



Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Executive Committee Meeting
February 24, 2026
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

Executive Committee Members Excused

Mr. Oran Smith, Vice Chair
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
Ms. Ellan Jenkinson, Interim Director PASCAL
Dr. Angela Peters, Director of Academic Affairs and
Licensing
Ms. Holly Robinson, Assistant Director of Fiscal
Affairs
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 January 26, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Dyer seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Review of March 5, 2026, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda

Wes Hayes

Chair Hayes reported that the Executive Committee would not have any items for consideration.

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

President Perez stated that his report would include several legislative and budget updates. He noted that the legislative summary would highlight key higher education bills, including training requirements for commissioners and new trustees, campus safety measures, Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) agreement; and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) exemptions.

Regarding the budget update, President Perez reported that the House Ways and Means Committee recommended increasing funding for PASCAL and providing recurring funds for Division of Technology

Office (DTO) fee increases. However, some requested budget items, specifically CHE staff salary adjustments and funding for education enhancements, were not included. President Perez announced that the budget would be debated in the House on March 9 before moving to the Senate for consideration on March 19.

President Perez noted that Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs, is currently out of the office due to health issues and announced that Ms. Holly Robinson is effectively managing his responsibilities.

President Perez announced the upcoming March 11 Council of Board Chairs meeting, which will be held at the Phillips Market Center. Chair Hayes inquired about meeting logistics and funding, to which President Perez clarified that the event would be funded by Ellucian and no state funds would be used. Chair Hayes requested that Commissioners be reminded of the event, to which Ms. Smith confirmed that a reminder email would be sent.

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

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would not have any items for consideration. He stated that the Committee would continue to focus on program productivity, with the report anticipated to be finalized in June 2026. Chair Hayes recommended informing the Board that the report would be delayed by one month.

Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have one item for action, and two items for information only. She summarized the items. She noted that Clemson's student body president, Zach Freeman, spoke during the committee's last meeting and Francis Marion University's student body president will speak at the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Committee on Student Services Charter Revisions
- B. SC Program for Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Teachers Update (For information, no action)
- C. African American Teacher Loan Program Update (For information, no action)

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have two items for information only, which he summarized. He also reported that Ms. Goodwin's team would present the updated enrollment dashboard.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Compliance Audit Updates (For information, no action)
- B. Data Visualization (For information, no action)

On behalf of Commissioner Snyder, Ms. Belcher reported that the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) would have three items for information only and summarized the items. President Perez noted that the General Assembly has maintained a positive relationship with CHE during this current legislative session.

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)

Wes Hayes

There was no executive session.

4. Other Business

Wes Hayes

There was no other business to consider.

5. Adjourn

Wes Hayes

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

