



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
12:30 p.m., September 7, 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  
Laura Belcher  
Mariam Dittmann  
Scheri Eichelberger  
Monica Goodwin  
April Jones  
Andrea LaTouche  
Yolanda McCree  
Frank Myers  
Kenita Pitts-Howard

Christopher Robinson  
Christina Seale  
Yarley Steedly  
Kara Smith  
Georges Tippens  
Bunnie Ward  
Tanya Weigold  
Leslie Williams  
Bryce Wilson  
Karen Woodfaulk  
Lishu Yin

**Guests**

Clay Barton, Newberry College  
Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Betty Boatwright, SC State University  
Bonnie Carson Durham, University of South  
Carolina Upstate  
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University  
Lewis Carter, SC House of Representatives  
John Catalano, University of South Carolina-  
Palmetto College  
James Colbert, Lander University  
Suzanne Koty, CERRA  
Darrell Drafekford, SC Office of State Inspector  
General  
Timothy Druke, Winthrop University  
Frederick Evans, SC State University  
Dylan Gaul, SC Office of State Inspector  
General  
Jenna Hallman, CERRA  
Julian Harris, SC Office of State Inspector  
General  
Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University  
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Columbia

Pamela Jones, SC Department of Employment  
and Workforce  
Roy Jones, Clemson University  
Tanya King, The Citadel  
Shannon Means, University of South Carolina  
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina  
Aiken  
Erin Paysinger, Lander University  
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and  
Universities  
James Ritter, SC Department of Education  
Mark Rollins, Lander University  
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation &  
Information  
David Staten, SC State University  
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University  
Pamela Steinke, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Rosaline Sumpter, SC Technical College System  
Reinell Thomas-Myers, South Carolina State  
University  
Tarrence Trapp, SC Office of State Inspector  
General

Bessie Watson, SC Office of State Inspector  
General  
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives

Jennifer Wilbanks, Horry Georgetown Technical  
College  
Angela Williams, Midlands Technical College  
Tangar Young, SC State University

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 12:35 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 August 4, 2023, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Batson 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 also recognized Committees for their work.

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

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon announced new hires: Office of Student Affairs welcomed Morgan Clinton, College Access Manager and the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement welcomed Nia Simmons, Transfer Manager.

President Monhollon announced that nursing deans, SC Student Loan Corporation representatives, and Dr. Gheesling convened on August 31 to discuss the nursing initiative. He reported that students can continue to apply for funds for the current term through the end of the fall term, and that one application had been received thus far.

President Monhollon reported that good progress is being made on the transfer initiative. He said that the General Assembly approved Proviso 117.135 this year that directed CHE to implement recommendations made by the Transfer Taskforce in its report released in April. President Monhollon reported CHE staff had established the Strategic Leadership Council, comprised of different sectors in higher education, to

guide the work. He announced that there will be a transfer convening on October 4 in Columbia as a follow-up to the April convening.

President Monhollon announced the meeting schedule of the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) Executive Committee and full Committee. He reported that Dr. Gheesling is meeting weekly with the CCWD as it develops a Unified State Plan for workforce development. He shared a list of ongoing projects required in Act 67 of 2023.

President Monhollon reported that the agency received a request for information from the Governor's Office on July 18 and submitted the requested information on Sept 1. He explained that the request included information on the process for approval, modification, change and termination of programs; academic program policy and procedures; review of program revenue/costs in new degree proposals; and CHE's coordination of Act 67.

President Monhollon reported that the House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC) requested the Inspector General (IG) expand its review to include a management review. He explained that the review will evaluate all aspects of how the agency is managed. He said that it is the IG's goal to complete the review within 60 days.

President Monhollon reported that the CHE is mandated by proviso to assist with facilitation of the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA). He explained that University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University will jointly develop a proposal, which will be reviewed and considered by the CHE, the Joint Board Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Fiscal Approving Authority (SFAA). He reported that the proposal has not been received by the CHE, but the anticipated timeline is for the proposal to be considered during the November CHE Meeting.

President Monhollon made a few announcements about internal CHE operations: The Office of Internal Operations and Administration and the Office of Data Management, Planning and IT will relocate in early October to 220 Stone Ridge. Dr. Jessica Berry has accepted the position of Senior Academic Program Manager in the Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing. The Staff Relations Committee will continue to meet to develop recommendations on how to improve work conditions. New Commissioner orientation for Gene Fant was held on September 6.

President Monhollon reported that the Campus Safety Conference Planning Work Group has been formed and is working to plan a conference to be held tentatively in March.

Commissioner Seckinger recommended that Commissioners receive a copy of the Cleary Report so that Commissioners are aware of the issues on campuses.

