



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
12:30 p.m., August 4, 2023  
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400  
Columbia, SC 29201  
& Via Zoom Webinar

**Members**

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Jenni Bryson  
Commissioner Gene Fant  
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Dino Teppara  
Commissioner Patrick White

**Commission Staff Present**

Rusty Monhollon  
Argentini Anderson  
Laura Belcher  
Jessica Berry  
Mariam Dittmann  
Scheri Eichelberger  
Corey Gheesling  
Monica Goodwin  
Gerrick Hampton  
Kathryn Harris  
April Jones  
Andrea LaTouche  
Mariana Manic  
Alfie Mincy

Frank Myers  
Kenita Pitts-Howard  
Christopher Robinson  
Christina Seale  
Kara Smith  
Ashton Talbert  
Georges Tippens  
Bunnie Ward  
Leslie Williams  
Bryce Wilson  
Karen Woodfaulk  
Lishu Yin

**Guests**

Suzanne Austin, College of Charleston  
Melanie Barton, Office of the Governor  
Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University  
Felicia Benton-Johnson, Clemson University  
Ellen Breazel, Clemson University  
Christine Brown, Medical University of South Carolina  
Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University  
John Catalano, University of South Carolina-Palmetto College  
Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission  
Shamekia Daniels, Self-Employed  
Ralph Davis, Francis Marion University  
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Timothy Drueke, Winthrop University  
Wes Dudgeon, College of Charleston

Linda Dzuris, Clemson University  
Kevin Eakes, College of Charleston  
Rob Essaf, Clemson University  
Frederick Evans, SC State University  
Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
Michelle Garland, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Douglas Gantt, South Carolina State University  
Tim Hardee, SC Technical College System  
Mamie Harris, Northeastern Technical College  
Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission  
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina Columbia  
Li Hubbard, Post and Courier  
Tracey Hunter-Doniger, College of Charleston  
Joseph Greenthal, Lander University  
Whitney Jett, SC Department of Education

Pamela Jones, SC Department of Employment and Workforce  
Jeremy King, Clemson University  
Gibbs Knott, College of Charleston  
CMJ May, Private Citizen  
Shannon Means, University of South Carolina  
William McCorkle, College of Charleston  
Courtney McDonald, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Elizabeth Milam, Clemson University  
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation and Information  
James O'Connor, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Erin Paysinger, Lander University  
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and Universities  
Kim Purdy, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Jeffrey Stinson, University of South Carolina Upstate

Mark Rollins, Lander University  
John Rowan, Francis Marion University  
Tyler Saas, Clemson University  
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information  
Nina Staggers, Department of Employment and Workforce  
Pamela Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Laura Stoner, Clemson University  
Rosaline Sumpter, SC Technical College System  
Abbie Thielke, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture  
Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State University  
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University  
Frances Welch, College of Charleston  
Jennifer Wilbanks, Horry Georgetown Technical College  
Lizabeth Zack, University of South Carolina Upstate

All Attended either In-Person, by Phone, or via Video Conference

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:36 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**I. 1. Introductions and Roll Call to Establish Quorum**

Ms. Belcher introduced the Commissioners. She confirmed a quorum of the Commission and announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Hayes introduced the draft minutes of the June 1, 2023, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Seckinger seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes thanked CHE staff and presenters for executing an outstanding annual CHE Retreat and for their work throughout the year. He announced that CHE standing committees will be confirmed soon. Chair Hayes reported that there will be a few initiatives implemented by the Commission relating to workforce development and said that the agency will also work to update the agency's mission statement and Public Agenda implementation plan.

#### 4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon reported a new hire in the Office of Student Affairs, Diane McCree, Senior Licensing Coordinator and announced that the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement welcomed two current staff members to new roles, Corey Gheesling, Workforce Development Manager and Ashton Talbert, Special Projects Coordinator.

President Monhollon provided an update on the House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC), Senate Legislative Oversight Committee (SLOC), and Inspector General reviews. Regarding the HLOC review, he reported that the agency had a public comment hearing on March 9. He reported that the initial request for information was submitted to the committee on March 22, and the agency made presentations to the Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee on May 9; June 5; June 27; and July 21. President Monhollon announced that the agency is scheduled to present next on August 8 and August 17. Following these presentations, President Monhollon explained that HLOC staff will draft a report between late summer and early fall for review by the subcommittee, followed by the full committee.

