



Committee on Student Services  
January 23, 2025 at 11:00AM  
Via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 893 4202 5569

Passcode: 158088

#### AGENDA

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes                                  | Dr. Hugh Mobley, Chair                                     |
| 2. Committee on Student Services Charter Revision ( <i>For Approval</i> ) | Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director<br>Office of Student Affairs |
| 3. Other Business   | Dr. Hugh Mobley  |
| 4. Adjournment  |  |

#### 2025 Committee on Student Services Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 6, 2025  
Thursday, March 6, 2025  
Thursday, May 1, 2025  
Thursday, June 5, 2025  
Thursday, August 7, 2025  
Thursday, September 4, 2025  
Thursday, November 6, 2025  
Thursday, December 4, 2025



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400  
Columbia, SC 29201

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## Minutes of the Committee on Student Services Meeting

November 7, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

### Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Hugh Mobley, Chair  
Commissioner Jenni Bryson  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Gene Fant

### Guests

Ms. Madyson Barton, Erskine College  
Ms. Lakischa Brown, York Technical College  
Ms. Tracy Brown  
MSgt. Justin Cayton, SC Air National Guard  
Ms. Beth Dinndorf, SCIII Board  
Ms. Nicole Davis, SC Army National Guard  
Ms. Emily Fox, SC Technical College System  
Mr. Bob Hamill  
Ms. Nikisha Howze, York Technical College  
Ms. Michelle Lodato, Lander University  
SGM(r) Mr. Paul Mead, SC Army National Guard  
Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Director  
Ms. Kim Purdy, USC Upstate  
Ms. Sharda Jackson-Smith, USC Upstate  
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University

### Staff Members Present

Dr. Jeff Perez  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Ms. Kristin Brooks  
Ms. Fran Brune  
Dr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. Kathryn Harris  
Ms. Ayana Hernandez  
Ms. Alfie Mincy  
Ms. Kathy Rollins  
Ms. Yarley Steedly  
Mr. Mark Swart  
Ms. Tanya Weigold  
Ms. Leslie Williams  
Dr. Lishu Yin

## 1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tanya Weigold introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Hugh Mobley provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance. Chairman Hugh Mobley stated the name of the committee has changed from the Committee on Access & Equity for Student Services to the Committee on Student Services.

Chairman Mobley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services' October 7, 2024, meeting. A **motion** was made (Batson), **seconded** (Bryson), and carried to approve the minutes.



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## 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chairman Mobley called for the nomination of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Services. Commissioner Batson **nominated** Chairman Dr. Hugh Mobley for Chair, the nomination was **seconded** (Bryson), and the motion was carried.

Chairman Mobley called for the nomination of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Services. Chairman Mobley moved to **nominate** Commissioner Bryson, Commissioner Batson **seconded**, and with no other nominations, the motion was carried.

## 3. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teacher Quarter 4 and Annual Report (For Approval)

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk gave an overview of the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SCPRRMT), and introduced Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, who joined virtually, to give the Quarter 4 and Annual Reports.

Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the program has 78 current students with 7 graduating in spring and fall. Ms. Thomas-Myers expressed that Praxis sessions are now being offered both virtually and in person for students. Ms. Thomas-Myers explained that the carryover funding from collections will be used for the virtual spring Praxis test preparation session as well as to hire 2 part-time recruiters to boost enrollment of the program. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that a growth rate of 10-15% is forecasted for the SC-PRRMT program with additional recruiting efforts. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that hiring efforts are in process, and onboarding is predicted prior to the start of the spring semester. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that the additional recruiters will host both virtual meetings and occasional campus visits. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the program is striving to increase the number of participating students and institutions within the districts already served by SC-PRRMT.

With the conclusion of the report, Chairman Mobley called to approve the Quarter 4 and Annual Report. Commissioner Batson **moved** to approve the reports, and Commissioner Bryson **seconded** the movement. There were no objections, and the motion was carried.

