

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President and Executive Director



Spring 2025 SCNG CAP Advisory Board

SC Commission on Higher Education

11:00 a.m. October 7, 2025

Minutes & PPT

SC National Guard

SGM (Retired). Paul Mead (Army)
MSgt. Thomas Edmunds (Air)

CHE Staff

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Alfie B. Mincy
Ms. Monica Goodwin

Institutional Representatives

Ms. Erin Summers, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Joshua Simon, The Citadel
Mrs. Taylor Leanord, USC Columbia
Ms. Bridgette Blackwell, Palmetto College

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

The meeting opened at 11:00 a.m. with introductions by everyone in attendance. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, CAP Advisory Board meeting. **The motion was made by SGM (Retired). Paul Mead, and seconded by Mr Joshua Simon to accept the minutes as written.** The minutes were accepted as written.

2. SCNG CAP Web Portal Enhancements Updates:

Monica Goodwin, Director of Information Technology and Data Analysis at the Commission on Higher Education, presented updates on the Connect 2.0 project. Ms. Goodwin explained that several change requests had been approved to enhance portal access, including adding information on CAP applications, degree attainment, and enrollment status. However, allowing institutions to see personal identifiers was not approved due to security reasons. The project is currently in the testing and implementation phase, with plans to complete user guide testing by the end of October and begin allowing National Guard representatives to test the system in November, and in January, specific institutions will be selected to test the functionality of Connect.com and the new process to upload data to CHE. The go-live date for the new enhancements is set for August 15, 2026, with training sessions planned for both in-person and virtual formats in Spring 2026. The look, feel, and experience should be the same as the current system.



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

www.che.sc.gov



3. SCNG CAP Eligibility Update

SCNG CAP 2025-2026 Eligibility Update as of October 2025

Air National Guard (ANG) Report

MSgt. Edmunds reported that the Air National Guard received 94 applications, and 90 applications were approved by the Air National Guard during the 1st enrollment period. . The total projected if all soldiers enrolled is \$840,757.00 during the first enrollment period.

Army National Guard (ARNG) Report

Mr. Mead reported that the Army National Guard received 1271 applications, and 1130 applications were approved for the Army National Guard during 1st enrollment period. If those applications received full CAP benefits the total projection, if all soldiers enrolled, is \$8,700.000. Currently, there are no pending applications.

4. Update: SCNG CAP

Ms. Mincy reported for FY25 SCNG CAP the following:

Update: SCNG CAP Budget October 2025: Ms. Mincy reported for FY26 SCNG CAP the following:

24-25 Lottery Carryforward	\$11,752,064.33
FY26 Appropriation	\$6,200,000.00
Administrative Cost	(\$310,000.00) 5%
Total Lottery Carryforward and Allocation 25-26 AY	\$17,642,064.33

As of October, fall 2025 disbursements are currently in progress. Ms. Mincy provided an overview of the 2024-25 AY

Semesters as of September 2025*	Number of students awarded
Fall 2024	Air –51, Army 712- As of 09/2025
Spring 2025	Air –51, Army 808- As of 09/2025, not all schools have uploaded disbursements for Spring 2025
Summer 2025	Air –6, Army 85- As of 09/2025, not all schools have uploaded disbursements for Spring 2025
Total Unduplicated headcount	Air – 69, Army 957 = 1026 as of 09/15/2025.
*No uploads have been received for Fall 2025 as of October 2025. <i>The amounts and numbers reported are subject to change due to discrepancies and are based on the invoices received and the scholarship files uploaded to the CHE Information Management System -CHEMIS</i>	

5. Update: Institutional Representatives – SCNG CAP Best Practices Workshop

The group discussed plans for the best practices for newcomers and a refresher workshop to be held in late February. The best times would be 11:00 am or 2:00 pm, and the workshop should not be longer than one hour and fifteen minutes. Potential topics include awarding processes and handling of CAP-related scenarios. Ms. Mincy asked for volunteers to share best practices and to also serve as panelists during the workshop. Also, it was suggested to expand invitations beyond financial aid offices to the Institutional Research and Finance Offices and have topics to go along with those departments.

6. Other Business, Comments, or Concerns

Dr. Woodfaulk shared the following proposed Budget and Proviso Requests:

- Removal of the 130-credit-hour limit (Currently undergoing the 4th year- Under proviso)
- Increasing CAP Award Amounts - \$32,000 (Lifetime Maximum), \$12,000 Annual, \$4,000 per semester
- Increasing CAP appropriations from \$6.2 million to \$14 million
- Graduate Programs

Mr. Mead shared that the requested changes were affirmed by the Adjutant General's office, and he will be reaching out to Mr. Phil Hamby, Director of Governmental Affairs, to discuss finding a sponsor and revising the proviso.

Dr. Woodfaulk mentioned that the update about the proviso may be announced by February 2026, and we could possibly share updates at the best practices workshop. Mr. Simon thanked CHE and the National Guard for advocating for the increase in CAP awards, which has made a positive impact on the service members. The National Guard representatives said the increase in CAP awards has also had a positive impact on increasing recruitment. Ms. Mincy also shared that the increase in CAP awards has also had a positive impact on approved applications for the 2024-2025 (1014) to 2025-2026 (1208).

SCNG CAP Sustainability:

Ms. Mincy shared projected scenarios reflecting the impact of increased award amounts. In addition, the National Guard noted that the proposed funding model would allow CAP students to receive support for up to eight semesters, based on a maximum lifetime benefit of \$32,000. While the CAP award amounts have increased, sustaining the program long-term will require raising appropriations from the current \$6.2 million to an estimated \$11–\$14 million.

SCNG CAP 2025-2026 Update Continued:

CAP Application Period

Ms. Mincy shared that the 2025-2026 2nd application period (spring and summer awards) will open on November 20th and close on December 15th. The spring application period allows students who missed the first window or are newly eligible to apply for CAP funds for the spring and summer semesters. Ms. Mincy also shared that the 2025 CAP Annual Report will be presented to the Committee on Student Services. The report presentation is scheduled for November 6th at 11:00 a.m., and SCNG CAP Advisory Board members are welcome to attend.

Adjournment and Next Advisory Board Meeting

Ms. Mincy shared that the next Advisory Board meeting will be in April. The date and time will be forthcoming. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The minutes were respectfully submitted by Ms. Alfie B. Mincy.