



**Advisory Committee on Academic Programs
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024**

Members Present

Commissioner Eddie Dyer, Chair
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Doug Snyder

Members Excused

Commissioner Gene Fant

Commission Staff Present

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez
Dr. Jessica Berry
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Dr. Melissa Price
Mr. Matthew Hartenstine
Mr. Darnell Holland
Ms. Diane McCree
Mr. Mark Swart
Ms. Shardai Figgures

Ns. Kenita Pitts
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Endé Clark
Dr. Kristin Brooks
Ms. Leslie Williams
Mr. Corey Gheesling
Ms. Lishu Yin
Ms. Tanya Weigold
Mr. Christopher Glenn
Ms. Tracy Solet

Guests

Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Gibbs Knotts, Coastal Carolina University
Mark Mitchell, Coastal Carolina University
Erika Small, Coastal Carolina University
Andrew Hsu, College of Charleston
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Keonya Booker, College of Charleston
Fran Welch, College of Charleston
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina

Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina
Stephen Bismarck, USC Upstate
Jeannie Chapman, USC Upstate
Sharda Jackson-Smith, USC Upstate
Jim Kamla, USC Upstate
Pam Steinke, USC Upstate
Ugena Whitlock, USC Upstate
Jeffrey Stinson, USC Upstate
Tim Druke, Winthrop University

All attended either in-person or via Zoom

1. Welcome, Introduction, Quorum

Chair Dyer convened the meeting at 10:08 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Introductions, Quorum, FOIA

Ms. Solet introduced the Commission members and the in-person guests, confirmed a quorum, and announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 18, 2024 meeting. A simultaneous motion was made by Commissioners Horne and Bryson. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

4. New Program Proposals

Chair Dyer called on Dr. Berry to present the New Programs for consideration. Dr. Berry asked the representatives of the institutions to come to the table at the appropriate time to explain the proposal and to answer any questions by the Commissioners.

a. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S. in Sport Management

A representative from the institution summarized item 4.a. Commissioner Horne expressed appreciation for institution's responsiveness and clarification to Commissioner Seckinger's questions during her review of the program. Chair Dyer explained the question was regarding the use of the term "gender equity", which the institution explained is based on understanding Title IX historically and in the current context. Commissioner Seckinger commented on balancing gender equity in sports and Title IX, and that management will be needed. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation of the institution's work on this program.

Commissioner Horne motioned the program be approved and Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.

b. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S. in Data Science

A representative from the institution summarized item 4.b. Commissioner Seckinger asked why the program was not offered as a minor as there are only four new courses, to which the institution explained it is a major which crosses over with other courses already in place. Further, it is an efficient way to meet the work force demand for a degree in Data Science. Commissioner Seckinger asked if the institution would be seeking SEER approval, which the institution confirmed. Commissioner Seckinger inquired how the institution will know if Artificial Intelligence ("AI") is being used and if so, its accuracy. The institution explained the course and exams will be conducted in person, and professors are being educated on this issue. Commissioner Snyder stated the difficulty in teaching data science without students understanding how to use Artificial Intelligence as it is being used all around us. Commissioner Horne mentioned the program's international appeal and would like to see employment data, as well as local and state endorsements, due to concerns of educating students other than South Carolina students.

Commissioner Horne stated she does not agree with suggested removal of the question: "Compare this program with other institutions" from proposals, as discussed in a previous Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) meeting. She stated the institutions should have this as part of their processes, not CHE staff or the Commission, as it would be overly burdensome to review all similar programs and all institutions. Chair Dyer suggested this topic be placed on the agenda for the Commission retreat and to continue with the review of the data science program proposal, to which Commissioner Horne agreed.

Commissioner Horne motioned the approval of the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Seckinger. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.

