

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

September 1, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & FACILITIES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee Members

Mr. Charles Dalton, Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Mr. Edgar Dyer
Mr. Patrick White
Ms. Linda Dolny

Staff

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Mr. Georges Tippens
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Mrs. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Leslie Williams

Other Commissioners

Ms. Terrye Seckinger
Mr. Doug Snyder
Mr. Dino Teppara

Guests

Beth Young
Tyler Saas
Carol Routh
Erik Sabin
Beth Bell
Rick Petillo
Graham Neff
David Watson
Stephanie Cooper
David Frost
Greg Weigle
Katherine Haltiwinger
Christine Brown
Rick Anderson
Patrick Wamsley
Dr. Zoher Kapasi
Phil Mauney
Winston Anderson
Scott Poelker
James Grigg
Michael Hughes
Victoria Cowell

Central Carolina Technical College
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Medical University of South Carolina
Spartanburg Community College
Trident Technical College
Winthrop University
Department of Administration
South Carolina State Technical College System

For the record, notification of the meeting was made to the public as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Call to Order

Chair Dalton called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and noted the establishment of a quorum of Committee Members.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Dalton called for the approval of the minutes from the August 5, 2022 meeting, which was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously without revision.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Dalton welcomed everyone in attendance and provided opening remarks. He mentioned that he was glad staff did not contract COVID after being a close-contact and that he was looking forward to the comparatively light agenda given the Commission has ethics training starting at noon.

4. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

The following projects were presented:

A. Clemson University

- i. Bryan Mall High Rise Renovations
 - Increase Budget, Revise Scope (Phase II)

Clemson sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to downward revise its scope to begin construction of one of its three Bryan Mall residence halls, Byrnes Hall, rather than all three. Commissioners inquired about hazardous material remediation and whether Clemson staff felt they budgeted sufficiently. Staff responded that they performed destructive testing during Phase One and believe the budget is sufficient. Commissioners then asked about the planned bond issuance, project timeline, and whether the renovations will reduce the number of available beds. Clemson staff stated that they hope to begin the project in Summer 2023 and conclude prior to August 2024. Staff added that there will be approximately 40 fewer beds upon completion, but those are interior spaces that typically students do not use. Finally, Commissioners asked about the central stairwell addition, to which Clemson staff mentioned that the summary was inaccurate, and the project will install exterior stairwells for the students rather than a central stairwell.

Commissioner Batson – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Dyer – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Lehotsky Hall Replacement
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

Clemson University sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to begin construction on a replacement facility for Lehotsky Hall. Commissioners asked where the new building will be located and the university's plans for the current building's footprint after demolition. Clemson staff stated the new facility will be located out of the core campus, by the intersection of Cherry and Perimeter roads. Staff noted that there are no permanent plans for the current building's footprint and that in the short-term it will likely become greenspace. Commissioners asked about the projected additional operating costs, wondering why the new building will cost more given that it should be more energy efficient and has less square footage. Staff replied they were unsure, but the likely answer is that staff who filled out the sheet were being conservative in their estimates.

Commissioner Dyer – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Batson – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

- iii. Women's Sports Program Expansion (Gymnastics/Lacrosse)
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

Clemson University sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to begin the construction phase of a project that will construct two new facilities and expand and renovate a third for women's sports programs at the university. Commissioners asked for an overview of the work from the university's Athletic Director. The Athletic Director mentioned that these programs were a result of Clemson planning ahead for Title IX compliance based on enrollment trends. When asked about funding, the Athletic Director mentioned that the university started a capital campaign through IPTAY specifically for these facilities. He also mentioned that while the \$10 million bond issuance will bring Clemson near its statutory cap, the university is paying down principal at a rate near \$6 million a year and he does not have concerns about the university's capacity to meet athletic program capital facility needs.

Commissioner Dolny – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Batson – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Medical University of South Carolina
 - i. MUSC Campus Connector Bridges
 - Establish Project (Phase I)

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to begin the planning stage of a project that will construct two elevated, covered bridges between areas of its campus. Staff stated that if constructed, all major buildings on its campus will be connected through the second floor, which will provide resiliency during storm events. Commissioners asked about the federal grants MUSC intends to use to fund construction. Staff responded that they have applied for the grants, but have not yet received notification of award. In the event MUSC does not receive the grants, staff stated the university will look at different options, including phasing the project into multiple components.

Commissioner Batson – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Dolny – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

- ii. College of Health Professions President Street Academic Building
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

MUSC sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to begin the construction of an 89,000-square foot facility that will house its College of Health Professions. After receiving an overview of the project from MUSC staff and confirming enrollment growth within the college, the Commissioners did not have any additional questions.

Commissioner Batson – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Dyer – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Spartanburg Community College
 - i. Spartanburg – Powers Building Renovation
 - Phase II Budget Increase

Spartanburg Community College sought a recommendation from the Committee on Finance and Facilities to begin construction of the final phase of its work on the Powers Building. Staff provided a history of the project and why the college has moved forward in phases. Staff stated that the final work is improving the HVAC systems in one wing, moving from a two-pipe to four-pipe system, and installing TPO-membrane roofing systems on two wings. Commissioners commended the college for its maintenance-focused project.

Commissioner Batson – Moved to Approve
Commissioner Dyer – Seconded
The motion carried unanimously.

5. Other Business

A. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals

- i. Georges Tippens provided an overview of the projects staff approved during August 2022 as an informational item.

B. Other Business

- i. Chairman Dalton asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, Chair Dalton adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.