## 4. SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCII) Quarter 1 Report (For Information)

Dr. Gwynth Nelson presented the SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCII) Quarter 1 Report. Dr. Nelson shared that SCII participated in the National HBCU Week Program, a White House initiative in Philadelphia, where members met with government agencies to discuss opportunities for increasing capacity and outreach. Dr. Nelson expressed that SCII is developing memorandums of understanding with institutions in order to increase STEM opportunities and a fellows program within HBCUs.

Dr. Nelson shared that the SCIII Strategic Planning process is underway and have had two meetings thus far. Dr. Nelson stated that priorities for this program are collaboration, marketing, and fundraising. Dr. Nelson shared that SCIII will schedule focus groups with CHE board and committee members.

Dr. Nelson then shared that The Institute of Teaching and Nursing (TITAN) at Claflin University appointed a new institute director, Dr. Melissa Knight, who also hosted the Annual South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators Fall Conference, a HBCU first. Dr. Nelson stated that the Wellness and Community Health (WACH) program at Clinton College was awarded a \$400,000 grant to support mental health promotion and wellness programs on and off campus. Dr. Nelson expressed that SCIII is working with Morris College to establish a Center of Excellence for Technology, Innovation, and Cybersecurity through a fundraising campaign. Lastly, Dr. Nelson stated that the Institute of Business, Environment, Communications, and Transportation (BECT) at South Carolina State University is working to develop working relationships with local business, industry, and government leaders to identify ways to support the seven institutes.

Commissioner Batson inquired about the balance of funding for the upcoming fiscal year as SCIII has carried forward funds in previous years. Dr. Nelson responded that SCIII has a current remaining balance of \$723,000 for Quarter 1 and that approximated expenses through the end of the fiscal year will total \$600,000 - \$650,000. Commissioner Batson also asked if the budget request for the next year will be presented to the General Assembly or decided through the Commission on Higher Education. Chairman Mobley responded that the budget will be presented to the General Assembly.

##### **5. SC National Guard College Assistance Program**

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk gave a brief overview of the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (CAP) and introduced Ms. Alfie Mincy along with SGM(r) Mr. Paul Mead, Ms. Nicole Davis, and MSgt. Justin Cayton.

Ms. Mincy explained the approval process for service members. Ms. Mincy then shared the number of CAP awards decreased in the 2023 – 2024 school year, but the lifetime maximum amount increased from \$18,000 to \$20,000. Ms. Mincy highlighted that in 2023 – 2024, 62 CAP awards were approved for \$445, 000 for the Air Guard. Ms. Mincy also stated that the Army Guard CAP usage is increasing, with 1,036 recipients so far this year and an expected 100 more applicants.

Commissioner Batson inquired about the fluctuation of participation in the CAP program in past years relative to the number of service members and the amount of financial aid available. Mr. Mead stated that the decrease in participants was a result of service members becoming ineligible and not lack of participation. Mr. Mead stated that the increase in participants is due to the authorization of the ROTC scholarships as well as the increase in benefits. Commissioner Batson also asked if there is anything the state of South Carolina can do to increase the number of

participants. Mr. Mead stated that a proposal is in progress to increase the annual CAP award from \$5,500 to \$12,000 and the lifetime maximum from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Expanding the CAP program to include graduate-level students, as 34 other states currently offer, will also increase the number of eligible participating service members.

Dr. Woodfaulk expounded on the regulatory amendments and revisions for SCNG CAP. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that recent amendments and revisions include the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) full scholarship definition, which allows ROTC scholarship recipients to be eligible for SCNG CAP benefits, and the eligibility for service members with bachelor's degrees with leftover SCNG CAP benefits to use the funding for certificates, certifications, or a second associate's degree and less than one-year certificates and certifications. Dr. Woodfaulk also shared that Service members waiting to begin basic training due to limited availability are now able to access their CAP funding without having to wait. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the 130-hour credit hour requirement was removed, and the lifetime maximum was set at \$22,000 and a new proviso to increase the maximum lifetime award to \$25,000 is in the works.

