



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

[Draft Minutes](#)

April 26, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair

Commissioner Paul Batson

Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown

Commissioner Charles Dalton

Commissioner Linda Dolny

Commissioner Edgar Dyer

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Ben Satcher

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commissioner Doug Snyder

Commissioner Mark Smith

Members Excused

Commissioner Patrick White

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon

Ms. Laura Belcher

Dr. Mariam Dittmann

Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens

Ms. Bunnie Ward

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk



Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Dr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Dr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Dave Frost, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University
Dr. Thomas Regan, University of South Carolina
Aiken

Dr. Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College
Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel
Dr. Pamela Steinke, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical
College
Dr. Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College
Dr. Sheryl Turner Watts, University of South
Carolina Upstate

All Attended either In-Person, by Phone or Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 2:00 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.A. Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered and recommends for full approval the CHE's REACH Act report to the General Assembly. She explained that the REACH Act requires students graduating with a bachelor's degree read five founding documents in their entirety including the United States' Constitution, the Declaration of Independence; the Emancipation Proclamation; five of the Federalist Papers; and one foundational document relating to the



African-American struggle. She explained that the General Assembly tasked the CHE with ensuring institutional compliance with the statute. Commissioner Horne reported that institutions submitted 250 fall syllabi and worked diligently in incorporating the REACH Act related readings in already established fall syllabi. Commissioner Horne said that CHE staff reviewed all syllabi and worked closely with institutions that required additional guidance in becoming compliant. Commissioner Horne said that institutions were also required to submit spring 2022 semester syllabi. She reported that overall submissions were compliant, and only a few institutions required further guidance from CHE staff. She said that the Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing, Dr. Mariam Dittmann concluded that all institutions met the submission deadline and were compliant with the REACH Act requirements. Commissioner Horne reported that there were two concerns raised by a Commissioner during the CAAL discussion: the uniformity of the institutions' submissions and ambiguity within the statute. Commissioner Horne thanked CHE staff and institutions for their review. She also reported that approximately 500 CHE staff hours and approximately 2,500 institutional hours were spent on this work, with over 500 syllabi were submitted totaling over 3,000 pages. Commissioner Horne reported that the CAAL voted to accept and approve the report at its meeting on April 12, and then motioned for the acceptance by the full Commission.

Chair Hayes explained that a special CHE meeting was called to consider the REACH Act report ahead of the General Assembly's deadline to submit. Chair Hayes called for a vote, and the REACH Act report was approved, with one Commissioner voting nay.

Commissioner Dyer expressed that he had concern with the World History course from University of South Carolina Upstate, and the Political Economy course from Winthrop University, but did not oppose the approval of the REACH Act Report. He suggested that those two submissions be monitored during next year's review. Commissioner Horne asked Commissioner Dyer to submit his concerns to Dr. Dittmann so that she could communicate those concerns to the institutions directly. Commissioner Seckinger explained her nay vote involved concern with the clarity of the REACH Act bill. She expressed concern that the bill only required the reading of documents, not an assessment of the knowledge of the documents.



3. Other Business Announcements

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

4. Public Comment

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

II. 5. End of Business Meeting

Chair Hayes thanked everyone for their work and for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.