



Committee on Student Services
February 5, 2026 at 11:00AM
In-person and Via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 978 0952 1785 Passcode: 777460

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair
2. Chair's Report
Zach Freeman, Undergraduate Student Body President
Clemson University
3. Committee on Student Services Charter
Revision (*For Approval*)
4. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of
Minority Teachers Quarter 4 and Annual Report,
African American Teacher Loan Report – Update Dr. David Staten, Associate Provost
for Academic Affairs, SC State University
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

2026 Committee on Student Services Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 5, 2026
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Thursday, May 7, 2026
Thursday, June 4, 2026
Thursday, August 6, 2026
Thursday, November 5, 2026



803-737-2260

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Minutes of the Committee on Student Services Meeting

November 6, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Jenni Bryson, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Amy Bigham
Commissioner Daniel Dukes
Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Charles Schulze

CHE Staff Members

Dr. Jeff Perez
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Shardai Figgures
Mr. Christopher Glenn
Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Kathryn Harris
Ms. Alfie Mincy
Mr. Christopher Robinson
Ms. Kathy Rollins
Ms. Alantis Seckal
Ms. Tanya Weigold
Ms. Leslie Williams

Guests

Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Ms. Bridget Blackwell, USC Palmetto College
Ms. Casey Bolin, USC Upstate
Mr. Scott Callahan, Horry Georgetown Technical College
Ms. Tami Cooke, MUSC
Ms. Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Emily Fox, SC Technical College System
Ms. Lane Goodwine, SC Technical College System
Ms. Pat Greene, USC Beaufort
Dr. Bob Hamill, Anderson University
Ms. Nikisha Howze, York Technical College
Ms. Erin McCraw, Anderson University
Ms. Erin McDonald, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Tasha Morgan, Tri-County Technical College
Ms. Carrie Orning, Horry Georgetown Technical College
Ms. Ashley Owens, Francis Marion University
Ms. Lillian Sims, USC Palmetto College
Ms. Katie Stevens, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Ms. Niki Stinson, Anderson University
Mr. Robert Thompson, Horry Georgetown Technical College
Ms. LaTanya Thornhill, MUSC

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tanya Weigold introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chair Jenni Bryson provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance.

Chair Bryson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Student Services' September 4, 2025 meeting. A **motion** was made (Batson), **seconded** (Schulze), and carried to approve the minutes.



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2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Bryson called for the nomination of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Services.

Commissioner Batson **ominated** Commissioner Jenni Bryson for Chair, the nomination was **seconded** (Schulze), and the motion was carried.

Chair Bryson called for the nomination of the Vice Chair of the Committee on Student Services. Commissioner Fant moved to **nominate** Commissioner Batson, Commissioner Schulze **seconded**, and with no other nominations, the motion was carried.

3. SC National Guard College Assistance Program

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk gave a brief overview of the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (CAP) and introduced Ms. Alfie Mincy along with MSgt. Justin Cayton and Staff Sgt Sherice Watson.

Ms. Mincy explained the approval process for service members. Ms. Mincy highlighted the program evolution, including the lifetime award increasing from \$18,000 in 2021 to \$25,000 currently. Ms. Mincy shared that in the 2024 – 2025 academic year, 68 CAP awards were approved for \$346,178.50 for the Air Guard, and 949 CAP awards were approved for \$3,991,650.50 for the Army Guard. Ms. Mincy noted \$11.7 million in carry-forward funds and \$6.2 million in annual lottery appropriations.

Staff Sgt Watson and MSgt Cayton discussed recruitment successes, application increases (17% for Army), and education demographics (71% of Army and 57% of Air Guard members pursuing bachelor's degrees). Staff Sgt Watson outlined proposed regulatory amendments including increasing lifetime award to \$32,000.

Commissioners Batson and Schulze stated that the program is a valuable recruiting tool for the State of South Carolina and congratulated the program on its continued ten-year growth.

4. Proposed Residency Regulations

Dr. Gerrick Hampton presented proposed updates to the residency regulations. He explained that the revisions were necessary to align the regulations with existing state statutes and to modernize language that had become outdated.

