



**Minutes of the Council of Presidents
February 13, 2025
USC Alumni Center
900 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

Council of Presidents Members Present:

Dr. Luther (Fred) Carter, Francis Marion University, *Chair, presiding*
Dr. Michael Amiridis, University of South Carolina
Dr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University (Virtual)
Dr. Courtney Catledge, University of South Carolina Lancaster
Dr. April Cone, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie
Col. Alexander Conyers, South Carolina State University
Dr. Jamie Cooper for Dr. Stacey Moore, York Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Galen DeHay, Tri-County Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Richard Cosentino, Lander University
Dr. Susan Elkins, University of South Carolina Palmetto College (Virtual)
Dr. Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System
Dr. Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate (Virtual)
Dr. Daniel Heimmermann, University of South Carolina Aiken (Virtual)
Dr. Andrew Hsu, College of Charleston (Virtual)
Dr. Patricia Lee, Williamsburg Technical College
Dr. Gregory Little, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Randy Lowell, University of South Carolina Union
Dr. Forrest Mahan, Aiken Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort (Virtual)
Dr. Eric Reisenauer, University of South Carolina Sumter (Virtual)
Dr. Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Suzanne Thomas for Dr. David Cole, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
General Glenn Walter, The Citadel (Virtual)
Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks for Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (Virtual)

CHE Staff:

Dr. Jeffrey Perez, President & Executive Director
Ms. Laura Belcher
Dr. Corey Gheesling (Virtual)



Other Guests Present

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion University
Ms. Angie Leiding, Clemson University
Mr. Craig Parks, University of South Carolina Columbia
Mrs. Elizabeth Shefton, Francis Marion University
Mr. Adam Taylor, Lander University
Mr. Graham Tew, Francis Marion University

I. Welcome

Fred Carter

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.. Chairman Carter welcomed everyone and asked the them to introduce themselves.

The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) website with proper notice of the meeting. The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There were no public guests or media present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Fred Carter

Dr. Carter introduced the draft minutes for the February 13, 2025 Council of Presidents (COP) meeting, and asked whether there were any additions or corrections. Dr. Lee made the motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tobin. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Discussion Topics:

Tuition Mitigation

Workgroup

Dr. Carter asked Ms. Angie Leiding, Mr. Craig Parks, Mr. Adam Taylor and Mr. Darryl Bridges to present the workgroup's report on tuition mitigation.

The workgroup presented the following observations and considerations related to tuition mitigation:

- **Base Funding Calculation:** Tuition mitigation should account for inflation in both appropriated and non-appropriated E&G funds. A formula that reflects E&G, unrestricted, and non-professional expenses as the base should be considered. The Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) is often used as an objective measure of inflationary pressures specific to higher education. While it is important for policymakers to use a consistent index, institutions may face extra-inflationary expenses that should be considered.
- **Addressing State Mandates and other Requirements:** Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) are primarily funded by other funds, such as tuition, and receive only partial funding for these cost increases through appropriations. Priority should be given to fully funding state-mandated cost-increases for IHE's as is done with other state agencies.
- **Sector/Institutional Differences:** The differences between IHEs in breadth and scope, programs offered, research activities, regional workforce needs, community impact/services, and other institutional characteristics should be taken into consideration for the overall funding model.
- **In-State Enrollment:** Levels of In-State Enrollment should be given consideration for taxpayer funded appropriations and sector differences should be taken into consideration (FTE vs Headcount).
- **Additional Funding Requests:** The current model limits recurring funding requests to tuition mitigation funds. Consideration should be given to allow institutions to request funding for other factors, separately from base tuition mitigation; which is necessary to maintain the current scope of operations and programs.

Dr. Perez presented the following proviso, at the request of Representative Cobb-Hunter:

Section 11 – COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

11.rtm. *(CHE: Review of Tuition Mitigation Calculation) The Commission on Higher Education shall review the calculation of tuition mitigation funding to public institutions of higher education. The commission shall collaborate with representatives from each of South Carolina's public research institutions, four-year public institutions, and systems of higher education and report on suggested recommendations to the General Assembly no later than October 1, 2025.*

Dependant Tuition

Angie Leidinger

Ms. Leidinger presented a draft proviso for HEEAPA Legislative Proposal for Dependant Tuition. The current proviso language states “*For the current fiscal year, notwithstanding other provisions of law, institutions of higher education are authorized to provide assistance for education expenses, including the payment reimbursement, or remission of tuition or fees, to the spouses and dependant children of its permanent faculty and staff. The assistance authorized by this provision is not considered a prerequisite of office or employment. No funds appropriated in this act may be used to offer the assistance authorized in this provision.*”

The language of the proviso allows flexibly for individual institutions to opt in or opt out of the program; as well as the ability to craft the program any way they want.

At the recommendation of the CoP, the last line of the proviso will be reviewed for clarification.

Chairman Carter encouraged the CoP to communicate with Ms. Leidinger, if this is something their institution would like to support.

Lottery Funding Update – S.62

Jeff Perez

Dr. Perez provided an update on lottery funding. The S.62 bill passed the Senate, which creates education savings accounts and the Senate anticipates funding those through the lottery. Dr. Perez observed three possible choices:

- Move merit scholarship over to recurring
- Take items currently funded through the lottery and move them over to recurring
- Cut items that are currently funded through the lottery, such as need-based grants

The bill is now being debated in the House.

Hazardous Weather Procedure Update

Fred Carter

The topic of hazardous weather procedures was brought to the Governor's Office in October and the staff seemed comfortable with shifting the responsibility to institutional presidents and chancellors. No firm action has been taken.

CHE Strategic Plan

Jeff Perez

CHE has begun the process of creating a strategic plan. Dr. Perez would like input from the stakeholders, CoP. A survey will be sent to the presidents/chancellors asking the following questions. What would they like for CHE to do? What is it that CHE does that they would prefer them not do?

Campus Safety Conference**Jeff Perez**

CHE will facilitate a Campus Safety Conference and the plan is to hold the conference this summer. CHE will be reaching out to the institutions public safety officers, regarding the conference details.

Dr. Benson has offered to host the conference at Coastal Carolina University.

Cybersecurity Conference**Jeff Perez and Richard Cosentino**

CHE is looking to hold a cybersecurity conference in the fall. Dr. Perez has asked the CoP to provide feedback on the topics they would like presented at the conference.

DEW/CCWD Portal**Jeff Perez**

Dr. Corey Gheesling introduced the CCWD Interim Portal. Institutions provided information on over 5,500 academic programs for interim portal. The initial focus industry will be healthcare, because it was considered the most optimal industry to get cross-demographic use cases.

The portal has been live for two weeks and they have 225+ registrations statewide. The goal over the next year is to be at 6,000 registrations.

When users sign into the portal they will be prompted to complete a survey, allowing the portal to gather demographic information. The portal will match the users skills and education history with available occupations in the state. It will also identify learning opportunities and community support, to help users move forward in their careers.

CHE Announcements**Jeff Perez**

- Higher Education Day at the State House will be hosted on April 1
- The House lawsuit on paying student-athletes will be settled on April 7
- Board Chairs Meeting/Trustee Training is planned for the summer
- SREB is working on creating a new network of counselors for crisis recovery

IV. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

V. New Business

The next meeting will be held in late May or early June. The chairmanship will move to a technical college president/chancellor.

VI. Adjournment

The Council of Presidents meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.