



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., June 6, 2024
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400, Columbia, SC, 29403
& Via Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
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 Doug Snyder
Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Patrick White

Members Excused

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Mick Zais

Commission Staff Present

Argentini Anderson
Jessica Berry
Laura Belcher
Stephanie Charbonneau
Scheri Eichelberger
Shardai Figgures
Monica Goodwin
Corey Gheesling
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
Ellan Jenkinson, PASCAL
Andrea LaTouche
Greg Little
Mariana Manic
Susie McClellan
Diane McCree

Darieon McFadden
Rick Moul, PASCAL
Frank Myers
Kenita Pitts
Melissa Price
Christopher Robinson
Christina Seale
Dianne Schaefer
Nia Simmons
Kara Smith
Crystal Standifer
Yarley Steedly
Georges Tippens
Bunnie Ward
Tanya Weigold
Leslie Williams
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University
Adam Benson, WBTW News 13
Tiffany Blackwell, Tri-County Technical College
Claudia Bornholdt, Coastal Carolina University
Willie Bradley, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information

Ryan Carlson, University of South Carolina
Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Lewis Carter, SC House of Representatives
Courtney Catledge, Coastal Carolina University

Cheryl Caution-Parker, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Debbie Cheek, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Tammy Clubs, South Carolina State University
James Colbert, Lander University
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina Palmetto College
Dan Cooper, Tri-County Technical College
Rob Dedmon, University of South Carolina
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston

Susan Elkins, University of South Carolina,
Palmetto College
Frederick Evans, SC State University
Manicia Finch, SC State University
Joseph Fitsanakis, Coastal Carolina University
Stuart Floyd, North Greenville University
Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical
College
Stephanie Haynes, Atlantic Collegiate Academy
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University
Jessica Holdman, SC Daily Gazette
Kyle Holody, Coastal Carolina University
Trena Houp, University of South Carolina
Pamela Jones, Department of Education and
Workforce
Heather Kever, State Human Resources
Elisabeth Kovacs, SCMA
Todd Lekan, University of South Carolina
Lancaster
Jed Lyons, University of South Carolina
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Shannon Means, University of South Carolina
Eva Monsma, University of South Carolina
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Joe Oestreich, Coastal Carolina University
Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Craig Parks, University of South Carolina

Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and
Universities
Brandon Pinette, Ellucian
Jay Ragley, Advocatus USA
Jeffrey Ranta, Coastal Carolina University
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Jake Scoggins, SC Senate
Catherine Scott, Coastal Carolina University
Andy Shane, University of South Carolina
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Johnathan Smith, Coastal Carolina University
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Christopher Taylor, Florence-Darlington
Technical College
Karen Taylor, SC Technical College System
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South
Carolina
Kim Thompson, University of South Carolina
Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College
Jammie Turner, University of South Carolina
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
Lloyd Willis, Lander University
Karen Wingo, State Human Resources
Joe Winslow, Coastal Carolina University
Tangar Young, SC State University

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Chair Hayes asked for a moment of silence to commemorate Day-~~Day~~.

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 May 2, 2024, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes announced that Mr. Georges Tippens and Ms. Bunnie Ward have accepted other positions from the agency and thanked them for their service. Chair Hayes recommended moving the August Retreat to later in the fall and asked whether there were any objections, to which Commissioners agreed.

4. Acting President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on Acting President Little to give his report. Acting President Little provided an overview of the agency's Inspector General (IG) Action Plan Tracker and shared an update on progress made towards the ~~near~~ 40 action items. He reported that 12~~±~~ items are completed, 17 have been initiated, and 11 items are remaining to be initiated.

Acting President Little provided an update on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). He reported that overall 39.2 percent of 2024 high school students have completed the FAFSA, which has declined by 14.9 percent compared to last year. Nationally, he reported that 42.4 percent of 2024 high school students have completed the FAFSA, which has declined by 14.4 percent compared to last year. He said that the Commission, along with the SC Department of Education, sent a collaborative letter to families informing them of resources available. He announced that the 2025-26 FAFSA is anticipated to become available on October 1.

Acting President Little reported that the CHE has received a request from Chair Erickson of the House Education and Public Works (HEPW) Committee to complete a scholarship research and best practices study. He explained that the agency has formed an intra-office workgroup to research merit-based aid and he outlined the timeline and steps for completing the study.

