South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Accessibility | Excellence | Accountability

Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)
Special Called Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2026

Committee Members Present
Edgar Dyer, Chair
Brian Cuddy, Vice Chair
Oran Smith
Jenni Bryson
Daniel Dukes
Mitchell Zais

Committee Member Excused
Doug Snyder

Commission Staff Present
Jeffrey Perez
Angela Peters
Jessica Berry
Melissa Price
Darnell Holland
Kenita Pitts
Lishu Yin
Mark Swart
Tim Rees
James Thompson
Christoper Glenn
Tracy Solet

Guests
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Amanda Karls, University of South Carolina Upstate
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Erin Paysinger, Lander University
Gibbs Knotts, Coastal Carolina University
Jacki Walsh, South Carolina Department of Education
James Colbert, Lander University
Jenny May, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
Jeremy King, Clemson University
Jessica McLees, South Carolina Department of Education
Karin Roof, The Citadel
Louis Whitesides, South Carolina State University
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston
Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Sandra Ammons, South Carolina Department of Education
Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Tim Drueke, Winthrop University
Trena Houp, University of South Carolina Columbia

All attended via Zoom

1. **Welcome, Introduction, Quorum**
   Chair Dyer convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

2. **Introductions, Quorum, FOIA**
   Ms. Solet introduced the committee members, confirmed a quorum, and announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

3. **Approval of Agenda**
   Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was made and seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed**.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2026 meeting, which was made and seconded. Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

5. **Policies and Procedures**
   a. Update to South Carolina College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Policy
   Dr. Peters explained, pursuant to statute, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) is directed to coordinate with the Soth Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in determining minimum college entrance requirements for admission to the state's four-year public institutions. These requirements were determined by a task force comprised of CHE, SCDE, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, as well as college and high school English and mathematics instructors. The proposed policy revision updates the four units of mathematics requirement to clarify that a course may count as a higher-level mathematics course only if Algebra 2 with Probability is a prerequisite for that course. The proposed revision also specifies that AP Statistics does not meet the definition and therefore does not satisfy the higher-level mathematics requirement. Dr. Peters clarified for the committee members these prerequisites establish the minimum criteria for admission to senior public institutions in South Carolina. Individual universities may establish additional admissions requirements and grant exceptions for students who do not meet all prerequisites, but only in cases where the failure to meet one or more requirements results from circumstances beyond the student's reasonable control. With no further discussion, **Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve agenda item 5.a., which was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Zais**. Hearing nothing further, Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

   b. Update to South Carolina Exam-Based Credit Awards Policy
   Dr. Rees explained, pursuant to statute, the South Carolina Commission on Higer Education, in conjunction with the State Board of Education (SBE), is directed to specify the manner in which advanced placement exam credit shall be awarded at each public, post-secondary college in the state. The policy updates the types of exam-based credit, and minimum score ranges public, post-secondary institutions in South Carolina shall use to award credit for exam-based prior learning. These updated standards were determined by a task force with representation from the Commission on Higher Education as well as admissions and registrar professionals from post-secondary institutions. These proposed revisions align the policy more closely with statutory authority and with SBE's role in defining advanced courses. As CLEP and DANTES/DSST are not tied to SBE-approved advanced courses, are not addressed in the Uniform Grading Policy, and are not covered by the same K-12 course-based framework as AP, IB, and Cambridge, CLEP and DANTES/DSST have been removed from the policy. The policy also updates Cambridge Assessment International Education (AICE) language and subject lists to reflect current standards, clarifies score thresholds and course equivalencies, and strengthens transparency, accessibility, and periodic review requirements. Dr. Rees clarified for the committee members CLEP and DANTES/DSST are still viable but just need to be included in other ways as they were not included in statute. With no further discussion, **Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve agenda item 5.b., which was made by Commissioners Dukes and Cuddy, and seconded by Commissioner Zais**. Hearing nothing further, Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed.**

6. **New Business**
    a. FY2026-2027 Centers of Excellence Competitive Grant Program
    Dr. Yin explained the purpose of the Education Improvement Act (EIA) Centers of Excellence grant program is to enable eligible institutions, or consortia of such institutions, to serve as resource centers in a specific area related to the improvement of teacher education including both in-service and pre-service training. The resource centers develop and model state-of-the-art teaching practices, conduct research, disseminate information, and provide training for K-12 and higher education personnel in the center's specific area of expertise. Dr. Yin provided an overview of the expansion of the grant program including a 60% growth in the number of centers and a 100% growth in participating institutions over the last five years. A further explanation of funding requests was provided with a summary of requested action items for FY 2026-2027, including the approval of: (1) funding for the EIA Centers of Excellence grant program, (2) contingent funding for the Center of Excellence for Alternative Pathway to Educator Certification (APEC) at Columbia College and its replicated model at Coker University, (3) funding for three new Centers of Excellence for Math Education, (4) funding for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Science of Reading Seminar, (5) Request for Proposals (RFP) Guidelines for new Centers of Excellence, and (6) Centers of Excellence Administration Guidelines. With no further discussion, **Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve agenda item 6.a., which was made by Commissioner Dukes, and seconded by Commissioner Bryson.** Hearing nothing further, Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed**.

7. **Other Business / Discussion**
    Chair Dyer asked if there were any other items to be discussed. Commissioner Dukes asked Dr. Peters how institutions could get exemptions for the college prerequisite requirements and how they would be used. Dr. Peters stated the only exemption she is aware of is for World Language.

8. **Adjournment**
    With no further business before the committee, **Chair Dyer called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Commissioner Zais, and seconded by Commissioner Dukes**. Chair Dyer called for a vote and **the motion passed unopposed**. **The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**