Dr. Hampton shared key revisions including simplifying documentation from eight to four core items, adding flexibility for remote workers, including spouses of certain military personnel for in-state tuition, prohibiting transcript holds for unpaid balances, and enhancing institutional appeal processes for consistency. Dr. Hampton expressed that the process involved collaboration with institutions, General Assembly staff, and state agencies, with drafts circulated for feedback.

Commissioner Batson made a **motion** to approve the proposed residency regulations as presented. The motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Schulze. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the regulations.

5. Centers of Excellence: Request for Proposal

Dr. Lishu Yin provided an update on the Centers of Excellence RFP for math education, focused on collaborative models. Dr. Yin shared that five institutions submitted intents to apply by the September 25, 2025 deadline, with only two full proposals submitted by the November 2, 2025 deadline. Dr. Yin stated proposals will be sent to an external review panel next week, with feedback expected by December 10, 2025, and awards to be announced in January 2026.

6. FAFSA Updates

Ms. Alantis Seckal reported on FAFSA completion rates, noting South Carolina's 61.1% completion rate for the 2025–2026 cycle (Class of 2025), representing a 16.6% increase from the prior year. South Carolina ranked 13th nationally and exceeded the national average of 59.8%, outperforming six of the 12 states with FAFSA mandates. Ms. Seckal noted completion rates of 60.7% at lower-income high schools and 62.6% at rural high schools.

Ms. Seckal also highlighted current initiatives, including College Goal South Carolina (87 fall events registered), FAFSA counselor trainings (four virtual sessions with approximately 70 attendees each), the new FAFSA First Challenge competition, and a toolkit to support event hosting. Dr. Woodfaulk praised staff efforts, including evening events, and Commissioner Bigham shared positive experiences with FAFSA resources.

7. Other Business

Chair Bryson informed the committee that the committee charter will need to be updated and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

8. Adjournment

Chair Bryson adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President and Executive Director



Committee on Student Services

Charter

Part I

1. Authority

As granted by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (“Commission”), pursuant to South Carolina Code (“Code”) Section 59-103-25 and in compliance with the Commission’s Bylaws (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

The Committee may elect to revise this charter. However, any revisions to the final charter approved by the Committee and the Commission must adhere to the Commission’s Bylaws.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee on Student Services is to review, revise and approve policies and procedures for the administration of state scholarships, grants and programs assigned to the Office of Student Affairs and address statewide issues related to accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education on behalf of SC students, service members, and families in compliance with Code Section 59-103-15(b), and attached Code of laws and regulations (Part II).

Responsibilities

- A. Review in advance and approve recommendations for submission to the Commission, relating to promulgation of regulations, proposed revisions to regulation, and operations that govern the state’s scholarships and grants to include Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant Programs (including College Transition Need-based Grant Program), Lottery Tuition Assistance, SC National Guard College Assistance Program, and residency for the determination for tuition and fees.
- B. Review in advance and approve proposed administrative budgets for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers. Comply with relevant South Carolina codes, regulations, statutes, and provisos, which are placed under Part II of this Charter.



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- C. Monitor, review and approve reports, updates and activities that address accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education, on behalf of SC students, families, service members, teacher preparation educators, school counselors, and districts, to include financial aid awareness and FAFSA completion, educator preparation, postsecondary education preparedness, college assistance for guard members, military credit mobility, college application assistance, and other programs/activities that support and promote access to postsecondary education.
- D. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to policies and procedures for state scholarship appeals in compliance with state statutes and regulations.
- E. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to residency regulations for determination of tuition and fees.
- F. Review, research, provide reports, and approve any other matter as assigned or under the purview of the Committee on Student Services.

Membership

The Committee on Student Services is defined as a standing committee per the Commission's Bylaws and made up of Commission members as appointed by the Chair of the Commission and Executive Committee. Members may be reappointed by the Chair of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission shall initially appoint the chair of this committee and thereafter, the Committee on Student Services will elect its own Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

Members of the Committee on Student Services (2025–2026)

Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair
Mr. Paul Batson, Vice Chair
Ms. Amy Bigham
Mr. Daniel Dukes
Dr. Gene Fant
Mr. Charles Schulze

Meetings

The Committee on Student Services will meet at an appointed time, date, and place, prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission, as recommended by Commission staff and approved by the Committee. The Chair of the Committee has discretionary authority to call a committee meeting. All meetings will be publicly announced and held in compliance with Code Section 30-4-10 - Freedom of Information Act.

