



South Carolina

Commission on Higher Education

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CSPA Meeting
September 23, 2025
Agenda Item: 3

Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA)
2:00 p.m., July 16, 2025, via Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Doug Snyder (Chair)
Commissioner Dino Teppara (Vice Chair)
Commissioner Mark Masters

Members Excused

Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Mick Zais

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Laura Belcher
Shardai Figgures
Shakara Smith
Mark Swart

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Snyder called the meeting of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) to order at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Smith introduced the Commissioners and confirmed the presence of a quorum. She also announced that the meeting was being conducted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Snyder asked for consideration of the CSPA meeting agenda. Commissioner Masters motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and Commissioner Teppara seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: May 14, 2025 and June 11, 2025

Chair Snyder introduced the draft minutes of the May 14, 2025 and June 11, 2025, CSPA meetings and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Masters motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Teppara seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.



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Chair's Report

Chair Snyder reviewed plans for presenting the Strategic Plan 2030 during the August Retreat. He noted the goal of securing full Board approval for the agency's proposed mission, values, and initiatives.

He explained that while the development of a comprehensive 2030 strategic plan is the ultimate objective, immediate efforts will focus on refining initiative descriptions due to legislative considerations. Chair Snyder also referenced an upcoming legislative bill—scheduled for presentation in September—that seeks to modernize outdated statutory provisions.

Stakeholder Update

President Perez reported on recent stakeholder engagement efforts, including a discussion with Melanie Barton in the Governor's Office regarding the agency's strategic plan. He noted that Ms. Barton and other stakeholders expressed support for the plan's agency-focused approach.

Mission, Values, Initiative Review

Commissioners reviewed and refined the agency's mission and values statements. Commissioner Masters questioned changes to the mission language, prompting Chair Snyder to clarify that revisions were made for greater clarity. Commissioner Masters recommended substituting "strengthen" with "improve" to enhance measurability; Commissioner Teppara expressed agreement. Commissioners also reviewed proposed values and associated initiatives, providing recommendations for revisions.

Chair Snyder invited President Perez to describe staff participation in the strategic planning process. President Perez reported that the agency held an all-staff meeting, at which staff were given the opportunity to provide input on the agency's direction. He said that the senior leadership team was also given the opportunity to provide feedback.

President Perez emphasized that the Plan must align with statutory requirements. He noted that House Education and Public Works Committee Chair Shannon Erickson expressed interest in a CHE "cleanup bill" to remove outdated statutes. He reported that CHE staff are collaborating with legislative staff to finalize recommendations of statute revisions and are maintaining a comprehensive tracking spreadsheet. Commissioner Masters requested a copy of the draft legislation and supporting talking points. President Perez agreed to provide these once a consensus is reached with House staff.

Commissioners discussed the development of key strategic initiatives, with President Perez explaining that external initiatives aim to highlight campus activities and that key performance indicators (KPIs) will provide clearer data to strengthen statements of need. Chair Snyder clarified that while the current focus is on mission and values, work on objectives and tactics is underway and will continue over the next two years. Commissioner Teppara confirmed that he was satisfied with the current draft but noted that final adjustments may be made before submission to the full Commission.

Retreat Planning

Chair Snyder invited President Perez to provide an overview of the upcoming Retreat. President Perez outlined a two-day agenda that includes reviewing the mission and values statements, discussing statutory and workforce development plans, and considering legislative feedback. He explained that Wednesday morning will include committee meetings, followed by a presentation on strategic initiatives, and will conclude with a discussion on CHE's future direction. He announced that the August Business Meeting will follow.

President Perez emphasized the importance of engaging new Commissioners and aligning with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) to strengthen relationships with the General Assembly.

President Perez described last year's retreat materials and presentation format. Commissioner Masters requested access to last year's retreat materials to compare strategic planning efforts and evaluate the evolution of committee reorganization. Chair Snyder emphasized that this retreat will be more operational in nature.

Agency Reports

Chair Snyder highlighted the Committee's focus on transparency and accountability in service delivery and reporting. Ms. Belcher presented a summary of 38 statutorily required reports and 17 additional historical reports that are not mandatory but have been traditionally provided. Commissioners discussed reviewing these reports to determine their relevance and utility, with Commissioner Masters noting that 42 percent of business reports are typically eliminated as unnecessary. Commissioner Teppara suggested analyzing required reports for potential reduction and consulting with the General Assembly.

Ms. Belcher also reviewed recent reports submitted since June 5, 2025, including construction and engineering degrees, sexual violence prevention on college campuses, funds reporting to non-public institutions, insurance renewals, and certification letters from institutions regarding the REACH Act.

External Studies

Ms. Belcher also provided updates on the status of actions from the Inspector General's report and the House Legislative Oversight Committee recommendations.

Commissioner Masters emphasized the importance of holding projects accountable to their original timelines, even if they need to be adjusted, and suggested providing metrics on project progress and delays. Ms. Belcher explained that while some timelines are adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances, these changes are documented in footnotes for transparency. President Perez agreed to continue monitoring progress and providing updates to stakeholders. He noted that most projects are on track for completion by the end of 2026.

Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

Adjournment

Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.