



**Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs (ACAP)
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026**

Attendees:

Clemson University: Jeremy King, Rob Essaf, Briana Peel, C.C. Bates, Julie Jones, Michael Godfrey, Deanna Sellnow, Kristen Cuthrell, Corrine Sackett, Craig Cashwell, James Gilmore

Coastal Carolina University: Gibbs Knotts, Teresa Burns, Robert Killins, Alper Gormus, Erika Small

College of Charleston: Mark Del Mastro

Francis Marion University: Alissa Warters, Allison Steadman, Will Carswell, James Ritter, Erik Lowry

Lander University: James Colbert, Erin Paysinger, Stephen Bismarck, Gail Moore

Medical University of South Carolina: Suzanne Thomas, Nancy Carson, Eric Richardson

Piedmont Technical College: Keli Fewox

SC State University:

SC Technical College System:

The Citadel: Karin Roof

Tri-County Technical College: Amanda Elmore

Trident Technical College:

University of South Carolina Aiken:

University of South Carolina Beaufort: Brian Mallory

University of South Carolina Columbia: Trena Houp, Kollette Clark, Shana Harrington, Carl Dahlman, Suzy Hardie, Karen Edwards, Mark Yancey, Scott Smith, Christeen Stephens, Andrea Tanner

University of South Carolina Palmetto College: Walter Collins

University of South Carolina Union: Trena Houp, Majdouline Aziz

University of South Carolina Upstate: Pam Steinke, Tanya Boone-Holladay, Esther Godfrey, Jeffrey Stinson

Winthrop University: Tim Druke

Commission Staff:

Angela Peters

Melissa Price

Darnell Holland

Kenita Pitts

Endé Clark

Diane McCree

James Thompson

Tim Rees

Matthew Hartenstine

Leslie Williams

Christopher Glenn

Tracy Solet

All attended in-person or virtually

1. Welcome

Dr. Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

2. Introductions, Quorum, and Freedom of Information Act

Ms. Solet announced attendance, established quorum, and confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

3. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Peters called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Peters called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Peters called for a motion to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Dr. Peters called for a vote. **The motion passed unopposed.**

5. Chair Updates

Dr. Peters provided the following updates:

- a. An email was sent yesterday regarding updated timelines, the 2018-2024 Program Productivity Report is being finalized, Action Plans are being reviewed in response to the 2016-2020 Program Productivity Report, and the institutions are working on their In-depth Program Reviews.
- b. Program proposals not on this agenda will be reviewed in preparation for the meeting on April 23, 2026.
- c. The June CAAL meeting will be slated for modifications and other special projects.
- d. There will not be an ACAP meeting on March 23 *[sic]* but there will be a meeting on April 23, 2026.
- e. The Fall ACAP meeting dates will be standard: September 10 and October 8, 2026.
- f. The ACAP working group met last week and had a very productive meeting reviewing the drafts of Academic Affairs' policies and procedures. All ACAP members will receive a draft of the policy in mid-March to allow ample time for feedback.
- g. The Virtual Strategic Academic Insight Forum was held a few weeks prior with a mix of attendees from public and private institutions. Another one will be scheduled in May and again in September. At the September meeting, Francis Marion will do a presentation regarding neurodivergent students and will collaborate with Clemson. Clemson is not aware of this yet but now knows Francis Marion will be in contact regarding the presentation.
- h. The Transfer Leadership team will be meeting soon to discuss recommendations from the Transfer Leadership Council as well as the RFP for the credit mobility transfer system, the window for which has recently closed.
- i. The Annual Institutional Leadership Forum, sponsored by CHE's Licensing division and NC-SARA, will be at 9:00 a.m. on April 1, 2026 at Brookland Baptist Church. Important Federal and State updates related to education laws will be discussed.

6. New Program Proposals

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 6.a., 6.b., and 6.c. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- a. Clemson University, Ph.D. in Communication and Media
The program was presented and the floor opened to questions. The representative from the Medical University of South Carolina asked if the program had been discussed with the University of South Carolina Columbia (USCC) which the presenting representative confirmed. The representative from USCC expressed support for the program.
- b. Clemson University, Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from USCC noted its program also focuses on serving rural areas. The presenting representative apologized for the oversight and noted the proposal would be corrected prior to submission to CAAL, if agreeable to the Chair.
- c. Clemson University, B.S. in Athletic Leadership
The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend agenda items 6.a, 6.b, and 6.c., to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- d. Coastal Carolina University, M.S. in Finance
The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 6.d., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry

called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- e. Francis Marion University, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 6.e., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from USCC noted the similarity to its program and expressed concern regarding existing programs across the state which are offered as one hundred percent online programs but noted the target audience as those in the Pee Dee region. The presenting institution's representative stated a survey had been conducted, which supported the need for the program in the Pee Dee region. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**
- f. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S.L. in Environmental Law and Sustainability
The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 6.f., which was seconded. The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend the program to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 6.g. and 6.h. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- g. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S.B.A. in Hospitality and Tourism Management
The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.
- h. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.A. in Applied Languages and Global Studies
The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Francis Marion University expressed appreciation for the innovative program and for the institution working with industry. The representative from Winthrop University noted several German companies in the Upstate area. The presenting representative explained having only one German faculty and noted German may be considered at a later time based on enrollment.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend agenda items 6.g. and 6.h. to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 6.i., 6.j., 6.k., 6.l., and 6.m. concurrently. No motion was made.

