



**Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 23, 2025**

**Members Present**

Commissioner Edgar Dyer, Chair  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Jenni Bryson

Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Oran Smith  
Commissioner Mitchell Zais

**Commission Staff Present**

Jeffrey Perez  
Jessica Berry  
Kristin Brooks  
Corey Gheesling  
Melissa Price  
Darnell Holland  
Kenita Pitts

Argentini Anderson  
Diane McCree  
Endé Clark  
Mark Swart  
Shardai Figgures  
Tracy Solet  
Christopher Glenn

**Guests Present**

Alissa Warters  
Andrew Hsu  
Brian Mallory  
Drew Kurlowski  
Erin Paysinger  
Jacki Walsh  
Karen Roof  
Mark Del Mastro  
Paul Schwager  
Rob Essaf  
Suzanne Austin  
Teresa Burns  
Trena Houp  
Walter Collins  
Will Carswell

Allison Steadman  
Beth Bell  
Donna Arnett  
Eric Skipper  
Gibbs Knotts  
Jeremy King  
Katie Smith  
Pam Steinke  
Rafael Teixeira  
Ron Magnuson  
Suzanne Thomas  
Tim Drueke  
Vicky Wood  
Wes Dudgeon

All attended via Zoom

**1. Welcome, Introduction, Quorum**

Chair Dyer convened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**2. Introductions, Quorum, FOIA**

Ms. Solet established a quorum and announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Zais motioned approval, which was seconded. The motion passed without opposition.**

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 21, 2024 meeting. **Commissioner Bryson motioned approval, which was seconded. The motion passed without opposition.**

### 5. Approval of Committee Charter

Chair Dyer asked for any comments on the committee charter. Hearing none, **a motion and a vote were called, which passed without opposition.**

### 6. New Program Proposals

#### a. *College of Charleston, Executive Doctorate of Business Administration*

A representative from the institution summarized item 6.a. Commissioner Dyer asked if the institution would be seeking AACSB accreditation, which the institution confirmed. Commissioner Seckinger asked if the enrollment goals were realistic, and Commissioner Zais asked what percentages of graduates would enter the business and academic sectors respectively. The institution is confident in the enrollment goals and though there is no student data yet, believes most will be business professionals but some may be interested in beginning a career in academia. Commissioner Smith requested a contrast between a traditional DBA and the EDBA programs, which the institution explained there is no difference, the degree issued will be a DBA, but this program is positioned and named as EDBA based on administrative differences. Commissioner Smith noted the institution has a long and varied list of courses available to fulfill the REACH Act requirement, which applies to undergraduate degree programs in the state. **Commissioner Smith motioned approval of the program, which was simultaneously seconded by Commissioners Bryson and Seckinger. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

#### b. *College of Charleston, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)/A.B.*

A representative from the institution summarized item 6.b. Commissioner Zais asked if there are similar online programs in the state, which the institution confirmed as are outlined in the proposal. Commissioner Seckinger asked about the graduation rates of the other programs and if the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has a similar program. The institution confirmed MUSC's program and explained it has no knowledge of the other programs' graduation rates. **Commissioner Seckinger motioned approval of the program, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

Chair Dyer congratulated the College of Charleston on its history of excellence in public education in the state of South Carolina. And further congratulated Lander University for having ten consecutive years with no increase in tuition.

Commissioner Snyder commented on the use of the term "high demand" by the institution in its presentations versus the use of "priority occupation", encouraged the use of the same nomenclature going forward, and suggested the Committee focus on this language as proposals are being presented. Chair Dyer asked Drs. Perez and Berry if this could be accommodated by the staff, which Dr. Perez confirmed and stated nursing is on the list of high priority occupations and he is confident business leadership, if not explicitly named, is in the spirit of a high priority occupation for the state. Dr. Berry explained the program managers intentionally note priority occupations in the proposals prior to submitting them for ACAP review and will be sure to include this information in the Executive Summaries.

## 7. Mission Statement Change

### a. *USC Beaufort, Mission Statement Revision*

A representative from the institution summarized item 7.a. **Commissioner Seckinger motioned approval of the revision, which Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

## 8. Other Business / Discussion

### a. *AY 2023-2024 Academic Programs Annual Report*

Dr. Berry summarized item 8.a. Commissioner Zais asked if Sports Management is part of the shortage in South Carolina. Dr. Berry stated it is likely the psychology and media relations portions of the programs, which are on the priority list. Commissioner Zais expressed concern as the major tends to outpace the demand. Dr. Perez mentioned Sports Tourism has been made a strategic priority in certain municipalities for economic growth. Dr. Berry mentioned a widening of the psychology focus post-Covid, as applies to high schools and communities outside of the professional arena. Commissioner Smith mentioned the enrollment cliff and expressed appreciation for the Commission receiving this report annually. Further discussion was held regarding the importance of the academic and business sides of institutions working together with the Board of Trustees. Dr. Berry responded to Commissioner Smith by noting the number of terminations as well as programs collapsing and combining to narrow the focus. Dr. Perez expressed appreciation for Dr. Berry and her team providing this type of information so the Commissioners may make informed decisions, which Chair Dyer joined in the commendation. **Commissioner Seckinger motioned approval of the report, which Commissioner Smith seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed.**

### b. *Transfer Council: Work Overview and Next Steps for 2025*

Dr. Brooks summarized item 8.b. Commissioner Zais asked for an explanation of a reverse transfer, which Dr. Brooks explained. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation for the thorough presentation.

### c. *Workforce Development: Program Inventory and State Portal*

Dr. Gheesling summarized item 8.c. Dr. Perez stated South Carolina is the only state doing this type of collaboration and the portal will be an incredible tool for people looking to better their futures in education and in the workforce. Chair Dyer expressed appreciation for the Governor's work in combining education with the workforce and thanked Dr. Gheesling for the comprehensive report. Further discussion was had regarding marketing of the portal and the ability to track graduation rates.

### d. *Nursing Educator Initiative Report for FY 2023-2024*

Dr. Gheesling summarized item 8.d. Commissioner Seckinger expressed appreciation of the report.

### e. *A Companion Guide to the REACH Act*

Dr. Kurlowski summarized item 8.e. Chair Dyer expressed his understanding of the guide as a public service and not a money-making project. Commissioner Smith commended Dr. Kurlowski's expertise in compiling and producing readers. Commissioner Seckinger expressed enthusiasm for the reader as professors have different proclivities and the guide would systematize the REACH Act for professors and speak the truth to everyone. Further, it would contain the correct information and would help the institutions in the state. Dr. Kurlowski offered to provide copies to the Committee for review. Commissioner Seckinger requested copies be given to all provosts to help their instructional teams have the proper information. Dr. Berry noted this presentation, along with Dr. Kurlowski's contact information, has been provided to the provosts via ACAP. And, cautioned the need to be mindful of academic freedom of the faculty in our institutions and how they deliver information in compliance with the act. Chair Dyer suggested making the use of the reader optional, which Dr. Kurlowski agreed. Dr. Perez supported sharing it with the Committee members and providing it as a resource. Commissioner Dyer thanked Dr. Kurlowski for his work.

f. *Notification Summary Report*

Dr. Berry summarized item 8.f. Commissioner Seckinger inquired as to the process of determining how institutions terminate programs, which Dr. Berry explained come to Academic Affairs via notifications and are generally due to lack of enrollment, collapsing the program, or changing to an online modality. Further, the institutions provide recent enrollment numbers, as well as teach-out plans for current students in the terminating program.

9. **Adjournment**

With no further business before the Committee, **Commissioner Seckinger motioned adjournment, which Commissioner Snyder seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and the motion passed unopposed. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.**