



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
June 3, 2021, 12:30 p.m.  
Zoom

**Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown  
Commissioner Charles Dalton  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer  
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Charles Munns  
Commissioner Ben Satcher  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Patrick White

**Members Excused**

Commissioner Linda Dolny  
Commissioner Devron Edwards  
Commissioner Mark Smith

**Commission Staff Present**

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

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

**Guests**

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University  
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University

Ms. Christine S. Brown, Medical University of  
South Carolina  
Dr. Timothy Callahan, College of Charleston



Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina  
Palmetto College  
Ms. Michelle Cook, Clemson University  
Mr. David Frost, Coastal University  
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University  
Dr. Scott Curtis, The Citadel  
Dr. Mark P. Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Dr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University  
Dr. Daniel Ennis, Coastal Carolina  
Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical  
College  
Mr. David Frost, Coastal Carolina  
Dr. Jesulon Gibbs-Brown, University of South  
Carolina Columbia  
Dr. Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System  
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Dr. Scott L. Jones, Lander University  
Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan  
Mr. Scott Jones, Lander University  
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University

Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University  
Dr. Adrienne McCormick, Winthrop University  
Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges &  
Universities  
Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel  
Dr. David Schecter, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Dr. Joel Scrapper, University of South Carolina  
Aiken  
Dr. Eric Skjpper, University of South Carolina  
Beaufort  
Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College  
System  
Ms. Tina Stallard, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of  
South Carolina  
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina  
Aiken  
Dr. Kathleen Valentine, Clemson University  
Dr. Kimberly Walker, University of South Carolina  
Upstate

All Attended 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 May 6, 2021, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Mobley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## 3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked the CHE staff for their ongoing hard work. He also thanked staff for their efforts with the General Assembly.

## 4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon shared that the CHE would meet in person for the August business meeting and retreat. President Monhollon announced that Dr. Lane had accepted another position with the SHEEO Office and thanked him for his service to the CHE and to the State.

President Monhollon provided an overview of cyber security programs in South Carolina and illustrated the steady increased interest in computer science and cyber security studies and the high demand of qualified workers within the field. He shared that in 2020 the CHE signed a MOU with Fort Gordon's Cyber Center of Excellence, which encourages the development of a cyber capable workforce. In illustrating the demand for Cybersecurity courses, President Monhollon stated that over 125 courses are offered at SC institutions of higher learning (IHL), with 21 public institutions offering cybersecurity programs and 12 technical colleges offering a certificate in the field. Commissioner Munns requested that the CHE reviews its action plan for handling a cyberattack and determine where critical data is located. Commissioner Munns requested that the Commissioners are briefed during the August meeting, to which President Monhollon agreed. Commissioner Munns also requested that President Monhollon reached out to the Council of Presidents to survey if CHE or the State should have a backup of student records in the event there is a cyber-attack, to which President Monhollon said that through the Department of Administration Division of Technology Operations there is a protocol in place.



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. President Monhollon shared that the Office of Student Affairs has recommended increasing the maximum annual award to \$3,500 and \$1,750 for full-time and part-time students respectively and allowing awards up to three terms per academic year for the SC Need-based Grant Program. The Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing participated in the first of two sessions of the Transfer Policy Standard Equitable Attainment meeting last month, which will support the successful transfer of credits between institutions, said President Monhollon.

President Monhollon outlined the agenda for the CHE's August Retreat and welcomed Commissioner feedback. Commissioner Munns expressed interest in including teacher preparation as a topic for consideration, to which President Monhollon stated that the topic will be addressed within the Public Agenda Implementation discussion. Commissioner Horne added that Critical Race Theory is a topic in which the CHE needs to consider, to which President Monhollon shared that he has been in touch with SACSCOC to assist with this discussion.

President Monhollon provided an update of his recent activities. He stated that he testified before the House Ways and Means Committee; participated in the SHEEO Gardner Institute Transfer Policy Kickoff Meeting; and attended the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics meeting and two graduation ceremonies.

## **5. Legislative Report**

Chair Hayes asked Ms. Bunnie Ward to present the Legislative Report. Ms. Ward shared that President Monhollon testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on May 25 and the presentation was well received. She stated that regarding tuition mitigation there was a recommendation of a slight increase of \$9.2 million to the proposed \$80 million by the Governor and Senate. Ms. Ward stated that funding for twenty additional veterinary programs remained in the budget and that there is a \$10 million proviso for expanding broadband being considered by the House and \$3 million for a broadband office. Ms. Ward said that there are two significant sources of funds that will be allocated to SC; the \$2.5 billion



