Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Executive Committee Meeting
April 28, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present
Mr. Oran Smith, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Batson
Ms. Jenni Bryson
Mr. Eddie Dyer
Mr. Doug Snyder

Executive Committee Members Excused
Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair

Other Commissioners Present
Ms. Amy Bigham

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
Dr. Angela Peters, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing
Dr. Melissa Price, Program Manager
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 — Oran Smith

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Batson motioned and Commissioner Bryson seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Smith called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Review of May 7, 2026, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda — Oran Smith

Chair Smith reported that his report would include a presentation by the Agency Head Salary Commission for annual commissioner training.

He then called on President Perez to summarize his forthcoming report to the Commission.

President Perez stated that his report would include updates on legislative matters, including the Senate-passed budget and a cleanup bill awaiting Senate floor vote, as well as recent agency events such as the veterans convening and NC-SARA meeting. He also announced upcoming events, including Career College

Decision Day at the State House and planned activities for the June CHE meeting, including tours of the Mercedes plant and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

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

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

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would have 15 new program proposals from six institutions that require approval, along with three additional action items. He also announced that the committee will hold a special-called meeting on April 30, during which 12 institutions would present justifications for moving nonproductive programs from termination to under review or exempt status. He confirmed that no action will be taken during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposals
   1. Clemson University, Ph.D. in Communication and Media
   2. Clemson University, Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
   3. Clemson University, B.S. in Athletic Leadership
   4. Coastal Carolina University, M.S. in Finance
   5. Francis Marion University, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
   6. University of South Carolina Columbia, M.S.L. in Environmental Law and Sustainability
   7. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.S.B.A. in Hospitality and Tourism Management
   8. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.A. in Applied Languages and Global Studies
   9. Lander University, M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education
   10. Lander University, B.A. in Secondary Education, English
   11. Lander University, B.S. in Secondary Education, Chemistry
   12. Lander University, B.S. in Secondary Education, Mathematics
   13. Lander University, B.S. in Secondary Education, Social Studies
   14. Lander University, B.S. in Accounting
   15. Lander University, B.S. in Financial Services

B. Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing Charter Revisions
C. Policies on Exam-based Credit
D. SC College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Policy

Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have four items for information only. She summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) 2024-25 Quarter 4 and Annual Report (For information, no action)
B. African American Teacher Loan Program Report (For information, no action)
C. College Access Updates (For information, no action)
D. SCNGCAP and Veterans Outreach (For information, no action)

Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have four items for information only, which he summarized. He also announced that Dr. Fred Carter would present the financial position of Francis Marion University as a roadmap for future institutional financial reviews.

FOR INFORMATON

A. Francis Marion University Financial Report (For information, no action)
B. Merit Scholarship Expenditure Update (For Information, no action)
C. CHEMIS 2.0 Update (For information, no action)
D. Quarter 3 Budget Report (For Information, no action)

Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee on Strategic Planning and Accountability (CSPA) would have three items for information only and summarized the items. Commissioner Snyder provided

updates on the strategic plan, including the development of specific metrics under each initiative, as well as the upcoming state agency accountability report.

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) — Oran Smith

There was no executive session.

4. Other Business — Oran Smith

There was no other business to consider.

5. Adjourn — Oran Smith

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.