



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

12:30 p.m., February 6, 2025

1122 Lady Street, Suite 400 Columbia, SC, 29201 and Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair, virtual
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Edgar Dyer
Commissioner Jenni Bryson, virtual
Commissioner Mark Masters

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Oran Smith
Commissioner Dino Teppara, virtual
Commissioner Mick Zais

Members Excused

Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Laura Belcher
Jessica Berry
Kristin Brooks
Fran Brune
Stephanie Charbonneau
Ende Clark
Corey Gheesling
Monica Goodwin
Scheri Eichelberger
Shardai Figgures
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
DJ Holland
Mariana Manic
Diane McCree
Danastalgia McDermott

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

Guests

Suzanne Austin, College of Charleston
Beth Bell, Clemson University
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
James Colbert, Lander University
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Beth Dinndorf, SC Institutes of Innovation &
Information
Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University
Wes Dudgeon, College of Charleston

Anna Edwards, University of South Carolina
Frederick Evans, SC State University
Kelli Fooks, Coastal Carolina University
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
Andrew Hsu, College of Charleston
Gabrielle Johnson, Department of Employment
and Workforce
Pamela Jones, Department of Employment and
Workforce

Jeremy King, Clemson University
Ron Magnuson, College of Charleston
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Al Panu, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Jenell Peoples, University of South Carolina
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Bert Schewel, College of Charleston
Paul Schwager, College of Charleston
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina
Beaufort

Christine Smalls Brown, Medical University of South Carolina
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Katie Smith, University of South Carolina Aiken
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate
Rosline Sumpter, SC Technical College System
Rafael Teixeira, College of Charleston
Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College

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

Vice Chair Smith, on behalf of Chair Hayes, convened the meeting at 12:35 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 Smith introduced the draft minutes of the December 5, 2024, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Zais motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Batson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Smith did not have any items to report.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

President Perez reported on his recent activities. He shared that he presented to both the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Education and Public Works Committee, where he provided a brief overview of the agency and to the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee (HWM), where he presented the agency's budget request. President Perez thanked Commissioners who attended the presentations. He stated that he also attended the TransformSC Steering Committee Meeting.

President Perez reported on agency activities, including a new commissioner orientation for Commissioner Masters. President Perez reported that the agency hosted the SC Military Credit Mobility Conference and explained that the conference helps to ensure that military personnel and veterans receive academic credit for their experience. President Perez said that the agency is developing factors to consider for staff salary adjustments. He announced that Yolanda Myers retired after 40 years of service to the agency.

Commissioners shared feedback on President Perez’s presentation to the HWM Higher Education Subcommittee. Commissioner Seckinger asked whether there were any questions regarding carryover in the budget, to which President Perez explained how the agency is working to address carryover in particular areas.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Smith reported that the review process for the CHE Bylaws has begun, and a draft will be available for the Board’s review in August.

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Edgar Dyer

Chair Smith called on Commissioner Dyer to provide a report on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing. Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee has its committee charter, two program proposals, and one mission statement revision on the consent agenda for consideration. He motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Smith called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved. Commissioner Dyer summarized the two items presented for information.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing Charter Revision
- B. New Program Proposals
 - 1. College of Charleston, Executive Doctorate of Business Administration
 - 2. College of Charleston, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)/A.B.C. New Center Proposal
- C. Mission Statement Revision
 - 1. USC Beaufort, Mission Statement Revision
- D. Nursing Educator Initiative Report for FY 2023-24 (For information, no action)
- E. AY 2023-24 Academic Programs Annual Report (For information, no action)

5.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

Jenni Bryson

Chair Smith called on Commissioner Bryson to provide a report on the Committee on Student Services on behalf of Commissioner Mobley. Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee has one item for

consideration. She summarized the consent agenda item and motioned for its approval. Chair Smith called for the vote and the item passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Committee on Student Services Charter Revision

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration

Paul Batson

Chair Smith called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report on the Committee on Finance and Administration. Commissioner Batson said that there is one item for consideration on the consent agenda and motioned for its approval. He explained that Commissioner Masters, as a new committee member, would like further time to review the charter and may provide additional feedback after its approval. Chair Smith called for the vote and the item passed unanimously. Commissioner Batson summarized the three informational items and called on the Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis staff to present on the Statistical Abstract.

As part of the discussion on the Statistical Abstract, Commissioners engaged in an extensive conversation regarding standardized tests and its effectiveness. Chair Smith requested that the SAT and ACT Score slide be sent to Commissioners, which displays the institutions that do not require standardized testing as an admissions requirement. Commissioners asked Dr. Woodfaulk whether there are any incentives for students to take the SAT/ACT tests, to which she explained that there are income-based cost waivers for students who meet a certain income threshold. Commissioner Dyer recommended adding an additional asterisk to the slide notating that some institutions do not require standardized testing as an admission requirement. Commissioner Seckinger requested more information on graduation rates as it correlates to the increased scholarship and need-based grant funding, to which Mr. Robinson said that he will provide.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Committee on Finance and Administration Charter Revision

B. Quarter 2 CHE Budget Report (For information, no action)

C. Proviso 3.6 Technology Funds Report (For information, no action)

D. Statistical Abstract (For information, no action)

5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability

Doug Snyder

Chair Smith called on Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability. Commissioner Snyder reported that there is one item for consideration on the consent agenda and he motioned for its approval. Chair Smith called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee is working on the strategic plan. He provided a couple of external studies handouts to Commissioners and summarized the

documents, highlighting the number of actions the agency has completed as it relates to the Inspector General's and House Legislative Oversight Committee reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability Charter Revision
- B. Chair's Report (For information, no action)
- C. Strategic Planning Timeline (For information, no action)
- D. External Studies Updates (For information, no action)

6. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

7. Executive Session

There was not an executive session.

8. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.