



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

March 4, 2021, *12:00 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 Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Charles Munns

Commissioner Ben Satcher

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commissioner Patrick White

Excused Members

Commissioner Devron Edwards

Commissioner Mark Smith

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

Dr. Suzanne Alston, College of Charleston

Ms. Joren Bartlett, SC Technical College System

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University

Dr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina

Ms. Christine Brady, Clemson University

Ms. Christine S. Brown, Medical University of
South Carolina

Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina,
Palmetto College

Dr. James Colbert, Lander University



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| Dr. Michelle Cook, Clemson University | Ms. Elisabeth Reagan, University of South Carolina Columbia |
| Dr. Mark P. Del Mastro, College of Charleston | Ms. Chantel Reynolds, Cambridge International |
| Mr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University | Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel |
| Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University | Dr. David Schechter, University of South Carolina Upstate |
| Dr. Michael J. Fekula, Lander University | Dr. Sally Selden, The Citadel |
| Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College | Mr. Gary Simmons, University of South Carolina Aiken |
| Dr. Jesulon Gibbs-Brown | Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort |
| Ms. Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission | Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System |
| Ms. Trena Houp, University of South Carolina Columbia | Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State University |
| Ms. Debbie Jackson, Clemson University | Mr. Darin Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken |
| Dr. Scott L. Jones, Lander University | Dr. Willie T. Todd, Denmark Technical College |
| Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University | Dr. Michael R. Weeks, The Citadel |
| Mr. Thomas Mayer, Denmark Technical College | |
| Ms. Nancy Muller, Lowcountry Graduate Center | |
| Dr. A. Clifton Myles, Denmark Technical College | |
| Mr. Paul David Patrick, College of Charleston | |

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at Noon 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. Executive Session

Chair Hayes called for a motion to enter executive session, which was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Brown. Commissioners, along with President Monhollon and Mr. Tippens, went into executive session to discuss legal matters. The Commissioners returned to the business meeting and no action was taken in executive session.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the February 4, 2021, 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.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes expressed his satisfaction with the Governor's recent press conference, which was hosted by the CHE. He said that the release highlighted the Governor's support for a significant increase to need-based grants, which the South Carolina House Ways and Means Committee plans to match the \$80 million proposal as recommended by the Governor. He next thanked the CHE Committees and staff for their ongoing hard work.

5. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon stated that the CHE has shared its *2020 Statistical Abstract*, which includes total student headcounts, lottery appropriations, and total postsecondary degree completions, among other data statistics. He said that each Commissioner will receive a printed copy of the report, and it can also be accessed on the CHE's website. He thanked Dr. Christopher Robinson, Ms. Monica Goodwin, and institutional representatives for their work in compiling the comprehensive data. He shared that Dr. Robinson recently provided a presentation during a national webinar on public investment in higher education hosted by State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO).



President Monhollon shared that the Council of Presidents would meet on April 13 to select a Chair and to discuss the Council of Presidents' Guidelines, Public Agenda Implementation, Dual Enrollment, Enrollment Trends, and the Deferred Maintenance Task Force. He next shared that the Student Advisory Council, composed of students from each public Institution of Higher Education (IHE), held its inaugural meeting in February, at which students expressed concerns and challenges they face while pursuing their postsecondary education.

President Monhollon transitioned to discussing COVID-19 on campus, stating that the current caseload is manageable as positivity rates have decreased. He said that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) stated that Phase 1B for vaccination would begin March 8, which would include teachers K-12 and higher education. Relating to spring enrollment data, President Monhollon provided a headcount enrollment by student comparison between spring 2020 and spring 2021. Commissioner Seckinger requested a copy of the presentation, to which President Monhollon confirmed would be distributed to Commissioners following the meeting.

Governor McMaster and the CHE held a press event highlighting support for a significant increase in need-based grants funding, said President Monhollon. He shared that the South Carolina House Ways and Means Committee adopted the Governor's Budget and President Monhollon thanked CHE staff for their assistance in coordinating the event. He next described the primary goals of the Public Agenda Implementation and provided an update on work being conducted within ad hoc committees. President Monhollon stated that the South Carolina Opportunity Project for Equity (SCOPE) advisory committee is currently in formation and shared an overview of each ad hoc committee: Data Advisory, Financial Aid Advisory, Dual Enrollment and Communications.

6. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward stated that the South Carolina House Ways and Means Committee met earlier in the week and approved a full budget based upon the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) forecasts from November 2020 and February 2021. She provided a comparison of the fiscal appropriations between FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022, stating



that there was an increase of \$188.4 million in recurring funds. The CHE's budgeted allocation remains the same as last year at \$35.5 million according to Ms. Ward. She stated that \$1.5 million was allocated to PASCAL, \$6.1 million to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP), and \$29.2 million to the Scholarship Trust Fund. Ms. Ward also stated that there was an amendment to the FY 2021 lottery funding, which increased the CHE's allocation for scholarship program support by \$45,000. Regarding policy updates, Ms. Ward shared that the FAFSA related bill, H3614, passed the House and is now being considered in the Senate. According to Ms. Ward, the bill would require high school seniors to complete and submit a FAFSA application prior to graduating. She stated that the REACH Act (S38) has been sent to the House for consideration and S376, which would increase the maximum threshold amounts for IHEs to build capital projects without undergoing the current approval process was considered by the Senate but was carried over.

As it relates to the Public Agenda Implementation, Ms. Ward shared that the CHE is working with a consultant to develop strategic messaging and communication.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

No Report.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns shared the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) has four items for consideration including the consent agenda and one informational item. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to remove items C. Consideration of Request for Initial License: St. Andrews University and D. Cambridge International from the consent agenda. A second was not required.

A. Program Proposals

- a. **Clemson University, B.S., Human Capital Education and Development**
- b. **Clemson University, M.A.T., Secondary Education, new certification areas**



- c. Lander University, M.B.A.
- d. UofSC Columbia, B.S., Cyber Intelligence
- e. UofSC Columbia, Ph.D., Informatics
- f. UofSC Upstate, M.S., Exercise and Sport Science
- g. Winthrop University, B.S., Cybersecurity

B. Consideration of Denmark Technical College Mission Statement Change

Commissioner Munns then explained the remaining consent agenda items stating that the seven program proposals and the Denmark Technical College mission statement change were favorably considered by CAAL unanimously and come forward for the Commission's approval from the committee as a motion without the need for a second, which was approved unanimously.

C. Consideration of Request for Initial License: St. Andrews University

Commissioner Munns introduced the St. Andrews University proposal for initial licensure explaining the thorough process in which the CAAL committee considered the proposal, then allowed representatives from two SC universities to voice their opposition. He stated that CAAL voted unanimously to approve the proposal, then received notice of opposition to the proposal from two universities following the meeting. College of Charleston (CofC) staff shared concerns pertaining to the quality of the program being that it is not accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The CofC representative also expressed concern about the duplication in program offerings. The Citadel staff voiced concern as well, stating that there are inconsistencies in St. Andrews' graduation rates of business programs, significantly higher loan default rates than comparable institutions, and questions about the program faculty qualifications. The St. Andrews representatives acknowledged concerns expressed by opposing universities and provided an overview of St. Andrews University origins and objectives. The representative expressed that the university is more competitive in admission rates and student debt is comparable when analyzing similar institutions. He also shared that the AACSB is not a federally recognized accreditor, but the university is in good standing with the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACCOC) and plans to begin the recruitment process for local in-person



faculty instruction once the proposal has been approved. Commissioner Munns then motioned for approval of the program. Commissioner Seckinger requested a roll call vote and motioned that CHE staff provide a listing on the CHE website of all the private and public programs offered in the state to include credit hours, cost, and format. Chair Hayes initiated the roll call vote and with a vote of eight to five, (*with Batson, Brown, Dalton, Hayes, Horne, Mobley, Munns, Satcher, voting in favor; Dolny, Dyer, Seckinger, Sellers, and White voting against; and Edwards and Smith not present for the vote*) the motion passed to approve the St. Andrew's licensure proposal. Commissioners then continued the conversation regarding the website addition as motioned by Commissioner Seckinger and seconded by Commissioner Mobley. Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to provide comment, to which President Monhollon shared that the CHE's website currently links to a similar tool the College Navigator.

