



**Advisory Committee on Academic Programs  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2024**

**Attendees:**

Clemson University: Jeremy King, Rob Essaf, Steven Marks, Nicki Wise

Coastal Carolina University: Teresa Burns, Gibbs Knotts

College of Charleston: Mark Del Mastro

Francis Marion University: Allison Steadman, Will Carswell

Greenville Technical College:

Lander University: James Colbert, Jr.

Medical University of South Carolina:

Piedmont Technical College:

SC Department of Education: Jessica McLees

SC State University: Frederick Evans

SC Technical College System: Kim Burkett

The Citadel: Karin Roof

University of South Carolina Aiken:

University of South Carolina Beaufort: Eric Skipper, Bruce Marlowe, Brian Mallory, Kathryn Madden

University of South Carolina Columbia: Trena Houpp, Gayenelle Magwood, Donna Arnett, Craig Parks, Jennifer O'Neill

University of South Carolina Palmetto College: Walter Collins

University of South Carolina Upstate: Pam Steinke

Winthrop University: Tim Druke, Jennifer Leigh Disney, Adriana Cordis

York Technical College:

**Commissioners**

Edgar Dyer

Terrye Seckinger

**Commission Staff**

Dr. Jessica Berry

Dr. Kristin Brooks

Dr. Melissa Price

Darnell Holland

Yarley Steedly

Diane McCree

Ende Clark

Tracy Solet

All attended in-person or via Zoom

**1. Welcome**

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

## 2. Introductions, Quorum, and Freedom of Information Act

Ms. Solet announced attendance, established quorum, and confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Dr. Berry introduced new staff members: Tracy Solet and Darnell Holland.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the July 11, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Berry called for a vote. **Motion passed unopposed.**

## 4. The Transfer Pathways Working Group

Dr. Brooks gave a brief history of the group and summarized the current status, which was provided for informational purposes. Dr. Brooks invited questions. Hearing none, all were reminded of the annual convening taking place October 3, 2024 and advised registration was still open.

## 5. New Program Proposals

### a. Clemson University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

The institution moved to present the program, which was seconded. The program was presented and the floor was opened to questions. Commissioner Dyer inquired as to criteria used to identify students who may go into areas of rural practice and if tuition could be waived in the third and fourth years for students who agree to work in rural and underserved areas of the state for five years. The institution responded it will encourage participation by students from such communities and will focus curriculum on community service, servant leadership, and rural practice such as farms and other areas without state-of-the-art equipment. The institution understands waving tuition would require state approval and will be working with organizations to possibly provide support for students undertaking rural careers and is exploring national avenues as well. Tim Druke asked if the buildings are on schedule for the Fall 2026 start, which the institution confirmed and indicated once accreditation from national organizations is complete, it will spread the word of the program in the state. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

### b. University of South Carolina Beaufort, Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education

The institution moved to present the program, which was seconded. The program was presented and the floor was opened to questions. Tim Druke asked if there will be a single pathway for methods courses or multiple. The institution explained initially students from different disciplines will take course together but will eventually break out into separate sections for different disciplines. Ms. Steadman mentioned Francis Marion University has a MAT program, which the intuition noted will be added to the list. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

### c. Winthrop University, Bachelor of Science in Financial Technology

The institution moved to present the program, which was seconded. The program was presented and the floor was opened to questions. Commissioner Dyer asked if any institutions in the Charlotte area have such a major and if the institution will be recruiting in Mecklenburg County. The institution has no knowledge of another such program in the area and noted the University of North Carolina, Charlotte was unsuccessful in implementing a Financial Technology program but believes is still considering one based on the market. The institution believes this program is innovative and will be successful as the first to the market and due to the large demand in the area. Further, there has been some legislative conversation for institutions on the state border to allow in-state tuition at the undergraduate level as they do at the graduate level. Commissioner Seckinger inquired as to adding this as a minor to the Finance major, or possibly a certificate, and consideration for the best way to grow the market. The institution responded it does offer a Finance Technology minor, is considering adding a certificate option at a later date, and

appreciates the flexibility of stacking credentials. The institution believes there is a need for this program's offering of finance and technology. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

d. University of South Carolina Columbia, Master of Science in Performance Nutrition and Dietetics

The institution moved to present the program, which was seconded. The program was presented and the floor was opened to questions. Commissioner Seckinger expressed appreciation for the program. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

## 6. New Center Proposal

a. University of South Carolina Columbia, University of South Carolina Collaborative for Health Equity Research (USC-CHEER)

The institution moved to present the center, which was seconded. The center was presented and the floor was opened to questions. Commissioner Dyer asked if the institution's definition of "Health Equity" includes the underserved areas typically included, which the institution confirmed and stated the center would be an expansive inclusion. Dr. Berry asked how this center will intersect with the institution's existing rural health institute. The institution explained the center will not be a duplication but a collaboration to leverage strengths across various disciplines. Further, the centers will be working closely together for funding opportunities in response to the desire of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for multi-institutional connections and networks in various areas. Commissioner Dyer asked if this center is coordinating with the institution's medical school and how the center will implement getting into rural areas. The institution explained the center will be cross-disciplinary, which will include the college of nursing and medical schools. Commissioner Seckinger commented on the use of the word "Equity" and suggested the institution use the word "Education" instead, and suggested they work with DHEC closely by combining its expertise and experience with the institution's education. The institution expressed appreciation for the comments and stated it is working with various agencies as a collaborative. Commissioner Seckinger requested a list be provided to the Commission of the agencies in the state with which the institution is working, which the institution will do. Commissioner Dyer asked the institution to confirm it will be cutting across all social, economic, racial, and all other categories to service any who are underserved, which was confirmed. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

## 7. Program Modification Proposal

a. Winthrop University, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religion with concentration in Pre-Law

The institution moved to present the program modification, which was seconded. The program modification was presented and the floor was opened to questions. With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program modification to CAAL. **Motion passed unopposed.**

## 8. For Information / Discussion

a. Policy Reminders

- i. Dr. Berry advised all new programs, certificates, centers, etc. must be approved by CHE prior to advertising. If they have not yet been presented to CHE, a statement must be included on the advertisement noting CHE approval is required.
- ii. Dr. Berry advised all requisite signatures must be included on program modification proposals prior to submission to CHE for review as program modifications are approved at the ACAP level. Without all signatures, including the Board of Trustees, modification proposals will not be reviewed by CHE staff. New program proposals should ideally have all requisite signatures, including

Board of Trustees, prior to submission to CHE, but in all cases, must include the Board of Trustees signature prior to submission of the new program to CAAL.

- iii. Dr. Berry advised an email from CHE staff will be sent to notify the institution of placement on the appropriate meeting agenda. Dr. Berry expressed appreciation for all the timely responses by the institutions to CHE staff for proposal reviews and report information.
  - iv. Dr. Berry requested any edits needed regarding today's proposals be submitted to CHE staff by Thursday, October 3, 2024.
- b. Dr. Berry thanked the institutions for their timely responses to assist CHE staff with the REACH Act Report, which is currently working its way through the review process.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.