



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
12:30 p.m., March 6, 2025  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400 Columbia, SC, 29201 and Zoom Webinar

### **Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair  
Commissioner Oran Smith, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Jenni Bryson  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer  
Commissioner Gene Fant

Commissioner Mark Masters  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley  
Commissioner Terry Seckinger  
Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Dino Teppara  
Commissioner Mick Zais

### **Commission Staff Present**

Jeff Perez  
Laura Belcher  
Jessica Berry  
Fran Brune  
Stephanie Charbonneau  
Ende Clark  
Christopher Glenn  
Monica Goodwin  
Shardai Figgures  
Gerrick Hampton  
Kathryn Harris  
Matthew Hartenstine  
DJ Holland  
Mariana Manic  
Diane McCree

Alfie Mincy  
Rick Moul, PASCAL  
Frank Myers  
Kenita Pitts  
Melissa Price  
Christopher Robinson  
Kathy Rollins  
Christina Seale  
Kara Smith  
Tracy Solet  
Mark Swart  
Tanya Weigold  
Leslie Williams  
Bryce Wilson  
Karen Woodfaulk  
Lishu Yin

### **Guests**

Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Bridget Blackwell, USC Palmetto College  
Willie Bradley, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information  
Phillip Brigmon, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University  
Lewis Carter, SC House of Representatives  
Zachary Christian, SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission  
James Colbert, Lander University  
Michelle Cook, Clemson University  
Robin Dawson, University of South Carolina  
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Timothy Druke, Winthrop University  
Rob Essaf, Clemson University  
Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University  
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington, Technical College

Pat Greene, University of South Carolina Beaufort  
Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission  
Dan Heimmermann, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Ayana Hernandez, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information  
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Gabrielle Johnson, Department of Employment and Workforce  
Pamela Jones, Department of Employment and Workforce  
Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information  
Orgul Ozturk, University of South Carolina  
Briana Peele, Clemson University  
Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina  
Karin Roof, The Citadel

Jagruiti Sahoo, South Carolina State University  
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information  
Katie Smith, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University  
David Staten, South Carolina State University

Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Nikunja Swain, South Carolina State University  
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina  
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University  
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:30 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.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the February 6, 2025, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Teppara seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes thanked Commissioner Smith for serving as chair during the February 6, 2025, CHE Business Meeting. He also thanked CHE staff for their work in addressing concerns identified in the Inspector General's and House Legislative Oversight Committee reports. He welcomed Commissioner Masters as a new member of the Board.

**4. President and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Hayes called on President Perez to give the President and Executive Director report. President Perez highlighted three requests that were included in his presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee, which the Committee found favorable: \$752,630 to replenish seven FTE positions, \$750,00 to be moved under administration and fringe, and \$1.5 million of lottery funding for PASCAL. He said that the request also included some provisos. Presidents Perez noted and summarized three other proposed legislative bills that the CHE is monitoring: H.3927, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-

Based Opportunity Act; S.62, Education Scholarship Trust Fund; and H.3021, Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act.

President Perez announced that the Senate Education Committee advanced two nominations for new Commissioner representation on CHE's Board: Dr. Brian Cuddy for an at-large seat and Mr. Charles Schulze, for a research sector seat. He also announced that he will present to the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee on March 13, and invited Commissioners to attend.

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **5.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes reported that there are no items from the Executive Committee for consideration.

### **5.02 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. Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee has eight program proposals and one new center proposal on the consent agenda for consideration. He summarized the items, then motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. New Program Proposals**

1. Clemson University, B.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education
2. Clemson University, B.A. in Modern Languages Education
3. Clemson University, M.A.T. in Teacher Residency in Modern Languages Education
4. Clemson University, M.A.T. in Modern Languages Education
5. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
6. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Computer Engineering
7. South Carolina State University, M.S. in Cybersecurity
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, D.N.P. in Nursing Education

##### **B. New Center Proposal**

1. University of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina Economic Policy Center (SC EPIC)

### **5.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services**

**Hugh Mobley**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Mobley to provide a report on the Committee on Student Services. Commissioner Mobley thanked Commissioner Bryson for reporting on behalf of the Committee during the last CHE Business and Committee meetings. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee has four items for information and summarized the items.

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

##### **A. SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCII) Reports**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Quarter 2 Report (For information, no action)</li><li>2. Annual Report (For information, no action)</li><li>3. Proposed Budget for FY 25-26 (For information, no action)</li></ul> <p>B. College Goal South Carolina and FAFSA Completion Update (For information, no action)</p> |
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#### 5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration

Paul Batson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report on the Committee on Finance and Administration. Commissioner Batson announced that the external audit firm has completed 46 of 47 audits on higher education institutions. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee has four items for information and summarized the items. CHE staff gave a brief update presentation on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Commissioner Batson said that the committee discussed the possibility of reviewing institutions of higher education audits to get a better understanding of their financial backgrounds.

##### FOR INFORMATION

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Scholarship Compliance Audits Update (For information, no action)</li><li>B. Battelle Alliance Update (For information, no action)</li><li>C. Invoicing Deadlines (For information, no action)</li><li>D. Data Collection – Calendar/Deadlines (For information, no action)</li><li>E. Higher Education Expenditures and Revenues Dashboard (For information, no action)</li></ul> |
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#### 5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability

Doug Snyder

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability. Commissioner Snyder reported that there are four items for information only and summarized the items. Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee is working on the strategic plan and described the process and timeline. He announced that the goal is to have the strategic plan ready for consideration at the August CHE Meeting. Commissioner Snyder gave Commissioners a copy of the updated mission and values statement as approved by the Committee. Commissioner Dyer asked whether accessibility was considered as a value, to which Commissioner Snyder confirmed that the Committee discussed and considered it extensively. Commissioner Dyer would like to continue the conversation with the full Board at a future meeting. Commissioner Dyer further suggested that possibly accessibility could replace the value of excellence, as excellence is an implied value. Commissioner Snyder highlighted the number of actions the agency has completed as it relates to the Inspector General's and House Legislative Oversight Committee reports.

##### FOR INFORMATION

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Strategic Timeframe and Activities Summary (For information, no action)</li><li>B. Strategic Plan Elements</li></ul> |
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<p>C. Mission and Values Review D. External Studies Update (For information, no action)</p>
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## **6. Other Business**

Commissioner Mobley announced his retirement from the CHE Board. He asked that the Commission continue to focus on the cost of college, increasing student awareness of the financial responsibility of attending college, further evaluation of the duplicity in programs, and examining accreditation within programs on campuses.

Commissioner Seckinger announced that she will also be retiring from the CHE Board soon, as she will serve on the Board of Probation, Parole and Pardon once confirmed by the Senate. She said that she would like the Commission to focus on graduation rates. Chair Hayes, Commissioners, Commission staff and meeting attendees thanked Commissioners Mobley and Seckinger for their service.

## **7. Executive Session**

There was not an executive session.

## **8. End of Business Meeting**

The business meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.