



**Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education
Executive Committee Meeting
October 26, 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

Executive Committee Members Excused

Mr. Charles Munns

CHE Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President & Executive Director
Dr. Argentini Anderson, Interim Director of
Academic Affairs and Licensing
Ms. Laura Belcher, Operations Manager
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 2:40 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Approval of Minutes August 24, 2021

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24 Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Horne motioned and Commissioner Batson seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Review of the November 4, 2021 CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes reported that the annual bylaws review will be led by Commissioner Horne.

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to summarize his upcoming President's report. President Monhollon stated that his report would include a status update on REACH Act compliance. He reported that CHE staff has drafted an interim report highlighting institutions' progress toward compliance. He said that a final report will be provided during the June CHE meeting. President Monhollon stated that he will also introduce new CHE staff members; report on the progress of other provisions that CHE is charged with; his recent activities; updates from the Council of Presidents; and fall enrollment numbers.



Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to summarize her report. Ms. Ward stated that her report will include CHE's budget presentation on October 26 for consideration by the Governor and Executive Budget Office. She stated that she will also provide a brief overview of pending legislation. Chair Hayes asked that Ms. Ward mention during her report CHE's appreciation of Senator Leatherman's service to the State and to higher education and recommended that we pass a resolution to that regard.

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

Chair Hayes requested that two agenda items be added under the Executive Committee report: Emergency Regulations for Need-based Grant Program and SC Teachers Loan Program Discussion. Regarding the SC Teachers Loan Program discussion, Chair Hayes explained that in 2017 the Commission approved an agenda item regarding recommendations to change the Teachers Loan program, including a suggested change to the statute. He stated that the General Assembly did not take action during the next session to amend the statute or enact other changes. Chair Hayes asked Commissioner Batson to further explain. Commissioner Batson stated that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services suggested changes to the program, including an increase in the amount and an extension of benefits to all teachers, rather than to only those in certain STEM-related fields. He said that the recommendation was presented to the Commission and approved at the 2017 December CHE Meeting. Commissioner Batson suggested that the Executive Committee express continued support for the changes and asked Ms. Ward to assist with making legislative connections to advance the recommendation. Chair Hayes asked if STEM programs were the only programs that would be forgiven, to which Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the proposal would extend to critical need areas including health fields and special education.

Commissioner Horne motioned and Commissioner Batson seconded to discuss item 4, Extension of Emergency Regulations for the SC Need-based Grant Program. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the emergency regulations are in place for 90 days and are set to expire on November 10, which allows students to receive the maximum benefit of \$3,500 for a period of three terms. She expressed that the Committee would like to continue this until the General Assembly meets in January. Commissioner Horne motioned for the acceptance of the emergency regulation and Commissioner Batson seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Horne requested the mailing address for Senator Leatherman and suggested that the CHE send thank you notes acknowledging his advocacy and support for higher education. She said that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) will have six program proposals on the consent agenda, Clemson University, Ph.D. Medical Biophysics; Medical University of South Carolina, M.S. Genetic Counseling; University of South Carolina, M.S. Coaching Education, M.S. Data and Communication, B.S. Neuroscience, and University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S. Health Information Management. Commissioner Horne mentioned that the Committee will provide an update on the Transfer and Articulation taskforce and Program Productivity taskforce for information during the December CHE meeting.

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services would have a public hearing on proposed statutory regulatory changes to include; Determination of Rates of Tuition and Fees, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program, LIFE Scholarship Program and SC Need-based Grant Program. Dr. Woodfaulk added that the CHE has already approved the changes and the Public Hearing is required. Commissioner Batson announced that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services will meet following the CHE business meeting.

Commissioner Dalton shared that the Committee on Finance and Facilities will meet prior to the CHE Business meeting at 11:00 a.m. to consider two permanent improvement projects. He said that the Committee will present three items for information; Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) Staff

Approvals; a report on Proviso 117.153, which changes the dollar amount of PIPs that come to the committee for consideration, and the Quarterly Budget Report. Commissioner Dalton said that an update from the Tuition Taskforce will be provided.

3. Structure and Frequency of CHE Meetings 2021-22

President Monhollon proposed that the meeting schedule for 2022 follows that of this year. Chair Hayes requested that the Executive Committee meeting times be added to the memo. President Monhollon asked Commissioners about their interest and comfort level in conducting offsite campus visits in the spring. Commissioner Horne and Chair Hayes were in favor and agreed that March may be a good time to visit South Carolina State University, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College and Commissioner Horne suggested adding Denmark Technical College. Chair Hayes requested that President Monhollon poll the full Commission during the business meeting.

4. Extension of Emergency Regulations for the SC Need-based Grant Program.

Commissioners discussed this item under the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services report.

5. Additional Guidelines for Commissioners

President Monhollon shared a document, which was a part of the 2017 SWOT analysis and suggested that some points be used to inform the CHE Bylaws. He said that the communications section could be a reference point for Commissioners in dealing with external requests, which is part of the appendix of the SWOT analysis. Chair Hayes asked Commissioner Horne to delay the Bylaws report and to review the referenced document that has been provided by President Monhollon. Chair Hayes requested that the Executive Committee review the document ahead of the next CHE Meeting in which action would be taken regarding the bylaws.

6. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

7. Adjourn

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

