



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
12:30 p.m., August 7, 2025  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400, Columbia, SC 29201  
and Zoom Webinar

**Members**

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

Commissioner Mark Masters  
Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Dino Teppara  
Commissioner Mick Zais

**Members Excused**

Commissioner Charles Schulze  
Commissioner Oran Smith, Vice Chair

**Commission Staff Present**

Jeff Perez  
Argentini Anderson  
Laura Belcher  
Jessica Berry  
Fran Brune  
Stephanie Charbonneau  
Scheri Eichelberger  
Kathryn Harris  
Matthew Hartenstine  
Darnell Holland  
Bharath Kallu  
Mariana Manic  
Diane McCree

Alfie Mincy  
Kenita Pitts  
Melissa Price  
Christopher Robinson  
Kara Smith  
Tracy Solet  
Tanya Weigold  
Leslie Williams  
Bryce Wilson  
Karen Woodfaulk  
Lishu Yin

**Guests**

Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University  
Bonnie Carson Durham, University of South  
Carolina Upstate  
William Carswell, Francis Marion University  
James Colbert, Lander University  
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Tim Drueke, Winthrop University  
Anna Edwards, University of South Carolina  
Frederick Evans, South Carolina State University  
Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System  
Leslie Holman, Horry Georgetown Technical  
College  
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Robert Lloyd, SC Independent Colleges and  
Universities

Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort  
Erin Paysinger, Lander University  
Briana Peele, Clemson University  
Jay Ragley, Advocatus USA  
Karin Roof, The Citadel  
Paul Schwager, College of Charleston  
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University  
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Katie Stevens, SC Tuition Grants Commission  
Sebastian van Delden, Winthrop University  
Adam Taylor, Lander University  
David Wyman, College of Charleston  
Tangar Young, South Carolina State University

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:33 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 June 5, 2025, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Dyer motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Zais seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes expressed appreciation to Commissioner Snyder, the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA), President Perez, and CHE staff for organizing an excellent Retreat. He noted that the agency is preparing for its upcoming strategic plan.

Chair Hayes welcomed two new board members, Commissioners Dukes and Cuddy, and announced that commissioners will receive an email regarding the selection of CHE standing committee assignments. He explained that these assignments will be finalized at the September CHE Meeting. Chair Hayes said that the Commission will also elect a vice chair, after which each committee will elect its own vice chair at its next scheduled meeting.

Chair Hayes thanked CHE staff for coordinating the recent Campus Safety Conference.

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

President Perez extended appreciation to Ms. Smith for coordinating a successful Greenville Technical College visit and meeting. He introduced Mr. Bharath Kullu as a new staff member for the Office of Information Technology & Data Analysis.

President Perez noted that, as of June 30, he completed his first year as President and Executive Director of CHE and provided a recap of FY 2025 operations and initiatives:

- **Operations:** Consolidation of offices and committees; strategic plan development; submission of the executive budget request for Commission review; implementation of CHEMIS 2.0; increased transparency in agency budget reporting; and adoption of a new remote work policy.
- **Engagement:** Reported progress on Inspector General (IG), House Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight Committee (HGELOC), and Senate Legislative Oversight Committee (SLOC) actions. President Perez said that the agency continues to track progress and communicate effectively. He reported that the merit scholarship projection was \$1 million under budget (a variance of one-third of one percent) and work is underway on the next scholarship projection.
- **Limestone University:** President Perez acknowledged the recent closure and explained that CHE is required to maintain student transcript records for a designated period. President Perez noted that CHE staff members worked beyond their statutory responsibilities to minimize the disruption experienced by Limestone students.
- **Coordinating Council of Workforce Development (CCWD):** He reported serving on the Executive Committee, which identifies priority occupations, and as co-chair of the new Career Pathways Committee.
- **Act 156:** Highlighted enhancements to nursing and education careers. He thanked Dr. Woodfaulk and her team for drafting regulations to ensure students can access benefits.
- **Strategic Plan Execution:** He described next steps to include the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) and increased stakeholder engagement.
- **Climate Survey:** President Perez stated that the survey will be scheduled for completion later this year in partnership with the IG.
- **Office Budgets:** He announced that each office will now have its own budget.
- **Provisos:** CHE is reviewing tuition mitigation formulas and will submit recommendations by October 1.
- **Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP) Audits:** He reported that the audits are ongoing completion for the HEEEP program.
- **Policies and Regulations:** *Residency:* Evaluation of residency determination processes in collaboration with the General Assembly; *Dual Enrollment:* Emphasis on maintaining program quality; and *Academic Program Approval:* Review of evaluation methods for new programs.

