



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

Draft Minutes

June 2, 2022, 12:30 p.m.

240 Madren Center Drive, Clemson, SC 29634

& Via Zoom Webinar

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 Doug Snyder

Commissioner Patrick White

Members Excused

Commissioner Mark Smith

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon

Ms. Laura Belcher

Ms. Alexis Boulware

Mr. Richard Davis

Dr. Mariam Dittmann

Ms. Shardai Figgures

Ms. Monica Goodwin

Ms. Katie Harrison

Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Dr. Michael Igbonagwam

Ms. Alfie Mincy

Ms. Yolanda Myers

Mr. Frank Myers

Ms. Kenita Pitts-Howard

Ms. Stacey Price

Ms. Laverne Sanders

Ms. Crystal Standifer

Mr. Mark Swart

Mr. Georges Tippens

Ms. Bunnie Ward



Commission Staff Present - Continued

Ms. Leslie Williams
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Lishu Yin

Guests

Mr. Steve Adams, Erskine College
Mr. Clay Barton, SC Department of Education
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Marianne Bickle, University of South Carolina
Ms. Christine Brown, Medical University of South Carolina
Mr. Brain Bunton, 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. Rob Dedmon, SC Student Loan
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Dr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University
Mr. Kevin Eakes, College of Charleston
Ms. Kim Ellisor, Francis Marion University
Dr. Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Frederick Evans, SC State University

Ms. Manicia Finch, South Carolina State University
Ms. Pat Greene, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Ms. C. Anne Gutshall, College of Charleston
Mr. George Hitt, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Ashley Holt, University of South Carolina
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina Columbia
Mr. Timothy Johnson, College of Charleston
Mr. Ray Jones, SC Student Loan
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University
Mr. Adam Jordan, College of Charleston
Ms. Elizabeth Jurish, College of Charleston
Ms. Elizabeth Kassebaum, College of Charleston
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Ms. Jillian Kirkland, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Ms. Elisabeth Kovacs, SC department of Commerce
Ms. Tabitha McAllister, Technical College of the Lowcountry



Guests Continued

Ms. Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina
Mr. Rick Petillo, Clemson University
Ms. Katie Pfile, College of Charleston
Mr. Michael Roberts, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Karin Roof, The Citadel
Mr. Anthony Setari, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Lillian Sims, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Ms. Gene Spivey, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Ms. Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina
Upstate

Ms. Holley Tankers, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Jackie Taylor, SC Department of
Employment and Workforce
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Mr. Sebastian van Delden, College of Charleston
Ms. Tangar Young, SC State University
Ms. Angela Williams, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical
College
Mr. Rich Viso, Coastal Carolina 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 May 5 CHE meeting, 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 Clemson University and Tri-County Technical College leadership teams for hosting the CHE. He also thanked the CHE staff for their work and dedication to the Commission.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon extended thanks to Clemson University's and Tri-County Technical College's leadership teams for hosting the CHE. President Monhollon provided an overview of the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Taiwan, which was shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting. He explained that the MOU would allow the CHE and Taiwan to collaborate on mutually supported initiatives related to higher education, as exemplified through an already established Sister State MOU with Taiwan and South Carolina. President Monhollon stated that the SC House and Senate also passed a resolution supporting the Taiwanese government and citizens. President Monhollon asked Commissioners whether there were any comments or opposition to the CHE signing the MOU with Taiwan, to which Commissioner Seckinger stated that there should be a vote on the item since it is listed on the agenda. Commissioner Horne suggested that higher education institutions be allowed to give their input regarding the MOU. President Monhollon expressed that the document is a draft and had not been shared with the Taiwanese Embassy and that if the Embassy agrees with the draft MOU, it will be brought to the August CHE Meeting for formal endorsement.

Commissioners engaged in an extended conversation regarding the MOU. President Monhollon requested that Ms. Ward share the draft MOU with her Taiwan contact to finalize the language.

President Monhollon introduced a new CHE staff member, Alfie Mincy, Veteran Services Coordinator, Office of Student Affairs.

President Monhollon announced his most recent and upcoming activities: celebrated a CHE Staff Appreciation Day at which two staff members were recognized for their State service; plans to attend the



Council of Board Chairs' meeting on June 9 and the CHE Retreat on August 4; and attended the Council of Presidents' meeting at which Dr. Marilyn Fore was elected as Chair.

President Monhollon reported that the Executive Committee suggested adding the following topics to the CHE Retreat agenda: status of the Public Agenda and how the CHE will advance the initiative; refresher on the Public Agenda; presentation on demographics post COVID-19 relating to higher education from Moody's report; updates from each CHE office director regarding current work and initiatives; and an update on the Higher Education Foundation. President Monhollon asked whether Commissioners had any additional topics they would like considered. Commissioner Seckinger suggested that we ask the House Education Committee about what they see the future holding for education and possibly glean some ideas or topics from its response. Commissioner Dyer suggested that a former Chair of the Foundation is invited to the meeting to share their view on what the Foundation was established to do.

5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward reported that the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) met May 27 and reviewed the revenue estimates for this fiscal year, FY 2021-22 (FY22), and next fiscal year, FY 2022-23 (FY 23) at which a revised forecast was adopted for both fiscal years. She said that both recurring bases were increased, and the expected surplus would total \$5.98 billion in additional funds to appropriate in the FY 2022-23 budget process.

