



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

12:30 p.m., December 5, 2024

1122 Lady Street, Suite 400 Columbia, SC, 29201 and Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Gene Fant, virtual
Commissioner Mark Masters

Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Oran Smith
Commissioner Dino Teppara, virtual
Commissioner Mick Zais

Members Excused

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Doug Snyder

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Argentini Anderson
Laura Belcher
Kristin Brooks
Fran Brune
Stephanie Charbonneau
Ende Clark
Corey Gheesling
Monica Goodwin
Scheri Eichelberger
Gerrick Hampton
Matthew Hartenstine
Mariana Manic
Diane McCree
Emily McPheron, PASCAL
Alfie Mincy

Rick Moul, PASCAL
Frank Myers
Yolanda Myers
Kenita Pitts
Christopher Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
Christina Seale
Kara Smith
Tracy Solet
Yarley Steedly
Mark Swart
Tanya Weigold
Leslie Williams
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk
Lishu Yin

Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University
Mary Bland, Francis Marion University
Bridget Blackwell, University of South Carolina,
Palmetto College
Willie Bradley, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Phillip Brigmon, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University
Beth Costner, Winthrop University
James Colbert, Lander University
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College

Nicole Davis, SC National Guard
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Lisa Harris, Winthrop University
Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Ashlin Hatcher, Moseley Architects
Dan Heimmermann, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Ayana Hernandez, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Lisa Johnson, Winthrop University

Pamela Jones, Department of Employment and Workforce
Jeremy King, Clemson University
Justin King, SC National Guard
Gibbs Knotts, Coastal Carolina University
Elisabeth Kovacs, SC Manufacturers Alliance
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina Beaufort
William Mustain, University of South Carolina
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Ashley Owens, Francis Marion University
Al Panu, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College
Karin Roof, The Citadel

Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information

Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate
Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State University
Sebastian Van Delden, Winthrop University
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University
Tangar Young, South Carolina State University

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:13 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. Commissioner Dyer welcomed Mark Masters as a new Commissioner. Commissioner Dyer announced that he would chair the meeting on behalf of Chair Hayes as he has another obligation.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Dyer introduced the draft minutes of the November 7, 2024, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Dyer announced that the board needs to elect a new vice chair as Dr. Horne has retired. Commissioner Bryson nominated and Commissioner Mobley seconded to elect Commissioner Smith as vice chair of the Commission. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Zais seconded to accept Commissioners nomination by acclamation. Commissioner Smith accepted the nomination and was elected by acclamation as the vice chair of the Commission.

Chair Dyer opened and conducted a public hearing related to state scholarship regulations. He confirmed that there were no comments regarding the regulation. Chair Dyer motioned to close the hearing and Commissioner Seckinger seconded. Chair Dyer called for the vote and the hearing closed.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

President Perez reported regarding CHE operations. He announced that the agency has consolidated offices, moving from six to four units to include the following offices: Academic Affairs and Licensing; Student Affairs; Fiscal Affairs and Operations, and Information Technology and Data Analysis. President Perez thanked Commissioners and staff for their work on the committee charters. President Perez announced that he has adopted a new agency protocol regarding staff reclassifications. He said that there will no longer be staff reclassifications, rather positions will be advertised on the State's employment website for which internal employees only would apply and be considered.

President Perez reported regarding his recent external activities. He attended the Upstate Talent Forum, which focused on artificial intelligence. He also attended the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State Leaders Conference.

President Perez called on Ms. Steedly to provide the legislative update. Ms. Steedly reported that the House and Senate met regarding reorganization and committee assignments. She announced new committee memberships and said that there were no chair changes. Ms. Steedly said that there are five new members on both Senate Finance and Senate Education Committees, with eight new members serving on the House Education and Public Works. She announced that the session will reconvene on January 14 and that there will be pre-files today. Ms. Steedly said that the Senate pre-file date will be next Wednesday. President Perez thanked Ms. Steedly for her service to the agency.

President Perez called on Mr. Swart to provide an update on agency engagements. Mr. Swart provided an overview of agency engagements between the months of October and November.

President Perez called on Mr. Gheesling to provide an update on the Educator Preparation Programs Dashboard. Mr. Gheesling provided an illustration of the dashboard. Commissioner Zais asked for a copy of the slides from Mr. Gheesling's presentation. He asked whether CHE tracks praxis passage rates at institutions, to which Mr. Gheesling said that the SC Department of Education does. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether CHE can be involved in this process, to which Mr. Gheesling said that he will

inquire. Chair Dyer requested to add this topic to the next Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing meeting.

President Perez thanked Ms. Myers for her 40 years of service to the agency and to the State.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Dyer reported that the Committee has one item for consideration. Commissioner Smith motioned and Commissioner Seckinger seconded to approve the 2025 CHE Business and Executive Committee Meeting Schedule. Chair Dyer called for the vote and the item passed.

