



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education
1:00 p.m., December 7, 2023
1122 Lady Street, Suite 400, Columbia, SC, 29403
& Via Zoom Webinar

Members

Commissioner Wes Hayes, Chair	Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair	Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Edgar Dyer	Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Paul Batson	Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Jenni Bryson, virtual	Commissioner Patrick White, virtual
Commissioner Gene Fant	

Members Excused

Commissioner Cleveland Sellers

Commission Staff Present

Rusty Monhollon	Alfie Mincy
Argentini Anderson	Kenita Pitts
Jessica Berry	Melissa Price
Laura Belcher	Christopher Robinson
Kristin Brook	Christina Seale
Jamie Covell	Nia Simmons
Morgan Clinton	Kara Smith
Scheri Eichelberger	Yarley Steedly
Shardai Figgures	Mark Swart
Monica Goodwin	Ashton Talbert
Corey Gheesling	Georges Tippens
Kathryn Harris	Bunnie Ward
Matthew Hartenstine	Tanya Weigold
Ashlee King	Leslie Williams
Andrea LaTouche	Bryce Wilson
Mariana Manic	Karen Woodfaulk
Yolanda McCree	Lishu Yin
Yolanda Myers	

Guests

Beth Bell, Clemson University	Timothy Druke, Winthrop University
Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University	Lauren Ellis, Pearson Education
Betty Boatwright, SC State University	Kim Ellisor, Francis Marion University
Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University	Frederick Evans, SC State University
Bonnie Carson, University of South Carolina Beaufort	Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Will Carswell, Francis Marion University	Katie Harrison, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Jessica Carter, Lowcountry Graduate Center	Dan Heimmermann, University of South Carolina Aiken
John Catalano, University of South Carolina Palmetto College	Pamela Jones, SC Department of Employment and Workforce
James Colbert, Lander University	Peter Judge, Winthrop University
Kathy Coleman, Clemson University	

John Loonan, College of Charleston
Mary Mackie, The Southern Group of South Carolina
Elbert Malone, SC State University
Brian Mallory, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Shannon Means, University of South Carolina
Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina Aiken
Gwynth Nelson, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
Erin Paysinger, Lander University

Jeff Perez, SC Independent Colleges and Universities
Cam Reagin, University of South Carolina Aiken
Sabrina Sims, Spartanburg Community College
Kimberly Smalls, SC Institutes of Innovation & Information
David Staten, SC State University
Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Pamela Steinke, University of South Carolina Upstate
Abbie Thielke, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture
Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University

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 November 2, 2023, CHE Business meeting and asked for any additions or corrections. Commissioner Horne motioned to approve minutes as presented, and Commissioner Batson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report

Chair Hayes asked for a moment of silence in recognition of Pearl Harbor Day.

4. President and Executive Director's Report

Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to give his report. 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 the Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) Executive Committee met on November 14 and the full Board will meet on December 14. He reported that the Council is continuing to work on development of the Unified State Plan, which is required by Act 67.

President Monhollon announced that he, as part of a nine member South Carolina (SC) team, attended the *Raise the Bar Summit*. He explained that the Summit was an event hosted by the US Department of Education as an effort to increase educational attainment. He said that the theme of the summit addressed *Tackling Transfer to Increase Access, Improve Completion and Prepare Today's Workforce*. President Monhollon said that the CHE was extended a grant opportunity by Ithaka, which is a nonprofit organization that will assist with the transfer initiative. President Monhollon stated that through the Articulation of Credit Transfer Project, Ithaka will allocate funding to three states, Connecticut; South Carolina; and Washington, and “make all information about transferring to different colleges completely public and easily accessible.” He reported that SC has signed a contract with Ithaka and will participate in two cohorts. Commissioner Dyer asked how the data collected by Dextera correlates to data that has already been collected by the State, to which President Monhollon said that the data will be complimentary. President Monhollon reported that 26 of 33 public institutions signed a letter of commitment to develop a statewide transfer agreement. Commissioner Dyer asked whether there was follow-up with the seven institutions who did not sign the commitment statement. Commissioner Dyer asked that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing address this issue during its next meeting. President Perez expressed support of the statement and supports signing on behalf of the SC Independent Colleges and Universities.

President Monhollon shared enrollment numbers and headcount from Fall 2019-2023. He said that the final numbers would not be available until the start of 2024. Commissioner Horne suggested a timelier update, to which President Monhollon said that he would follow-up with Ms. Goodwin.

President Monhollon reported that the House Legislative Oversight Committee (HLOC) Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee has scheduled the CHE to meet on December 11 at 10:00 a.m. to receive the Inspector General's report. He said that the agency will have the opportunity to respond verbally and in writing to the report after it has been released.

