



## Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) Meeting Minutes October 24, 2024

### Members Present

Commissioner Eddie Dyer, Chair  
Commissioner Jenni Bryson  
Commissioner Doug Snyder

### Members Excused

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Gene Fant

### Commission Staff Present

Jeffrey Perez  
Jessica Berry  
Melissa Price  
Matthew Hartenstine  
Darnell Holland

Kenita Pitts  
Yarley Steedly  
Kristin Brooks  
Christopher Glenn  
Tracy Solet

### Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Rob Essaf, Clemson University  
Allen Geiger III, Clemson University  
Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Steven Marks, Clemson University  
Brittney McCall, Clemson University  
Briana Peele, Clemson University  
Nicki Wise, Clemson University  
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University  
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University  
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University  
James Colbert, Jr., Lander University

Lucas McMillan, Lander University  
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina  
Bruce Marlowe, University of South Carolina Beaufort  
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina, Beaufort  
Devon Golem, University of South Carolina  
Trena Houp, University of South Carolina  
Gaynelle Magood, University of South Carolina  
Craig Parks, University of South Carolina  
Pam Steinke, USC Upstate  
Tim Drueke, Winthrop University  
Sebastian van Delden, Winthrop University

All attended either in-person or via Zoom

#### 1. Welcome, Introduction, Quorum

Chair Dyer convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

#### 2. Introductions, Quorum, FOIA

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

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval, which Chair Dyer seconded. The motion passed without opposition.**

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 15, 2024 meeting. **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval, which Chair Dyer seconded. The motion passed without opposition.**

### 5. New Program Proposals

#### a. *Clemson University, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

A representative from the institution summarized item 5.a. Commissioner Snyder asked how many South Carolina students utilize reciprocal agreements and attend out-of-state veterinary programs at in-state tuition costs. The institution explained many schools do not provide demographic reports other than University of Georgia (UGA), Mississippi State University (MSU), and Tuskegee University (TU), but it estimates approximately 210 students in total attend veterinary programs outside of South Carolina and believes there is a large population of students in the area who want to attend veterinary school. Commissioners Snyder, Bryson, and Chair Dyer expressed support of the program, especially with the projected number of jobs reported. Chair Dyer asked if the institution will reciprocate for out-of-state students. The institution does not have any contracts in place but plans to offer approximately 80 seats, with 60 seats for South Carolina residents and 20 at-large seats. Dr. Berry reported in Academic Year 2024-2025, the number of South Carolina students attending the veterinary program at UGA is 104, MSU is 40, and TU is 25. Also, this program does fall in line with priority occupation cluster of the South Carolina Coordinating Council for Workforce Development's Unified State Plan for Education and Workforce Development (CCWD Unified State Plan). **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Snyder seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

#### b. *University of South Carolina Beaufort, Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education*

A representative from the institution summarized item 5.b. Commissioner Snyder asked if the institution has students coming from the marine corps base. The institution stated it does work closely with Paris Island recruiting depot, mostly drill instructors, who are seeking to enhance skills in teaching. Dr. Berry indicated this program does fall in line with the CCWD Unified State Plan. Chair Dyer asked the institution to confirm support from the local county school boards, which the institution confirmed and stated the U.S. Department of Education awarded the institution a five-year teacher quality partnership grant and further, Beaufort County's priority is a pathway for high school teachers, as well as for aids and paraprofessionals to become certified educators. Chair Dyer expressed support for the program. **Commissioner Snyder motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

#### c. *Winthrop University, Bachelor of Science in Financial Technology*

A representative from the institution summarized item 5.c. Chair Dyer expressed support for the program. Commissioner Snyder asked if there were competitive programs in North Carolina which would hurt the institution's student participation. The institution explained

there is a significant in-state tuition differential between North Carolina and South Carolina, which should be beneficial, and getting students from North Carolina is a challenge. Also, the University of North Carolina Charlotte has been unsuccessful with its program due to staffing issues and the institution does not believe programs at Elon University or the University of North Carolina Wilmington will detract from the institution's program due to distance. Commissioner Snyder asked if this program qualifies as STEM, to which Dr. Berry advised the intuition may apply for SEER review and consideration. Further, this program falls within the occupation cluster of the CCWD Unified State Plan. **Commissioner Snyder motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

d. *University of South Carolina Columbia, Master of Science in Performance Nutrition and Dietetics*

