



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., May 2, 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, virtual
Commissioner Gene Fant

Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Patrick White, virtual
Commissioner Mick Zais

Members Excused

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers
Commissioner Oran Smith

Commission Staff Present

Argentini Anderson
Jessica Berry
Laura Belcher
Stephanie Charbonneau
Shardai Figgures
Monica Goodwin
Corey Gheesling
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
Andrea LaTouche
Greg Little
Mariana Manic
Maggie Mason Smith

Alfie Mincy
Kenita Pitts
Melissa Price
Christopher Robinson
Christina Seale
Dianne Schaefer
Nia Simmons
Yarley Steedly
Georges Tippens
Bunnie Ward
Tanya Weigold
Leslie Williams
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University
Willie Bradley, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Kimberly Burkett, SC Technical College System
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University
Lewis Carter, SC House of Representatives
Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission
James Colbert, Lander University
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina
Palmetto College
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston

Frederick Evans, SC State University
Manicia Finch, SC State University
Stuart Floyd, North Greenville University
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical
College
Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System
Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Ayana Hernandez, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Rachelle Lydell, Francis Marion University
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina
Beaufort

Maggie May, Higher Education News
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
AJ Newton SC Technical College System
Ashley Owens, Francis Marion University
Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and
Universities
Cam Reagin, University of South Carolina Aiken
Mark Rollins, Lander University

Karin Roof, The Citadel
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Abbie Thielke, McMillan Pazdan Smith
Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
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.

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 March 7, 2024 CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Zais seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes expressed appreciation to the Acting President and Executive Director (PED), Dr. Gregory Little for serving in that capacity. He also thanked Dr. Karen Woodfaulk for serving, as well. Chair Hayes gave an update on the PED search. He reported that there are nine candidates being considered, and reviewed by the Executive Committee. He announced that the search committee will meet next week to determine next steps. Chair Hayes thanked State Human Resources for their assistance with the search.

4. Acting President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on Acting President Little to give his report. Acting President Little distributed two handouts to Commissioners, a list of vacant positions within the agency and an internal Inspector General (IG) progress tracker, which he described. Commissioner Horne requested that as the tracker is updated Commissioners are provided an updated version with the date of revision included.

Acting President Little reported that he presented to the House Legislative Oversight Committee and summarized the items that were included in his report related to IG findings. Related to findings 8-10, Commissioners engaged in extensive conversation about transfer. Commissioner Dyer requested that during the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) meeting either Commissioner Seckinger or Dr. Berry report on the extent of the Commission's jurisdiction as it relates to establishing a transfer agreement. He said that he will then report to the full Board.

Acting President Little explained the CHE budget process, which will include three steps; review of carryforward items at FY 2023-24 year-end which will be communicated to legislative committees, implement standard operating procedures to FY 2024-25 initiatives, provisos, and funding; and prepare for the FY 2025-26 budget submission to the Executive Budget Office.

Acting President Little reported on agency personnel searches: Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing; Administrative Coordinator, Licensing Coordinator, Academic Program Manager, and Director; Office of Student Affairs; Program Coordinator and College Access Manager; Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Special Projects Coordinator; and Office of the President, President and Executive Director. Acting President Little thanked Dr. Berry for serving as Acting Director for the Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing.

Acting President Little provided an update on FAFSA. He reported that overall completion of the FAFSA has declined by 29 percent nationally and statewide, completion is down by 28 percent. Acting President Little said that the Commission asked SC institutions how they are addressing the FAFSA delays this year and summarized the responses received. Dr. Woodfaulk outlined specific steps that the Commission is taking to address the situation to include training, town halls, college goal events, and outreach through various communication platforms.

Acting President Little announced upcoming events: College and Career Decision Day Rally, May 7; House Legislative Oversight Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, May 9; Centers of Excellence Symposium, May 16; and CHE and Committee Meetings, June 6. Acting President Little concluded his report and asked whether there were any questions.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes reported that there is one item for consideration from the Executive Committee, Consideration of Public Comment Policy. He explained that Commission staff drafted the policy as suggested by Commissioner Dyer and allowed the Executive Committee to provide feedback. Commissioner Dyer summarized the policy. Chair Hayes motioned for the approval of the policy and called for the vote. The policy was adopted unanimously.

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 does not have any items for consideration but will have 12 items for consideration during the June CHE meeting.

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 does not have any items for consideration, but the Committee will meet this afternoon.

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 14 permanent improvement items and one lease for consideration and three 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 and provided an update on Senate bill S.314. Mr. Wilson summarized the CHE Quarter 3 Budget Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

1. Coastal Carolina University

- a. Land Acquisition for Future Health and Human Performance Building**
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)**

2. College of Charleston

- a. St. Philip Housing Innovation Project**
 - Establish Project**

- b. Grice Marine Lab Annex Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - c. 176 Lockwood Exterior Repairs
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 3. Greenville Technical College
 - a. Center for Workforce Development
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 4. South Carolina State University
 - a. Supplemental Modular Housing
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 5. Northeastern Technical College
 - a. NETC – NETC – Cheraw Campus Schaeffer Manufacturing Technology Academy
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 6. Tri-County Technical College
 - a. Anderson Campus Transportation, Logistics and Utility Center
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - b. Pendleton Land Acquisition – Final Land Acquisition
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 7. University of South Carolina – Aiken
 - a. Soccer Field and Infrastructure
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 8. University of South Carolina – Columbia
 - a. Campus Residential Development – Sumter Street Sites
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - b. Thomas Cooper Library Renovation
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 9. University of South Carolina – Upstate
 - a. Rampey Building Expansion and Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 10. Winthrop University
 - a. Winthrop Lake Dam Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- B. Lease
 - 1. Winthrop University
 - a. Walk2Campus Housing Lease

C. Senate Bill S.314 discussion (For information, no action)

D. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during March and April 2024 (For information, no action)

E. CHE Quarter 3 Budget Report (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 announced that there are three remaining legislative days in the session and highlighted the following items: S.314 related to permanent improvement projects; nursing and FTE related provisos; budget updates; S.125 scholarship enhancements; and S.794 accrediting body addition. Ms. Steedly summarized the scholarship project that

the Commission has been tasked with by the General Assembly. Commissioner Snyder summarized the remaining informational items.

FOR INFORMATION, ONE FOR ACTION

- A. Legislative and Budget Update (For information, no action)
- B. Transfer and Articulation Update (For information, no action)
- C. Workforce Development Update (For information, no action)
- D. CHE Engagements Activities (For information, no action)
- E. Ed Prep Program Report Card (For information, no action)

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Debbie Himes made public comment regarding selection of the next President and Executive Director.

8. End of Business Meeting

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