Regarding the SLOC review, President Monhollon reported that the CHE submitted its initial request for information to the Committee on May 19 and will provide an initial overview presentation to the Committee during the next General Assembly session. President Monhollon said that the agency may meet with the Committee staff sometime between the summer and fall to discuss the information submitted. Regarding the Inspector General review, he reported that he met with the Inspector General on July 26 to discuss the report status and said that the full report will be released soon.

President Monhollon provided an update on the Governor's Request for Information. He reported that on June 18 the Governor's Office submitted a request for information from the CHE regarding the following areas: academic degree program submission for approval, modification, change and termination; Academic Degree Program Policy and Procedures; and Review of program revenue and costs in new academic degree program proposals. The report is due to the Governor's Office by September 5.

President Monhollon shared an update on the Employee Climate Survey, which was a voluntary and anonymous survey conducted in April. He reported that common themes included compensation and recognition; technology resources; policy clarification; workload; and employee treatment and professionalism. He said that in response to the survey results, he and Senior Staff are working on actions to address concerns to include updating technology/database; formation of a staff relations committee;

providing HR training on policies; conducting additional staff meetings; creating more opportunities for engagement with the President and Executive Director; and providing professional development training. He announced that Senior Staff attended a professional development training on June 26 and has asked the facilitator to conduct a similar training for all staff.

President Monhollon introduced the Post-secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer (PSEO) and explained that it is an online tool that provides insight into the workforce-relevance of higher education.

Regarding the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA), President Monhollon explained that it is an alliance between the non-profit organization, Battelle; University of South Carolina; University of South Carolina Aiken; SC State University; Clemson University; Georgia Institute of Technology; and University of Georgia.

President Monhollon reported that the SC General Assembly allocated \$40 million to the Alliance, which the CHE is responsible for distributing. He explained that the institutions are required to submit a proposal to the Commission for consideration, which would then be considered by the Joint Board Review Committee (JBRC) and State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA). President Monhollon explained that this process must be completed by the end of this fiscal year, or the funds would be returned to the SC Treasury.

President Monhollon announced that the Council of Board Chairs Meeting was held on June 6, at which eight board chairs discussed the following topics: 2023 legislative review and 2024 preview; *ASCEND 60x30*, and Higher Education in SC, 2040. He also announced that the Trustee Workshop was held on June 7, at which 24 trustees discussed the following topics: role of the board and trustee principles; self-assessment; macro trends in higher education; and data benchmarks and best practices. The conference was led by Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Senior Consultant, Dr. Paul Friga. President Monhollon said that positive feedback was provided by attendees through a post-meeting survey. He then thanked organizations that sponsored the events.

President Monhollon said that the Centers of Excellence Symposium was held June 7-8 to discuss alternative education preparation programs/apprenticeship programs; SC data driven research on teacher education; teacher recruitment and retention; leadership development and training at rural schools; and summer bridge programs for remedial education. President Monhollon announced upcoming events: August 8, HLOC presentation; August 11, Coordinating Council on Workforce Development (CCWD)

Executive Committee Meeting; August 15, CCWD Meeting; August 17, HLOC Presentation; and September 7, CHE Business Meeting.

President Monhollon reported, as it relates to *ASCEND 60x30*, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs estimates the attainment rate to be above 50 percent, as compared to Lumina's report of 48.6 percent.

## **5. Legislative Report**

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Ward to provide the legislative report on behalf of Ms. Steedly. Ms. Ward provided an update on the FY 23-24 budget. She reported that the following items were funded: \$800,000 recurring for scholarships; two full-time employees (FTE)s to staff the educator preparation report card and \$350,000 to create the associated data dashboard; \$915,000 for data migration; need-based grants was increased to \$80 million; \$20 million for Tuition Grants, \$6.2 million for the National Guard; \$1.5 million for PASCAL; and \$10 million for the nursing initiative. Ms. Ward reported on the following bills: Proviso 117.183, holds students harmless of losing their state-funded scholarship because of a dual enrollment course dropping them below the GPA requirement; H.4060 is pending in Senate Education and relates to the education component of Act 67, workforce development; and the transfer proviso passed, which requires CHE to move forward with the recommendations of the transfer taskforce. Ms. Ward announced they are working on developing a statewide-transfer council and will meet on August 14 to further discuss transfer recommendations.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **6.01 Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Hayes reported that there are no items to consider from the Executive Committee.

### **6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing**

**Bettie Rose Horne**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Horne to provide a report on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). Commissioner Horne reported that the Committee had nine items for consideration and four items for information, which she summarized and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Dyer asked for clarification on where to list item C. from Clemson University, College of Veterinary Medicine, as it is a notification rather than a program proposal. Chair Hayes recommended acknowledging receipt of the notification, rather than it being listed as an item for action to which

Commissioners agreed to the acknowledgment of the notification. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda passed, with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining from the vote.