Ms. Ward reported that budget conference committee deliberations are currently taking place. She said that both chambers agree on the need for tax relief, but the House and Senate timelines for the tax cut differ significantly. Ms. Ward explained that under the House plan, half of the tax relief (approximately \$600 million) would be allocated this year and the remaining relief would be phased in over the next five years. She further explained that the House proposal would cut more than \$1 billion in taxes over five years and lowers the top income tax rate from seven percent to 6.5 percent immediately. It then would gradually decrease to six percent over the course of five years.



Ms. Ward reported that the Senate's plan immediately lowers the top income tax rate from seven percent to 5.7 percent, estimated to cost \$1 billion as soon as the tax rate is reduced. To pay for the immediate reduction in the top income tax rate, Ms. Ward said that the Senate proposed allocating 60 percent of agencies' budget requests, including public higher education and the CHE, with the amount of funding available to higher education depending on the tax cut compromise. Ms. Ward described the most significant difference between the two versions. Under the House's tax cut, more dollars are available for higher education funding, while the Senate's proposal reduces the amount of additional dollars for higher education by approximately 40 percent in tuition mitigation. Ms. Ward reported that \$10 million additional funds would be allocated to needs-based funding under the Senate's version and the House fully funded the CHE's FY 2023 budget requests, including \$750,000 for six full-time employees (FTE)s to focus on implementation of the *Ascend 60x30* plan. She explained the Senate's plan reduces the CHE's request for \$750,000 for *Ascend 60x30* to \$457,500.

Ms. Ward reported that the CHE is partnering with the South Carolina Hospital Association and the deans of the colleges of nursing to provide legislative recommendations to the House Education Committee regarding the nursing shortage. She said that over 40 participants developed draft recommendations and that the next step is for the CHE staff and partners to facilitate a workgroup to develop further strategies and assist partners with drafting legislation. Ms. Ward reported that both the House and Senate agreed to allocate \$10 million to aid the nursing shortage, which the CHE would manage. Ms. Ward explained that the first \$5 million would be used to supplement salaries of existing FTE faculty and hourly rate of part-time faculty/clinical nursing faculty and the remaining \$5 million would be used to provide tuition reimbursement or scholarships for students enrolled in graduate-level nurse education programs, Director of Nursing, or PHD programs, with the stipulation that for each year an award is received recipients must agree to serve as faculty in a state nursing program after graduation.

Ms. Ward reported that Act 185, SC Educator Preparation Report Card was signed by Governor McMaster and directs the CHE to be the lead agency and establish the annual development and publication of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card. The law directs the CHE to form a commission with the



assistance of the Department of Education, State Board of Education, the Center for Research on Teacher Education (SC-TEACHER), and the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, reported Ms. Ward.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

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

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Bettie Rose Horne

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Program Proposals

1. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Applied Physics, General, Engineering, Environmental, Computational, Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation, and Astronomy Concentrations
2. Coastal Carolina University, Ph.D., Education Sciences, Specialization in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Administration, and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
3. College of Charleston, B.A./A.B., Public Health, Global Health or Mental and Child Health Concentration choices
4. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B., Software Engineering
5. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B., Special Education, Multi-Categorical
6. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B., Statistics
7. Francis Marion University, B.S., Mass Communication, Broadcasting, Convergence Journalism, and Public Relations Tracks
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A., Special Education
9. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A.I.S., Services Management

FOR ACTION

- B. Consideration of Francis Marion University B.S., Forestry
- C. Consideration of Francis Marion University Mission Change



Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered nine program proposals. Commissioner Dolny motioned, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to move item 6.02.B. to the consents agenda as her initial concerns have been addressed. Commissioner Horne called for the vote, and it was passed unanimously to add the program to the consent agenda. Commissioner Horne motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Horne reported that the CAAL also considered one additional item, 6.02.C. and motioned for acceptance. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the mission statement was approved unanimously.

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

Paul Batson

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| CONSENT AGENDA |
| <p>A. Consideration of SC Student Loan Corporation FY2022-2023 Administrative Budget Request SC Teachers Loan Program</p> |
| FOR INFORMATION |
| <p>B. SC Need-based Grant Report (College Transition and Need-based Grant) C. Palmetto Fellows Annual Report D. College Application Month</p> |

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services had one agenda item for action. He motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously.





6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Charles Dalton

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

1. Coastal Carolina University
 - a. Indoor Practice Facility Construction
 - Establish Project – CPIP (Phase I)
2. Horry-Georgetown Technical College
 - a. Diesel Engine Training Facility Expansion - Building and Land Acquisition
 - Increase Budget – (Phase II)
3. University of South Carolina
 - a. Swearingen Infrastructure Replacement Renovation
 - Establish Project – CPIP (Phase I)
 - b. Thornwell College Maintenance Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

FOR INFORMATION

B. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during May

Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities reviewed four permanent improvement proposals from three institutions. Commissioner Dalton motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Dalton reported that his Committee heard a presentation from Moody's Investor's prior to the CHE meeting. Commissioner Dalton called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for May. Mr. Tippens reported that the CHE staff approved 13 institutional requests, of which eight were new projects and five were closing out projects.

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 for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

