



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education

Draft Minutes

May 5, 2021, 12:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Webinar

**Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair

Commissioner Paul Batson

Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown

Commissioner Charles Dalton

Commissioner Edgar Dyer

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Ben Satcher

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Mark Smith

Commissioner Doug Snyder

Commissioner Patrick White

**Members Excused**

Commissioner Linda Dolny

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

**Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Rusty Monhollon

Ms. Laura Belcher

Ms. Alexis Boulware

Dr. Mariam Dittmann

Ms. Shardai Figgures

Ms. Katie Harrison

Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Mr. Daniel Jeng

Ms. Ashlee, King

Mr. Frank Myers

Ms. Yolanda Myers

Ms. Kenita Pitts-Howard

Ms. Stacey Price

Dr. Regine Rucker

Ms. Laverne Sanders

Ms. Christina Seale

Ms. Shakara Smith

Ms. Crystal Standifer

Mr. Mark Swart

Mr. Georges Tippens

Ms. Bunnie Ward

Ms. Tanya Weigold



**Commission Staff Present - Continued**

Ms. Leslie Williams

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Dr. Suzanne Austin, College of Charleston

Mr. Clay Barton, SC Department of Education

Mr. Brant Branham, Coastal Carolina University

Ms. Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University

Ms. Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina

Upstate

Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina-  
Palmetto College

Dr. James Colbert, Lander University

Mr. Kenneth Cole, University of South Carolina-  
Lancaster

Ms. Dondi Costin, Charleston Southern  
University

Dr. Stephen Cutler, University of South Carolina  
Columbia

Mr. Rob Essaf, Clemson University

Mr. David Frost, Coastal Carolina University

Ms. Michelle Hare, Winthrop University

Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Columbia

Dr. Yvonne Jefferson, Trident Technical College

Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan

Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University

Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University

Ms. Michelle Lodato, Lander University

Mr. Thomas Lorenz, Private Citizen

Ms. Adrienne McCormick, Winthrop University

Dr. Martha Moriarty, University of South  
Carolina Beaufort

Mr. Hank Muller, The Citadel

Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston

Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges &  
Universities

Ms. Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina  
Columbia

Mr. Rick Petillo, Clemson University

Ms. Carol Routh, Clemson University

Dr. Lisa Saladin, Medical University of South  
Carolina

Ms. Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina  
Upstate

Dr. Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College  
System

Ms. Nina Staggers, SC Department of  
Employment and Workforce

Mr. Davis Staten, South Carolina State  
University

Ms. Jackie Taylor, SC Department of  
Employment and Workforce



**Guests-Continued**

Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College

Ms. Jacki Walsh, SC Department of Education

Ms. Angela Williams,

Ms. 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 March 3 and April 26 CHE meetings, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes thanked President Monhollon and CHE staff for their work.

**4. President and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon announced his most recent activities: attended commencement ceremonies at University of South Carolina Beaufort and Midlands Technical College; participated in the College and Career Day Rally where he interacted with incoming college students; and hosted Higher Education Day at the Statehouse where students were recognized by both a House and Governor proclamation. He also attended the investiture ceremony for Chancellor Dan Heimmermann, University of South Carolina Aiken; the inauguration of President Ronnie



Hopkins, Voorhees University; the dedication of Horry-Georgetown Technical College Grand Strand Campus; and Dr. Mariam Dittmann attended the investiture ceremony for Chancellor Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate on his behalf. President Monhollon thanked Dr. Woodfaulk, the CHE staff planning committee, volunteers, and sponsors for their role in executing a successful College and Career Day Rally. He also thanked Ms. Ward and CHE staff for coordinating the Higher Education Day event.

President Monhollon introduced new CHE staff members: Ashlee King, Licensing Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing; Shardai Figgures, Communications Coordinator in the Office of Governmental Affairs and Communications; and Alfie Mincy, Veteran Services Coordinator in the Office of Student Affairs. President Monhollon reported that CHE is near fully staffed, with currently two additional searches open. He announced the following meeting schedules and provided a brief overview of the agendas: Council of Board Charis scheduled June 9; Council of Presidents scheduled March 31; and the June CHE Meeting scheduled June 2 at Clemson University and Tri-County Technical College.

President Monhollon highlighted two reports of interest, one by Lumina Foundation and Gallup and one by Moody Investor Services. He explained that the Lumina report illustrates that there is a high demand for higher education despite pandemic-related disruptions and it identified key common barriers to pursuing higher education including cost, overwhelming stress, and work conflicts. President Monhollon continued by stating that the report, recommended prioritizing such barriers as financial aid opportunities, mental health counseling, and student support to assist with family obligations, food banks, and childcare. President Monhollon explained that the Moody's Investor report projects that colleges and universities will likely face ongoing economic uncertainties for the next academic year and that macroeconomic factors will influence fall enrollment levels and revenue growth.