- c. *University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S. in Industrial Engineering*
 A representative from the institution summarized item 4.c. Commissioner Seckinger expressed support for the program but would like to see more support letters from businesses showing a market need versus letters from other USC institutions. Commissioner Horne expressed appreciation for the institutions' cooperation with other institutions, allowing students to continue with the program. Chair Dyer mentioned Clemson University also has this program, which feeds a lot of automotive engineering in the upstate, and this program will likely supplement those efforts. **Commissioner Horne motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote, which passed unopposed.**
- d. *University of South Carolina Upstate, Ed.S. in Applied Teacher Leadership*
 A representative from the institution summarized item 4.d. Commissioner Seckinger asked if the drive behind the program is to keep teachers in the classroom by giving them more educational experience, along with some administrative experience, which the institution confirmed. **Commissioners Horne and Seckinger motioned the approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote, which passed unopposed.**
- e. *Coastal Carolina University, B.S. in Business Administration Online Degree completion program in General Business*
 A representative from the institution summarized item 4.e. Dr. Berry expressed support of this innovative program and its ability to help the State with its goal of degree completion and ASCEND 60X30. Commissioners Horne and Seckinger expressed support of the program, respectively, as being pertinent and timely, especially regarding ASCEND 60X30, as well as support for the online aspect as degrees generally lead to higher wages. The institution explained its Board of Trustees recently agreed to offer reduced tuition to returning students in an initiative called "CCU Complete". Commissioner Seckinger inquired about retention and attrition rates of the program to which the institution responded it is too new to have much data. Commissioner Snyder asked if this program is limited to just in-state students, to which the institution explained the first five courses are one hundred dollars per course and are available to both in-state and out of state students. Further, an e-rate is available for those taking an online degree completion program via 100 percent online delivery, which allows the student to pay the in-state tuition rate to complete the degree. Any additional courses past the first five would be at an in-state rate, regardless of if the student is in or out of state, and if all classes are taken online. Commissioner Snyder expressed concern regarding utilizing in-state professors for out of state students versus those in-state. The institution expressed appreciation for the feedback. **Commissioners Seckinger and Bryson simultaneously motioned for the approval of the program, which Commissioner Horne seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote, which passed unopposed.**
- f. *College of Charleston, Ed.D. in Learning and Inquiry in Practice.*
 A representative from the institution summarized item 4.f. Dr. Berry expressed appreciation to the institution for its work in implementing feedback from CHE into the proposal. Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern over the robust enrollment. The institution explained it offers several Masters programs, which feed into this Ed.D. program. Further, based on student surveys and community support, there is enough

interest to support the program. Commissioner Seckinger inquired as to the breakeven enrollment needed, which the institution responded is ten enrollees. Commissioner Seckinger inquired as to local marketing, which the institution explained as having great relationships and support in Charleston and throughout South Carolina. **Commissioner Seckinger motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote, which passes unopposed.**

Chair Dyer asked about a joint engineering program with The Citadel, which the institution explained is likely the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Citadel regarding which institution would have which engineering programs. The institution explained it has three standalone engineering programs approved by CHE: Electrical, Systems, and Computer Engineering, but no joint engineering programs with The Citadel.

5. Other Business / Discussion

- a. Chair Dyer called on Dr. Berry to present the Notification Summary. Dr. Berry explained the summary covered the proposed Notifications received from the institutions, which were reviewed and approved by CHE staff from April through June. Commissioner Horne expressed appreciation for the format of the report and requested more specific information be provided regarding any curriculum changes. Dr. Berry explained the notifications include minor changes, such as credit hour changes or the removal of a course from the curriculum, which fall below the threshold of a Modification proposal requiring ACAP review. Dr. Berry stated staff will be happy to provide more detail going forward.
- b. Chair Dyer stated the Commission will review the Dual Enrollment policy and will work with the CHE President regarding the same. Chair Dyer asked the Committee members to begin thinking of how to approach this issue so it can be addressed at the Commission retreat.
- c. Commissioner Horne was pleased to note all of the programs reviewed by the Committee today followed the directive from the legislature regarding taking work force development into consideration, which is more fully described in the *South Carolina's Unified State Plan for Education and Work Force Development, 2024-2025*.

6. Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.