



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

February 4, 2021, 12:30 p.m.

Zoom

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Charles Dalton
Commissioner Linda Dolny
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Devron Edwards

Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne
Commissioner Charles Munns
Commissioner Ben Satcher
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Mark Smith
Commissioner Patrick White

Excused Members

Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

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

Ms. Joren Bartlett, SC Technical College System
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University
Ms. Christine S. Brown, Medical University of
South Carolina
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina,
Palmetto College

Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Mr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University



Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Mr. David Frost, Coastal Carolina University

Ms. Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission

Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Stevie Lawrence, Southern Regional Education Board

Ms. Michelle Lodato, Lander University

Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University

Ms. Nancy Muller, Lowcountry Graduate Center

Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges & Universities

Mr. William Quinlan, SC Department of Administration

Dr. David Schecter, University of South Carolina Upstate

Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System

Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. Kimberly Walker, University of South Carolina Upstate

Mr. Patrick Wamsley, Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, Horry-Georgetown Technical College

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:32 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 December 3, 2020, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Mobley motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Horne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes congratulated the CHE staff for a successful relocation to the fourth floor, thanked President Monhollon and Ms. Ward for the work they are doing with the General Assembly, and congratulated Mr. Tippens on his new position with the Commission as Deputy Director and General Counsel.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon officially introduced Mr. Tippens in his new role as Deputy Director and General Counsel and explained his job functions. He next provided a final update regarding the CHE's relocation.

President Monhollon stated that the CHE has shared its 2020 Statistical Abstract, which includes total student headcounts, lottery appropriations, and total postsecondary degrees completions, among other statistics. He thanked Dr. Christopher Robinson, Ms. Monica Goodwin, and institutional representatives for their work in managing the data presented.

President Monhollon provided an update of the FY 2022 Governor's Budget Recommendations, which he explained was supportive of ensuring access and affordability to higher education through significant allocations of need-based and tuition grants and lottery funds. During the CHE's presentation to the House Ways and Means (HWM) Higher Education Committee, President Monhollon said that the Commission requested \$8 million dollars for need-based grants and \$1.5 million for PASCAL, to which the Committee was favorable. The Committee requested that the CHE conduct a study on deferred maintenance and future enrollment trends, to which President Monhollon explained the Committee on Finance and Facilities will execute a taskforce to conduct the analysis. He also said that the HWM Committee requested that the CHE work with the Council of Presidents to study enrollment trends and its future impact on higher education, to which President Monhollon confirmed that the topic will be addressed during the April Council of Presidents Meeting.

Regarding the COVID-19 Relief Bill, President Monhollon provided an update on how funds would be allocated, with K-12 receiving 67 percent and higher education receiving 28 percent of the allocation.



Commissioner Mobley asked whether the lottery allocations in the governor's budget were reduced and whether the reduction was the result of a decline in students, to which President Monhollon confirmed that there were slight reductions in LIFE and HOPE scholarship funds and Dr. Woodfaulk added that the allocations are based on the previous year's actual expenditures.

President Monhollon next discussed executive orders from the Biden Administration that directly impact higher education, including a pause on student loan repayments, diversity training, immigration reform, elimination of the travel ban, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and campus reopening. Commissioner Smith added that the Commission should monitor H.R.1, a bill currently in the U.S. Senate, that would impact federal financial aid for religious colleges, to which Chair Hayes responded that the Commission would monitor the bill's progression. As it relates to COVID-19 and institutions of higher education, President Monhollon stated that caseloads have been manageable across institutions, with positivity rates within two percent.

Transitioning to an update regarding preliminary spring enrollment, President Monhollon said that most institutions have experienced a decline compared to spring 2020 enrollment numbers. He stated he would work with the CHE staff to provide more detailed enrollment numbers during the next Commission meeting, detailing numbers across institutions. Commissioner Munns requested that the enrollment numbers be detailed, specifically, across UofSC's two-year colleges, to which President Monhollon agreed. Commissioner Horne requested a national versus regional comparison of enrollment numbers, to which President Monhollon agreed to provide the comparison next meeting.