A representative from the institution summarized item 5.d. Chair Dyer asked if most of the anticipated jobs would be in hospitals and schools, to which the institution responded a variety of settings including healthcare, corporate wellness, school districts, government programs providing food and nutrition assistance, as well as performance nutrition and education provided by tactical dieticians to the Department of Defense, armed forces, and to professional, college, and even some high school athletic programs. Chair Dyer asked if this would benefit senior citizens, which the institution confirmed, especially within healthcare. Commissioner Snyder asked if the Standard Operation Classification (SOC) codes fall under healthcare, which the institution confirmed the SOC code family is for healthcare practitioners and technical occupations. Commission Snyder expressed support regarding the program's alignment with the CCWD Unified State Plan. Dr. Berry had no additional comments. **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Snyder seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

6. **New Center Proposal**

a. *University of South Carolina Columbia, University of South Carolina Collaborative for Health Equity Research (USC-CHEER)*

A representative from the institution summarized item 6.a. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation for the center's support of the underserved and rural populations in South Carolina, as well as for its collaboration and partnerships, which will hopefully also address the correlation between diet and health outcomes. Further, Chair Dyer expressed appreciation of the center's Equity definition as it extends to geographics and socioeconomics across the board. Commissioner Bryson asked where the center would be located, which the institution explained is currently administratively housed in the College of Nursing but is also a collaboration between many of the colleges across the university. Commissioner Snyder asked for clarification regarding the use of the term "all" versus "rural" South Carolinians and what percentage of rural South Carolinians will be served versus urban. The institution explained the use of the term rural is because data show rural areas are underserved and access in rural areas is limited. And, through its collaboration with other centers and facilities, the focus will be on serving the entire state, with an emphasis on the rural, underserved areas with limited to no access to care. Commissioner Bryson asked if infant mortality will be a part of the center's focus due to its prevalence in South Carolina, which the institution confirmed and explained the center will not focus only on chronic health issues but through collaboration will be able to

address issues as they arise within the state and hopes to be a national role model. Commissioner Snyder suggested the institution consider using the term Rural Health Research instead of Equity Health Research in the name of the center as a more clear and less controversial name. The institution appreciates and recognizes the suggestion and respectfully affirms what it believes to be the appropriate title with the term Equity. Chair Dyer commented on South Carolina being a rural state with ongoing issues reaching across geographics and socioeconomics, all of which are not considered rural, especially regarding the senior population. Dr. Berry stated in response to Commissioner Snyder's previous question, the proposal does include population data regarding rural versus metro areas in the state. **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Snyder seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.** Further discussion was had in which Commissioner Snyder expressed support of the program and explained the suggested name change of the center was in effort to help. Chair Dyer explained the National Institute of Health uses the term Equity and the center will be applying for grants, so use of the term will hopefully be helpful to the center.

## 7. Other Business / Discussion

### a. *AY 2023-2024 REACH Act Report*

Dr. Berry summarized item 7.a. and noted one correction will need to be made regarding Clemson University by adding an inadvertently omitted course. Chair Dyer asked if this will be a staff revision, which Dr. Berry confirmed stating staff would make the correction prior to submission to the full Commission. University of South Carolina Beaufort stated an Associated Press reporter released an article recognizing Professor Kevin Dopf and the institution for the REACH Act and the civics knowledge around the Act, which has gotten national and even international recognition. **Commissioner Snyder motioned approval of the report, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

### b. *REACH Act proposal from Coastal Carolina University*

Chair Dyer asked Commission staff to review item 7.b. and to determine any value the proposal may have to CHE staff or to the institutions. Dr. Berry said staff are reviewing the proposal and will provide any comments to Chair Dyer. Further, staff will determine if the proposal is something which needs to go before the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP).

### c. *Notification Summary Report*

Dr. Berry summarized item 7.c., which covers Notifications received and processed by CHE staff during July 2024, which is for informational purposes only. No further discussion was had.

## 8. Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, **Commissioner Snyder motioned adjournment, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. With no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.**