Minutes

Minutes should include major topics of discussion, decisions, and action items and submitted for approval by the Committee at the next scheduled Committee on Student Services meeting. The announcement of committee meetings, minutes, and agenda will be publicly distributed through the Commission's website.

Charter Approval, Review and Evaluation

The charter of the Committee on Student Services will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis upon the election or reelection of the Chair of the Committee.

The charter shall be approved by a full committee vote during a convened meeting and posted on the Commission on Higher Education's website.

The charter was approved by the Committee on Student Services on February 5, 2026, and adopted by the full Commission on [INSERT DATE].

Adoption:

Name

Chair, SC Commission on Higher Education

Name

Chair, Committee on Student Services

Part II

S.C Code of Laws

HOPE	Code Section 59-150-370
LIFE	Code Section 59-149-10 et seq.
Palmetto Fellows	Code Section 59-104-20
Lottery Tuition Assistance	Code Section 59-150-360
SC Need-Based Grant	Code Section 59-142-20
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	Code Section 59-114-75
Residency	Code Section 59-112-10
Scholarship Appeals	Code Sections 59-149-10, 59-104-20, 59-150-370

Regulations

HOPE	62-900.85 - 62-900.140
LIFE	62-1200.1 - 62-1200.75
Palmetto Fellows	62-300 - 62-375
Lottery Tuition Assistance	62-900.150 - 62-900.200.
SC Need-Based Grant	62-450 - 62-505.
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	62-250 - 62-262
Scholarship Appeals	62-1000 - 62-1040

Proviso (23-24 Appropriations Act)

Foster Care Youth Need-Based Grants	11 - H030 - 11.8.
College Transition Program	11 - H030 - 11.12.
Year Round Scholarships	11 - H030 - 11.13.
SC Institutes of Innovation and Information	11 - H030 - 11.21.
SC Program for Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers	1A - H630 - 1A.6.
SC National Guard College Assistance Program	117-X900 - 117.141
LIFE Scholarship GPA	117-X900 - 117.172
Residency	117-X900 - 117.157

**South Carolina Program for the Recruitment & Retention of Minority
Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Update
South Carolina State University
January 2026**

1. Number of participants currently enrolled in SC-PRRMT, disaggregated by classification (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and MAT students)

TABLE 1

Geographical Site and Number of Participants

Year	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025 Fall 2024	FY 2024-2025 Spring 2025	FY 2025-2026 Fall 2025
Sites	Anderson Moncks Corner/ Berkeley/Charleston Richland Dist. # 1 Richland Two Fairfield Winnsboro Georgetown Williamsburg Florence Horry Jasper Barnwell Marion Dillon Marlboro Clarendon Bamberg Lee Lancaster Lexington #4 Laurens #55 Newberry Cherokee SC State	Anderson Moncks Corner/ Berkeley/Charleston Richland Dist.ONE Richland Two Fairfield Winnsboro Georgetown Williamsburg Florence Horry Jasper Barnwell Marion Dillon Marlboro Clarendon Bamberg Lee Lancaster Lexington #4 Laurens #55 Newberry Cherokee Greenville Ft. Mill Sumter SC State	Anderson Moncks Corner/ Berkeley/Charleston Richland Dist.ONE Richland Two Fairfield Winnsboro Georgetown Williamsburg Florence Horry Jasper Barnwell Marion Dillon Marlboro Clarendon Bamberg Lee Lancaster Lexington #4 Laurens #55 Newberry Cherokee Greenville Ft. Mill Sumter SC State	Anderson Moncks Corner/ Berkeley/Charleston Richland Dist.ONE Richland Two Fairfield Winnsboro Georgetown Williamsburg Florence Horry Jasper Barnwell Marion Dillon Marlboro Clarendon Bamberg Lee Lancaster Lexington #4 Laurens #55 Newberry Cherokee Greenville Ft. Mill Sumter Abbeville SC State	Anderson Moncks Corner/ Berkeley/Charleston Richland Dist.ONE Richland Two Fairfield Winnsboro Georgetown Williamsburg Florence Horry Jasper Barnwell Marion Dillon Marlboro Clarendon Bamberg Lee Lancaster Lexington #4 Laurens #55 Newberry Cherokee Greenville Ft. Mill Sumter Abbeville SC State
No. of Participants	N= 70 Seniors = 4 Juniors = 18 Sophomores = 16 Freshmen = 28 MAT = 4	N= 78 Seniors = 4 Juniors = 11 Sophomores = 20 Freshmen = 40 MAT = 3	N= 78 Seniors = 11 Juniors = 16 Sophomores = 25 Freshmen = 22 MAT = 4	N= 78 Seniors = 7 Juniors = 16 Sophomores = 25 Freshmen = 26 MAT = 4	N=75 Seniors = 6 Juniors = 14 Sophomores = 20 Freshmen = 30 MAT = 5

