

**MEETING MINUTES**  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & FACILITIES  
JUNE 6, 2024

A meeting of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's Finance and Facilities Committee was held on June 6, 2024. This meeting was held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Paul Batson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Upon Chairman Batson's request, Scheri Eichelberger acknowledged Committee members, noted the establishment of a quorum, and introduced guest attendees.

Committee members present for this meeting in person were Commissioners Batson, Edgar Dyer, and Jenni Bryson.

Committee members present for this meeting via Zoom were Commissioner Patrick White (Vice Chair), and Commissioner Dino Teppara.

Commission on Higher Education staff that attended this meeting were Georges Tippens, Bryce Wilson, Scheri Eichelberger, Leslie P. Williams, Yolanda Myers, and Yarley Steedley.

Mr. Rick Anderson, Medical University of South Carolina, and a host of other guests attended the meeting in-person and via Zoom.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Batson called for approval of the May 2, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Bryson motioned for approval, and Commissioner Dyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Batson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He acknowledged the in-person Committee members as well as the members who joined by Zoom. Chair Batson mentioned that the Committee had a lighter agenda compared to past months and stated that the Committee would be discussing statutes directing the Commission to perform certain duties. Lastly, Chair Batson acknowledged the upcoming departure of Mr. Georges Tippens from the Commission on Higher Education. He thanked Mr. Tippens for all his hard work and efforts while at the Commission and wished him well in his future endeavor.

**4. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals**

The following project was presented for recommendation and approval:

**A. Florence-Darlington Technical College**

**i. Project H59-NEW – FDTC – Construction & Industrial Trades Facility – Establish Project**

Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) sought a recommendation from the Commission on Higher Education for a phase one request to construct a new facility for its construction and industrial trades programs, which include carpentry, electrical, and pipe welding. Because the institution has yet to identify funding for the full \$20,000,000 project cost, it required Commission review even though the Phase One \$150,000 budget was being financed by state appropriations.

To date, FDTC had received \$10 million in state funding for this project.

Commissioners inquired about FDTC's enrollment. The institution stated that its enrollment had increased over the past two years.

Commissioners also asked how the college would fund the full cost of the project. The college stated it had already requested additional state funds for the project and was waiting for the FY204-25 fiscal year's budget to pass.

Commissioner Dyer motioned for approval and Commissioner Bryson seconded.

**5. Lease**

**A. Medical University of South Carolina**

**i. 22 WestEdge Street, Charleston, SC, 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Floors**

The Medical University of South Carolina sought a recommendation from the Commission on Higher Education to lease 4,000 feet of administrative space and approximately 22,000 square feet of clinical space for a term of 11 years at 22 WestEdge in Charleston. The overall cost will be a little over \$12,000,000 and financed from student tuition and fees. The leased space is for two of the university's College of Health Professions doctoral programs.

Commissioner Dyer motioned for approval and Commissioner White seconded.

**6. Statutory Discussion (For discussion, no action)**

The Committee had a discussion on S.C. Code of Laws: 59-101-340; 59-104-230; 59-104-240; and 59-103-35. Mr. Tippens gave an overview of the statutes. Committee members had follow-up questions regarding the statutes and discussed whether its role was still served a purpose regarding these statutes.

Mr. Tippens was asked to draft suggestions, after he has spoken with several entities, regarding whether the Committee should maintain its role in these statutes.

No actions were taken by the Committee relating to the statutes.

**7. Other Business**

**A. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during May**

Scheri Eichelberger gave an update on staff approvals for the month of May.

**B. Other Business**

When there were no more comments or remarks, Commissioner Dyer motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Teppara seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.