



Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Executive Committee Meeting
October 28, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present

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

Executive Committee Members Excused

Mr. Doug Snyder

CHE Staff Present

Dr. Jeff Perez, President and Executive Director
Ms. Laura Belcher, Senior Advisor
Ms. Monica Goodwin, Director of Information
Technology and Data Analysis
Dr. Angela Peters, Director of Academic Affairs and
Licensing
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Ms. Smith confirmed a quorum and announced 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 August 26, 2025, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Dyer motioned and Commissioner Smith seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Chair Hayes announced that the Agency Head Salary Commission (AHSC) will provide a training for Commissioners on the updated agency head evaluation process. Ms. Belcher explained that the new evaluation will cover a two-year period with mid-cycle reviews and will include a detailed planning document addressing goals, projects, and leadership competencies. Chair Hayes noted that a discussion of the evaluation process would occur during executive session.

He also announced that Ben Satcher would present an update on the SC Higher Education Foundation.

Chair Hayes called on President Perez to summarize his forthcoming report to the Commission.

President Perez reported that the Foundation currently holds approximately \$18,000 in its account and emphasized the need to increase fundraising efforts through sponsorships, while clarifying the legal framework for partnership between the public agency CHE and the private Foundation. President Perez noted plans to meet with Ben Satcher, the current Foundation chair, to further discuss these issues.

President Perez also stated that his report will address the employee climate survey recently conducted. He said that even though the results were not as desired, the senior team will meet to develop action steps to address the concerns raised. Commissioner Dyer suggested holding an executive session at the upcoming meeting to discuss certain issues and ask questions about discrepancies.

President Perez said that he will announce new staff members and upcoming agency events.

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

Chair Smith said that the Executive Committee would not have any items to report.

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) will have three program proposals and one report for action. He said that there will also be one item for information only. Dr. Peters said that rather than Staff Approved Notifications, there will be Mission Statement Notifications as it relates to item E. Commissioner Dyer summarized the items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. University of South Carolina, Aiken, M.S. in Exercise and Sports Science
- B. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.A. in Psychology
- C. University of South Carolina Columbia, Ph.D. in Psychology
- D. Academic Program Productivity Report
- E. Staff Approved Notifications (For information, no action)

Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have one item for action. She explained that the regulation would address making the ACT more equitable by allowing the science section to be optional, as per national standards. Commissioner Bryson explained that the hearing would follow a script provided by Dr. Woodfaulk, and Chair Hayes agreed to lead the hearing.

FOR ACTION

- A. Public Hearing: Proposed Palmetto Fellows Regulations

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have three items for information only. Commissioner Batson mentioned that an audit report presentation, originally planned for the November meeting, has been postponed to December. He summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Fines and Fees Report (For information, no action)
- B. Lottery Expenditure Report (For information, no action)
- C. Quarter 1 Budget Report (For information, no action)

Ms. Belcher on behalf of Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) would have three items for information. She announced that the Committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss metrics for the strategic plan and review accountability reports and external studies updates.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Strategic Plan Update (For information, no action)

B. Accountability (For information, no action) C. External Studies Update (For information, no action)

3. Executive Session (If needed)

There was no executive session.

4. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

5. Adjourn

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

