



Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) Meeting Minutes March 20, 2025

Attendees

Clemson University: Rob Essaf

Coastal Carolina University: Teresa Burns, Roi Gurka, George Wesley Hitt

College of Charleston: Mark Del Mastro; Bert Schewel

Francis Marion University: Will Carswell, Allison Steadman, Jessica Burke, Jessica Doucet

Greenville Technical College:

Lander University: Erin Paysinger, James Colbert, Jr.

Medical University of South Carolina: Suzanne Thomas, Shane Ryan

Midlands Technical College: Eric Goff, Donna Zeek

Piedmont Technical College: Keli Fewox

SC State University: David Staten, Stanley Ihekweazu, Hasanul Basher, Ralph Noble

SC Technical College System: Rosline Sumpter, Aimeé Carter

The Citadel: Sally Selden, Karin Roof, David Edwards

Trident Technical College:

University of South Carolina Aiken: Phil Bridgmon, Katie Smith, Scott McKay

University of South Carolina Beaufort: Eric Skipper, Brian Mallory

University of South Carolina Columbia: Trena Houpp, Mark Yancey, Christian Jensen, Orgul Ozturk, Jason DeBacker, Damion Waymer

University of South Carolina Palmetto College: Walter Collins

University of South Carolina Upstate: Pam Steinke

Winthrop University: Sebastian van Delden

York Technical College: Jamie Cooper

Commissioners

Edgar Dyer

Commission Staff

Jessica Berry

Melissa Price

Kenita Pitts

Darnell Holland

Matthew Hartenstine

Endé Clark

Tracy Solet

Christopher Glenn

All attended In-Person or via Zoom

1. Welcome

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

2. Introductions, Quorum, and Freedom of Information Act

Ms. Solet announced attendance, established quorum, and confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

3. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Berry called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the January 30, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Berry called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**

5. New Program Proposals

a. Midlands Technical College, A.A.S. in Integrated Information Technology

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

b. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Electrical Engineering

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. USC Columbia expressed support of the program offering to partner in developing a four plus one pathway. Commissioner Dyer asked if the institution would seek national accreditation for the program and how many majors are anticipated. The institution confirmed it will seek accreditation and stated the estimates in the proposal are conservative and very low. Commissioner Dyer asked for a specific number of anticipated majors to be provided prior to CAAL. Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

c. Francis Marion University, Bachelor of Social Work

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

d. Lander University, B.A. in Communication

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

e. University of South Carolina, Aiken, B.S. in Electrical Engineering

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Commissioner Dyer asked if the institution would seek national accreditation for the program and how many majors are anticipated. The institution confirmed it would seek ABET accreditation and is confident it will exceed 39 majors after three years and likely 60-70 within a few years. Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

f. University of South Carolina, Columbia, B.A. in Communication

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

g. University of South Carolina, Columbia, M.S. in Quantitative Economics

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

h. University of South Carolina, Columbia, M.S.L. in Public Safety and Executive Leadership

The institution moved approval of the program, which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

6. Program Modification Proposals

a. Coastal Carolina University, B.S. in Engineering Science

The institution moved approval of the program modification, which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Commissioner Dyer asked if the institution would seek ABET accreditation. The institution explained the program is already ABET accredited. Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

b. Medical University of South Carolina, Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing (combined degree)

The institution moved approval of the program modification, which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The institution confirmed students could opt for just the M.S.N. degree and not continue with the D.N.P. Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

c. Medical University of South Carolina, Doctor of Pharmacy

The institution moved approval of the program modification, which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. USC Columbia expressed support for the program modification. Hearing no further questions or comments, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

d. The Citadel, B.S. in Mathematics

The institution moved approval of the program modification, which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. USC Columbia noted the B.A. in Mathematics program does not include a real analysis course, and combined with the other modifications, would not prepare students for graduate study in mathematics in most R-1 institutions as the B.S. would. Hearing no further comments or questions, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

7. Other Business / Discussion

a. **Teams Platform**

Dr. Berry mentioned ACAP meetings will be moving to Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom for those attending meetings virtually, beginning with the April 17 meeting. CAAL and CHE meetings will continue to utilize Zoom.

b. **Higher Education Day**

Dr. Berry stated April 1 is Higher Education Day at the state capitol building and encouraged students to attend to express appreciation of the legislative support for higher education, which will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the State House steps. Laura Belcher sent an email with additional information.

c. **Next ACAP Meeting**

Dr. Berry reminded attendees the next ACAP meeting will be April 17 at 10:00 a.m., with a CAAL meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m. Further, the proposals heard today will be on the April 17 CAAL agenda.