2. Number of participants who have graduated since August 2025, including the percentage currently teaching.

Fall 2025 = 4

Spring 2026 = 2

Number of Graduates Placed in South Carolina Schools as of May 2025 285 (92%)

3. Number of regional SC-PRRMT sites established since August 2025 and their locations (by county).

Calhoun County

4. Forgivable loan amount and the number of forgivable loans awarded in Fall 2025. See Table 2 below:

TABLE 2 FALL 2025 N=75		Table 2 FALL 2024 N=75 Cont.	
1.	\$ 2,970.00	39.	2,529.00
2.	3,071.00	40.	2,419.00
3.	1,841.00	41.	2,088.00
4.	3,071.00	42.	1,530.00
5.	2,419.00	43.	3,131.00
6.	1,088.00	44.	3,131.00
7.	1,000.00	45.	4,131.00
8.	1,000.00	46.	2,791.00
9.	2,419.00	47.	2,791.00
10.	3,000.00	48.	2,791.00
11.	2,589.00	49.	2,145.50
12.	2,637.00	50.	2,000.00
13.	4,919.00	51.	3,919.00
14.	1,450.00	52.	3,389.00
15.	1,919.00	53.	3,019.00
16.	1,919.00	54.	3,195.00
17.	3,419.00	55.	3,000.00
18.	3,419.00	56.	2,900.00
19.	1,955.00	57.	2,800.00
20.	1,329.00	58.	2,400.00
21.	3,156.00	59.	2,400.00
22.	1,329.00	60.	1,919.00
23.	1,329.00	61.	1,919.00
24.	1,329.00	62.	1,400.00
25.	3,029.00	63.	1,500.00
26.	1,150.00	64.	1,000.00
27.	1,919.00	65.	2,000.00
28.	1,000.00	66.	2,919.00
29.	1,500.00	67.	1,000.00
30.	1,919.00	68.	2,920.00
31.	1,919.00	69.	1,910.00
32.	1,919.00	70.	1,910.00
33.	1,919.00	71.	3,976.00
34.	1,919.00	72.	3,390.00
35.	1,919.00	73.	2,000.00
36.	1,919.00	74.	2,331.00
37.	1,919.00	75.	1,463.00
38.	1,000.00		

**African American Teacher Loan Program
UPDATE
South Carolina State University
January 2026**

1. Brief statement regarding the purpose of the African American Teacher Loan Program.

Proviso 11.2. (CHE: African American Loan Program) The funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the African American Loan Program shall be distributed to South Carolina State University and must be used for a loan program with the major focus of attracting African American males to the teaching profession. The Commission of Higher Education shall act as the monitoring and reporting agency for the African American Loan Program. Of the funds allocated according to this proviso, no more than ten percent shall be used for administrative purposes. \$119,300.00

Mission: The primary mission of the African-American Teacher Loan Program/the Program to Recruit and Inspire Diversity in Education is to administer a forgivable loan program for the purpose of recruiting into the teaching profession underrepresented populations in South Carolina's teaching force. Currently, the underrepresented populations in the State are— male teachers, ethnic minority teachers, and state declared critical-need subject area teachers.

2. Number of participants receiving African American Teacher Loans, by classification.

N=10
Seniors = 2
Juniors = 2
Sophomores = 2
Freshmen = 4

3. Number of participants who have graduated since August 2025, including the percentage currently teaching.

1994-2025 N = 242 =(70%)