## 5. Committee Reports

### 5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes called on President Perez on behalf of Commissioner Smith to provide an update on the CHE bylaws. President Perez summarized the suggested revisions and reminded the Commission that during the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Commissioner Schulze raised a question about whether CHE employees may work at private institutions. President Perez confirmed that counsel was consulted, and that counsel advised no conflict existed. Chair Hayes called for a vote on the Bylaws revision, which passed unanimously.

#### FOR INFORMATION

##### A. Proposed 2025 CHE Bylaw Revisions

### 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 provided an overview of committee responsibilities for new commissioners. He summarized the consent agenda and moved for its approval. Commissioner Dukes inquired about item B.6, asking if it was a general degree. Dr. Peters clarified that it was not specialized. Chair Hayes called for the vote, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility Review (SEER) Policy Update

##### B. New Program Proposals

1. Winthrop University, B.S., Aviation and Business Management
2. Clemson University, B.S., Science Teaching with Chemistry concentration
3. Clemson University, B.S., Science Teaching with Physics concentration
4. Clemson University, M.S., Finance
5. Winthrop University, Master of Business Administration
6. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B., Entrepreneurship

##### C. New Center Proposal

1. University of South Carolina Columbia, Center for American Civic Leadership and Public Discourse

### 5.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

Jenni Bryson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Bryson to provide a report on the Committee on Student Services. Commissioner Bryson provided an overview of committee responsibilities for new commissioners. She

noted and summarized three items for information and invited Dr. Woodfaulk to present on the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act.

**FOR INFORMATION**

- A. Scholarship Appeals Cycle 2024-25 Overview (For information, no action)
- B. College Application Month 2024-25 Overview (For information, no action)
- C. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act Fall 2024 (For information, no action)

**5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA)**

**Paul Batson**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report on the Committee on Finance and Administration. Commissioner Batson provided an overview of committee responsibilities for new commissioners. He summarized five informational items.

**FOR INFORMATION**

- A. Quarter 4 Budget Report (For information, no action)
- B. FY 25 Year End Cash Balances Review (For information, no action)
- C. FY 27 Personnel Budget Request (For information, no action)
- D. Proviso 117.21, Organizations Receiving State Appropriations Report (For information, no action)
- E. FY 27 IT Plans (For information, no action)

**5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA)**

**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 two action and two information items, which he summarized the items. He described the changes made to item A., then motioned for the approval of the two action items. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the items passed unanimously. [See attached for the approved mission, values and initiatives.] Commissioner Snyder summarized the items listed for information.

**FOR ACTION**

- A. Mission, Values and Initiatives of the Strategic Plan 2030 (For Action)
- B. Suggested CHE Related Statute Repeals and Minor Adjustments (For Action)

**FOR INFORMATION**

- C. Accountability (For information, no action)
- D. External Studies Update (For information, no action)

**6. Other Business**

Commissioner Dyer commended Commissioner Batson and President Perez for their work on addressing carry-forward funds.

#### **7. Executive Session**

There was not an executive session.

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

The business meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**  
**Mission, Values and Related Strategic Plan 2030 Initiatives**  
*Approved on August 7, 2025*

**MISSION**

***Provide strategic and collaborative leadership to improve South Carolina's higher education system, expand opportunities for all citizens, and advance the State's civic, cultural, and economic development.***

**VALUES**

***Accessibility:*** *Ensure all South Carolinians have access to high-quality postsecondary opportunities that match their educational and career goals.*

**Promote Higher Education ROI** Demonstrate the individual and statewide return on investment of higher education through data-driven reporting that highlights student outcomes and economic impact.

**Increase Educational Awareness** Expand outreach to ensure all South Carolinians are informed about available postsecondary options, including associate, bachelor's and advanced degrees, and skills-based credentials.

**Improve Affordability** Support cost-reduction strategies and equitable financial aid programs to lower barriers to college access and completion.

***Excellence:*** *Promote a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, civic engagement, and academic rigor to deliver top-tier post-secondary educational outcomes statewide.*

**Enhance Operational Effectiveness** Modernize internal processes and adopt best practices to improve CHE's efficiency and service delivery.

**Leverage CHE Expertise** Provide data, policy guidance, and coordination to support institutional improvement and statewide academic alignment.

**Strengthen Student Success and Workforce Alignment** Advance student completion and job placement by aligning academic programs with labor market needs and improving educational pathways.

***Accountability:*** *Uphold the highest standards of transparency, stewardship, and public trust in advancing the effectiveness of South Carolina's higher education system.*

**Expand Monitoring and Reporting** Strengthen CHE's capacity to evaluate institutional performance and publish transparent, comparative data.

**Improve Stakeholder Responsiveness** Enhance communications and service to policymakers, institutions, and the public through timely, clear engagement.

**Fulfill Statutory Responsibilities** Ensure full compliance with all legal mandates, including program approval, licensing, planning, and scholarship administration.