- i. Lander University, M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education
The program was presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.
- j. Lander University, B.A. in Secondary Education, English
- k. Lander University, B.A. in Secondary Education, Chemistry
- l. Lander University, B.A. in Secondary Education, Mathematics
- m. Lander University, B.A. in Secondary Education, Social Studies
The programs were presented, and the floor opened to questions. It was noted no motion had been made. The institution's representative motioned approval of the programs, which was seconded.

Hearing nothing further, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend agenda items 6.i., 6.j., 6.k., 6.l., and 6.m. to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 6.n. and 6.o. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- n. Lander University, B.S. in Accounting
- o. Lander University, B.S. in Financial Services

The programs were presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to recommend agenda items 6.n. and 6.o. to CAAL for review. **The motion passed unopposed.**

7. Program Modification Proposals

- a. Lander University, B.A. in Entrepreneurship

The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 7.a., which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Coastal Carolina University asked what prompted the move from a more generally applicable degree to a more business-focused degree, which the presenting representative explained would help serve the institution's rural community whose economy is driven by small business. And adding small business to the program's name will help clarify entrepreneurship. Further, there will be more of a focus more on accounting and human resources which will help build a foundation in starting or working in a small business. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the program modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- b. Medical University of South Carolina, Master of Health Administration

The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 7.b., which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. The institution's representative requested to modify the program's implementation date from August 2026 to May 2026 due to the July 1, 2026 elimination of the Grad PLUS loan program, and stated with the Chair's approval, a revised proposal would be submitted. Dr. Peters pointed out the CAAL and full Commission meeting dates would not allow enough time for approval. It was noted the program modification is considered by ACAP. The presenting representative expressed appreciation for the amount of work CHE staff are doing and thanked staff for extending various deadlines for institutions. A revised motion was made to approve the program modification with a proposed implementation date of May 2026, which was seconded. Hearing nothing further, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the program modification with the revised implementation date. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- c. University of South Carolina Union, A.A./A.S. in General Liberal Arts and Sciences

The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 7.c., which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the program modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 7.d. and 7.e. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- d. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A. in Global Studies
- e. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A. in Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The program modifications were presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve agenda items 7.d. and 7.e. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 7.f., and 7.g. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- f. [University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A.J.M.C. in Broadcast Journalism](#)
- g. [University of South Carolina Columbia, B.A.R.S.C. in Interdisciplinary Studies](#)
The program modifications were presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve agenda items 7.g. and 7.g. **The motion passed unopposed.**

- h. [University of South Carolina Columbia, B.S. in Cardiovascular Technology](#)
The institution's representative moved approval of agenda item 7.h., which was seconded. The program modification was presented, and the floor opened to questions. Hearing none, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve the program modification. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 7.i., and 7.j. concurrently, which was done and seconded.

- i. [University of South Carolina Columbia, B.S. in Hospitality Management](#)
- j. [University of South Carolina Columbia, B.S. in Sport and Entertainment Management](#)
The program modifications were presented, and the floor opened to questions. The representative from Francis Marion University mentioned the Commissioners' concerns regarding a previous Real Estate program and the ability of students to sit for the licensing exam. The presenting representative stated the concentration does not prepare students for licensure, which is not needed for real estate development, and will instead focus on managing real estate assets and portfolios.

Hearing nothing further, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve agenda items 7.i. and 7.j. **The motion passed unopposed.**

Dr. Berry requested the institution's representative move approval of agenda items 7.k., and 7.l. concurrently, followed by the concurrent movement of agenda items 7.m., 7.n., and 7.o. The institution's representative moved approval of all program modifications, 7.k. through 7.o., simultaneously, which was seconded.

- k. [University of South Carolina Columbia, D.P.T. in Physical Therapy](#)
- l. [University of South Carolina Columbia, M.Ed. in Education Administration](#)
- m. [University of South Carolina Columbia, M.A. in Anthropology](#)
- n. [University of South Carolina Columbia, M.A. in Sociology](#)
- o. [University of South Carolina Columbia, Ph.D. in Sociology](#)
The program modifications were presented, and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

With no further discussion, Dr. Berry called for a vote to approve agenda items 7.k., 7.l., 7.m., 7.n., and 7.o. **The motion passed unopposed.**

8. Other Business / Discussion

Dr. Peters asked if there were any new items to be discussed. There were none.

9. Adjournment

With no further discussion, Dr. Peters called for a motion to adjourn, which was made and seconded. **The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**