



**Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs (ACAP)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Clemson University: Rob Essaf  
Coastal Carolina University: Teresa Burns, Gibbs Knotts, Colleen McGlone  
College of Charleston: Mark Del Mastro, Narayanan Kuthirummal, Steven Schreiner  
Francis Marion University: Allison Steadman  
Lander University: James Colbert, Erin Paysinger  
Medical University of South Carolina: Nancy Carson, Eric Richardson  
Piedmont Technical College: Keli Fewox  
SC State University:  
SC Technical College System: Aimeé Carter  
The Citadel: Karin Roof  
Tri-County Technical College: Amanda Elmore  
Trident Technical College:  
University of South Carolina Aiken: Phillip Bridgmon, Katie Kaplin Smith, Mohammad Hailat  
University of South Carolina Beaufort: Brian Mallory  
University of South Carolina Columbia: Trena Houpp  
University of South Carolina Palmetto College:  
University of South Carolina Upstate: Pam Steinke  
Winthrop University: Tim Druke

**Commissioner**

Edgar Dyer

**Commission Staff**

Angela Peters	Endé Clark
Melissa Price	Matthew Hartenstine
Darnell Holland	Christopher Glenn
Kenita Pitts	Tracy Solet

All attended in-person or virtually

- 1. Welcome**  
Dr. Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:00 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. Peters called for a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment noting item 6.a. would be moved to the agenda for the February meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Peters called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**  
Dr. Peters called for a motion to approve the September 11, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Peters called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Peters mentioned the SC Transfer Excellence Convening, which took place on October 8, 2025, and thanked Dr. Berry for her work in organizing the event, as well as the CHE staff, volunteers, and Co-Chairs of the committee.

## 5. New Program Proposals

### a. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.S. in Cybersecurity

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.a., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Winthrop University asked about the program's modality, which the representative explained would be hybrid delivery and not fully online. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

### b. Coastal Carolina University, Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.b., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from the University of South Carolina Columbia (USCC) noted concerns regarding accreditation, clinical education hours, course descriptions, faculty, and clinical site access, and requested the institution collaborate with USCC and the Medical University of South Carolina on site issues and to consider a smaller cohort size, at least initially. Further concern was expressed with the institution's market analysis and program competition, noting Charleston Southern University also has an accredited program which was not listed in the proposal. The representative responded to the concerns stating: the courses have been approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and will be further clarified once a director is hired; they will work with the other institutions regarding access to clinical sites and noted the number of sites in the area is growing; they are confident in the pool of qualified core faculty; and the 30 weeks of clinical education in the proposal is a typo, which will be corrected. The representative from Lander University inquired as to the timeline for implementation, which the representative stated is set for 2030 and explained the possibility to move up in the process is based on hiring the director and core faculty, as well as other programs in line for accreditation. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed. The University of South Carolina Columbia abstained.**

### c. College of Charleston, B.A./A.B. in General Engineering

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.c., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Winthrop University (WU) questioned the use of the term graphic designer as a comparison. The representative explained the program will be broad in terms of fields of engagement and will introduce students to engineering concepts in general and to design in general, noting it could be a standalone major or paired with other majors of interest. The WU representative suggested using the term design versus the more specific term graphic design. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the programs to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

### d. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B. in Integrated Engineering and Business

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.d., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from the South Carolina Technical College System noted Greenville Technical College's B.A.S. in Engineering program is not listed as a similar program. The representative stated the proposal would be updated to include the B.A.S. in Engineering program. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- e. Medical University of South Carolina, B.S. in Applied Health Intelligence and Administration

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.e., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from the University of South Carolina Columbia noted a discrepancy in the required number of credit hours and stated 69 hours may be difficult for a student with a regular transferable A.A./A.S. degree. The representative from Winthrop University (WU) noted several issues WU is having with competency-based programs regarding financial aid, which is based on credit hours, as well as issues getting approval for veterans' benefits from the State Approving Agency for such programs. The representative stated the program will be more competency-structured versus purely competency-based and will have traditional semester start and end dates. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- f. Medical University of South Carolina, M.S. in Healthcare Quality and Safety

The institution representative moved approval of agenda item 5.f., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Winthrop University noted the number of hours required and asked if this would be a full-time program. The representative stated the program could be completed in as few as three semesters with a full course load or in six semesters with a more part-time progression. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Peters called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

## 6. Other Business / Discussion

- a. Math Initiative with Launch Years and The Dana Center

The representative from the University of South Carolina Columbia (USCC) mentioned a partnership with the Charles A. Dana Center (Dana Center) at the University of Texas at Austin, noting a grant proposal had been submitted, approved, and funded. South Carolina is one of three states admitted this year in the Launch Years Initiative, which is a statewide initiative to improve math pathways from K-12 to higher education. USCC has seen a huge increase in the number of students placing into lower-level math courses, and based on the data, there is a large drop in math skills between the third and eighth grade. The representative shared statistics and data points, and mentioned several departments, agencies, college systems, and institutions already committed to the initiative. A survey will be sent to the state's public institutions of higher education requesting preliminary information and collaboration. The Dana Center will provide resources, including a project coach, with more information to follow at the Academic Insight Forum CHE will be hosting.

- b. Academic Insight Forum update

Dr. Peters stated a presentation would be made at the forum regarding the Launch Years Initiative. Based on the survey responses, topics of interest for the forum include: workforce development, curriculum development, student retention strategies, policy and regulation changes, faculty development, online education, research funding, technology in education, and generative AI with neurodivergent learners. The forum will be virtual and will likely be held in January. More information is forthcoming.

- c. Admissions Standards Report

Dr. Peters stated she would be meeting with CHE's data director and would be requesting information from the institutions needed to complete the Admissions Standards Report.

## 7. Adjournment

With no further discussion, Dr. Peters called for a motion to adjourn, which was made and seconded. **The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.**