Commissioner Horne summarized items D., E., and F. Chair Hayes called for the vote on item D., which passed with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining. Chair Hayes called for the vote on item E., which passed with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining. Regarding item F., Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern as she believes it conflicts with law. She does not believe that a two-year program can be offered on a four-year campus. Chair Hayes recommended and motioned that item F. be conditionally approved pending the University of South Carolina Beaufort verifying that offering the program on its campus complies with law.

General Counsel suggested having CHE staff further communicate with USC Beaufort to get a better understanding as to whether the program is compliant. General Counsel also said that USC Columbia has a similar program with Fort Jackson for a two-year program. Chair Hayes called for the conditional approval of item F., which passed with Commissioner Seckinger abstaining.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Program Proposals**

1. Clemson University, M.M.E., Music Education Program
2. Clemson University, B.S., Data Science
3. College of Charleston, B.S./A.B. Health Services Administration and Management
4. Lander University, B.S., Education and Child Development
5. University of South Carolina-Upstate, B.A., Organizational Leadership
6. University of South Carolina-Upstate, B.A.S., Business Administration
7. University of South Carolina-Upstate, M.S., Criminal Justice

**B. REACH Act**

1. Coastal Carolina University Modules
2. College of Charleston Modules

**C. Clemson University, College of Veterinary Medicine (For information, no action)**

**D. College of Charleston, B.A./A.B. and B.S./A.B., Environmental and Sustainability Studies**

**E. College of Charleston, M.A.T., Teaching Multilingual Learners**

**F. University of South Carolina-Beaufort, A.A./A.S. Degree Programs**

**6.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services**

**Hugh Mobley**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Mobley to provide a report on the Committee on Access and Equity & Student Services. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee has two items for consideration, and one item for information. He described the items and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda.

Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)
  - 1. Quarterly Report (Quarter 3)
  - 2. FY2024-25 Allocation Request

- B. College Goal South Carolina 2022-23 Overview (For information, no action)

6.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

Paul Batson

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Batson to provide a report from the Committee on Finance and Facilities. Commissioner Batson reported that the Committee has nine items for consideration and two items for information. Commissioner Batson summarized the items and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals
  - 1. Clemson University
    - a. Charleston Property Acquisition
      - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - 2. College of Charleston
    - a. McAlister Residence Hall 2021 Renovation
      - Phase II Budget Increase
    - b. Stern Student Center Renovation
      - Increase Budget (Phase II)
  - 3. Francis Marion University
    - a. Smith University Center Renovations/Improvements
      - Phase II Budget Increase
  - 4. Horry-Georgetown Technical College
    - a. Renovation/Expansion of Grand Strand Building 100
      - Increase Budget (Phase II)
  - 5. South Carolina State University
    - a. Reserve Officers Training Corp. Center (ROTC)
      - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - 6. The Citadel
    - a. Engineering Replacement Building
      - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - 7. University of South Carolina - Columbia
    - a. Green and Garner I – Energy Optimization
      - Establish Project (Phase I)
- B. Lease
  - 1. Medical University of South Carolina
    - a. Fishburne Ballpark Parking Lot
      - Lease Renewal (Two-year Term)

- C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during June and July (For information, no action)
- D. CHE Annual Budget Report (For information, no action)

## **6.05 Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement**

**Doug Snyder**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Snyder to provide a report on the Committee on Strategic Initiatives & Engagement. Commissioner Snyder reported that there are 17 statutes to review by the Committee. He explained that the statutes will be categorized, then disbursed to various Committees based on subject. Commissioner Snyder reported on annual engagement metrics for fiscal year 2024. He said that his committee is working on establishing a committee charter and establishing a formal process for dealing with significant issues.

**A. Proposed Assignment of Statute Review to other CHE Committees (For information, no action)**

**B. CHE Annual Engagement Metrics for FY 2024 (For information, no action)**

## **7. Other Business Announcements**

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. Commissioner Batson announced that his committee will be working on creating a charter, as well.

## **8. Public Comment**

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

## **9. Executive Session**

Chair Hayes asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, to which Commissioners Horne and Seckinger motioned and seconded, respectively. Chair Hayes called for the vote and Commissioners went into executive session. Commissioners returned from executive session with no action being taken.

## **10. End of Business Meeting**

Chair Hayes and President Monhollon thanked everyone for their work. President Monhollon announced that The Citadel will host the CHE for its November CHE Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.