



## Meeting Minutes

### Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement

March 7, 2024

#### Members Present

Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Patrick White  
Commissioner Dino Teppara  
Commissioner Gene Fant  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley

#### Commission Staff Present

Ms. Bunnie Ward  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Mr. Mark Swart  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Dr. Corey Gheesling  
Ms. Shardai Figgures  
Dr. Kristin Brooks  
Ms. Yarley Steedly

Ms. Leslie Williams  
Ms. Nia Simmons  
Ms. Andrea LaTouche  
Mr. Christopher Glenn

All attended either in-person or via Zoom.

#### 1) Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Snyder opened the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement meeting welcoming Acting President and Executive Director, Dr. Gregory Little. Ms. Shardai Figgures took attendance and noted Commissioner Cleveland Sellers was not in attendance and Commissioner Patrick White would be joining a few minutes late. The Committee had a quorum and was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### 2) Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved.

#### 3) Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 meeting. Motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

#### 4) Director's Report

##### A. OSIE Progress

Ms. Ward provided an update regarding the significant work of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement team, noting the staff team participated in a quarterly planning session and progress in many initiatives. Ms. Ward briefly went over the agency's *Ascend 60 x 30* strategic plan. Ms. Ward also gave an update regarding Higher Education Day and the projected date and time of event.

##### B. Educator Preparation Program Report Card

Ms. Ward provided an update regarding the Educator Preparation Program Report Card and hiring for the Education Preparation manager position. Ms. Ward noted she was working with HR and other colleagues to consider alternative ways for the agency to allocate staff for this project.

**C. Legislative**

The legislative update was deferred until the full Commission meeting.

**5) Initiatives Update**

**A. Workforce Development & Dual Enrollment**

Dr. Gheesling gave a detailed update on workforce development and dual enrollment. Dr. Gheesling reported most of the funding for the faculty salaries provided through the Nursing Educator Initiative were allocated. The CHE was discussing strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the initiative with partner, including ways to expand participation.

**B. Transfer**

Dr. Kristin Brooks gave an update on transfer including transfer council work, recommendations made by the council, the Ithaca S + R Transfer Explorer partnership, and reported she presented with other South Carolina institutions at the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Conference.

**6) Communications and Engagement Update**

Mr. Mark Swart provided an update on communications, including press releases, media placements, licensing collaboration and updates on the website, various staff engagements in February and upcoming engagements in April and May, and the launch of a Better FAFSA resource toolkit on the CHE website.

**7) External CHE Studies**

Ms. Laura Belcher gave an update on the Inspector General's report and the House Legislative Oversight Committee. Ms. Belcher noted there was at least one additional CHE presentation to the Committee.

**8) Other Business**

Committee noted that an extensive legislative report would be given in the at large board meeting.

**9) Adjournment**

Chairman Snyder asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.