



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., December 1, 2022
1122 Lady St., Suite 400, Columbia, SC 29201
& Via Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Ben Satcher, Vice Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Charles Dalton
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Patrick White

Members Excused

Commissioner Linda Dolny
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mark Smith

Commission Staff Present

Rusty Monhollon
Argentini Anderson
Laura Belcher
Richard Davis
Mariam Dittmann
Kathryn Harris
Alfie Mincy
Rick Moul
Frank Myers
Yolanda Myers

Kenita Pitts-Howard
Stacey Price
Laverne Sanders
Christina Seale
Kara Smith
Mark Swart
Georges Tippens
Bunnie Ward
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk
Lishu Yin

Guests

Suzanne Austin, College of Charleston
Clay Barton, SC Department of Education
Beth Bell, Clemson University
Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University
Christine Brown, Medical University of South Carolina
Kristin Bryant, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Destrae Capers, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Bonnie Carson Durham, University of South Carolina Upstate
Dwight Cauthen, Southeastern College
John Catalano, University of South Carolina-Palmetto College
Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission
James Colbert, Lander University
Deborah Conner, Coastal Carolina University
Andrea Darden, Community Member
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston

Joey Derrick, University of South Carolina
Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Chris Finney, SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Stephen Gardner, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Julianna Harding, Coastal Carolina University
Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Edward Hart, College of Charleston
Austin Hitt, Coastal Carolina University
Suzanne Horn, Coastal Carolina University
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina Columbia
Taylor Hucks, Francis Marion University



Lisa Jolliff, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Phoenix Jones, Citizen
Pamela Jones, SC Department of Workforce
Ray Jones, SC Student Loan Corporation
Elizabeth Jurisich, College of Charleston
Sandra Kelly, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Susan Kattwinkel, College of Charleston
Peter King, Francis Marion University
Lori Kinley, Clemson University
Amanda Martin, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Janine McCabe, College of Charleston
Martha Moriarty, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Jeremy King, Clemson University
Amanda Long, Clemson University
Jennifer LoPresti, Executive Budget Office
Mary Katherine Miller, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Hank Morrow, Clemson University
Paul Patrick, College of Charleston
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and Universities

Emily Prosser, Revenue Fiscal Affairs Office
Frank Rainwater, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Carol Routh, Clemson University
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Nina Staggers, SC Department of Employment and Workforce
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina, Upstate
Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Holley Tankersley, Coastal Carolina University
Darren Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken
William Tipton, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Daniel Tompkins, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Sebastian van Delden, College of Charleston
Richard Viso, Coastal Carolina University
Davis Watson, Clemson University
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
Lisa Wren, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
Tangar Young, South Carolina State University

All Attended either In-Person, by Phone, or via 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 November 3 CHE Business meeting and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Satcher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes welcomed a new CHE Commissioner, Ms. Jenni Bryson, and thanked the Commission staff for their outstanding work this year.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon welcomed and introduced Executive Director Frank Rainwater from SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, who provided an economic outlook and a presentation on changing demographics as it relates to higher education. President Monhollon thanked Mr. Rainwater for his presentation.

President Monhollon reported that CHE staff reviewed the agency's per diem policy and concluded that Commissioners would receive the per diem allotment for future mandatory official business-related meetings effective October 1, 2022. He confirmed that per diem entitlements would not apply to voluntary attendance at meetings or events.

President Monhollon reported on preliminary headcount fall enrollment numbers across the research, comprehensive, University of South Carolina (USC) two-year institutions, and technical sectors. Between fall 2021 and 2022, President Monhollon reported an increase in enrollment for research (2.8%) and technical sectors (9.78%) and a decrease in the comprehensive (.54%) and USC two-year sectors (3.56%).

President Monhollon reported agency-related staffing updates: Ms. Katie Nilges accepted the position of Legislative and External Affairs Manager in the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement; Mr. Corey Gheesling accepted the position of Academic Program Manager in the Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing; and Dr. Lishu Yin accepted a new position of Program Manager for Educator Preparation, Retention, and Quality in the Office of Internal Operations and Administration. President Monhollon also explained that the CHE is in the process of hiring several additional positions including: an events planner; administrative assistant; IT business analyst; college completion manager; senior research analyst; two academic program managers; access coordinator; auditor; and college access manager.



President Monhollon made a couple of agency related announcements. He thanked the Executive Committee for judging the agency's fall door decorating contest sponsored by the Fun Committee and announced that the agency held two hot chocolate socials.

President Monhollon proposed adjusting the current meeting structure of CHE business meetings to six two-day meetings annually, with the four Standing Committees meeting on the first day followed by the CHE Business Meeting on the second day. He proposed that two meetings be held in the morning followed by lunch, then two meetings in the afternoon and a dinner in the evening. President Monhollon explained that the proposal is not for immediate action, nor implementation, rather to possibly be implemented next fall, if approved. He suggested having a trial meeting this spring. Chair Hayes asked how the proposed structure would impact campus visits, to which President Monhollon explained that we could visit one campus, with a tour, lunch and two standing committees in the afternoon on the first day, followed by dinner. President Monhollon said that the remaining two committees could meet on the following day prior to the CHE Business Meeting. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with the proposed structure as it may impact the timeline for considering programs, to which President Monhollon expressed that academic schedules, State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFFA) and Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) meetings will be considered. Commissioner Teppara expressed concern with the proposed structure stating that committing two business days may be a challenge for work schedules and other responsibilities. Commissioner Dalton requested that CHE staff poll institutions to determine how a change in schedule would impact their work, to which President Monhollon confirmed.