President Monhollon announced upcoming events: October 4, Transfer Convening; October 24, Executive Committee; and November 1-2 CHE meeting at The Citadel.

President Monhollon reminded everyone of the CHE public agenda and its priorities.

## **5. Legislative Report**

Chair Hayes called on Ms. Steedly to provide the legislative report. Ms. Steedly reported that development of the agency's budget is top priority, which is due to the Executive Budget Office on September 22. She said that the agency will have proviso recommendations to report at the next Board meeting. Ms. Steedly reported that the House and Senate is evaluating funds for the year, as there has been a general increase in the number of legislative requests.

## **6. Committee Reports**

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

Chair Hayes reported that the Board needs to consider the vice chair election. Commissioner Dyer nominated Commissioner Horne and Commissioner Bryson seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and Commissioner Horne was elected as vice chair. Commissioner Seckinger abstained from the vote.

Chair Hayes called on Dr. Gwynth Nelson, Executive Director of the SC Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII), to report on the SC III FY 2024 budget. Dr. Nelson provided an overview of the SCIII budget for FY 2023-24 and asked whether there were any questions. President Monhollon explained that consideration of the SCIII budget is part of the agency's oversight. Dr. Nelson addressed Commissioner Dyer's questions regarding the subtotal for Clinton College and clarification on administrative cost.

Commissioner Seckinger recommended the agency further review the budget before approving. She suggested that one of the CHE's standing committees, perhaps the Committee on Access and Equity, review the budget. Commissioner Seckinger motioned to have the Committee on Access & Equity review the budget first then have the budget considered during the November CHE business meeting; Commissioner Teppara seconded. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion passed. Chair Hayes said that a special-called Committee on Access & Equity Meeting could be called to consider the item.

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

**Edgar Dyer**

Chair Hayes called on Commissioner Dyer to provide a report on the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL). Commissioner Dyer reported that the Committee had two items for consideration and three items for information, which he summarized and motioned for the approval of the consent agenda. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Centers of Excellence Budget and Request for Proposals
- B. CERRA Annual Report and Budget
- C. Annual Report on Academic Common Market, 2022-2023 (For information, no action)
- D. Annual Report on Regional Contract Program, 2022-2023 (For information, no action)
- E. Report on Added and Terminated Programs, FY2021-2023 (For information, no action)

**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 & Equity and Student Services. Commissioner Mobley reported that the Committee had 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) Annual Report
- B. College Transition Program (CTP) Scholarship Report
- C. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (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 had ten items for consideration and one item 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. Commissioner Batson called on Mr. Tippens to report on staff approvals. Mr. Tippens reported that there were six staff approvals for the month, all funded by legislative appropriations.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals

1. Clemson University
  - a. Littlejohn Coliseum and Swann Pavilion
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - b. Jervy Athletic Center Renovations and Performance & Wellness Center Addition
    - Increase Budget (Phase II)
  - c. Bryan Mall High Rise Renovations
    - Phase II Budget Increase
2. College of Charleston
  - a. Central Energy Facility and Piping Infrastructure Upgrades
    - Phase I Scope Revision
  - b. Simons Center for the Arts Renovation/Expansion
    - Phase II Budget Increase
3. Lander University
  - a. Student Dining Hall Renovation
    - Phase II Budget Increase
4. Piedmont Technical College
  - a. Family Life and Conference Center
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - b. Land Acquisition – Edgefield Center for Manufacturing Excellence
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
5. Spartanburg Community College
  - a. P. Dan Hull Building Reroof Project
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
6. Winthrop University
  - a. Land Acquisition – Courtyard Apartments
    - Establish Project (Phase I)

### B. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during August (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 the Committee had five items for information and summarized the items. He reported that the Committee had allocated statutes to appropriate Committees as it relates to the House Legislative Oversight Committee statute recommendations. He announced that the Committee is working on developing a committee charter and recommended that each standing committee draft a charter as well. Commissioner Snyder called on Mr. Swart to give a brief update on engagement activities for the month.

## FOR INFORMATION, NO ACTION

- A. Statute Review and Committee Charter Timetable
- B. CHE Mission, Vision, and Values Discussion
- C. Strategic Planning Discussion
- D. Initiatives Update (Transfer and Workforce Development)
- E. Engagement Activities Update

### **7. Other Business Announcements**

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. There was no further business to consider.

### **8. Public Comment**

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

### **9. Training**

Commissioners received annual training from the Agency Head Salary Commission, provided by Blythe Littlefield.

### **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. Chair Hayes announced the Executive Committee will meet immediately following the business meeting, followed by the Committee on Access & Equity. The business meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.