d. **Final Program Proposal Submissions**

Dr. Berry asked the institutions to submit program proposals and requested final revisions as soon as possible to meet their specific institutional deadlines. CHE only has two

program managers who review proposals in the order received. Institutions will be notified by CHE staff once a program proposal is placed on the ACAP agenda.

e. Program Duplication

Dr. Berry opened the floor for discussion regarding concerns of duplication of programs in the state. The shared consensus was the institutions target different demographics and are not overly concerned with program duplication. Concerns arise with duplication if: (a) it would detract from their enrollment, (b) there is no strong labor market need for the duplicate program, (c) it would affect enrollment in a key program or a niche market already being served, making the existing program financially unviable, or (d) it increases competition for students in need of clinical site training. Offering programs online can be an issue for the smaller institutions as they: (a) prioritize serving students in their regions, (b) agree their students generally stay close to home, even changing majors if needed versus leaving for a program, (c) try to focus on the in-state population, (d) serve place-bound students and target working adults with two plus two programs and master's programs. Further, regional comprehensive institutions want to serve their regions with standard liberal arts and professional type programs which are easy to offer and cost-effective. The institutions noted efforts to: (a) offer programs which lead to workforce opportunities but only insofar as the market demands, (b) discuss clinical site limitations and other issues among themselves prior to bringing proposals to CHE, and (c) explore the possibility of pooling resources and partnering in program offerings.

f. Student Outcomes and Workforce Needs

Dr. Berry thanked the attendees for the conversation and encouraged the institutions to include the market need data in their proposals, not just within their region but in the state, especially as it aligns with workforce needs. And, if possible, to include student outcome data as it relates to student employment in the field of the new program being proposed. Also to include if students are staying in-state or leaving South Carolina as the goal is to be intentional in creating degrees which build the South Carolina workforce. Dr. Berry asked the institutions to explore if there is a workforce need for higher-level degrees and if there is a pathway for these students to enter the Academy versus the workforce. Discussion was had regarding the need for professional and faculty development to teach students how to teach, not just learn the material they will be teaching. Dr. Berry encouraged the institutions to consider and include in their proposals the possible sharing of resources and partnering with each other. And to consider if a new program is needed or would the state and students be better served instead with a certification or a concentration.

g. Dual Enrollment

Questions were raised regarding the 45-mile limitation in the proposed revision of the Dual Enrollment policy, if the limitation would only apply to new sites, and the requirement to submit a program modification proposal to add a new site versus a program notification. Dr. Berry explained current sites would be grandfathered in and the 45-mile limitation would only apply to new sites. Upon review of SHEEO data, most states allow a 40 to 45-mile radius to limit duplication, which CHE believes will also allow for proper oversight and access for students, which is paramount. The submission via modification is for oversight and tracking purposes which will allow CHE to provide more accurate data to the legislators and commissioners. Further discussion was had regarding technical colleges with statutory service areas which may be spread out more than 45 miles. Dr. Berry stated the mileage radius is a guide and suggested the institutions provide a justification in the proposal as to why the mileage limitation is an issue, and noted all information provided will be considered such as students having to travel outside of their local area to the site. Additionally, an on-campus student orientation will be required for programs offered online, which may be problematic for students in more rural areas. Such information should be included in the proposal. A question was raised regarding

institutions wanting to establish dual enrollment sites in areas in which the technical colleges have existing relationships with local school districts. Dr. Berry explained the move to program modification proposals will allow CHE to look at these issues and discuss them at ACAP. Discussion was had regarding the number of votes the technical system has versus 4-year and regional institutions, and the technical systems' opposition to the policy language allowing 100% online statewide dual enrollment as it intrudes on the service areas of the technical colleges. It was noted several of the 2-year institutions often work with the technical system prior to submitting documentation to CHE for a new site. Dr. Berry noted CHE's policy for academic affairs and licensing outlines the ACAP voting structure, which the committee may wish to raise once a permanent director is named. Dr. Berry expressed appreciation for the concerns, noting the statewide language was also in the 2004 policy. Additionally, CHE is looking forward to receiving feedback on the proposed policy revisions as ACAP is considered a working group with the expectation the institutions are gathering and providing feedback from their dual enrollment experts on campus. CHE will review and collate the information received into a policy for review by ACAP, CAAL, and the full commission. Dr. Berry asked the attendees to be thinking of next steps and if there is a need for a dual enrollment working group or subcommittee as the goal is not just to update the policy but to continue looking at the issue statewide.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Berry called for a motion to adjourn, which was made and seconded. With no further discussion, **the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.**