



Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
February 25, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

**Executive Committee Members Present**

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair  
Mr. Paul Batson  
Mr. Eddie Dyer  
Mr. Hugh Mobley  
Mr. Doug Snyder

**Executive Committee Members Excused**

Mr. Oran Smith

**Other Guests Present**

Mr. Hayne Hodges, Bettis Law Group

**CHE Staff Present**

Dr. Jeff Perez, President and Executive Director  
Ms. Laura Belcher, Senior Advisor  
Dr. Jessica Berry, Interim Director of Academic  
Affairs and Licensing  
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Director of Information  
Technology and Data Analysis  
Ms. Kara Smith, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Finance and  
Operations  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Smith confirmed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Wes Hayes**

Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Mobley motioned and Commissioner Dyer seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Review of the March 6, 2025 CHE Draft Meeting Agenda**

Chair Hayes called on President Perez to summarize his forthcoming report to the Commission. President Perez said that his report will include a legislative update. He said that the House Ways and Means Committee voted on the budget and included funding for seven CHE vacant FTEs and provided for CHE position realignment.

President Perez said that his report will also include an update on CHE's operations and various meetings. Chair Hayes asked whether President Perez will include an update on the August CHE Retreat, to which President Perez confirmed. Chair Hayes asked whether the location has been confirmed, to which President Perez said that those details will be confirmed. Chair Hayes asked the Committee whether they had a preference regarding the meeting location, to which Commissioners agreed on Columbia, SC. Commissioner Mobley said that the University of South Carolina has other venues other than the Alumni



Center, to include the Athletic Center, that could be a potential meeting location option. President Perez said that Ms. Smith will coordinate the meeting date for the Retreat, and it will be held prior to August 11.

The Committee Chairs reviewed their committee reports for the CHE meeting.

Chair Hayes said that the Executive Committee does not have any items for consideration.

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would have eight new programs and one new center proposal for consideration. He summarized the items. President Perez and Commissioner Dyer thanked Dr. Berry and her staff for their work.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. New Program Proposals**

1. Clemson University, B.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education
2. Clemson University, B.A. in Modern Languages Education
3. Clemson University, M.A.T. in Teacher Residency in Modern Languages Education
4. Clemson University, M.A.T. in Modern Languages Education
5. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
6. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Computer Engineering
7. South Carolina State University, M.S. in Cybersecurity
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, D.N.P. in Nursing Education

##### **B. New Center Proposal**

1. University of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina Economic Policy Center (SC EPIC)

Commissioner Mobley thanked Commissioner Bryson for serving as chair for the February Committee meeting. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee on Student Services would have four items for information only. He summarized the items. He announced that the Committee would next meet at 10:00 a.m. on March 6. President Perez noted a correction to agenda item A.3., updating the year to FY 25-26.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) Reports**

1. Quarter 2 Report (For information, no action)
2. Annual Report (For information, no action)
3. Proposed Budget for FY 25-26 (For information, no action)

##### **B. College Goal South Carolina and FAFSA Completion Update (For information, no action)**

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have five items for information only. He summarized the items. He announced that the Committee would next meet at 11:00 a.m. on March 6, where they will discuss reviewing financial audits of colleges and universities.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **A. Scholarship Compliance Audits Update (For information, no action)**

##### **B. Battelle Alliance Update (For information, no action)**

##### **C. Invoicing Deadlines (For information, no action)**

##### **D. Data Collection – Calendar/Deadlines (For information, no action)**

##### **E. Higher Education Expenditures and Revenues Dashboard (For information, no action)**

Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) will have four items for information only, which he summarized. He announced that the Committee would next meet on March 5. Commissioner Snyder said that the goal is to have a draft strategic plan ready for review and consideration during the CHE August Retreat.

Chair Hayes asked whether all committee charters have been finalized, to which Commissioner Snyder confirmed. Commissioner Snyder said that he plans to request that each committee include their charter as the first exhibit in meeting materials for each meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Strategic Timeframe and Activities Summary (For information, no action)
- B. Strategic Plan Elements
- C. Mission and Values Review
- D. External Studies Update (For information, no action)

Chair Hayes asked President Perez when he anticipates that the review of CHE Bylaws will be complete, to which President Perez said that he will connect with Commissioner Smith to get an update. Chair Hayes asked whether the final version would come from the Executive Committee to the full Board for consideration, to which President Perez confirmed.

**3. Executive Session (If needed)**

Chair Hayes asked President Perez whether there will be an executive session during the full Board meeting, to which President Perez said that will be confirmed following the executive session during today's Executive Committee Meeting.

Chair Hayes asked for a motion to go into executive session to receive an update from legal counsel regarding legal actions, to which Commissioner Snyder motioned and Commissioner Dyer seconded. Commissioners went into executive session.

Commissioners returned from executive session and Chair Hayes announced that no action was taken in executive session.

**4. Other Business**

There was no other business to consider.

**5. Adjourn**

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.