



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., February 1, 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
Commissioner Gene Fant

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

Members Excused

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commission Staff Present

Karen Woodfaulk
Argentini Anderson
Jessica Berry
Laura Belcher
Kristin Brooks
Jamie Covell
Scheri Eichelberger
Shardai Figgures
Monica Goodwin
Corey Gheesling
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
Andrea LaTouche
Mariana Manic
Maggie Mason Smith
Yolanda McCree
Alfie Mincy

Frank Myers
Yolanda Myers
Emily McPheron
Christopher Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
Christina Seale
Dianne Schaefer
Nia Simmons
Kara Smith
Yarley Steedly
Mark Swart
Georges Tippens
Amy Trepal
Bunnie Ward
Tanya Weigold
Leslie Williams
Bryce Wilson
Lishu Yin

Guests

Melanie Barton, Office of the Governor
Beth Bell, Clemson University
Maggie Bell, SC Citizen
Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University
Tiffany Blackwell, Tri-County Technical College
Betty Boatwright, SC State University
Christine Brown, Medical University of South Carolina
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Bonnie Carson Durham, University of South Carolina Upstate

Walter Collins, University of South Carolina Palmetto College
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Joey Derrick, University of South Carolina
Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Lauren Ellis, Pearson Education
Frederick Evans, SC State University
Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Douglas Gannt, SC State University
Joseph Greenthal, Lander University

Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Ayana Hernandez, SC Institutes of Innovation and Information
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University
Sara Hottinger, Coastal Carolina University
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Rodney Jones, Medical University of South Carolina
Peter Judge, Winthrop University
Amanda Karls, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Chip Limehouse, University of South Carolina
Aiken
John Loonan, College of Charleston
Meghan McCraw, Executive Budget Office
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Ernest McNealy, Allen University
Chris Miller, Clemson University
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
AJ Newton, SC Technical College System
Erin Paysinger, Lander University

Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and Universities
Julie Radford, University of South Carolina Aiken
Cam Reagin, University of South Carolina Aiken
Jake Scoggins, SC Senate
Sabrina Sims, Spartanburg Community College
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Terikah Staggers, SC House of Representatives
Laura Stoner, Clemson University
Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Karen Taylor, SC Technical College System
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University
Bessie Watson, SC Inspector General's Office
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
Tami Wyndham-Cooke, Medical University of South Carolina
Tangar Young, SC State University
WACH Fox News
News 19 WLTX

All Attended either In-Person, by Phone, or via Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 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. Chair Hayes thanked Representative Erickson and legislative staff for joining the meeting and giving their support to the agency.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the December 7, 2023, January 5, 2024, and January 18, 2024 CHE Business meetings and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Bryson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Inspector General's Report

Chair Hayes called on Inspector General Brian Lamkin to give his report. Inspector General Lamkin reported to the Commission that he reviewed the CHE's draft responses to the Inspector General's Performance and Management Review of the SC Commission on Higher Education. He commented that

the actions and recommendations were thoughtful. He then stated that he had a few comments and/or suggestions for a handful of findings:

Finding and Recommendation 1:

In regard to the CHE's response to Finding and Recommendation 1, General Lamkin stated that the timelines were ambitious and recommended reevaluating the dates. **He expressed that the preference is for the agency to provide documents that exhibit quality rather than attempting to meet ambitious timelines.**

Finding and Recommendation 2:

In regard to the CHE's response to Finding and Recommendation 2, General Lamkin suggested that the CHE publish the methodology and that the CHE reach out to the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office to review the revised methodology.

Finding and Recommendation 3:

In regard to the CHE's response to Finding and Recommendation 3, General Lamkin suggested the CHE create a comprehensive management plan for the College Transition Scholarship Program.

Finding and Recommendation 4:

In regard to the CHE's response to Finding and Recommendation 4, General Lamkin stated that the June 30, 2024 deadline was ambitious. He encouraged the CHE to avoid overpromising and underdelivering.

Finding and Recommendation 6:

General Lamkin generally spoke about the CHE's unfilled positions and suggested that the CHE fill vacancies.

Finding and Recommendation 7:

General Lamkin and the Commissioners discussed the importance of communication with board members.

Finding and Recommendation 9:

In regard to the CHE's response to Finding and Recommendation 9, General Lamkin suggested that the agency inform the Senate Finance Committee of the list of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) educator preparation programs that could replace Benedict College for the African American Loan program.

Finding and Recommendation 12:

General Lamkin and the Commissioners discussed telecommuting and office space.

Commissioners engaged in extensive conversation regarding the report. Commissioner Smith asked whether there was a common automated software used within similar agencies that could be replicated at the agency, to which Inspector General Lamkin confirmed that could be researched. Commissioner Seckinger recommended that there be a study on automation systems and how they communicate with each other, to which Inspector General Lamkin recommended connecting with the Department of Administration to determine possibilities. Commissioner Zais asked whether audits that are currently being done within higher education institutions could serve as a resource to the agency's audit needs, to which Commissioner Mobley explained that audits within higher education institutions are studying financials rather than academic programs. Commissioner Dyer asked whether an alternative word other than waste could be used when referring to the unallocated \$152 million dollars, to which Inspector General Lamkin confirmed that he used language as defined within statute. Commissioner Teppara expressed the importance of reestablishing trust within the agency and recommended that there be a work and staff assessment.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked Inspector General Lamkin for his report. Chair Hayes also thanked Acting President Woodfaulk for serving in that capacity. He did not have any further items to report.