## 6. FAFSA Updates and Scholarship Increases

Dr. Gerrick Hampton gave a brief overview of each state merit-based scholarship and presented the committee with data comparing South Carolina's scholarships with those of surrounding states. Commissioner Seckinger asked Dr. Hampton what the graduation rate for the Palmetto Fellow's Scholarship recipients. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the Commission will obtain that information to relay to the committee members. Commissioner Seckinger stated that the General Assembly is cutting back on overages, so a strong success rate will aid in obtaining additional scholarship funding. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that Palmetto Fellows student graduation rates are higher than the overall average, indicating program success. Dr. Woodfaulk shared that the structure of the current regulations, requiring Palmetto Fellow students to take 30 credit hours each academic year to ensure students take enough credits to graduate on time. To build a stronger case, Commissioner Batson suggested the Commission focus on overall graduation rates, not just on-time graduation, to demonstrate the program's impact to the General Assembly.

Commissioner Bryson asked Dr. Hampton about the enhancements to state funded scholarships, which Dr. Hampton defined as an additional \$2,500 scholarship available for students pursuing math, science, accounting, and education majors.

Dr. Hampton shared that the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship initially covered 141% of tuition and 71.4% of cost of attendance, but now covers only 54.6% of tuition and 33.4% of cost of attendance. Dr. Hampton continued, stating that the LIFE scholarship initially covered 55% of tuition and 28% of cost of attendance, but now covers only 41% of tuition and 22% cost of attendance. Dr. Hampton shared that the HOPE scholarship was created in

2002 and initially covered 59% of tuition and 30% cost of attendance, but now covers only 23% of tuition and 12.5% cost of attendance. Dr. Hampton stated that compared to similar states, South Carolina's LIFE scholarship covers a lower percentage of cost of attendance (28% vs 41%).

Dr. Hampton presented scenarios to encourage the increase of scholarship award amounts such as tying scholarship amount to tuition increases to ensure they keep pace with rising costs. Chairman Mobley cautioned against this as it may incentivize institutions to increase the cost of attendance to offset scholarship awards. Chairman Mobley suggested presenting data on graduation rates, cost of attendance coverage, and potential indexing of scholarships to legislative committees on Education and Finance. Commissioner Batson suggested examining completion rates, not just graduation rates, especially for technical college programs, to better understand student outcomes and asked Dr. Hampton for data comparing the cost of attendance of two-year institutions between South Carolina and the surrounding states. Commissioner Seckinger suggested exploring options to allow students transferring from technical colleges to four-year institutions to receive credit for their prior coursework. Dr. Jeff Perez stated the cost of attendance has also been affected by inflation in recent years.

Dr. Hampton stated South Carolina's scholarships cover a lower percentage of cost of attendance compared to similar states, indicating a need for increased funding.

7. **Other Business**

There was no other business presented at the meeting.

8. **Adjournment**

Chairman Mobley adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.



**R. Wes Hayes, Jr.**  
*Chairman*

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



## Committee on Student Services

### Charter

#### Part I

##### 1. Authority

As granted by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (“Commission”), pursuant to South Carolina Code (“Code”) Section 59-103-25 and in compliance with the Commission’s Bylaws (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

The Committee may elect to revise this charter. However, any revisions to the final charter approved by the Committee and the Commission must adhere to the Commission’s Bylaws.

##### Purpose

The purpose of the Committee on Student Services is to review, revise and approve policies and procedures for the administration of state scholarships, grants and programs assigned to the Office of Student Affairs and address statewide issues related to accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education on behalf of SC students, service members, and families in compliance with Code Section 59-103-15(b), and attached Code of laws and regulations (Part II).

##### Responsibilities

- A. Review in advance and approve recommendations for submission to the Commission, relating to promulgation of regulations, proposed revisions to regulation, and operations that govern the state’s scholarships and grants to include Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant Programs (including College Transition Need-based Grant Program), Lottery Tuition Assistance, SC National Guard College Assistance Program, and residency for the determination for tuition and fees.