President Monhollon announced that the first final round interview for the Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing positions will be conducted tomorrow, December 8 and two additional candidate interviews are scheduled December 12 and December 15.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Hayes reported that the Executive Committee has one item for consideration, Battelle Savannah River Alliance Proposal. Chair Hayes called on President Monhollon to summarize the proposal. President Monhollon reported that the CHE is mandated by Proviso 11.24 to assist with the approval of a project plan to support the Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA). He explained that the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and South Carolina State University drafted a joint proposal for utilizing the \$40 million allocated for this initiative. President Monhollon said that the funds must be allocated by June 30, or it will no longer be available. Commissioner Dyer asked why The Citadel was not considered, it was explained that Battelle Savannah River Alliance made their own commitments and recruited universities. Commissioners asked questions about CHE's role in the process, to which it was explained that CHE's role is to allocate the funds and to receive a report on how the funds were used. Commissioner Horne asked that we think about the health and security of students and staff when considering the proposal. Chair Hayes asked if there were any further comment. With there being no further discussion, Chair Hayes called for the vote and the item passed unanimously.

5.02 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 three 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. Centers of Excellence Proposal
- B. Committee Charter
- C. USC REACH Act Module

5.03 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, one additional item for action, and one item for information only. 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. Chair Hayes called for the vote on the committee charter, and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioners engaged in conversation about SC State University

eliminating its history and general education programs. President Monhollon supports the effort of evaluation of programs to determine needs and interest.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarter I Report
- B. Committee Charter (For action)
- C. SC National Guard College Assistance Program Annual Review

5.04 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 eight items for consideration, one additional item for action, and one item for information only. 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 Snyder motioned to bypass the CHE Bylaw 48-hour rule so that committee charters for the Committee on Finance and Facilities and Committee and the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement may be considered. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hayes then called for the vote to approve the committee charter, and the motioned passed unanimously. Commissioner Batson called on Mr. Tippens to summarize staff approvals. Mr. Tippens summarized nine staff approvals for November and the Proviso 117.36 Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Permanent Improvement Project Approvals
 - 1. Clemson University
 - a. Williamson Road Parking Garage
 - Establish Project
 - b. Lehotsky Hall Replacement
 - Phase II Budget Increase
 - c. Women’s Sport Program Expansion (Gymnastics/Lacrosse)
 - Change Source of Funds
 - 2. Coastal Carolina University
 - a. Land Acquisition for Future Health and Human Performance Building
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - 3. College of Charleston
 - a. 176 Lockwood Exterior Repairs
 - Establish Project (Phase I)
 - b. Buist Residence Hall Renovation
 - Increase Budget (Phase II)
 - 4. South Carolina State University
 - a. Supplemental Housing – Modular Lease
 - Establish Project (Phase I/Phase II)
 - 5. Winthrop University
 - a. Purchase Campus Walk Apartments

– Establish Project (Phase I)

- B. Committee Charter (For Action)
- C. Permanent Improvement Project Staff Approvals during November (For information, no action)
- D. Proviso 117.36 Reports (For information, no action)

5.05 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 and Engagement. Commissioner Snyder reported that the Committee had one item for action and five items for information. Commissioner Snyder thanked committees for their work on the committee charters and motioned for the approval of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement charter. Chair Hayes called for the vote and the motion passed. He summarized informational items A-E. Commissioner Snyder called on Ms. Steedly to provide the legislative update. Ms. Steedly summarized the budget submission process and reported on what the CHE included in its budget request. Ms. Steedly announced prefile dates November 16 and December 14 (House) and Nov 30 (Senate). She reported that general themes include teacher salaries, grant reporting, cybersecurity, and Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP). Ms. Steedly reported that pending items include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and educational attainment bill, which includes FAFSA completion, Educator Preparation Report Card, Dual Enrollment, Lottery tuition Assistance Program (LTAP) funds available to 10-12 grades, and transfer and reverse transfer.

FOR INFORMATION, ONE FOR ACTION

- A. Committee Charter (For action)
- B. Transfer Update (For information, no action)
- C. Workforce Development (For information, no action)
- D. CHE Engagement Activities (For information, no action)
- E. Mission, Vision, Values Review Update (For information, no action)
- F. Legislative & Budget Update (For information, no action)

6. Other Business Announcements

Chair Hayes asked whether there was any other business. Commissioner Snyder said that an update will be made available regarding the CHE Bylaws prior to the February business meeting. President Monhollon reminded everyone of the HLOC meeting on December 11 and thanked staff for their assistance with preparing for HLOC.

7. Public Comment

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

8. End of Business Meeting

The business meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.