



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
12:30 p.m., February 5, 2026
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400, Columbia, SC 29201
and Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair
Commissioner Oran Smith, Vice Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Brian Cuddy
Commissioner Daniel Dukes
Commissioner Edgar Dyer

Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Mark Masters
Commissioner Charles Schulze
Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Dino Teppara

Members Excused

Commissioner Amy Bigham
Commissioner Mick Zais

Commission Staff Present

Jeff Perez
Argentini Anderson
Laura Belcher
Stephanie Charbonneau
Ende Clark
Scheri Eichelberger
Shardai Figgures
Chris Glenn
Gerrick Hampton
Kathryn Harris
Matthew Hartenstine
Darnell Holland
Ellan Jenkinson, PASCAL
Marianna Manic
Diane McCree

Alfie Mincy
Noah Perry
Angela Peters
Kenita Pitts
Melissa Price
Tim Rees
Christopher Robinson
Elizabeth Robinson
Kara Smith
Tracy Solet
Mark Swart
Tanya Weigold
Bryce Wilson
Karen Woodfaulk
Lishu Yin

Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University
Phillip Bridgmon, University of South Carolina
Aiken
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Aimee Carter, SC Technical College System
Zachary Christian, SC Higher Education Tuition
Grants Commission
Russell Clark, SC Department of Education
James Colbert, Lander University
Walter Collins, University of South Carolina
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
John Dozier, Columbia College
Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University

Anna Edwards, University of South Carolina
Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical
College
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina
Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, SCATCC Board
Amanda Karls, University of South Carolina
Upstate
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Jessica McLees, SC Department of Education
Larry Miller, Greenville Technical College
Christopher Monroe, Private

Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Said Sewell, Morris College
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Garrett Stern, Furman University
Katie Stevens, SC Higher Education Tuition
Grants Commission

Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South
Carolina
Tangar Young, South Carolina State University
Jaclyn Walsh, SC Department of Education
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives
James Winebrake, Coastal Carolina University

All Attended either In-Person, by Phone, or via Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

I. 1. Introductions and Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Ms. Belcher introduced the Commissioners. She confirmed a quorum of the Commission and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the December 4, 2025, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Bigham motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Zais seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes thanked the CHE committees and staff for their ongoing hard work. He also noted that CHE did an excellent job with its budget presentation to the House Ways and Means (HWM).

4. President and Executive Director's Report

President Perez provided an overview of the functions of CHE and outlined the agency's priorities for the year, including refining residency regulations, expanding reporting and analysis, and completing Inspector General (IG) and House Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight (GELOC) recommendations. He stated that CHE will continue collaboration with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) and will pursue the development of a comprehensive academic degree program approval and review process.

President Perez summarized the budget requests submitted to HWM, which included requests for personnel funding, information technology fees, education scholarship enhancements, and PASCAL Core Infrastructure and Content funding. The request also included an increase in federal spending authority for

the State Approving Agency (SAA); an increase in total funds authorized for PASCAL; and a realignment of the funding source for certain FTE positions.

President Perez also reported on proviso requests, including:

- An amendment to Proviso 3.5 (LEA: FY 2025-26 Lottery Funding – College Transition Program) to include independent colleges and provide startup funding;
- The deletion of Proviso 3.5 (South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) funding to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP); and
- Proviso 11.12 (Other Funded FTE Revenue).

President Perez provided an update on legislative activity, including the following bills:

- **H.4736** – Mandates training for members of CHE;
- **H.4737** – Mandates training for new members of Boards of Trustees of public institutions of higher learning in the state;
- **H.4739** – Mandates safety training and crime reporting for public and private higher education institutions;
- **H.4902** – Suspends Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosure requirements for revenue-sharing contracts between institutions and intercollegiate athletes.

Commissioner Batson asked whether CHE is following H.4761, which requires institutions to report on faculty members to the legislature. President Perez responded that there is currently no activity on the bill.

President Perez also stated that CHE is following H.4738, a clean-up bill addressing irrelevant statutes.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes reported that there were no items for consideration from the Committee.

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Edgar Dyer

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Dyer to provide the report. Commissioner Dyer stated that the Committee is working on revisions to its charter and invited Dr. Peters to describe the work underway.

Dr. Peters reported that the Committee is revising policies and reviewing program productivity reports. She indicated that the reports will be ready for consideration at the May CHE Business Meeting.

Chair Hayes asked Dr. Peters to elaborate on the evaluation criteria included in the program productivity report, which she described. Chair Hayes also inquired about recommendations for program closure in cases where institutions are noncompliant for two consecutive reporting periods. Commissioner Masters recommended evaluating the underlying causes of noncompliance. President Perez stated that such evaluation will be included in the review process.

Commissioner Schulze asked for clarification regarding the metrics. President Perez responded that metrics distinguishing graduate and non-graduate students are being developed further. Commissioner Smith noted that institutions recognize the importance of CHE's productivity data and have included it in their reports to the General Assembly. Commissioner Bryson asked how dual enrollment courses are treated and whether they are considered non-completers. President Perez explained that those credits are transferred to the institutions. Commissioner Fant discussed how retention is being impacted for student-athletes, particularly in relation to Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) agreements.

5.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services

Jenni Bryson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Bryson to present the report. Commissioner Bryson stated that CHE staff have been working with institutions regarding residency regulations and described the process for reviewing the proposed regulatory changes. She then asked Chair Hayes to open the public hearing.

Chair Hayes opened the public hearing and asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, he moved to close the public hearing, and Commissioner Batson seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the public hearing was closed.

FOR ACTION

A. Public Hearing Residency Regulation

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA)

Paul Batson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to present the report. Commissioner Batson summarized one item for action and two informational items. He stated that the proposed charter revision reflects a change in membership and motioned for approval. Chair Hayes called for the vote, and the motion passed. Commissioner Batson then summarized the two informational items and noted that a group of Commissioners will develop questions to better engage institutions in future discussions regarding institutional audits.

FOR ACTION

- A. Committee on Finance and Administration Charter Revision
- B. Quarter 2 CHE Budget Report (For information, no action)
- C. Proviso 3.6 Technology Funds Report (For information, no action)

5.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA)

Doug Snyder

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Snyder to provide the report. Commissioner Snyder summarized three informational items. He stated that the Committee is working on initiatives aligned with the three identified values, with a goal of three to five initiatives per value. He estimated that this process will be finalized by June and ready for discussion with the full Commission. Commissioner Snyder described the Accountability Report and noted that CHE staff are educating the Committee on its components. He also reported that all external reports are on track.

FOR INFORMATION

- A. Strategic Plan Update (For information, no action)
- B. Accountability (For information, no action)
- C. External Studies Update (For information, no action)

6. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

7. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

8. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.