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

In Attendance:

Executive Committee Members Present
Mr. R. Wes Hayes, Chair
Ms. Jenni Bryson
Mr. Eddie Dyer
Mr. Doug Snyder

Executive Committee Members Excused
Mr. Oran Smith, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Batson

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
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Ms. Shakara Smith, Executive Assistant
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Affairs

Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 **Wes Hayes**
Chair Hayes called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026, Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Dyer motioned and Commissioner Bryson seconded to approve the minutes. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Proposed 2026 CHE Bylaws Revisions **Wes Hayes**
President Perez provided an overview of the proposed changes to the 2026 CHE Bylaws and thanked Commissioner Smith for his work on the revisions.

President Perez explained that the revisions clarify that nonvoting board members count toward a quorum. The CHE Bylaws also clarify reimbursement eligibility for Commissioners. He explained that non-committee members are not eligible for reimbursement unless a committee chair requests their attendance at a committee meeting, in which case reimbursement would be permitted. President Perez further

explained the revisions clarify that Commissioners may submit a written request at least two business days in advance to have an item added to a meeting agenda.

Commissioner Dyer motioned, and Commissioner Bryson seconded to approve the 2026 CHE Bylaws. Chair Hayes called for the vote, and the motion passed.

3. Act 152, Student Physical Privacy Act Policy **Wes Hayes**

President Perez provided an overview of the Act 152, Student Physical Privacy Act Policy. He explained that, after working with General Assembly staff, CHE confirmed that Act 152 does not require CHE to investigate noncompliance, but rather to determine compliance.

He explained that CHE will annually require institutions to attest to compliance with the requirements outlined in the Act. President Perez said that institutions found to be noncompliant may be subject to a 25 percent budgetary penalty and will have 30 days to correct the issue. He noted that if a serious issue arises, the institution will not come before CHE but would instead be required to address the matter through the court system.

Commissioner Dyer asked whether CHE would be required to post signage informing individuals where they could report noncompliance. President Perez clarified that such signage is not required. Chair Hayes expressed concern about requiring noncompliance cases to be addressed through the court system due to the potential legal costs.

Commissioner Bryson motioned, and Commissioner Dyer seconded to approve the Act 152 policy. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion passed.

4. Review of the August 6, 2026 CHE Draft Agenda **Wes Hayes**

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

President Perez said that his report would include a budget update. He noted that in the conference committee report all CHE recurring budget requests were honored, including $2 million in recurring funding for PASCAL. He would also include other budget elements in his report including tuition mitigation, and state employee pay increases.
He provided an update on the technology utilization initiative. President Perez explained that CHE is working with the Division of Technology Office (DTO) to determine next steps, then plans to make a request through the Executive Budget. He summarized the plan in three phases:

- Phase 1: Identify actions that can be implemented quickly without additional costs.
- Phase 2: Implement additional actions between January and July that will require more time.
- Phase 3: Include funding requests in the Executive Budget.

President Perez noted that CHE will draw from carryforward funds as appropriate.

President Perez announced that a new auditor will begin work the following Monday.

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

Chair Hayes reported that the Executive Committee will present Act 152, Student Physical Privacy Act Policy for consideration.
Commissioner Bryson reported that the Committee on Student Services would have four items for information only. She summarized the items.

FOR INFORMATION

A. Scholarship Appeals Cycle 2025-26 Overview (For information, no action)
B. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act 2024-25 Annual Review (For information, no action)
C. SC Need-Based Grant and College Transition Program Grant 2024-25 Annual Review (For information, no action)
D. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 2024-25 Annual Review (For information, no action)

Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) would have one item for action and deferred to Dr. Peters to summarize the item.

Dr. Peters reported that 84 new programs were reviewed. She said that of those, 39 programs were recommended for approval, while 45 programs were recommended to be placed under review. Dr. Peters explained that enrollment was identified as the primary factor contributing to programs being placed under review.

Dr. Peters said that programs placed under review will remain under review for four years and institutions will be required to submit an action plan addressing each deficient area. Furthermore, if deficiencies are not resolved within four years, the program may be recommended for termination. Dr. Peters explained that CHE does not have the authority to terminate a program; however, the institution may elect to terminate the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. In-depth Review of Newly Implemented Academic Programs-Review Year: 2026

Commissioner Dyer on behalf of Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) would have four items for information only, which he summarized.

FOR INFORMATON

A. Proviso 117.21, Organizations Receiving State Appropriations Report (For information, no action)
B. Quarter 4 Budget Report (For information, no action)
C. FY26 Year End Cash Balance Review (For information, no action)
D. FY28 Budget Request Outline (For information, no action)

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

She reported that the list of metrics would be finalized during the CSPA meeting the following day. Ms. Belcher also noted that the committee would receive an accountability update and an update on the external studies.

FOR INFORMATION

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

5. Executive Session (If needed) **Wes Hayes**

There was no executive session.

6. Other Business **Wes Hayes**

Commissioner Dyer raised concerns about students knowing where to report potential noncompliance with Act 152. He asked whether the issue could be raised with the General Assembly for further discussion regarding how CHE should communicate reporting options to students. He noted that students may need an alternative avenue for reporting because institutions may not be motivated to report noncompliance when doing so could result in a budgetary penalty.

President Perez stated that he would consult with legislative staff regarding the issue.

7. Adjourn **Wes Hayes**

The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.