South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
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Minutes of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
Executive Committee Meeting
May 26, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present
Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair
Mr. Oran Smith, Vice Chair
Mr. Eddie Dyer
Mr. Doug Snyder

Executive Committee Members Excused
Mr. Paul Batson
Ms. Jenni Bryson

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
Ms. Holly Robinson, Interim Director of Fiscal Affairs
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:10 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 April 28, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Smith motioned and Commissioner Dyer seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Review of June 4, 2026, CHE Draft Meeting Agenda — **Wes Hayes**

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

President Perez reported that his remarks would include legislative updates, including the cleanup bill and a regulation change regarding in-state residency that had been signed into law. He also shared that the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) identified an additional $369 million in non-recurring funds for FY2026 to help address the funding gap for merit-based scholarships. In addition, he noted that the Workforce Pell regulations had been finalized.

President Perez provided an update on the agency's technology utilization study, which identified opportunities to improve coordination across agency offices regarding technology use and software needs.

President Perez also informed the committee that the Commission's Bylaws would be reviewed and revised, particularly regarding commissioner reimbursement. He explained that commissioners are eligible for reimbursement when attending required meetings, such as committee meetings and full Commission meetings, but not for optional meetings unless they have received an official invitation.

Commissioner Dyer discussed the distinction between a general standing invitation and a formal invitation from a committee chair. He suggested establishing a more formal process for extending official invitations. The committee agreed that additional discussion would be needed to define what constitutes an official invitation for reimbursement purposes.

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

Chair Hayes 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 two new academic program proposals for approval, along with two additional action items. He noted that the Southeastern Esthetic Institute item would be removed from the consent agenda to allow commissioners an opportunity to ask questions before acting.

Regarding the Program Productivity Report, President Perez explained that the Commission already approved recommendations for academic program productivity reports for 2024 and 2026 review cycles, with an amendment requiring a one-year under-review status for programs recommended for termination. He also reported that a working group to include Commissioners Smith and Dukes, had been established to develop new productivity review policies.

The committee agreed to share the Program Productivity Report with all institutional boards and members of the General Assembly, with Chair Hayes emphasizing the importance of highlighting academic programs that campuses had already voluntarily terminated.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. New Program Proposals
    1. Medical University of South Carolina, M.S. in Cancer Biology
    2. Winthrop University, B.S. in Health Sciences

B. Recommendation for Academic Program Productivity Report – FY 2024 and FY 2026 Review Cycles

C. New Nonpublic Institutions Licensure
    1. Southeastern Esthetic Institute, LLC DBA Southeastern Health and Wellness Institute, A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Dr. Woodfaulk on behalf of Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have one item for action and four items for information only. She summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

A. SC Student Loan Administrative FY 2026-27 SC Teacher Loan Program Budget Request

B. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) (For information, no action)
    1. FY2025-26 Quarters 1 and 2 Reports
    2. FY2026-27 Budget Update

C. College Application Month 2024-25 Overview (For information, no action)

D. Notice of Drafting: State Scholarships (For information, no action)

E. Connecting Service, Credit, and Collaboration to Strengthen Pathways for Military Learners in South Carolina Convening Update (For information, no action)

Ms. Goodwin on behalf of Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration would have two items for information only, which she summarized.

FOR INFORMATON
A. Scholarship Compliance Audit Update (For information, no action)
B. CHEMIS 2.0 Update (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.

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 10:50 a.m.