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- B. Review in advance and approve proposed administrative budgets for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers, SC Centers of Excellence, and review in advance information/reports regarding the Academic Program Productivity Study, and SC Institutes of Innovation and Information. Comply with relevant South Carolina codes, regulations, statutes, and provisos, which are placed under Part II of this Charter.
  
- C. Monitor, review and approve reports, updates and activities that address accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education, on behalf of SC students, families, service members, teacher preparation educators, school counselors, and districts, to include financial aid awareness and FAFSA completion, educator preparation, postsecondary education preparedness, college assistance for guard members, military credit mobility, college application assistance, and other programs/activities that support and promote access to postsecondary education.
  
- D. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to policies and procedures for state scholarship appeals in compliance with state statutes and regulations.
  
- E. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to residency regulations for determination of tuition and fees.
  
- F. Review, research, provide reports, and approve any other matter as assigned or under the purview of the Committee on Student Services.

### **Membership**

The Committee on Student Services is defined as a standing committee per the Commission’s Bylaws and made up of Commission members as appointed by the Chair of the Commission and Executive Committee. Members may be reappointed by the Chair of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission shall initially appoint the chair of this committee and thereafter, the Committee on Student Services will elect its own Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

### **Members of the Committee on Student Services (2024–2025)**

Dr. Hubert “Hugh” Mobley, Chair

Ms. Jenni Bryson, Vice-Chair





Mr. Paul Batson  
Ms. Terrye Seckinger  
Dr. Gene Fant

**Meetings**

The Committee on Student Services will meet at an appointed time, date, and place, prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission, as recommended by Commission staff and approved by the Committee. The Chair of the Committee has discretionary authority to call a committee meeting. All meetings will be publicly announced and held in compliance with Code Section 30-4-10 - Freedom of Information Act.

**Minutes**

Minutes should include major topics of discussion, decisions, and action items and submitted for approval by the Committee at the next scheduled Committee on Student Services meeting. The announcement of committee meetings, minutes, and agenda will be publicly distributed through the Commission’s website.

**Charter Approval, Review and Evaluation**

The charter of the Committee on Student Services will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis upon the election or reelection of the Chair of the Committee.

The charter shall be approved by a full committee vote during a convened meeting and posted on the Commission on Higher Education’s website.

The charter was approved by the Committee on Student Services on [INSERT DATE]; and adopted by the full Commission on [INSERT DATE].

***Adoption.***

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Name  
Chair, SC Commission on Higher Education

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Name  
Chair, Committee on Student Services



## Part II

S.C Code of Laws	
HOPE	Code Section 59-150-370
LIFE	Code Section 59-149-10 et seq.
Palmetto Fellows	Code Section 59-104-20
Lottery Tuition Assistance	Code Section 59-150-360
SC Need-Based Grant	Code Section 59-142-20
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	Code Section 59-114-75
Residency	Code Section 59-112-10
Scholarship Appeals	Code Sections 59-149-10, 59-104-20, 59-150-370
Regulations	
HOPE	62-900.85 - 62-900.140
LIFE	62-1200.1 - 62-1200.75
Palmetto Fellows	62-300 - 62-375
Lottery Tuition Assistance	62-900.150 - 62-900.200.
SC Need-Based Grant	62-450 - 62-505.
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	62-250 - 62-262
Scholarship Appeals	62-1000 - 62-1040
Provisos (24-25 Appropriations Act)	
Foster Care Youth Need-Based Grants	11 - H030 - 11.8.
College Transition Program	11 - H030 - 11.12.
Year Round Scholarships	11 - H030 - 11.13.
SC Institutes of Innovation and Information	11 - H030 - 11.21.
SC Program for Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers	1A - H630 - 1A.6.
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	117-X900 - 117.141
LIFE Scholarship GPA	117-X900 - 117.172
Residency	117-X900 - 117.157