



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
August 12, 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 Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Patrick White

**Members Excused**

Commissioner Ben Satcher  
Commissioner Mark Smith

**Commission Staff Present**

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

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

**Guests**

Ms. Suzanne Alston, College of Charleston  
Ms. Joanne Bartlett, SC Technical College  
System  
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University

Ms. Janet Clark, Southeastern College  
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University  
Mr. Dwight Cauthen, Silver Crescent  
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University



Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina  
Palmetto College  
Mr. Martin Driggers, Southeastern College  
Dr. Timothy Druke, Winthrop University  
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Ms. Taylor Johnston, Lander University  
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Ms. Lisa Prince, Northeastern Technical College  
Dr. Mark Rollins, Lander University

Mr. Ronald Sealy, Southeastern College  
Dr. David Schechter, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Dr. Eric Skjpper, University of South Carolina  
Beaufort  
Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College  
System  
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of  
South Carolina  
Mr. Ken Wingate, Southeastern College  
Mr. Tim Van Horn, Southeastern College

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 June 3, 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.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes stated that according to the CHE Bylaws a vice chair of the CHE is to be elected yearly and called for nominations, to which Commissioner Munns nominated Commissioner Horne and Commissioner Dalton seconded. Commissioner Horne was unanimously reelected as vice chair.



Chair Hayes said that Commissioners would remain serving on the same CHE standing committees for the 2021-22 term as Commissioners expressed the same preferences after being polled.

#### **4. President and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon reported on the end of CHE's fiscal year, new staff hires, and a legislative report. He announced leadership changes: Dr. Bennie Harris is the new chancellor at USC Upstate; Dr. Daniel Heimmerman is the new president at USC Aiken; and Col. Alexander Conyers is the interim president at South Carolina State University.

President Monhollon provided an update on the REACH Act and how the CHE would ensure institutions' compliance with the requirement. He said that CHE's plan would be placed on the September 2 CHE meeting agenda for consideration and explained that CHE received a request from the General Assembly to gather from institutions a list of all history courses taught within the last two years and the courses that would satisfy the REACH Act requirement.

President Monhollon shared that he has been meeting weekly with presidents to discuss their fall plans. He said that presidents made general comments about fall enrollment but have not made specific forecasts. President Monhollon stated that he would provide more details at the September meeting, if available and that presidents have expressed that their primary focus has been campus health and wellbeing.

President Monhollon said that presidents conversed about the potential impact of an outbreak leading to online learning and announced that several institutions plan to provide incentives to students who are fully vaccinated. He also shared that, nationally, not many students have been vaccinated but there has been a sense of immunity. President Monhollon shared that he also spoke with presidents regarding additional funding through the American Rescue Act for mental health programs, student support services, and technology upgrades to support online learning and stated that testing regularly may be an additional expense this year.



President Monhollon reported that there has been some turnover this year but is in line with past years. There are currently five vacancies. According to the SC Department of Administration, President Monhollon said that there had been a 25 percent increase in the number of state government vacancies between January to May. He shared that the Office of Student Affairs would offer two candidates a position, Americorps Director and Program Coordinator and that Dr. Michael Igbonagwam had joined the Office of Academic Affairs. President Monhollon shared that he and CHE staff will conduct interviews for the Director of Academic Affairs position the week of August 23 and that the Workforce Development Manager position is in the process of being filled. He explained that the position will serve as the liaison for the Department of Commerce and Workforce.

President Monhollon reported that the General Assembly has tasked the CHE with three provisos; 11.20 Doctoral/Professional University Classification, to study and implement a classification system for Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) that would include a doctoral/professional university classification system; 117.152, Transfer Student Credits to work with public IHLs to guarantee an associate of arts or associate of science degree will transfer as a minimum of 60 transfer credits at a four year college/university and will be classified as a junior at a four year institution; and 117.176 Longitudinal Funding Report, to collect and analyze longitudinal state and federal funding data in collaboration with IHLs.

President Monhollon listed his recent activities, which included the July State Technical Board Meeting hosted by Horry-Georgetown Technical College; Center of Excellence Strategic Planning meeting in Charleston, SC, a meeting with Mr. Hogan Brown, the Executive Director of the SC Lottery Commission, to discuss collaboration on college completion initiatives; All Staff Retreat to receive feedback on the Public Agenda, SC Association of Veterinarians meeting to discuss veterinarian seats through the Southern Regional Education Board regional contract; meetings with various legislators; and submission of the GEAR Up proposal. Commissioner Horne asked if there are additional ways of CHE ensuring REACH Act compliance, to which President Monhollon stated that institutions would confirm that they are complying and provide samples of compliance. Commissioner Horne asked President Monhollon if there were any



vacancies related to COVID or childcare, to which he responded that there have been competitive opportunities available for some staff who have left the agency.

