



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education  
1:00 p.m., November 2, 2023  
171 Moultrie St, Charleston, SC, 29409  
& Via Zoom Webinar

**Members**

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

Commissioner Hugh Mobley  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers, virtual  
Commissioner Doug Snyder  
Commissioner Dino Teppara

**Members Excused**

Commissioner Patrick White

**Commission Staff Present**

Rusty Monhollon  
Argentini Anderson  
Jessica Berry  
Laura Belcher  
Kristin Brook  
Jamie Covell  
Scheri Eichelberger  
Gene Fant  
Shardai Figgures  
Corey Gheesling  
Kathryn Harris  
Matthew Hartenstine  
April Jones  
Andrea LaTouche  
Yolanda McCree  
Yolanda Myers

Kenita Pitts-Howard  
Melissa Price  
Christopher Robinson  
Christina Seale  
Nia Simmons  
Kara Smith  
Mark Swart  
Ashton Talbert  
Georges Tippens  
Bunnie Ward  
Tanya Weigold  
Leslie Williams  
Bryce Wilson  
Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Thomas Beach, SC House Representative  
Beth Bell, Clemson University  
Betty Boatwright, SC State University  
Wille Bradley, Private Citizen  
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University  
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University  
Aimee Carter, SC Technical College System  
Jessica Carter, Lowcountry Graduate Center  
Cheryl Caution-Parker, SC Institutes of  
Innovation & Information  
James Colbert, Lander University  
April Cromer, SC House of Representative  
Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston  
Kathleen Dille, The Citadel

Beth Dinndorf, GSSM Foundation  
Frederick Evans, SC State University  
Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical  
College  
Douglas Gantt, South Carolina State University  
Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Michael Hughes, Executive Budget Office  
Pamela Jones, SC Department of Employment  
and Workforce  
Peter Judge, Winthrop University  
Chip Limehouse, University of South Carolina  
Alken  
John Loonan, College of Charleston

Michael Matthew, University of South Carolina  
Shannon Means, University of South Carolina  
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina  
Aiken  
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation &  
Information  
Erin Paysinger, Lander University  
Logan Pender, Winthrop University  
Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and  
Universities  
Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College  
Preethi Saint, The Citadel  
Andy Shain, University of South Carolina

Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation &  
Information  
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University  
Pamela Steinke, University of South Carolina  
Upstate  
Aubrey Stewart, University of South Carolina  
Lander  
Rosaline Sumpter, SC Technical College System  
Abbie Thielke, McMillan Pazdan Smith  
Architecture  
Alissa Warters, Francis Marion University  
Macey Webb, SC House of Representatives

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

Chair Hayes convened the meeting at 1:05 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 September 7, 2023, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Bryson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3. Chair's Report**

Chair Hayes thanked The Citadel for hosting the Commission for a two-day site visit.

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

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. President Monhollon reiterated thanks to The Citadel for hosting the Commission. President Monhollon introduced Evan Ortlieb and Joseph Fairley, who presented The Citadel's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) project entitled, *Bridging the Gap Through Competency-Based Education and Peer Support*.

President Monhollon announced new hires: Office of Academic Affairs and Licensing welcomed Mathew Hartenstine, Licensing Coordinator and Melissa Price, Academic Program Manager and the Office of Student Affairs welcomed Jamie Covell, College Access Consultant.

President Monhollon announced that a Transfer Convening was held on October 4 at which there were 131 attendees, with 35 institutions represented. He reported that the group discussed: SC Transfer and SC Transfer Leadership Council updates; Best Practices for Bridge Collaboration Programs; Reverse Transfer Journey and Removing Transfer Obstacles. He also announced that he and other CHE staff will attend a *Raise the Bar Summit* hosted by the US Department of Education, focused on *Tackling Transfer to Increase Access, Improve Completion and Prepare Today's Workforce*.

President Monhollon reported that the Council of Presidents met on October 25. He said the Council received a presentation by the *Post and Courier* regarding campus partnerships and student internships and received updates from the CHE regarding HLOC, Transfer Activity, and the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development CCWD work on the Unified State Plan. Commissioner Seckinger requested that a copy of the Unified State Plan be provided to Commissioners once received.

President Monhollon said that he would have a discussion with the Council regarding the frequency of meeting dates and the possibility of a joint meeting with the CHE. He announced that the next Council of Presidents Meeting will be held on February 7 in Columbia and invited Commissioners to attend. President Monhollon proposed, if changes are made to statute, holding a future CHE Business Meeting on the same day as a Council of Presidents Meeting.

President Monhollon reported that the CHE is mandated by Proviso 11.24 to assist with facilitation of the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA). He explained that the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University have drafted a joint proposal, which will be reviewed and considered by the CHE, the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Fiscal Approving Authority (SFAA). Commissioner Sellers asked about the allocation of funds, to which President Monhollon explained that Clemson University and University of South Carolina have been allocated \$16 million and South Carolina State University has been allocated \$8 million as determined by the General Assembly.

President Monhollon reported on the CHE's fiscal year 2025 budget. He said that the CHE submitted its FY 2025 budget to the Executive Budget Office on September 22 and made a budget presentation to the Governor's office on October 17. President Monhollon reported that the following were included in the budget request: recurring PASCAL funds and proviso changes: Troops-to-Teachers; Need-based grants; In-state tuition payment; GEAR UP; and Educator Preparation Report Card.