5. Acting President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on Acting President Woodfaulk to give her report. Acting President Woodfaulk announced a new hire in the Office of Data Management and IT, which welcomed Bharath Kallu, Database Administrator. Acting President Woodfaulk provided an overview of the 2024-25 Governor's budget related to higher education. She gave an update on a list of follow-ups from the January 5, 2024, Special-called CHE Meeting related to the agency objectives; draft Inspector General's (IG) response; House Ways and Means Budget presentation; and agency vacancies and postings.

Acting President Woodfaulk reported that the agency is currently considering two legal documents. She called on Mr. Tippens to summarize the two items and to summarize the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA). Mr. Tippens summarized the BSRA stating that \$40 million was allocated to the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University to work collaboratively to produce a workforce pipeline to the BRSA, which would be approved by various entities. Mr. Tippens reported that

the agency has a partnership with Ithaca S&R to develop a new online transfer portal with higher education institutions. He is also reviewing an agreement to accept online payments for licensing requests and a contract for the SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) related to the agency's obligation to provide administrative support.

Acting President Woodfaulk provided an update on activities and events taking place within each Office within the agency. Dr. Woodfaulk also provided an overview of reports that the Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing is working to make current. Commissioner Dyer summarized the outstanding items and expressed that there is a staffing shortage. He asked that institutions be patient with the agency as it works to fill vacancies and to address the backlog. Commissioners Zais and Seckinger asked about the evaluation of the telecommuting policy and Dr. Woodfaulk said that there can be some evaluation of the current policy.

Acting President Woodfaulk announced upcoming events: Council of Presidents Meeting, February 7; Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing Meeting, February 8; Coordinating Council on Workforce Development Executive Committee Meeting, February 15; and Special-called Committee on Finance and Facilities Meeting, date to be determined. Acting President concluded her report and asked whether there were any questions.

Commissioner Snyder asked whether the June 30 date should be adjusted related to the agency objectives document created for the previous President and Executive Director, to which Chair Hayes explained that the document is not applicable with the current situation and any action deadlines will be reflected in the CHE's official response to the Inspector General.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes reported that the Executive Committee is currently working on a search for the next Acting President and Executive Director. He reported that the position was posted on Tuesday and will remain posted for at least 10 days. Chair Hayes said that the Executive Committee will begin looking at applications in the coming weeks and that there may be a special-called meeting to consider candidates.

6.02 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 (CAAL). Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee had one item for consideration, which he summarized and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda passed. He announced that the Committee will meet on February 8, 2024. Commissioner Teppara recommended that institutions be notified of compliance with the REACH Act within a defined time.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. AY2022-23 REACH Act Compliance Report

6.03 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 did not have any items for consideration.

6.04 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 welcomed Commissioner Zais as a new member of the Committee. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee had eight items for consideration, one additional item for action, 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 item B., Proposal to Update Policy Manual for Phase I Land Acquisition and motioned to approve. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Batson summarized items for information. He called on Mr. Wilson who summarized the CHE Quarter 2 Budget Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals**
 - 1. Clemson University**
 - a. Computer Court CURF Property Acquisition
 - Revise Scope (Phase II)
 - 2. College of Charleston**
 - a. 58 George Street Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 3. Greenville Technical College**
 - a. Bldg. 802 Roof Replacement and Building Air Conditioning
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)

- 4. Lander University
 - a. Student Dining Hall Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- 5. Medical University of South Carolina
 - a. Acquisition of College of Health Professions, A, B, Ashley Rutledge Garage and Donation of 12 Property
 - Change Source of Funds
- 6. Spartanburg Community College
 - a. P. Dan Hull Building Reroof Project
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- 7. Trident Technical College
 - a. Berkely Campus Renovation – Transportation and Logistics Center
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- 8. Winthrop University
 - a. Music Conservatory & Byrnes Auditorium Renovation
 - Phase II Budget Increase

- B. Proposal to Update Policy Manual for Phase I Land Acquisitions (For Action)
- C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during December 2023 and January 2024 (For information, no action)
- D. USC Rural Health Brain Center Presentation (For information, no action)
- E. CHE Quarter 2 Budget Report (For information, no action)

Chair Hayes called on Representative Erickson to say a few words to the Commission, who extended her support and expressed the importance of communication.

6.05 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 had three items for information, which he summarized. Commissioner Snyder reported that the agency gave its budget presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee and suggested that the agency staff work to draft a list of recommendations for utilizing the unspent \$152 million. Commissioner Zais said that the recommendations need to align with workforce needs. Commissioner Snyder called on Ms. Steedly to give a brief legislative update. Ms. Steedly announced that proviso subcommittee hearings will take place during the week of February 12 and the House Ways and Means full committee hearings will take place during the week of February 19. The Senate Finance hearings will commence in late February or early March. Ms. Belcher gave an update on the HLOC status.

FOR INFORMATION, ONE FOR ACTION

- A. Budget Update (For information, no action)
- B. Legislative Update (For information, no action)
- C. External Studies: House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC) Status (For information, no action)

7. Executive Session

Commissioner Snyder motioned and Commissioner Mobley seconded to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Chair Hayes called for the vote and Commissioners went into executive session. Commissioners returned from executive session taking no action.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.