American Rescue Plan and the \$525 million Savannah River Site settlement, which the General Assembly will consider in the fall when they reconvene. The General Assembly also will consider redistricting at that time. Ms. Ward shared that there were four pieces of legislation signed into law; the REACH Act, Act 29 regarding military tuition rates, Act 35 regarding college athlete compensation, and Act 36 regarding Palmetto Fellows Scholarships, which would allow two year institution students to qualify. Nationally, Ms. Ward shared that the US Department of Education plans to hold public hearings in late June to receive comments on rulemaking pertaining to various regulatory topics including: Pell Grant eligibility; borrower defense to repayment; Public Service Loan Forgiveness; closed school discharges; and gainful employment. Ms. Ward next provided a CHE Communications update stating that there has been an increase in social media activity, a revamped redesigned Commission newsletter, and successful closing out of the College and Career Decision Month activities.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes stated that there was no report from the Executive Committee as the August Retreat had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

Commissioner Munns shared that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered program proposals from seven institutions and two additional items, with ACAP unanimously approving all consent agenda items. The proposals include: Winthrop University, M.S. Athletic Training; University of South Carolina Columbia, M.Ed. Special Education, M.A.T. Special Education, MSN Nursing Education, and B.S. Music Industry Studies; University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A. Theatre, B.A. Spanish, and B.S. Mechanical Engineering; South Carolina State University, B.S. Cybersecurity; College of Charleston, B.S., A.B., Environmental Geosciences; Coastal Carolina University, B.A. Criminal Justice; and Clemson University,



M.A.T. Teacher Residency in Secondary Education Modern Languages, D.N.P Nursing Practice, and M.S. Medical device Reprocessing; Consideration of The Citadel, Lt. Col. James B. Near., Jr., USAF '77 Center for Climate Studies; and the SmartState Budget. Commissioner Munns provided a brief overview of consent agenda items, then motioned for the approval of the full consent agenda, which was approved unanimously. Commissioner Munns then stated that the CAAL Committee also considered a licensure request from Southeast College for an AAS in Surgical Technology, which the Committee voted, four to one, to postpone consideration to the Committee's July meeting. Commissioner Munns then offered item D., Review Cycle Calendar for information.

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

Commissioner Batson said that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would meet immediately following the Commission meeting. Commissioner Batson said that the Committee has one item on the consent agenda, Consideration of the SC Student Loan Corporation FY 2021-2022 Administrative Budget Request SC Teachers Loan Program, for approval to which the Corporation is requesting a 2.9 percent increase in their budget. Commissioner Batson stated that the Committee favorably approved the proposal and motioned for the full Commission's approval, which was unanimously approved. Commissioner Munns requested that Commissioner Batson follow up with the Student Loan Corporation regarding their action plan should there be a cyberattack, to which Commissioner Batson agreed. Commissioner Batson then offered items B. College Transition Need-based Grant Program FY2019-2020; C. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program FY2019-2020; and D. College Application Month for information only.

#### **6.04 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 seven project proposals; Clemson University, Roadway Pedestrian Safety Improvements; College of Charleston, Electrical Grid Infrastructure Upgrades and 2021 Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract; Northeastern Technical College, Marlboro Campus Renovations; University of South Carolina, New Health Sciences Campus-Medical Education and Research Facilities and Colonial Life Arena



Roof Replacement and Envelope Maintenance; and York Technical College, Renovate H Building, which are in the consent agenda. He stated that item 2.a. College of Charleston Electrical Grid Infrastructure Upgrades, presented some concern as the institution was neglectful in routine maintenance, which the college agreed to address moving forward. Commissioner Dalton said that all projects received favorable recommendation from the Committee and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda, which was approved unanimously. Commissioner Dalton next presented a report provided by the deferred maintenance task force for information only. Commissioner Dalton then thanked Commissioner White and CHE staff for their work on the deferred maintenance taskforce and called on Commissioner White to present the report for information. Commissioner White and Georges Tippens provided a broad overview of the taskforce's recommendation. Commissioner Seckinger asked if there is a plan in place for institutions that require continuous repair, such as the College of Charleston, to which Commissioner White explained that the proposed formula accounts for this instance. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for May as information. Mr. Tippens explained staff approved projects from Midlands Technical College, Winthrop University and two lease requests from the Medical University of South Carolina.

## 7. REACH Act Compliance

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to provide an overview of the REACH Act. President Monhollon stated that the item would be presented for information only, then described the Act. He stated that the Act requires all undergraduate students to complete at least three credit hours or equivalent in US history or government, or equivalent course. He explained that there is an exemption for students who have completed AP, IB and dual-credit courses. President Monhollon said that the CHE is responsible for ensuring compliance, which the CHE's draft plan was provided to Commissioners for consideration. President Monhollon then described feedback received from IHLs, stating that some institutions expressed concerns, sought clarification on some aspects, and provided minor revisions.



## **8. Other Business Announcements**

President Monhollon said that his evaluation would be conducted during an executive session during the August CHE Business Meeting.

## **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 2:35 p.m.