A. Proposed 2025 CHE Business & Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Edgar Dyer

Chair Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing has four program proposals, one report and one new center proposal on the consent agenda for consideration. He motioned to remove agenda item A.1 from the consent agenda for discussion, to which Commissioner Zais seconded. Chair Dyer called for the vote and the item was removed from the consent agenda. Chair Dyer explained that Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with the item as it related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Chair Dyer said that the Committee decided to pass the program, and that CHE staff would work with the institution to remove any DEI related language, which was completed. Commissioner Zais expressed concern with the ideology of DEI and the duplication of the program within the state. A representative from the University of South Carolina explained that they met with Winthrop University staff to discuss alternatives to make the program unique from USC's program. Winthrop University's representative said that they did have a conversation with Clemson University staff prior to submitting the program proposal. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the edited language by Winthrop University staff and that the revised proposal be accepted by CHE and become the new proposal, Commissioner Bryson seconded.

Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with the process by which the program made it to the full board for consideration as changes were made to the proposal after the Committee's approval. Chair Dyer explained that CHE staff did not rewrite the proposal, rather Winthrop University staff did. Commissioner

Seckinger said that the item should have been reconsidered by the Committee since the program changed. Commissioner Bryson said that the Dean of Education at Clemson University was favorable of the Winthrop program.

Winthrop University staff explained that the edits were made to the program based on a directive from the Committee. He explained that the program will be delayed by a year if it is not approved during today's meeting because it will fall out of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) cycle. Commissioner Seckinger asked for a course catalog from Winthrop University. Commissioner Zais clarified that it would be more reasonable to request course descriptions, rather than the catalog.

President Perez confirmed that CHE staff did not rewrite the proposal and explained the process for considering proposals. Commissioner Smith reiterated his motion and Chair Dyer called for the vote. The motion passed, with Commissioner Seckinger in opposition. Chair Dyer asked for the vote to approve the consent again and the motion carried.

Chair Dyer motioned to pass the remaining consent agenda items. He called for the vote and the consent agenda items passed unanimously. Chair Dyer motioned to approve agenda item A.1., the motion passed with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining from the vote. Chair Dyer called on Ms. Pitts to summarize the two informational reports. Ms. Pitts summarized the items.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposals

1. Winthrop University, Doctor of Education in Leadership and Innovation
2. Winthrop University, Mission Statement Change
3. Winthrop University, Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence
4. Medical University of South Carolina, Master of Science in Pathologists' Assistant Studies

B. New Center Proposal

1. University of South Carolina, Columbia, Carolina Institute for Battery Innovation

C. Academic Affairs and Licensing Reports (For information, no action)

1. AY 2023-2024 Academic Common Market Program Annual Report
2. AY 2023-2024 Regional Contract Program Annual Report

5.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

Hugh Mobley

Chair Dyer called on Commissioner Mobley to provide a report on the Committee on Student Services. Commissioner Mobley announced the new name of his committee, Committee on Student Services and announced that during the last Committee meeting, he was reelected as chair and Commissioner Bryson as vice chair. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee has one item for consideration. He

summarized the consent agenda item and motioned for approval. Chair Dyer called for the vote and the item passed. Commissioner Mobley summarized the remaining items for information.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarter 4 and Annual Report
- B. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) Quarter 1 Report (For information, no action)
- C. SC National Guard College Assistance Program Annual Review (For information, no action)
- D. FAFSA Updates (For information, no action)
- E. Scholarship Award Amounts (For information, no action)

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration

Edgar Dyer

Chair Dyer called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report on the Committee on Finance and Administration. Commissioner Batson said that there were no items for consideration and summarized the five informational items. He announced that he was reelected as chair and Commissioner Dyer will serve as vice chair of the committee. He said that the committee's charter will be considered during the February CHE Business meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Quarter 1 CHE Budget Report (For information, no action)
- B. Audit Compliance Update (For information, no action)
- C. Battelle Alliance Update (For information, no action)
- D. Agreed Upon Procedure Report Review (For information, no action)
- E. Lottery Expenditure Report (For information, no action)

5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability

Doug Snyder

Chair Dyer called on Commissioner Teppara to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability. Commissioner Teppara reported that there were no items for action. He said that the committee met to discuss the listed informational items and approved its committee charter. Commissioner Teppara reported that the Committee is working on an agency strategic plan, with a timeline of eight months, to be considered by the Board in August.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Chair's Report (For information, no action)
- B. Committee Charter Update (For information, no action)
- C. Strategic Planning Timeline (For information, no action)
- D. External Studies Update (For information, no action)

6. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

7. Executive Session

There was not an executive session.

8. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.