## 5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward stated that the Infrastructure Bill was approved for \$1.2 trillion by the US Senate. She said that there would also be funding for the broadband initiative, which would provide a \$30 voucher for low-income families to have access to internet services. Ms. Ward shared a report from the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) stating that the US Senate adopted a \$3.5 trillion budget to include funds for higher education, tuition-free community college, investments in HBCUs, Student Success Grants and educator investments; workforce development job training; and research infrastructure.

Ms. Ward highlighted some national regulations stating that the US Department of Education announced it would extend the federal student loan repayment deadline to January 31, 2022 as the Delta variant of the coronavirus surges across the country. At the State level, Ms. Ward shared that the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) office reported an increase in the FY 2022 revenue forecast and said that the State projects a budget surplus of \$646.7 million to end FY 2020-21. Ms. Ward said that the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) also increased its revenue estimate for FY 2021-22 by \$316.4 million and projects that the General Assembly will have available for appropriation approximately \$1.72 million in unobligated revenue. She announced that the next BEA meeting would be held virtually on August 26.

Ms. Ward shared that the CHE would begin legislator endorsement efforts of the CHE's legislative agenda and the ASCEND 60x30 Public Agenda for this legislative session. She stated that there are approximately 30 bills relating to higher education and that affordability is the primary focus. Ms. Ward announced that the General Assembly would reconvene on September 28-30 and October 5-7.

In conclusion, Ms. Ward provided a brief update relating to ASCEND 60x30 stating that she is working on uniformed messaging to be used across the agency. She said that CHE staff has been working on social media presence and content development for the CHE website and newsletter.



## **6. Committee Reports**

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

Chair Hayes stated that there was no report from the Executive Committee.

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

Commissioner Munns shared that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered eight program proposals from four institutions and three additional items, with ACAP unanimously approving all consent agenda items. The proposals included: Clemson University, M. A.C., Applied Computing, M.S., Medical Biophysics, M.S., Resilient Infrastructure & Environmental Systems and Ph.D., Digital History; Francis Marion University, B.S., Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Option; Lander University, B.S., Digital Media Production and M.A.T., Multi-Categorical Special Education; Medical University of South Carolina, M.S., Extracorporeal Science. The Committee also approved these three items: Southeastern College, A.A.S. Surgical Technology; the Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs, FY 2018-2019; and the Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2019. Commissioner Munns provided an overview of consent agenda items, then motioned for the approval of the full consent agenda. Chair Hayes opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Dyer asked whether the Southeastern program were the first in the state, to which Commissioner Munns said that there are similar courses within the technical system. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the consent agenda was approved, with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining from the vote.

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

Commissioner Batson said that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services has one regulatory change item on the consent agenda, Proposed Statutory/Regulatory Change – Emergency Regulations: South Carolina Need-based Grants program. He said that the Committee recommended two changes: increase award amounts from \$1,750 to \$3,500 and extend award utilization to three terms, rather than two. The emergency regulations would be in effect upon approval by the Commission. Chair Hayes called for a vote and the consent agenda was approved.



#### **6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities**

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had proposals from four institutions, The Citadel, Boat Center Redevelopment; Francis Marion, Smith University Center Renovation/Improvements; Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Acquisition of Property to Expand the Diesel Engine Training Facility; Winthrop University, Joynes Hall Interior Renovation; and the Deferred Maintenance Report on the consent agenda for consideration. 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 called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for June and July as information. Mr. Tippens explained that staff approved ten institutional requests, four of which were project closures, one a change in funds and five were increasing budgets. Commissioner Dalton then called on Mr. Wilson to provide an overview of the end of the year budget report. Mr. Wilson summarized the CHE's end of the year budget. Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee would next charge a taskforce, led by Commissioner Dyer, to conduct a study on how institutions utilize their tuition revenue for transparency purposes. He announced that Commissioners may volunteer to serve on the taskforce. Commissioner Seckinger suggested conducting a study on how other state institutions allocate their tuition revenue for comparative purposes.

#### **7. Other Business Announcements**

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

#### **8. Public Comment**

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



## 9. Executive Session

The Commissioners went into executive session to discuss personnel matters and no action was taken.

## II. 10. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked the Commission and staff, then adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.