President Monhollon concluded his report with an update on the Implementation Plan, stating that he has hired a grant consultant to assist with finding grants to fund initiatives and formed the following Committees: SCOPE, Financial Aid, Dual Enrollment, and Data Advisory. Commissioner Munns asked how to best communicate the CHE's actions to legislators following CHE meetings and shared that previously the CHE staff would provide Commissioners a short summary of actions following each meeting which they shared with legislators. President Monhollon agreed with providing the meeting summary to Commissioners for distribution to stakeholders, including legislators in their districts.



5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward shared an update on the CHE's communication plan, to which she explained she is currently seeking a consulting firm to assist with agency rebranding, developing an overall Public Agenda icon, and working on the website redesign initiative.

As it relates to policy, Ms. Ward shared that the next Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) meeting is scheduled for February 12, at which the budget will be reviewed. She said that overall the economy and employment rate are doing well, with some uncertainty regarding the economy growth rate post COVID-19. Ms. Ward shared that President Monhollon has met with Chair McGinnis, who is chair of the new state House Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee. She said that the Committee has carried forward all provisos from the previous year and that the CHE is currently tracking 54 bills which directly impact higher education, including bills about: scholarships, dual enrollment, the REACH ACT, high school financial literacy, and veterans. Chair Hayes requested that Commissioners be provided a list and summary of pending legislation, which Ms. Ward will provide.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes stated that Executive Committee members discussed recently proposed legislation that would limit state scholarships and recommends to the Commission endorsement of a position statement: *The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is committed to access, affordability, and quality in the state's system of higher education. The CHE is concerned about any legislation that would adversely affect access, affordability, and quality and thereby adversely affect students. When the CHE identifies legislation it believes will have a negative impact on students CHE staff will work with the sponsors of such legislation to remove or minimize the adverse impact on students.* Chair Hayes asked President Monhollon to further comment on the bill. He explained that the bill would delay students from receiving LIFE and HOPE scholarship funding until their sophomore year of college. Commissioner Seckinger asked if there



was consideration of crediting the freshmen year funds during the sophomore year given the student does well, to which President Monhollon responded that the initial funding of college would remain a significant factor. Chair Hayes asked if there was any further comment or discussion, then motioned on behalf of the Executive Committee that the Commission endorses the Scholarship Legislation Statement. The Statement was endorsed unanimously.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns shared the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would meet on February 12, therefore, the Committee does not have any items for the Commission to consider. He shared that seven degree program proposals and one or two licensure approvals will be considered during the CAAL meeting.

6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Commissioner Batson said the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services does not have items for the Commission to consider, but would have a committee meeting immediately following the CHE meeting to consider one action and two informational items.

6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the CHE meeting and had no permanent improvement projects to consider, however, the Committee discussed two substantive topics: deferred maintenance and the utilization of tuition funds by institutions, and received three items for informational purposes. He stated that the Committee moved to establish two taskforces to address the topics. He added that the taskforces will be led by Commissioners White and Dyer respectively, and will be comprised of institutional representatives and other interested Commissioners. He said that the taskforce dealing with deferred maintenance will convene soon and provide an update to the Commission during the May or June CHE Meeting and the tuition allocation taskforce will convene during the summer. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a summary of informational items A. and B. and then Mr. Wilson to provide an update on the CHE's quarterly budget.



A. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during December 2020 and January 2021

Mr. Tippens stated that there were eight institutional requests during December and January. He highlighted three projects from the University of South Carolina–Columbia, two of which were project closeouts and one which transferred funds to complete a different project.

B. FY 2020-21 CPIP Analysis

Mr. Tippens explained that in the annual CPIP report all projects for the next five years from institutions of higher education are required to be submitted to the CHE for review and prioritization. Following a thorough analysis, Mr. Tippens said that he forwarded his report to the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) for further consideration.

C. FY 2020-21 CHE Financials Quarter 2 Report

Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Wilson to provide the CHE Financials Quarter 2 Report. Mr. Wilson provided a brief overview of the report based on expenditures through December 31. He also provided an overview of cost savings related to per diem travel as requested by Commissioner Batson.

7. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. Commissioner Dyer corrected an earlier comment stating that South Carolina ranks 40 percent higher with in-state tuition. Commissioner Seckinger asked Dr. Woodfaulk to provide the percentage of HOPE recipient students who graduate, to which Dr. Woodfaulk agreed.

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 2:19 p.m.



10. Executive Session

Commissioner Horne motioned to go into executive session, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The Commissioners went into executive session at 2:20 p.m., then adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m. with no action taken.