



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., August 8, 2024
Via Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Oran Smith
Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Patrick White
Commissioner Mick Zais

Members Excused

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Doug Snyder

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Argentini Anderson
Jessica Berry
Laura Belcher
Kristin Brooks
Stephanie Charbonneau
Ende Clark
Scheri Eichelberger
Shardai Figgures
Monica Goodwin
Corey Gheesling
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
Darnell Holland
Ellan Jenkinson, PASCAL
Mariana Manic
Diane McCree

Alfie Mincy
Rick Moul, PASCAL
Yolanda Myers
Jody Nicholson
Kenita Pitts
Melissa Price
Christopher Robinson
Christina Seale
Dianne Schaefer
Kara Smith
Tracy Solet
Mark Swart
Tanya Weigold
Leslie Williams
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk
Lishu Yin

Guests

Charles Appleby, Department of Workforce
Development
Donna Arnett, University of South Carolina
Beth Bell, Clemson University
Bridget Blackwell, University of South Carolina
Tiffany Blackwell, Tri-County Technical College
Claudia Bornholdt, Coastal Carolina University
Willie Bradley, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
JT Bridges, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Phillip Brigmon, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University

Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University
Lewis Carter, SC House of Representatives
Cheryl Caution-Parker, SC Institutes of
Innovation & Information
Sarah Cherne, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission
James Colbert, Lander University
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Beth Costner, Winthrop University
Larry Cunningham, Charleston Law

Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Jessica Doucet, Francis Marion University
Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University
Christen Engel, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Frederick Evans, SC State University
Jason Ferguson, Graduation Alliance
Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical
College
Phil Ginn, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Doug Goforth, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Matthew Hammett, Lander University
Steve Hase, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Ayana Hernandez, Hernandez Consulting
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University
Deana Hopper, South University
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Amanda Karls, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Jeremy King, Clemson University
Elisabeth Kovacs, SCMA
Gibbs Knotts, Coastal Carolina University
Charlie Larosa, SC House of Representatives
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Mark Mitchell, Coastal Carolina University
Eva Monsma, University of South Carolina
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Michael Nichols, Bluefield University
Erin Paysinger, Lander University

Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina
David Peyton, Clemson University
Doug Potter, Southern Evangelical Seminary
Pat Raymark, Clemson University
Cam Reagin, University of South Carolina Aiken
Jamia Richardson, Coastal Carolina University
Mark Rollins, Lander University
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Preethi Saint, The Citadel
Catherine Scott, Coastal Carolina University
Andy Shane, University of South Carolina
Josh Simon, The Citadel
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Rosline Sumpster, SC Technical College System
Dillion Tatum, Francis Marion University
Adam Taylor, Lander University
Karen Taylor, SC Technical College System
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South
Carolina
Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State
University
Ryan Toole, Clemson University
Sebastian van Delden, Winthrop University
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
Tangar Young, SC State University
Steven Yoho, South University

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

Commissioner Dyer on behalf of Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 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 Dyer introduced the draft minutes of the June 6, 2024, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Bryson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Dyer announced that the Commission is currently planning its October annual retreat. He thanked President Perez for his service thus far.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Dyer called on President Perez to give his report. President Perez thanked everyone for their flexibility with adjusting to a virtual meeting due to inclement weather. President Perez recapped the last year at the CHE to include investigations, low employee morale, change in leadership and he provided an outlook of where the agency is today. President Perez welcomed new agency staff: Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing; Ms. Ende Clark, Licensing Coordinator, Mr. Darnell Holland, Academic Program Manager, and Mrs. Tracy Solet and Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Special Projects Coordinator, Chariti Spann.

President Perez provided an update on the Inspector General's (IG) report. He reported that of 40 action items, 17 have been completed, 18 initiated, with five left to be initiated. He overviewed those items. President Perez said that he addressed immediate agency matters to include Act 156, the Executive Budget Request, various data requests from the Governor's Office and Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD), and the Division of State Human Resources (DSHR) Report. He emphasized next steps moving forward, to include building relationships with pertinent partners and focusing on collaboration within the agency. President Perez expressed the importance of considering the agency's mission, structure, and engaging staff when considering how to best manage the agency. He said that he also plans to engage with Commissioners, use external reports, and the CHE's planning retreat as part of this process. He announced that the House Legislative Oversight Committee will meet on August 20, at which he will present. President Perez introduced Matthew Hammett who presented on the work of Lander University's SC Institute for the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College and University Campuses. President Perez said that there were no legislative items to report and announced that there will be some changes in the General Assembly's composition this upcoming legislative session.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Dyer said that there were no items to be considered from the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee has 10 program proposals and four license proposals for consideration on the consent agenda. Commissioner Dyer motioned for the approval of the consent agenda and asked whether there were any questions or comments. Commissioners engaged in conversation regarding dual enrollment and transferability of courses between institutions. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with item 5.02A.5 as the program does not include a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation upon graduation. Coastal Carolina staff confirmed that the designation will be included later. Commissioner Seckinger also expressed concern with item 5.02.A.1. as the program includes diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), to which Clemson University staff justified offering the course. Commissioner Seckinger motioned, and Commissioner Zais seconded to remove item 5.02.A.1. from the consent agenda to be considered independently. Chair Dyer asked for a roll call vote, which it passed to remove the item, with Commissioners Bryson, Dyer, Horne, and White voting in opposition and Commissioners Batson, Mobley, Seckinger, Smith, Teppara, and Zais voting in favor. The vote was six to four. Chair Dyer called for the vote on the remaining consent agenda items, which passed unanimously. Commissioners engaged in an extensive conversation regarding DEI. Chair Dyer called for the vote on item 5.02.A.1. Chair Dyer asked for a roll call vote and the item passed, with Commissioners Teppara, Zais and Seckinger voting in opposition and Commissioners Horne, Dyer, Batson, Bryson, Mobley, Smith, and White voting in favor. The vote was seven to three.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposal

