

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
MARCH 6, 2025

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's Committee on Finance and Administration met on March 6, 2025. This meeting was held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Paul Batson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Upon Chair Batson's request, Scheri Eichelberger acknowledged Committee members, noted the establishment of a quorum, and introduced guest attendees.

In addition to Chair Batson, Committee members present for this meeting were Commissioners Edgar Dyer, Mark Masters, Oran Smith, and Dino Teppara. Other commissioners in attendance were Commissioners Terry Seckinger, Jenni Bryson and Gene Fant.

CHE President and Executive Director, Dr. Jeff Perez was present along with his staff: Bryce Wilson, Christina Seale, Scheri Eichelberger, Monica Goodwin, Mariana Manic, Christopher Glenn, Leslie Williams, Christopher Robinson, Danastalgia McDermott, Mark Swart and Kallu Bharath.

Other guests included Beth Bell from Clemson University.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Batson called for approval of the March 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Dyer motioned for approval, and Commissioner Masters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Batson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that the meeting was packed with a lot of material he was looking forward to hearing. He reported there were no action items for this meeting, however, there was another item that will be brought up at the end of the meeting.

4. Office of Fiscal Affairs and Operations Updates (for information only, no action)

The following items were presented the CHE Office of Fiscal Affairs and Operations (OFAO), Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director and Ms. Christina Seale, CHE Compliance Audit Manager:

A. Scholarship Compliance Update

Ms. Seale reported that 46 out of the 47 AUPs were complete with the last one near completion. Out of the 46 AUPs, there were 75 findings resulting with funds returned to lottery funded programs through CHE of \$242,449.50 and funds returned to students of \$76,638.

CHE signed an engagement letter with Cline Brandt Kochenower (CBK) to conduct AUPs for the next three years (FY26, FY27 and FY28). For FY 25-26 there are 19 AUPs on the schedule to complete. CBK will be invited to attend the next quarterly meeting update in June.

B. Battelle Alliance Update

Mr. Wilson provided an update on the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA) reporting for the second quarter ending December 31, 2024. Expenditures presented were cumulative from July 2024 to December 2024.

C. Invoicing Deadlines

Mr. Wilson provided the invoicing deadlines set for scholarship and grant payments to the OFAO. He stated that the OFAO also sends out a memo each year to remind the institutions of the dates and other important procedures that must be followed. These deadlines were implemented to assist the OFAO in processing payments accurately and timely.

5. Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis Updates (for information only, no action)

The following items were presented by the CHE Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis (OITDA), Ms. Monica Goodwin, Director and Ms. Mariana Manic, Senior Data Researcher:

A. Data Collection (Calendar/Deadlines)

Ms. Goodwin provided the data collection deadlines set for various data components to be uploaded into CHEMIS to assist OITDA and institutions running reports such as IPEDS and Statistical Abstract.

B. Higher Education Expenditures and Revenues Dashboard

Ms. Manic provided an overview of the CHE Dashboard that is located on CHE's website. The information contained in the dashboard is pulled from IPEDS.

6. Other Business

Chair Batson stated that the Committee's charter states that the Committee is responsible to monitor institutional financial reporting. He recommended that they begin to look at the financial statements of each institution to increase awareness of their financial status, etc. and perhaps invite representatives from each institution to present a summary of the financials to the Committee.

Commissioner Dyer also recommended that the Committee hold special meetings to have two or three institutions present.

7. Adjournment

When there were no more comments or remarks, Commissioner Dyer motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Smith seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.