President Monhollon stated the objective of *Ascend 60x30*: *By 2030, 60 percent of South Carolinians will hold a high-quality postsecondary credential, and achievement gaps, especially along racial and ethnic lines, will be reduced by at least 75 percent.* He highlighted the top priorities: to enhance access and affordability, ensure student success, and strengthen the workforce.



5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward announced that the Office of Strategic Initiatives & Engagement (OSIE) will be hiring a legislative intern in January. She reported that OSIE has begun identifying top legislative and budget priorities related to higher education to include transfer and articulation; FAFSA completion; needs-based grants; and recurring support for PASCAL. Ms. Ward reported that her Office will also support the development of the Educator Preparation Report Card.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

FOR ACTION

- A. CHE Bylaws
- B. Financial Assistance for Nursing Educator Students

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide an update on CHE Bylaws. Commissioner Batson explained that proposed non-substantive changes reflect edits to align current practices with bylaws' language. He explained that the section related to Commissioner reimbursement was removed as the subject is a State dictated policy. Chair Hayes asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the proposed changes. Commissioner Horne asked whether committees are required to adhere to the bylaws, to which Mr. Tippens confirmed. With there being no additional comment, Chair Hayes motioned for approval and the CHE Bylaws was passed unanimously.

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward and Mr. Davis to provide an update on the Financial Assistance for Nursing Educator Students item. Mr. Davis reported that CHE staff recommends establishing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the SC Student Loan Corporation (SLC) to assist with the administration of the remaining \$5 million nursing allocation. Mr. Davis defined the terms of the potential agreement to include the following: \$20,000 per year maximum loan amount for eligible students; the student is mandated to work as a nursing educator in a higher education program for two years for every one year of aid; maximum of three years of loan eligibility for eligible student; and amount borrowed must not exceed the attendance cost.



Mr. Davis explained that the SLC launched earlier this year a similar initiative, Project BOLD, (Better Outcomes, Less Debt), which is a partnership between the student, school, and employer to share risks of repayment. Mr. Davis described the benefits in utilizing this method to include no administrative costs for the CHE, maximizing dollars for students, and making fund availability timely. Chair Hayes motioned for authorization to proceed with establishing a MOU with the SLC as presented. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Hayes changed the order of committee reports, calling on the Committee on Finance and Facilities first as Commissioner Dalton needed to leave prior to adjournment.

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Charles Dalton

Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities reviewed five permanent improvement proposals from five institutions and had two items for information.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals
 - 1. The Citadel
 - a. Steven Barracks Renovation
 - Phase I Scope Revision, Change Project Name
 - 2. Clemson University
 - a. Advanced Materials Innovation Complex Construction
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 3. College of Charleston
 - a. Buist Residence Hall 2024 Renovation
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 4. Francis Marion University
 - a. Smith University Center Renovation/Improvements
 - Phase II Budget Increase
 - 5. Winthrop University
 - a. Auxiliary Building Envelope Lee Wicker Residence Hall
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

FOR INFORMATION

- B. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during November
- C. Proviso 117.140 Reports

Commissioner Dalton summarized the consent agenda and motioned for its approval. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Projects staff approved in November.



Mr. Tippens reported that CHE staff approved 15 permanent improvement projects, with the majority establishing projects funded by legislative appropriations. He reported that a phase one request from Winthrop University may need to come before the Commission again if additional legislative funding is not secured for the construction phase. Commissioner Dalton asked Mr. Tippens to explain item C., Proviso 117.140 Reports. Mr. Tippens reminded Commissioners that the General Assembly, by proviso, raised the dollar thresholds for what constitutes a permanent improvement project. In exchange for the higher thresholds, institutions must report those projects that previously required approval but are now lower than the new threshold. He stated that this report includes what the institutions provided staff related to those projects.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Bettie Rose Horne

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Horne to provide a report on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee has nine items for action and three items for information.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Professional Doctorate University Status Policy/Procedure
- B. Program Proposals
 - 1. Clemson University, BS Automotive Engineering
 - 2. Coastal Carolina University, MAT English, Math, Science, and Social Studies concentrations
 - 3. Coastal Carolina University, BA Higher Education and Community Engagement
 - 4. Coastal Carolina University, BS Marine and Coastal Environmental Science
- C. Consideration of College of Charleston Reclassification as a Professional Doctorate University and approval of PhD in Mathematics and Computing
- D. Institutional REACH Act Compliance Processes
- E. Consideration of revisions to REACH Act course options

FOR INFORMATION

- F. Licensing Update
- G. 2018-2019 Academic Common Market Program Report
- H. Staff Approved Notifications of Change and Termination

Commissioner Satcher motioned, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded that item E., Consideration of revisions to REACH Act course options, be pulled from the consent agenda and be considered as a separate agenda item. Chair Hayes asked whether there were any comments or discussion. With there being no comment, Chair Hayes called for the vote, and it was approved unanimously to remove item E.



from the consent agenda. Commissioners engaged in extended conversation regarding the REACH Act. Commissioner Satcher moved, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to approve item E. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the item was approved unanimously. Commissioners engaged in extended conversation regarding informational item H., Staff Approved Notifications of Change and Termination. Commissioner Horne motioned for the approval of the revised consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved. Commissioner Seckinger voted not in favor of item C., Consideration of College of Charleston Reclassification as a Professional Doctorate University and approval of PhD in Mathematics and Computing.

6.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services **Paul Batson**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report on the Committee on Access and Equity & Student Services. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee did not have any items for consideration.

6.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement **Doug Snyder**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement. Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee did not have any items for consideration.

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 was no public comment.

9. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes and President Monhollon thanked everyone for their work and wished everyone happy holidays. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.