



**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education  
Executive Committee Meeting  
November 23, 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. Laura Belcher, Operations Manager  
Dr. Mariam Dittmann, Director of Academic Affairs  
and Licensing  
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Director of Data-Research &  
IT  
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Georges Tippens, Deputy Director & General  
Counsel  
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 10:00 a.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Approval of Minutes October 26, 2021**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26 Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Dalton seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes reported that the annual CHE Bylaws review will be led by Commissioner Horne. Commissioner Horne confirmed that the Executive Committee reviewed the CHE Bylaws and did not have any revisions to suggest. She reported the Committee concluded that the document provided by President Monhollon would serve as a good reference point for new Commissioners, to which President Monhollon supported adding the document to the new Commissioner handbook. Chair Hayes thanked the Committee for their review.

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to summarize his upcoming President's report. President Monhollon stated that his report would include an update regarding implementation of the Public Agenda



and will also include a presentation by Rick Moul, PASCAL, discussing an initiative that would decrease the cost of textbooks for students.

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to summarize her report. Ms. Ward stated that her report will include an update on higher education related prefiled bills. She reported that 10 bills have been recently filed related to prohibiting face masks; abolishing the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and Commission on Higher Education; teacher instruction; cancelling professor tenure; and others. Ms. Ward said that the Board of Regents in Georgia has passed a policy related to faculty tenure.

Ms. Ward suggested drafting a statement regarding the tenure bill. President Monhollon explained that a section of the bill that Representative Taylor proposed would require faculty to teach a minimum number of credit hours each academic year, which could be a conflict for research institutions and impact faculty recruitment. Ms. Ward said that under the tenure bill, faculty would be required to teach two undergraduate/graduate courses in the fall and spring and that the CHE would be responsible for working with institutions to report on the status classification of faculty. Commissioner Munns said that by the next CHE Meeting, staff should recommend bills to Commissioners that should be monitored and acted upon. He requested that staff create talking points and be prepared to take a position, if necessary. Commissioner Horne requested that Ms. Ward send her a copy of The New York Times article referenced during her report, to which Ms. Ward agreed.

President Monhollon said that staff could provide informational talking points without supporting or opposing a proposed bill. If the tenure bill is enacted, President Monhollon opined that the state will encounter faculty recruitment concerns. Chair Hayes asked if other states have enacted similar bills, to which President Monhollon said that many have introduced such bills.

Commissioner Horne requested that the drafted list of bills include a list of advantages and disadvantages so that Commissioners gain a better understanding of the proposed legislation. Ms. Ward said the CHE should also have discussion and possibly a position on existing legislation. Chair Hayes suggested that at the CHE meeting, Ms. Ward provide her report during the legislative update and if there is continued discussion, defer the conversation to later in the meeting under agenda item, Other Business. Commissioner Munns requested a list of all bills relating to higher education and that the list indicate high priority bills.

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

Chair Hayes requested that Commissioner Horne report on the Committee's review of the CHE Bylaws.

Commissioner Munns reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing would have no items to consider during the December CHE meeting. He said that the next project the Committee will consider is the review of the licensure policy.

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services would have one action item, SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) report and one information item, SC National Guard College Assistance Program presentation.

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities will meet prior to the CHE Business meeting at 10:00 a.m. to consider fourteen permanent improvement projects. He said that the Committee will present Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) Staff Approvals for November for information.

Chair Hayes reported that legislative bills will be discussed under other business, if needed.

President Monhollon reported that there will be an executive session during the meeting to discuss personnel actions. He said that he will share an update regarding CHE staffing and projections into the next fiscal year. Chair Hayes asked whether the Governor's budget has been published, to which President Monhollon said that it has not but may come out mid-December.

Ms. Ward shared that she drafted a resolution for Senator Leatherman and Chair Hayes requested that Commissioners have the opportunity to review.

Chair Hayes asked whether a location has been confirmed for the offsite March CHE Meeting, to which President Monhollon responded that he would poll the full Commission to determine interest in visiting South Carolina State University and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Commissioner Batson said that Greenville Technical College would welcome hosting the CHE for a later meeting, to which Chair Hayes agreed that GTC could potentially host the following meeting.

### **3. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

### **4. Adjourn**

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