## 5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward provided a budget update stating that the budget is currently with the House for consideration. She explained the difference between the House and Senate versions of the budget stating that the Senate version allocates \$457,500



towards CHE's ASCEND 60x30 initiatives, while the House version proposes \$750,000. Ms. Ward reported that the Senate version of the budget appropriated funds for the College and Career Opportunity Program; \$10 million increase in Needs-based Grants; \$1.5 million in lottery dollars for PASCAL; an increase in the SC National Guard College Assistance and College Transition Programs; \$10 million to establish a Veterinarian Medicine program at Clemson University; \$1 million for the SC Department of Education's Teacher Transformation Pilot; and HEEP program funds.

Ms. Ward reported on current legislation. She said that the Save Women's Sports Act passed in the Senate and that the proviso that requires high school seniors to complete a Math or Computer Science and English Language Arts class to be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship has received a second reading in the Senate, along with the Educator Preparation Report Card proviso, which would require the CHE to establish a commission to develop and publish educator preparation data.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes said that there were no new items to report from the Executive Committee.

### **6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

On behalf of Commissioner Horne, Dr. Dittmann reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered two items; Transfer Policy and Doctoral/Professional University Study. She reported that the Transfer Policy has been revised to incorporate language from the Proviso stating that any student who graduates from a two-year public college and transfers to a four-year public institution in the state will receive 60 credit hours and be classified as a junior. Keeping in line with Proviso 11.20, Dr. Dittmann reported that a study of doctoral classifications was conducted by CHE staff, and based on the study, CAAL recommends that the Commission approve the creation of a new Professional Doctorate Classification. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether institutions were included in the discussion regarding the transfer policy, to which Dr. Dittmann confirmed. Dr. Dittmann then motioned for the approval of the full consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote, which was approved unanimously.



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

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services did not have any agenda items for action, but rather he provided an update on the Needs-based Grant Methodology discussion. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee convened four meetings to consider a request made by the technical colleges to study perceived disparities in needs-based funding allocations among the sectors. He said that the Committee considered two alternatives: proceeding with the current formula as is or moving forward with a proposed formula made by the technical college sector based on headcount enrollment. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee received advice from the CHE's general counsel who concluded that the headcount proposal is not in line with statute. Following general counsel's interpretation, Commissioner Batson reported that he and another Committee member created multiple formulas that would be in line with statute and proposed them during the Committee meeting. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee would like more direct input from each sector and requested that two representatives from each sector meet with CHE to further the discussion on the formula, methodology, and any possibilities for improving the existing formula. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee passed a motion for the CHE staff to convene the proposed meeting including representatives from each of the sectors prior to making any changes or recommendations. Commissioner Batson said that following the convening a report would go to the Committee by August 1, and would then be considered by the Commission. Chair Hayes thanked the Committee for its hard work.

### **6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities**

Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities reviewed five permanent improvement proposals from four institutions: Clemson University, Development and Alumni Center Building Construction; Coastal Carolina University, Indoor Practice Facility Construction and Shift Western End of University Boulevard; College of Charleston, Berry Residence Hall and Honors Program Renovation; and Winthrop University, Demolition for Richardson Hall. He said that the Committee asked several questions related to proposals from Clemson University and Coastal Carolina University, and ultimately



decided to postpone any action on agenda item 6.02.A2.a., Coastal Carolina, Indoor Practice Facility Construction requesting its removal from the consent agenda. Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the consent agenda, less the one removed item. 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 Project Staff Approvals for March and April. Mr. Tippens reported that the CHE staff approved 63 institutional requests, of which 54 were establishing new projects or increasing budgets of existing projects, eight were closing out projects, and one was a scope change. Mr. Tippens reported that he sent a letter to the SC Department of Administration regarding the College of Charleston lease, and that it was conditionally recommended because of provisions within the lease. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Wilson to provide the CHE Quarter 3 Budget report. Mr. Wilson provided a summary of the CHE expenditures.

#### **7. Other Business Announcements**

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. President Monhollon reminded Commissioners of the offsite June CHE Meeting.

#### **8. Public Comment**

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any public comment. There was one public comment regarding a request from a citizen to amend requirements of the LIFE, Palmetto Fellow, and HOPE scholarships to allow use of scholarship funding for graduate education if a student still has time eligibility in his or her scholarship program.

#### **II. 9. End of Business Meeting**

Chair Hayes and President Monhollon thanked everyone for their work and for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.