



**Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA)
10:30 a.m., January 21, 2025, via Zoom Webinar**

Members

Commissioner Doug Snyder (Chair)
Commissioner Dino Teppara (Vice Chair)
Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Mark Masters
Commissioner Mick Zais

Other Commissioners Present

Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Laura Belcher
Jessica Berry
Kristin Brooks
Ende Clark
Corey Gheesling
Elizabeth Robinson
Shakara Smith
Mark Swart
Lakesha Washington

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Snyder opened the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) meeting and called it to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Smith introduced the Commissioners. She confirmed a quorum of the Committee and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chair Snyder welcomed Mark Masters as a new commissioner and member of the Committee.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Snyder asked for consideration of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability meeting agenda. Commissioner Zais motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and Commissioner Masters seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.



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3. Approval of the Minutes: December 5, 2024

Chair Snyder introduced the draft minutes of the December 5, 2024, Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Masters motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Zais seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Snyder explained that he called the meeting to begin the discussion regarding the agency's strategic planning process. He reported that CHE staff is currently reviewing legislation to determine whether CHE is doing everything that has been directed by statute.

Chair Snyder requested that the Committee develop between four to five goals of the strategic plan to be presented to the full Board.

President Perez said that the Governor included \$2 million in his executive budget for the Department of Employment and Workforce to conduct a study on higher education. President Perez plans to meet with the General Assembly following the completion of the agency's study on statute to develop an understanding on next steps for the agency.

President Perez referred to an article in the Post and Courier that called for the dissolution of the CHE to implement a Board of Regents. Chair Snyder suggested that CHE staff review North Carolina and other states who have a Board of Regents to get a better sense of what is being done differently.

Commissioner Masters said that the Inspector General's (IG) report is a tool to aid the agency in identifying what CHE is responsible for doing, to which Commissioner Snyder explained that the agency has followed this process and explained steps taken thus far. President Perez said that there is also a monthly tracker, which outlines progress in completing actions related to the IG's recommendations.

President Perez recommended that as the strategic plan is developed, a tracking document is created to keep Commissioners abreast of progress.

5. Strategic Planning Timeline

Chair Snyder asked the Committee whether they would like to put forth goals to the full Board during the next CHE business meeting or only provide the strategic planning timeline. President Perez said it may be better to identify priorities rather than goals. Ms. Belcher suggested using the term "elements" rather than goals, so that it clearly illustrates that it is an element of the strategic plan, rather than a goal of the strategic plan. Commissioners and President Perez agreed to Ms. Belcher's suggestion.

Chair Snyder requested that the Committee members have individual meetings with Ms. Belcher and President Perez to identify elements. Chair Snyder asked President Perez to discuss this with other Commissioners.

Chair Snyder asked President Perez to provide an update on the Strategic Planning Timeline, to which President Perez summarized the timeline document. He explained that once the strategic plan is developed the Committee will focus on the objectives.

6. Discussion of Accountability

Chair Snyder asked whether there are items that the Committee needs to monitor prior to the development of the strategic plan to ensure accountability of the agency. Commissioner Zais asked whether accountability refers to higher education institutions or to CHE, to which Chair Snyder confirmed for CHE. President Perez said that focus on accountability of institutions should be an element to the strategic plan. President Perez also said that is the

responsibility of the Committee to track progress on the IG and HLOC recommendations, to which Ms. Belcher is leading that effort. He announced that the Senate Legislative Oversight Committee (SLOC) postponed by one year its review of the agency.

Chair Snyder said that there are additional statutes to identify outside of HLOC and IG reports. Commissioner Masters asked whether stakeholders will be involved in the accountability aspect, meaning if an institution is not meeting a specific measure, who specifically in the legislature will ensure that institutions are compliant. He suggested that this aspect be included in the strategic plan. Commissioner Mobley said that through the legislation, the authority exists with the trustees of the higher education institutions. President Perez said that meeting with the General Assembly and getting clear directives should be part of the process.

7. External Studies Update

President Perez asked Ms. Belcher to provide an update on agency external studies. Ms. Belcher provided an update on the agency's external reviews. She announced that the SLOC review has been postponed by one year. Regarding the Inspector General's (IG) recommendations, Ms. Belcher reported that of 40 action items, 28 have been completed, eight are in progress with four left to be initiated. She reported that the HLOC report included 26 recommendations, of which 18 are specific to actions the CHE can take, and the remaining ones are recommendations for the General Assembly.

Ms. Belcher said that the HLOC tracker includes two spreadsheets one for the CHE recommendations and the second sheet for the General Assembly recommendations. She continued by stating that CHE Office Directors have created project plans for all the CHE-related recommendations. Commissioner Snyder asked to make these documents an appendix and available for all Commissioners to view.

8. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

9. Adjournment

Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