Dr. Lane confirmed that the College Navigator tool is available and provided an illustration of how to access the information. He also shared the College of Affordability and Transparency Center as an additional resource to address the needs expressed. Commissioner Seckinger withdrew her motion but requested that the CHE staff further study the College Navigator tool to determine if it meets all needs. Chair Hayes requested that the CAAL Committee create a task force to review the CHE regulations pertaining to licensing, to which Commissioner Munns agreed. Commissioner Batson mentioned that the CHE had a tool on its website in the past that provided a comparison of cost between institutions, which Dr. Lane confirmed the name of the tool was the Palmetto Calculator.

D. Cambridge International

Commissioner Munns introduced the Cambridge International proposal which was unanimously approved by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) and CAAL. He stated that the program is a college readiness program similar to Advanced Placement (AP) that would allow high school students, especially those located in rural regions, to earn college credits. Commissioner Munns motioned for approval of the proposal. Commissioner Seckinger requested that Cambridge International include the CHE in their communications to the South Carolina Department of Education regarding any changes in their standards. Cambridge International staff explained that the information is available on their website



and agreed to notify the CHE, as well. Chair Hayes then called for a vote on the proposal, which was approved unanimously.

E. SARA Annual Report

Commissioner Munns offered the SARA Annual report as an informational item.

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

Commissioner Batson said the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would have one item on the consent agenda and two informational items.

A. South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SCPRRMT) FY 2019-20 Quarter I and Quarter II Report

Commissioner Batson stated that the Committee was favorable of the report as the SCPRRMT program was within budget and had some fiscal increases. He then motioned for approval of the report, which was approved unanimously.

B. SC Scholarship Appeals Cycle 2020-21

C. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act

Commissioner Batson offered items B. SC Scholarship Appeals Cycle 2020-21 and C. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act as informational items.

7.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the CHE meeting and had three permanent improvement projects and two leases on the consent agenda, and one item for information. He informed everyone that the Committee would next meet May 6 and introduced Mr. James Vant as a new CHE staff member. He also provided a brief update on the deferred maintenance task force, requesting that a Commissioner volunteer to serve on the task force.

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals





Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to describe the consent agenda. Mr. Tippens explained that the permanent approval proposals were unanimously approved by the Committee.

1. College of Charleston

a. Addlestone Library Envelope Repair & Interior Modifications

Mr. Tippens stated that the College of Charleston proposal was a \$4 million maintenance request to address water intrusion issues and to relocate the museum into their library.

2. Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College

a. OCtech Health Sciences and Nursing Building

Mr. Tippens explained that the college wanted to change the source of funds as additional funding was received while the college was in the construction phase from Orangeburg County and a private donor.

3. UofSC Columbia

a. Intramural Recreation Fields Land Acquisition

Mr. Tippens explained the proposal was to acquire 300 acres of land from its foundation. It was considered in May 2020 by the Commission, but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He then provided a summary of the Committees discussion.

B. Lease Approvals

He said that the MUSC lease approvals are both renewals and that MUSC negotiated rates lower than the current cost. Chair Dalton then motioned for approval of the full consent agenda, which was approved unanimously.

C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during February

Mr. Tippens stated that there were two project closeouts from The Citadel for the Johnson Hagood Stadium. A gift in kind was received to convert the field from national turf to artificial and the second





project was a closeout after phase I; The Citadel was unable to receive approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee to begin construction. Mr. Tippens also approved a three-year lease for Clemson University to lease space from its foundation located at 1 Research Drive.

8. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. President Monhollon mentioned that there would not be an April meeting and stated that CHE staff will begin the planning stage of the August CHE meeting and Retreat.

9. Public Comment

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

II. 10. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.