



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

March 3, 2021, 12:30 p.m.

S.C. State University/Zoom

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair

Commissioner Julie Godshall Brown

Commissioner Charles Dalton

Commissioner Linda Dolny

Commissioner Edgar Dyer

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Charles Munns

Commissioner Ben Satcher

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commissioner Doug Snyder

Members Excused

Commissioner Paul Batson

Commissioner Mark Smith

Commissioner Patrick White

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon

Ms. Laura Belcher

Dr. Mariam Dittmann

Ms. DaVaris Hatten

Mr. Mark Swart

Ms. Shakara Smith

Mr. Georges Tippens

Ms. Bunnie Ward

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk



Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University	Mr. Paul Looman, College of Charleston
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina Palmetto College	Dr. Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University	Mr. Dan Radakovich, Clemson University
Dr. Mark Del Mastro	Dr. Karin Roof, The Citadel
Dr. Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University	Ms. Nina Staggers, SC Department of Employment & Workforce
Ms. Trena Houp, University of South Carolina Columbia	Ms. Jackie Taylor, Department of Employment and Workforce
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University	Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University	Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Mr. Alan Kleinfeld, Lowcountry Graduate Center	Ms. Jennifer Wilbanks, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Learie Luke, South Carolina State University	
Dr. Carrie Messal, College of Charleston	
Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston	

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:41 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 February 3, 2022, CHE meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Horne seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes reported that he received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Horne resigning as vice chair of the Commission, as she was appointed to chair the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). Chair Hayes then called for nominations to serve as vice chair. Commissioner Dyer nominated Commissioner Satcher to serve as vice chair with a second from Commissioner Dolny. As there were no other nominations, Chair Hayes called for the vote and Commissioner Satcher was elected as vice chair of the CHE.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon thanked President Conyers, South Carolina State University; President Todd, Denmark Technical College; President Tobin, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College; and respective staff for hosting and welcoming the CHE.

President Monhollon announced that the SC Department of Education awarded the CHE a 3-year, \$5 million grant through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund. He explained that the grant is in response to learning loss as a result of the pandemic. President Monhollon explained that a request for proposals (RFP) was sent to institutions to determine programs that would be most beneficial to students. He said that the CHE received and awarded four proposals: one from Dr. Jennifer Kunka and Anna Todd, Francis Marion; one from Dr. Evan Ortlieb, The Citadel; and two from Clemson University from Dr. Luke J. Rapa, Dr. Jeff C. Marshall, Dr. Nathan J. McNeese, and Dr. Bart P. Knijnenburg, and a second from Dr. Rebecca F. Kaminiski and Dr. Brooke A. Whitworth. President Monhollon said that first year funding will be distributed to recipients soon.

President Monhollon reported that on February 16 the CHE co-hosted a launch event in collaboration with the Complete College America (CCA) alliance, at which there were 100 attendees. He summarized key topics that included an overview of the benefits of the alliance, adequacy funding data and student success best practices. He extended appreciation to the Governor for supporting the CHE in joining the alliance.



President Monhollon provided an update on provisos the CHE is currently working on. Proviso 117.152 directs the CHE to develop a comprehensive credit transfer policy from two-year to four-year institutions. He said that the Technical College System has requested further revisions to ensure that students who earn an associate of arts or science degree at a technical college would receive at least 60 transfer credits at a four-year institution, become classified as a junior, and satisfy the four-year general education requirement. President Monhollon reported that the CHE does have policies in place that address the current proviso and are working with institutions in determining how their policies align.

President Monhollon reported that the CHE conducted a study on the historical funding of public higher education and provided a report to the General Assembly and shared it with Commissioners.

Commissioner Munns suggested that the CHE conduct a study to review funding ratios as it relates to scholarships and capital renewals, to which President Monhollon responded that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services is currently conducting a study on the allocation of needs-based grants.

Commissioner Dolny requested that the CHE identify current funding formulas before starting the process of making any revisions. Chair Hayes asked CHE staff to provide Commissioners with an inventory of all formulas used, to which President Monhollon agreed.

President Monhollon said that the CHE has been directed by proviso 11.20 to design and implement a classification system to include doctoral and professional degree classifications. President Monhollon shared with Commissioners a draft of staff recommendations to address the proviso, which proposed a revision to statute 59-103-15 by the General Assembly. He explained that there are currently four classifications, and the proposal is to add the classification, Limited Professional Doctorate University. President Monhollon reported that the CHE staff will work with higher education institutions (IHE) to receive their feedback, and the full report will be presented to Commissioners at the May CHE meeting ahead of the full report to the General Assembly in June.

Commissioner Seckinger recommended removing the term "Limited" and listing the classification as Professional Doctorate University and to provide the General Assembly an overview of accreditor requirements, to which President Monhollon agreed to consider the recommendation. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether there was a SACS issue, to which President Monhollon explained that if



institutions have more than three doctoral or professional programs it is considered a substantive change and would be required to follow a specific approval process, but the policy itself does not present an accreditation issue.

