



Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025

Members Present

Commissioner Eddie Dyer, Chair
Commissioner Mick Zais

Commissioner Oran Smith
Commissioner Doug Snyder

Member Excused

Commissioner Jenni Bryson

Commission Staff Present

Jeffrey Perez
Jessica Berry
Melissa Price
Darnell Holland
Mark Swart

Diane McCree
Shardai Figgures
Christopher Glenn
Tracy Solet

Guests

Aimeé Carter, South Carolina Technical College System
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Damion Waymer, University of South Carolina Columbia
David Staten, South Carolina State University
Donna Zeek, Midland's Technical College
Eric Goff, Midlands Technical College
Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Erin Paysinger, Lander University
James Colbert, Jr., Lander University
Jason DeBacker, University of South Carolina Columbia
Jeremy King, Clemson University
Jessica Doucet, Francis Marion University
Katie Smith, University of South Carolina Aiken
Karin Roof, The Citadel

Lucas McMillan, Lander University
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Mark Yancey, University of South Carolina Columbia
Misty Jameson, Lander University
Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate
Phillip Bridgmon, University of South Carolina Aiken
Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Scott McKay, University of South Carolina Aiken
Seth Stoughton, University of South Carolina Columbia
Stanley Ihekweazu, South Carolina State University
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Terrye Seckinger, former CAAL Committee Member
Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina Columbia
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina Lancaster

All attended either in-person or via Zoom

1. Welcome, Introduction, Quorum

Chair Dyer convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2. **Introductions, Quorum, FOIA**

Ms. Solet introduced the Committee members and the in-person guests, confirmed a quorum, and announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner Dyer mentioned Terrye Seckinger's virtual attendance and explained she has been nominated to the South Carolina Board of Parole and Pardons and is awaiting confirmation. After discussion it was learned Ms. Seckinger's nomination had been confirmed. Commissioner Dyer and Dr. Perez wished her well.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Zais motioned, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.** Chair Dyer called for a vote **and the motion passed unopposed.**

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting. **Commissioner Smith motioned, which was seconded by Commissioner Zais.** Chair Dyer called for a vote **and the motion passed unopposed.**

5. **New Program Proposals**

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

Dr. Berry stated the proposal had been reviewed by ACAP and the program was determined to be transferrable, which is why the proposal was before the Committee. A representative from the institution motioned approval of the program. Chair Dyer called for a motion to put the program on the floor. Commissioner Smith motioned and requested to hear the proposal. The institution summarized item 5.a., and the floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Zais asked if the students would have any credentials upon graduation or if the institution provides the opportunity for students to acquire certifications such as Cisco. The institution explained students are offered the opportunity to become certified, along with extra training course and payment vouchers to assist with the certification process. Commissioner Zais recommended certification as a requirement of obtaining the degree versus it being simply an option. The institution expressed appreciation for the feedback and will explore further, which Chair Dyer stated would likely be appreciated by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. With no further comment, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Zais seconded.** Chair Dyer called for a vote **and the motion passed unopposed.**

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

Dr. Berry stated the program is considered a priority occupation for the state under Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.b., and the floor was opened for questions. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation for the accreditation aspect of the program and asked how long it would take for accreditation. The institution explained it will apply as soon as the first group of students graduates which will take four years, with an additional 18 months or so for accreditation. Commissioner Smith requested confirmation of additional faculty needed. Dr. Berry noted University of South Carolina's willing to collaborate with the institution in developing a potential four plus one program. Chair Dyer asked if the same offer was being made to University of South Carolina Aiken, which was confirmed. With no further comment, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Zais seconded.** Chair Dyer called for a vote **and the motion passed unopposed.**

- c. Francis Marion University, Bachelor of Social Work
Dr. Berry stated the program is considered a priority occupation for the state under Human Services. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.c., and the floor was opened for questions. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation for the program's support of workforce development in the state. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Zais motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Smith seconded.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**
- d. Lander University, B.A in Communication
Dr. Berry stated the program is not considered a priority occupation for the state. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.d., and the floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Zais asked to what degree skill in writing is incorporated into the program, which the institution explained, and further indicated the program is heavy in oral and written communication. Commissioner Zais asked what type of jobs could be expected if not in media. The institution explained the table in the proposal which lists the likely jobs available., including a few which are more priority oriented. Further, the table includes percentages of need not only in the state but across the nation. Commissioner Smith expressed appreciation and confidence in proposals approved and submitted by the institution's president. And further, knows proposals from the institution will pay for themselves, students will have jobs upon graduation, and looks forward to motioning approval at the appropriate time. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Zais.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

Commissioner Snyder noted the institution's mention of the CIP to SOC analysis performed and hopes the Commission, through the Committee, will do an overall, statewide CIP to SOC analysis to show what the intuitions' CIPs are producing versus what the new Unified State Plan shows are not only priority but overall Standard Occupation Codes (SOC). Dr. Perez mentioned he is co-chairing a committee at the CCWD called Career Pathways, and this topic would be something of interest to the committee.

