissioner Dalton requested a revision to the consent agenda: removal of item 4a. Horry-Georgetown Technical College's Diesel Engine Facility Expansion, which was removed at the request of the institution. Commissioner Seckinger and Commissioner Horne moved and seconded for the modification to the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the Commissioners approved removal of the project. Chair Dalton also reported that items 1a, 1b, and 1c. from Clemson University were approved conditionally subject to Clemson University providing information on its existing and future planned debt financing to the Commission prior to seeking Phase II approval. Chair Dalton motioned to remove items 1a, 1b, & 1c. from the consent agenda and to



have the items considered separately. Commissioner Seckinger moved and Commissioner Horne seconded to remove the three items from the consent agenda and to vote on them separately. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the three items were removed from the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote on the three Clemson items, Advanced Materials Innovation Complex Construction, Bryan Mall High Rise Renovation, and Green Tiger I Guaranteed Energy Savings Project and the items were approved. Chair Hayes then called for a vote on the remaining items on the consent agenda. Prior to the vote, Commissioner Dyer recused himself due to serving on the Coastal Carolina University Foundation Board, which is proposing to transfer property to Coastal Carolina University. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved.

Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for November. Mr. Tippens reported that CHE staff approved ten institutional requests, of which six were establishing projects, three were project closures, and one was a scope revision to an existing project.

7. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. There was no other business to consider.

8. Public Comment

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

9. Executive Session

Commissioner Dyer moved and Commissioner Horne seconded to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Chair Hayes called for the vote and it was approved unanimously that Commissioners go into executive session. The Commissioners returned from executive session and Chair Hayes reported that no action was taken in executive session.



II. 10. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes and President Monhollon thanked everyone for their work and for attending the meeting. The Commission adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

