



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission

on Higher Education

May 6, 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 Devron Edwards

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

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon

Dr. Argentini Anderson

Ms. Laura Belcher

Ms. Monica Goodwin

Dr. Sam Grubbs

Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Ms. Whitney Jett

Dr. John Lane

Ms. Stacey Price

Dr. Regine Rucker

Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens

Ms. Bunnie Ward

Mr. Bryce Wilson

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Dr. Lishu Yin

Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University

Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University

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

Dr. James Colbert, Lander University

Dr. Mark P. Del Mastro, College of Charleston

Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical
College



Dr. Jesulon Gibbs-Brown, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System

Ms. Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission

Ms. Trena Houp, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Scott L. Jones, Lander University

Dr. Stevie L. Lawrence, Southern Regional Education Board

Ms. Gelsey Mehl, Aspen Institute

Ms. Andrea Norman, Aiken Technical College

Ms. Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina Columbia

Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel

Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System

Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken

Mr. Michael Turner, Clemson University

Dr. Meg Webber, Winthrop University

All Attended by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:33 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 March 4, 2021, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Satcher motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked the CHE Committees and staff for their ongoing hard work. He also thanked staff for their efforts with the legislature and stated that Ms. Ward would provide an update of that work during her report.



4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon shared that the Council of Presidents convened on April 13 and stated that during the meeting the Council elected its Chair, USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; reviewed the Council's guidelines and discussed the Public Agenda Implementation; Dual Enrollment; Deferred Maintenance; Enrollment Trends and the FY 2022 Budget. President Monhollon next provided an overview of recent significant activities and events relating to the CHE. He stated that State agencies have returned to pre-pandemic operations, the Student Advisory Council met in April, the FY 2022 Budget is currently with the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, and that Chair Hayes, Commissioner Dalton, and Commissioner Satcher have been confirmed for additional four-year terms. President Monhollon also shared that he attended the investiture ceremony for the Denmark Technical College President, Dr. Willie Todd.

President Monhollon provided an update as it relates to COVID-19 on campus stating that conditions remain consistent from the previous month with low positivity rates overall. Presidents are planning for in-person graduation ceremonies with consideration of social distancing accommodations, said President Monhollon. He stated that presidents continue to work through uncertainties of new CDC Guidelines reducing social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet, and the process of COVID-19 testing and vaccines for students, faculty, and staff. President Monhollon shared that he, along with CHE staff, met with staff from the SC Department of Education to discuss expanding programs to assist graduating high school students in becoming adequately prepared for college level work.

In collaboration with the Governor's Office, President Monhollon shared that he has been working to identify funding to address mental health needs of students. Commissioner Munns asked if there were any action, such as a policy statement, that the CHE could take in reducing uncertainties within higher education, to which President Monhollon responded that the CHE has actively communicated the position of IHEs regarding means of keeping campuses safe to the appropriate entities. Commissioner Smith asked what the CHE is doing to address declines, shortages, and business needs, to which President Monhollon said that some state institutions are modifying programs to meet workforce needs. He also shared that



CHE staff have been collaborating with the SC Department of Workforce Development to obtain data to assist in identifying gaps.

President Monhollon then gave a brief overview of the Public Agenda Implementation detailing the goals, top priorities and work completed within each Office's subcommittee. As it relates to the Office of Student Affairs, President Monhollon shared that the CHE has received a \$50,000 grant from the National College Access Network (NCAN) to support postsecondary enrollment through increased Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completions. President Monhollon introduced the CHE's official logo for the Public Agenda Implementation as developed by CHE staff and shared that the CHE is collaborating with NP Strategies in developing a communication strategy. As it relates to dual enrollment, President Monhollon shared that the CHE is partnering with State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and the Gardner Institute on the Catalyzing Transfer Initiative and invited an external speaker to provide an overview of The Dual Enrollment Playbook. Ms. Gelsey Mehl with the Aspen Institute shared a broad overview of the Dual Enrollment Playbook.

5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward stated that the CHE has been supporting an initiative by SC First Steps, which would provide free childcare for one year as part of the American Rescue Plan for college students who have a child eligible for 4k and a second initiative that would provide funds to IHEs for childcare sites on their campuses. Ms. Ward reported the proposed budget allocates \$1 million for an expansion in nursing programs to the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Transitioning to a budget update, Ms. Ward stated that the Senate sent the budget to the House for consideration, and the House has referred the proposed budget to the House Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Ward identified key higher education provisos including transfer and articulation of student credits, National Guard College Assistance Program adjustments, and proof of vaccinations for college students. She also discussed S38, the REACH Act, and noted it has been ratified and signed by the governor. S685, also known as the "Name Image Likeness" bill, will allow student athletes to receive endorsement compensation, said Ms. Ward. She reported that the Palmetto Fellows



bill, H. 3017, has been passed, allowing students with Palmetto Fellows scholarships to attend two-year and technical colleges.

6. Committee Reports

7.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes stated that the Executive Committee met last week and discussed the importance of establishing a clear line in authority, as it relates to special project and data requests from Commissioners to CHE staff. Chair Hayes advised that Commissioners deter from pursuing staff directly when making such requests, rather route all research project requests through President Monhollon copying Ms. Smith.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Munns shared the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) will meet next week to consider fourteen proposals and to discuss their licensure review procedure.

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

Commissioner Batson said the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would meet immediately following the Commission meeting. Commissioner Batson then called on Dr. Woodfaulk to provide a brief update on FAFSA completion. In her report, Dr. Woodfaulk provided a national analysis of FAFSA completion rates and shared data statistics specific to South Carolina's FAFSA completion rates. She stated that the deadline to complete FAFSA is June 30 and that there would be an incentive based FAFSA Completion Challenge for current 11th graders. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether schools could have staff dedicated to assisting students with completing the FAFSA, to which Dr. Woodfaulk confirmed that this service would be available as part of the NCAN grant.

7.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities met prior to the Commission meeting to consider eight project proposals and one lease. He said that the College of Charleston requested to remove agenda item, 7.04.A.2.a. 2021 Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract, from the consent



agenda then motioned as such. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the item was removed from the consent agenda. Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee favorably approved the proposals and motioned for the approval of the remaining seven consent agenda items, which were unanimously approved. Chair Dalton shared that CHE staff processed twenty staff approvals. He next called on Mr. Wilson to provide CHE's 3rd quarter budget report. Mr. Wilson shared a broad overview of the budget report. Commissioner Dalton said that Commissioner White would provide a full report on the work of the Deferred Maintenance task force during the June CHE meeting.

8. Other Business Announcements

CHE staff announced the dates for the August Retreat and Business Meeting, August 11 and 12.

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 2:30 p.m.