



Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education  
Executive Committee Meeting  
January 25, 2021  
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

**Executive Committee Members Present**

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair  
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair  
Mr. Paul Batson  
Mr. Charles Dalton  
Mr. Charles Munns

**CHE Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive Director  
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Chief Information Officer  
Dr. John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs  
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Georges Tippens, Facilities Program Manager  
Ms. Bunnie Ward, Director of Governmental Affairs  
& Communications  
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Approval of Minutes November 19, 2020**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee's meeting on November 19. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Horne seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Review of the February 04, 2021 CHE Draft Meeting Agenda**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to summarize his upcoming President's report. President Monhollon stated that his report would include updates on the Governor's budget recommendations, an overview of the COVID relief package as it pertains to higher education in South Carolina, a summary of possible changes within the US Department of Education as a result of the new presidential administration, an update on spring enrollment for institutions of higher education, and an update on progress of the CHE's Implementation Plan. Chair Hayes asked if any provision of the Implementation Plan addressed universal transfer between institutions, to which President Monhollon confirmed that he, along with Ms. Ward during the legislative update, will address the topic. President Monhollon then welcomed any further thoughts on topics to include in the president's report, to which Commissioner Batson expressed that he would be most interested in spring enrollment numbers. Commissioner Munns asked for an update on CHE staff presence in-office, to which President Monhollon stated that at maximum, sixteen staff members are present and follow a schedule.



Chair Hayes asked Ms. Ward to provide a preview of the legislative report update. Ms. Ward shared that budget hearings are currently taking place in the House Ways and Means Committee, at which the CHE has already presented its budget. She stated that there are several significant bills pertaining to higher education relating to scholarships, such as Bill H3114, which would delay HOPE and LIFE Scholarship recipients in receiving funds during their first year of college. She then discussed additional bills relating to recruitment and retention of teachers, veterans, high school financial literacy requirements, tuition eligibility based on immigration status, and possession of firearms on campus settings.

Commissioner Munns expressed the negative impacts on students and the Public Agenda that Bill H3114 would have and suggested that the CHE advocate against it. Chair Hayes stated that the topic should be added to the full Commission meeting agenda so that the Commission could take a position on the bill, to which President Monhollon stated that he, along with the CHE staff, would draft a position statement and have the full Commission to endorse the statement. Commissioner Horne asked if groups of impacted students, less fortunate and minorities, would be included in the statement, to which President Monhollon stated that he will take that into consideration. Chair Hayes confirmed that the statement of concern would come from the Executive Committee. Ms. Ward added that the policy statement should be broad as there are additional bills relating to scholarships that could be addressed simultaneously. Commissioner Munns suggested using the position statement as an outreach tool for connecting with the education committees. He also stated that Commissioners could share the statement with their local General Assembly members.

Commissioner Dalton asked what could have potentially caused the bill to originate, to which Ms. Ward responded that the bill stemmed from a possible retention concern, rather than lottery funding. President Monhollon stated that he, along with Ms. Ward, will communicate with the sponsors of the bills ahead of the next Commission meeting to get further understanding of their concerns. Chair Hayes asked to have the scholarship legislation statement added to the official February CHE meeting agenda. Ms. Ward shared that the House Education and Public Works Subcommittee had significant member turnover, therefore, she and President Monhollon are meeting with the Chair of the Committee to share general information about the CHE. Commissioner Munns requested that Ms. Ward provide a committee membership list, to which she agreed.

Then Committee Chairs reviewed their committee reports for the CHE meeting.

Commissioner Munns shared the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would meet on February 12, therefore, the Committee does not have a report for the February CHE Meeting.

Commissioner Batson said the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services would not have a report, but would have a committee meeting immediately following the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities will meet Thursday morning before the full Commission meeting. He shared that the Committee currently does not have any permanent improvement projects to consider. The Committee will bring forth three items for informational purposes.

### **3. Other Business**

No other business.

### **4. Adjourn**

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.