President Monhollon announced staff attendance and participation in the following events: SREB Student Success Summit Panel on September 14; SC Chamber Workforce Development Symposium on September 19; LAUNCH Conference on College and Career Pathways on October 4; and Upstate Talent Forum Panel on October 11.

President Monhollon also announced internal CHE operations activity: submission of the agency's Accountability Report on September 15; Office of Internal Operations and Administration and the Office of Data Management, Planning and IT transition to satellite office on November 2; SC Chamber of Education and Workforce Development Meeting on October 5; and agency data migration completion next summer.

## **5. Committee Reports**

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

Chair Hayes asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Proposed 2024 CHE Business & Executive Committee Schedule. With there being no comment, Chair Hayes motioned for approval and the schedule was passed unanimously.

### **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 nine items for consideration, 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. New Program Proposals**

1. University of South Carolina-Aiken, BS., Public Health
2. University of South Carolina-Aiken. B.S., Software Engineering
3. University of South Carolina-Aiken, M.S., Computer and Information Science
4. University of South Carolina-Columbia, B.S., Data Analytics
5. University of South Carolina-Columbia, B.S., Data Science
6. University of South Carolina-Columbia, D.N.P., Nurse Midwife
7. University of South Carolina-Columbia, M.S.N., Nurse Midwife

##### **B. Program Modifications**

1. University of South Carolina-Aiken, B.S., Applied Computer Science

##### **C. New Centers**

1. Clemson University, The Energy Center

**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 one item on the consent agenda for consideration. He described the SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) FY23-24 Headquarters Administrative budget and stated that the SCIII budget will be monitored on a quarterly reporting basis by the Committee. Commissioner Mobley motioned for the approval of the consent agenda item. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) FY23-24 Headquarters Administrative Budget**

**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 13 items for consideration with the removal of items two and four from the consent agenda. Commissioner Batson summarized the items and motioned for the approval of the remaining items. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the consent agenda was approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson and Mr. Tippens summarized item C, listed for action and Commissioner Batson motioned for its approval. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the item was approved unanimously. Commissioner Batson then called on Mr. Wilson to provide the CHE Quarter 1 Budget Report. Mr. Bryce summarized the CHE Budget Report.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals**
  - 1. College of Charleston**
    - a. 81 Wentworth Street Land Purchase**
      - Establish Project
    - b. New LX Residence Hall Construction**
      - Establish Project
  - 2. Francis Marion University**
    - a. Village Apartments Interior Renovation**
      - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - 3. Medical University of South Carolina**
    - a. Land Acquisition – 13 Properties**
      - i. 4295 Arco Lane, Charleston, SC**
      - ii. 30 Bee Street, Charleston, SC**
      - iii. 45 Bee Street, Charleston, SC**
      - iv. 51 Bee Street, Charleston, SC**
      - v. 55 Bee Street, Charleston, SC**
      - vi. 57 Bee Street, Charleston, SC**
      - vii. 59 Beet Street, Charleston, SC**
      - viii. 52 Courtenay Drive, Charleston, SC**
      - ix. 56 Courtenay Drive, Charleston, SC**
      - x. 17 Ehrhardt Drive, Charleston, SC**

- xi. 20 Ehrhardt Drive, Charleston, SC
- xii. 28 Ehrhardt Drive, Charleston, SC
- xiii. 151 Rutledge Avenue, Charleston, SC
  - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- 4. South Carolina State University
  - a. Supplemental Housing – Modular Lease
    - Establish Project
- 5. The Citadel
  - a. 201-203 Richardson Ave Renovation/Addition
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - b. Johnson Hagood Stadium East Stands Reconstruction
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
  - c. Stevens Barracks Renovation
    - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- 6. Tri-County Technical College
  - a. Pendleton Land Acquisition
    - Establish Project (Phase I)
- 7. University of South Carolina – Columbia
  - a. Green and Garnet I – Energy Optimization
    - Increase Budget (Phase II)
  - b. Health Sciences Campus Land Acquisition
    - Increase Budget
  - c. River Property Land Acquisition
    - Increase Budget (Phase II)
- B. Lease
  - 1. College of Charleston
    - a. Student Housing
      - Establish New Lease
  - 2. University of South Carolina – Columbia
    - a. USC Huger – Park Place Housing

C. 2023-24 Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Project Plan (For Action)

D. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during September and October  
(For information, no action)

E. 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 the Committee had four items for information and summarized the items. He provided an overview of CHE engagement activities for September and October. Commissioner Snyder reported that CHE standing committees are in process of drafting their committee charters and recommended that committees be prepared to have their charters formally considered at the December CHE Business Meeting.

Commissioner Snyder engaged Commissioners to discuss seven follow-up questions posed by the House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC). He summarized main points. Commissioner Bryson

recommended having a student leader from across the State join the first few minutes of CHE Business meetings to express their thoughts on higher education. Commissioners engaged in extended conversation about student representation on the board. Commissioners engaged in conversation about whether the agency should have the authority to terminate academic degree programs as it has in the past. Ms. Belcher explained that the current process includes a Program Productivity Report prepared by the agency and is used to make recommendations to institutions based on the report.

**FOR INFORMATION, NO ACTION**

- A. Update: CHE Engagement
- B. Update: Committee Charters
- C. Update: CHE's Mission, Vision & Values
- D. Discussion: HLOC Request for Board of Commissioners' Input

**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. End of Business Meeting**

Chair Hayes and President Monhollon thanked The Citadel for hosting the CHE and thanked staff for their work. The business meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.