



Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Executive Committee Meeting
April 22, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Ms. Jenni Bryson
Mr. Eddie Dyer
Mr. Oran Smith

Executive Committee Members Excused

Mr. Doug Snyder

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 February 25, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Bryson seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Proposed 2025 CHE Bylaw Revisions

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Smith to lead the proposed 2025 CHE Bylaw Revisions discussion. Commissioner Smith explained that the CHE bylaws are reviewed annually for any necessary changes and said that he made some textual changes with President Perez. Commissioner Snyder suggested that the bylaws should be reviewed yearly in time for the annual meeting of the Commission, which is in August. The Committee considered Commissioner Snyder's suggestion to move the review of bylaws from June to August but decided to carry this suggestion to the full Commission for further discussion.

President Perez noted one grammatical change to the bylaws. He also discussed a revision permitting employees to have the opportunity to work outside the office at private colleges and universities, with the approval of their supervisors. Doing so provides employees with another source of income without creating the appearance of a conflict of interest issue that might occur working at public institutions over which CHE has oversight responsibilities. With there being no further comment, Chair Hayes asked for a

motion to approve the bylaws to which Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Dyer seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the proposed changes were approved by the Committee, and it was agreed that the issue of timing would be discussed at the full Commission meeting.

3. Review of the May 1, 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 an update on the situation with Limestone University, stating that the Board is meeting this evening and considering three options: going online, raising \$6 million to stay open, or closing entirely due to \$30 million in debt. President Perez assured the Committee that CHE is prepared for any decision made by the Board and would work on finding a solution for the students. President Perez also mentioned that the Senate was considering the budget and expressed gratitude for the support from the Senate Finance Committee.

President Perez thanked Commissioner Teppara for representing CHE during Higher Education Day.

President Perez shared that he was asked to co-chair the Career Pathways Committee of the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, emphasizing the importance of this relationship for CHE.

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

Chair Hayes said that the Executive Committee will provide an update on the CHE Bylaws.

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would have eight new programs for consideration. He summarized the items.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposals

1. Midlands Technical College, A.A.S. in Integrated Information Technology
2. South Carolina State University, B.S. in Electrical Engineering
3. Francis Marion University, Bachelor of Social Work
4. Lander University, B.A. in Communication
5. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.S. in Electrical Engineering
6. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A. in Communication
7. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S. in Quantitative Economics
8. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S.L. in Public Safety Executive Leadership

Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have two items for information only. She summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Quarters 1 and 2 Reports (For information, no action)
- B. African American Teacher Loan Report (For information, no action)

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have three items for information only. He summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Quarter 3 CHE Budget Report (For information, no action)
- B. Merit Scholarship Expenditures Update (For information, no action)
- C. SAT Impacts Presentation (For information, no action)

Ms. Belcher on behalf of Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) will have four items for information only, which she summarized.

She reported that the Committee has been meeting regularly, and Commissioner Snyder will provide an update on those meetings during the business meeting. President Perez expressed gratitude for the commissioners' commitment to the strategic plan. Chair Hayes said that Commissioner Snyder will also provide feedback on the recent Association of Governing Boards (AGB) of Universities and Colleges conference he attended, along with Commissioner Smith.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Strategic Plan Overview Discussion (For information, no action)
- B. Strategic Plan Timeframe and Activities Summary (For information, no action)
- C. External Studies Update (For information, no action)
- D. Accountability (For information, no action)

4. Executive Session (If needed)

There was no executive session.

5. Other Business

Chair Hayes asked President Perez to give an update on the council of board chairs' meeting and institutional trustee training. President Perez said that the meeting and workshop will be held in October and will include a meeting of the board chairs followed by a training session facilitated by AGB.

President Perez shared that the Campus Safety Conference, previously known as the Linda B. Floyd Campus Safety Conference, has been renamed the Dalton and Linda Floyd Campus Safety Conference in memory of Dalton Floyd, a prominent figure in higher education. He announced that the conference is set to take place on July 21-22 at Coastal Carolina University. The Committee also discussed the potential participation of Lander University in the conference, considering their recent establishment of the SC Institute on the Prevention of Sexual Violence on College Campuses.

6. Adjourn

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.