Acting President Little reported on agency personnel actions: Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing; Administrative Coordinator, Licensing Coordinator, and Academic Program Manager and the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Special Projects Coordinator are in the final stages; Office of the President, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist; Office of Student Affairs; Operations Coordinator and College Access Manager; and Office of Academic Affairs, Director have active searches in progress. Acting President Little thanked Mr. Tippens and Ms. Ward for their service to the agency.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

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

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Edgar Dyer

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Dyer to provide a report on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee has nine items for consideration on the consent agenda and two additional items for consideration. Commissioner Dyer motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes asked whether there were any questions or comments. Commissioner Seckinger motioned, and Commissioner Bryson seconded to move item two from the consent agenda to be considered separately. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion carried to consider the item separately. Chair Hayes called for the vote for the remaining consent agenda items, which passed unanimously. Chair Hayes asked for comments regarding item two. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern with the program as it may conflict with potential legislation. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the program passed, with Commissioner Seckinger opposing. Commissioner Dyer summarized item 10 and motioned for its approval. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the program passed, with Commissioner Seckinger and Commissioner Bryson opposing. Commissioner Dyer summarized item 11 and motioned for its approval. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the program passed, with Commissioner Seckinger opposing. Commissioner Dyer announced that there is a proposed Senate proviso that will direct the agency to conduct a study on dual enrollment next year and develop a policy.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposal

1. University of South Carolina Columbia, BS Industrial Engineering
2. University of South Carolina Aiken, MEd Educator Leadership: Concentration in Principalship and Supervision
3. Coastal Carolina University, BA Public Relations
4. Coastal Carolina University, BA Cyber Threat Intelligence
5. Coastal Carolina University, MEd Stem Education
6. Lander University, MS Criminology and Criminal Justice
7. Clemson University, MEd Learning Sciences
8. Winthrop University, BS Web Development
9. Winthrop University, BA Criminal Justice with two concentrations: 1) General and 2) Cyber and Corporate Crime
10. University South Carolina Columbia, BS Applied Sport Psychology and Counseling (For Action)
11. University of South Carolina Columbia, BA Sports Media (For Action)

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

Hugh Mobley

Chair Hayes 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 Hayes called for the vote and the items passed. Commissioner Mobley summarized the items listed for information.

- A. Student Loan Corporation 2024-25 Budget Request
- B. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) Quarter 3 Report
- C. SC Need-based Grant Annual Review (For information, no action)
- D. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Annual Review (For information, no action)
- E. Informational items on State Scholarships, FAFSA, and SC Residency (For information, no action)

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Paul Batson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report from the Committee on Finance and Facilities. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee had one permanent improvement project and one lease for consideration and two items for information only. Commissioner Batson summarized the items and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson summarized items for information. He reported that the Committee is currently reviewing four statutes that may no longer be relevant to the agency. Mr. Tippens reported that there were six staff approvals for May. Commissioner Batson thanked Mr. Tippens for his report and for his service to the agency.

- CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals
 - 1. Florence Darlington Technical College
 - a. FDTC – Construction & Industrial Trades Training Facility
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - B. Lease
 - 1. Medical University of South Carolina
 - a. 22 WestEdge Street, 1st and 6th Floors
 - C. Statutory Discussion (For Discussion, no action)
 - D. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during May 2024 (For information, no action)

5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement

Doug Snyder

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement. Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee does not have any items for consideration. He called on Ms. Steedly to give a legislative update. Ms. Steedly reported that the following bills have been signed by the Governor: S.125 scholarship enhancements; S.794 accrediting body addition; and H.325, competency-based education bill. Related to the budget, Ms. Steedly reported ed that

the House version two budget was passed, and the budget conference committee met twice to adopt all items that were the same in each version and to further discuss less complicated items. She reported that the Senate version of the African American Loan Program, CHE/SC University Cyber Leadership Council, and the Scholarship Projections provisos were adopted. She said that the House version of the FTE Management proviso was also adopted. Ms. Steedly reported that the Higher Education Study, South Carolina Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCII) proviso, Dual Enrollment Study, and the Transfer proviso are still being considered. She said that Merit-based scholarships, nursing initiative, National Guard, and PASCAL were fully funded. Ms. Steedly reported that a committee has not been scheduled to consider S.314 related to permanent improvement projects. She summarized the bill.

Ms. Ward summarized office projects. Mr. Gheesling provided an update on Credit Mobility and Workforce Development. Mr. Swart summarized agency engagements. Commissioner Snyder thanked Ms. Ward for her service.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Chair's Report (For information, no action)
- B. Legislative Report (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

A. Executive Session: Permanent President and Executive Director Search

Chair Hayes thanked the Shared Services Human Resources team, CHE staff and presidents for their assistance and input with the search. He thanked Acting President Little for his service to the agency.

Chair Hayes announced that the Board will go into executive session to discuss the Permanent President and Executive Director search, to which Commissioner Smith motioned and Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and Commissioners went into executive session. Commissioners returned from executive session and Chair Hayes announced that no action was taken.

B. Consideration of Action following Executive Session (if necessary)

Commissioner Horne motioned, and Commissioner Bryson seconded that by acclamation the Board elects Dr. Jeff Perez as the agency's next President and Executive Director. Chair Hayes called for the vote, and it was approved unanimously that Dr. Perez would serve as the next President and Executive Director.

Commissioner Teppara thanked CHE staff for their hard work and dedication to the agency.

7. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.