- e. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.S. in Electrical Engineering
Dr. Berry stated the program is considered a priority occupation for the state under Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.e., and the floor was opened for questions. Chair Dyer asked the institution to confirm it will be seeking accreditation and if it will take six years, which the institution confirmed stating once the first student graduates in four years, the institution will immediately apply for accreditation, which would take approximately 12-18 months. Chair Dyer asked if there are enough students to support this program as well as the one from South Carolina State University. The institution believes there are enough students and noted it has been talking with other institutions about collaboration. Commissioner Zais inquired as to the relationship with Clemson University and asked if there is not enough throughput to handle the need. The institution believes Clemson's program to be fully subscribed and stated it would withdraw the proposal if it believed the program would weaken any existing programs in the state. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Zais motioned approval of the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**
- f. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A. in Communication
Dr. Berry stated the program is not considered a priority occupation for the state. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.f., and the floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Zais stated a lot of communication takes place online and asked

how the program will address online communication skills via social media or other venues. The institution explained the various courses in the curriculum focused on working virtually across time zones and in collaboration with others. Commissioner Zais clarified he was asking about the management of corporate websites and how the program is preparing students to communicate online, which the institution explained is not part of the curriculum so as to avoid duplication. The institution currently offers a minor, which would address those skills. With the flexibility of the current proposal, students could double major or pick up the minor. Commissioner Smith asked if there had any revisions or improvements made to the proposal based on staff questions or ACAP concerns. The institution explained revisions had been made to address staff concerns, especially regarding duplication. Further stating duplication had been discussed at ACAP with no objections to the program by the other institutions as it was seen as fundamental. Chair Dyer asked if the institution still has a Journalism program and if it would be easier to find a job in Communication than Journalism, both of which were confirmed. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Zais.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

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

Dr. Berry stated the program is considered a priority occupation for the state under Finance. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.g., and the floor was opened for questions. Commissioner Zais expressed appreciation to the institution for creating a program and eliminating another. Commissioner Smith expressed appreciation for the institution changing the degree from a Master of Arts to a Master of Science and for focusing on the quantitative aspect, which should blend well with the new institute the Commission recently approved. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Zais motioned approval of the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

Commissioner Snyder expressed appreciation for the program change as it now focuses more on STEM.

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

Dr. Berry stated the program is considered a priority occupation for the state under Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security. A representative from the institution summarized item 5.h., and the floor was opened for questions. Chair Dyer asked if the program would be offered online, which the institution explained would be offered in a blended format of online instruction with some in-person requirements. Commissioner Zais noted the state's robust manufacturing capabilities and asked if the institution agreed the program is likely to be highly in demand in the manufacturing community. The institution stated it could be applicable as manufacturing facilities generally need security but explained the program is intended to bring skills and knowledge from other disciplines into public safety. Graduates should be well positioned to take leadership roles in any industry. And while obviously pitched to public safety and not the most natural fit, there could be an overlap in skills which may give a graduate an advantage, particularly in private security. Commissioner Zais asked if most graduates would work for the police or sheriff's departments, to which the institution stated all public safety services, such as emergency management and fire as well. Commissioner Snyder mentioned the appropriations and asked if there were any indication the public safety entities would help pay for a student to further advance their development within the agency. The institution stated it would likely be dependent on the agency and their respective resources. The institution hopes to offer scholarships in the future to state law enforcement officers and others in public safety, and the program is structured so students may seek financial aid. With no further discussion, Chair Dyer called for a motion. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which was**

seconded by Commissioner Zais. Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

Discussion was had by Chair Dyer and Commissioner Zais regarding the military's requirement to hold a master's degree for officer promotion versus jobs held.

6. Other Business / Discussion

a. 2025-2026 Academic Program Review Cycle

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the review cycle dates. **Commissioner Zais motioned, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith.** Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

b. REACH Act Discussion

Chair Dyer asked if the Committee would like to discuss asking the General Assembly to amend the REACH Act requirements to include the reading of the Antifederalist Papers. With no objection, Chair Dyer asked for the discussion to be added to the agenda for the May 15 meeting.

c. Notification Summary Report

Dr. Berry presented the report of program notifications received and reviewed by CHE staff in January and February 2025. Dr. Berry stated the institutions are terminating programs and adding certificate pathways, which Chair Dyer noted was a positive development. No further discussion was had.

d. Program Review Considerations

Chair Dyer thanked Dr. Berry for providing the Committee with program review considerations, noting they were helpful.

e. Request for Additional Information

Commissioner Zais stated the faculty members and academic leaders who present program proposals to the Committee are considered inputs. The outputs are the graduates and what they will be able to contribute to society and how they will support family. Commissioner Zais would like the proposals and presentations to explain what skills graduates will have and in what areas they will find jobs.

f. Condolences

Condolences were offered to the friends, family, and colleagues of former CHE Board Chair, Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., who recently passed away.

7. Executive Session

Chair Dyer called for a motion, which was made and seconded, for Committee members, Dr. Berry, and Dr. Perez to move into Executive Session for a human resources matter. Chair Dyer explained no further public business would take place. **Chair Dyer called for a vote, which passed unopposed.**

8. Adjournment

With no further public business before the Committee, the public portion of the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.