1. Clemson University, EdS Teaching and Learning
2. Clemson University, MS Sports Business Analytics
3. Clemson University, PhD Health Psychology
4. Coastal Carolina University, MEd Counseling
5. Coastal Carolina University, BS/BA Commercial and Real Estate Investment
6. Francis Marion University, BS/BA Criminal Justice with tracks: (1) Crime and Criminal Behavior, (2) Criminal Justice Administration and Policy, and (3) Law, Justice and Institutions
7. The Citadel, MA Applied History
8. Winthrop University, MA Educational Studies
9. Winthrop University, MS Accounting and Analytics
10. Winthrop University, BFA Art Education

B. New License Proposals

1. Charleston School of Law, Charleston, Consideration of Request for Initial Application (Change of Ownership)
2. South University, Columbia, Consideration of Request for Initial License (Change of Ownership)
3. Bluefield University, Spartanburg, Consideration of Request for Initial License
4. Southern Evangelical Seminary, Rock Hill, Consideration of Request for Initial License

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

Hugh Mobley

Chair Dyer called on Commissioner Mobley to provide a report on the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee has two items for consideration and three items for information only. He summarized the consent agenda items and motioned for approval. Chair Dyer called for the vote and the items passed. Commissioner Mobley summarized the items listed for information.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)
 - 1. Quarterly Report (Quarter 3)
 - 2. FY 2025-26 Allocation Request
- B. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) Headquarters and Institute Goals and Objectives (For information, no action)
- C. Scholarship Appeals Cycle 2023-24 Overview (For information, no action)
- D. College Application Month 2023-24 Overview (For information, no action)

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Paul Batson

Chair Dyer called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report from the Committee on Finance and Facilities. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee did not have any actions for consideration but has five items for information only. Commissioner Batson summarized the informational items. He announced that 24 audits have been completed and an external firm is continuously working on others. Commissioner Batson asked Ms. Eichelberger to summarize staff approvals. Ms. Eichelberger reported that there were eight staff approvals totaling over \$24 million, sourced from capital reserves and state appropriated funds.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Discussion of Agency Budget
 - 1. Year-End Budget Report (For information, no action)
 - 2. Review of Year-End Cash Balances (For information, no action)
 - 3. Outline of Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Request (For discussion, no action)
- B. Compliance Audits Update (For information, no action)
- C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during June 2024 (For information, no action)

5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement

Doug Snyder

Chair Dyer called on Dr. Brooks on behalf of Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement. Dr. Brooks welcomed a new staff member, Special Projects Coordinator, Ms. Chariti Spann and announced that Ms. Yarley Steedly now reports directly to the Office of the President and Executive Director. She also announced that the Transfer convening will take place on October 3. Dr. Brooks summarized informational items. Commissioner Smith asked whether the Department of Education (DOE) is included in the Educator Preparation Report Card initiative, to which

Dr. Brooks confirmed that DOE is on the advisory group and actively involved. Commissioner Zais asked whether DOE could access praxis scores, to which Dr. Brooks said that praxis scores are not part of equation, rather the data collected is driven by Act 125, which did not require praxis scores. Commissioner Seckinger suggested that President Perez ask the attorney general or agency attorney whether the CHE has authority to develop a policy that will require praxis scores from institutions. Commissioner Teppara suggested that President Perez write a letter to the superintendent inquiring what the Department of Education is doing in this area to encourage transparency to the public. Commissioner Smith said that praxis information is available online.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Chair's Report (For information, no action)
- B. Ed Prep Report Card (For information, no action)
- C. Credit Mobility (For information, no action)
- D. Workforce Development (For information, no action)
- E. Communications & Engagement Report (For information, no action)

6. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

7. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.