President Monhollon provided an update regarding the REACH Act requiring students to read certain US history related documents, which the CHE is responsible for ensuring compliance. He said that the CHE staff worked with institutions to meet the requirements and reported that spring semester submissions improved compared to past fall submittals, with only a few of the 228 documents received requiring further guidance. President Monhollon said that the full report will be submitted to the General Assembly ahead of the May Commission meeting so that the CHE may formally endorse.

President Monhollon made a few announcements: printed copies of the 2021 Statistical Abstract have been distributed; he reminded Commissioners to complete the ethics report by March 30; and that there would not be an April CHE Meeting. President Monhollon thanked Commissioner Munns for his service to the Commission.

5. Legislative Report

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report. Ms. Ward provided a budget update stating that according to the Board of Economic Advisors' (BEA) February 15, 2022, forecast, total general fund revenue is \$853 million above the estimate. She reported that the House Ways and Means (HWM) Committee recommended a higher education budget of \$1.378 billion in total state funds which includes recurring, nonrecurring, and capital reserve funds for FY 2022-23, representing approximately an eight percent increase from FY 22 to FY 23. Ms. Ward announced that the HWM recommended many of the CHE's requests: \$750,000 in recurring funds for ASCEND 60x30 initiatives and \$240,000 for a four years' match for the AmeriCorps grant. She reported that funding levels for State funded scholarships (LIFE, HOPE and Palmetto Fellows) remained similar to prior funding in previous years and funding for the National Guard Tuition Repayment and the College Transition program significantly increased. Ms. Ward reported that the Senate Finance Higher Education Committee has started hearing higher education budget presentations. She added that the CHE will present to the Committee on March 31.



Ms. Ward reported on: H. 3614, which would require high school students to complete FAFSA as a requirement for graduation. She reported that the Senate Education Committee has discussed the bill and requested that the CHE provide a summary of agency efforts to assist students and families with FAFSA completion. Ms. Ward reported on H. 4031, a bill related to Name, Image, and Likeness, which will be considered during the next House Higher Education Subcommittee meeting along with H. 4947, a bill related to Tuition/Out-of-State Recruitment allowing Francis Marion University to offer in-state tuition to ten neighboring North Carolina counties.

Ms. Ward announced that in partnership with the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) the CHE will host Higher Education Day at the State House scheduled for April 6. The event will provide students an opportunity to thank legislators and the Governor for supporting need-based grant funding.

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

Commissioner Munns reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) considered eight program proposals: five from Francis Marion University: B.S., Environmental Science and B.A., Environmental Studies; M.A.T., Early Childhood Education; M.A.T., Elementary Education; M.A.T., Multi-Categorical Special Education Program; O.T.D., Occupational Therapy; two from Lander University: M.S., Exercise Science and B.S., Medical Biology; and one from College of Charleston, B.S., Management. He explained that the Francis Marion O.T.D, Occupational Therapy proposal was approved with a contingency that the classification of the degree would be changed. Commissioner Munns provided a brief overview of consent agenda items, 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 Horne reported that the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services had one item for consideration on the consent agenda, SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) FY2020-2021 Quarter I and Quarter II Reports, which the Committee favorably recommended. Commissioner Horne motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee had one item for information, SC Scholarships Appeal Cycle 2021-22. Commissioner Horne provided an update regarding concerns expressed by the Technical College sector about the allocation methodology of Needs-based grants. Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee has begun a series of Committee meetings to conduct a study and to allow the opportunity for input. She explained that the first of several meetings was held on February 23 for the purpose of reviewing the basic methodology of the allocation formula and that further suggestions and input from all the sectors have been requested. Commissioner Horne, joined by other Commissioners, thanked Commissioner Munns for his service to the CHE.

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Commissioner Dalton reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities reviewed eight permanent improvement proposals from four institutions: Clemson University, Lehotsky Hall Replacement, Tillman Hall Auditorium Renovation, and Women's Sport Program; Coastal Carolina University, Land Donation for Future Capital Improvement Projects and PGA Golf Management Program Academic Learning Lab Construction; College of Charleston, Electrical Grid Infrastructure Upgrades and Stern Student Center Renovation; and Medical University of South Carolina, College of Medicine Office and Academic Building. Commissioner Dalton noted that relating to item 2.A., Land Donation for Future Capital Improvement Projects, Commissioner Dyer recused himself from the vote as he serves on the Coastal Carolina Foundation Board. Commissioner Dalton reported that a special request was received from the College of Charleston for the CHE staff to consider a lease request, which is currently not listed on the CHE agenda.



Commissioner Dalton motioned to have CHE staff consider the lease addition and Commissioner Seckinger seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the revision was approved unanimously. 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 called on Mr. Tippens to provide a brief overview of the Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals for February. Mr. Tippens reported that the CHE staff approved 30 institutional requests, of which 26 were establishing projects or increasing budgets, four were decreasing budgets, and one lease renewal from the Medical University of South Carolina. Mr. Tippens reported that he will convene an advisory committee to consider capital project funding formulas.

7. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. President Monhollon asked Commissioners whether they would like to have the next campus site visit in June, to which Chair Hayes suggested visiting in the Upstate area. Chair Hayes asked that CHE staff decide on the location, to which President Monhollon said that staff will put together a schedule.

8. Public Comment

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

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 2:07 p.m.