



Meeting Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL)
February 9, 2023

Members

Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne, Chair
Commissioner Ben Satcher, Vice Chair
Commissioner Jenni Bryson
Commissioner Eddie Dyer
Commissioner Linda Dolny
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger

Members Excused

Commissioner Charles Dalton

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Mariam Dittmann	Mr. Georges Tippins	Dr. Kristin Brooks
Dr. Rusty Monhollon	Dr. Argentini Anderson	Ms. Leslie Williams
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk	Ms. Ashton Talbert	Mr. Christopher Glenn
Dr. Corey Gheesling	Dr. Lishu Yin	Dr. Maggie May
Ms. Kenita Pitts-Howards		

Guests

Ms. Alexandra Weaver
Mr. Rob Essaf, Clemson University
Dr. William Carswell, Francis Marion University
Mr. Clay Barton, South Carolina Department of Education
Dr. Shirleatha Dunlap, University of South Carolina, Upstate
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina, Aiken
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Tom Beeson, Clemson University
Dr. Frederick Evans, South Carolina State University
Dr. Teresa Burns, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Pam Steinke, University of South Carolina, Upstate
Ms. Jacki Walsh, South Carolina Department of Education
Mr. Whitney Jett, South Carolina Department of Education
Mr. James Ritter, South Carolina Department of Education
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University
Ms. Sarah Hunt-Barron, Lander University
Ms. Cindi Nixon, Francis Marion University
Mr. Cal Johnston, Francis Marion University
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University
Ms. Trena Houpp, University of South Carolina, Columbia
Dr. Mark Del Mastro, College of Charleston

Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
Dr. Martha Moriarty, University of South Carolina, Beaufort
Ms. Allison Steadman, Francis Marion University
Mr. Paul Patrick, College of Charleston
Mr. Tim Druke, Winthrop University
Dr. Donna Arnett, University of South Carolina

All Attended either In-Person or via Zoom

Chair Horne convened the meeting at 10:01. Dr. Dittman confirmed the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and established a quorum.

1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Horne asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **The Committee approved the agenda.**

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chair Horne asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **The Committee approved the minutes.**

3. Chair's Report

Chair Horne made brief remarks to the Committee and those in attendance. The Committee would like to receive program review documents two weeks prior to the meetings in order to present/pose questions back to the institutions so that the institutions can respond. The Committee would like to spend less time during the meetings discussing these topics and more time discussing things like agenda item 11 (Academic Program Approval presentation).

4. Director's Report

Dr. Dittmann stated that the Academic Affairs and Licensing Office has been working to refill positions and welcomes Dr. Corey Gheesling and Dr. Maggie May.

The Academic Affairs and Licensing Office is taking the opportunity to look at policies/procedures and reports to ensure that we are being efficient and effective with what we do and the value of Commissioners and institutions time.

5. Clemson University: Autism Support

Dr. Tom Beeson, Clemson Univeristy, provided a presentation on the Clemson Spectrum Program. After the presentation, Commissioner Dolny asked if Dr. Beeson had heard of the HOPE foundation and if she could share the presentation with them. Commissioner Seckinger asked if there could be a place on the CHE website where information on this program could be located.

6. Program Proposals

Motion made to move item 8G out of the consent agenda. Approved by Committee.

Dr. Pam Steinke provided a brief overview of item 8G and how they hope to increase their community connection as a regional comprehensive and better help to meet the workforce needs of students in their respective fields (legal/criminal justice).

Commissioner Satcher asked about funding and evaluation benchmarks. Dr. Steinke responded that they hope to receive federal grants to asisst and that targets have not yet been established.

Commissioner Seckinger asked Dr. Steinke if she could provide a definition for “social justice” as it is a subjective term. Commissioner Seckinger noted that she has concerns about the wording.

Commissioner Dolny noted that the goals seemed ambitious and wondered if it would be better to have fewer goals and then over deliver.

Commissioner Horne asked for a vote. Commissioner Seckinger opposed. **Item passed.**

Commissioner Satcher stated that agenda items 8B and 8D were pulled from consideration by the institution leaving 8A, 8C, 8E, and 8F for approval. **Approved by Committee.** Chair Horne inquired about 8B and 8D and was told that further discussion was needed with the South Carolina Department of Education and these will be brought back at a later date.

Motion made to approve the agenda items 9A and 9B.

Commissioner Seckinger stated concerns related to the two professional doctorate universities being presented. Georges Tippins provided information related to the proviso and that CHE is seeking statutory changes so it will be law. Chair Horne noted that this was discussed at the November meeting as well.

Commissioner Seckinger abstained from the vote for items 9A and 9B. **Items passed.**

7. USCB REACH Act Compliance Issues

Chair Horne informed the Committee that three courses were in question and that Dr. Dittmann has worked with USC Beaufort on this matter. USC Beaufort stated that they are now in complete compliance and apologize for their oversight. Moving forward, USC Beaufort will go through the correct process for approval and be in REACH Act compliance.

Commissioner Dyer noted that we do not need to focus on the students and that they are innocent on this issue that was caused by the misinterpretation of the legislation by the faculty/staff of the USCB. Commissioner Dyer informed Dr. Eric Skipper that the USCB submissions to CAAL would likely be under enhanced scrutiny for the foreseeable future, which was acknowledged and understood by Dr. Skipper.

8. Academic Program Approval

Dr. Corey Gheesling provided a presentation on the academic affairs approval process and what is being done to streamline that process. The Commissioners provided positive feedback regarding the presentation.

Commissioner Seckinger shared her concerns about Roberts Rule of Law and inquired about receiving copies of questions from others (Commissioners) when posed about academic programs. Commissioner Satcher noted that with the new adopted policy regarding providing information, would it be permissible to receive questions and answers a week prior to the meeting? Georges Tippins noted he would research and let the Committee know. Dr. Dittmann reiterated that CHE is working to ensure we provide information two weeks in advance and if we have those questions a week in advance, we will provide them to the institutions and share with the Commissioners to help prepare for the CAAL meetings. As long as there is not a quorum and no action to vote, it was fine to communicate via email, phone calls, and/or text messages with each other.

9. Other Business

Chair Horne asked if there was any other business.

Dr. Dittman noted that Clemson University inquired about the REACH Act and students who transfer. Discussion was had by the Commissioners regarding a module approach and what steps would need to be done to approve this option to meet the requirements of the REACH Act. Clemson was asked to prepare a proposal for formal review and approval.

10. Adjournment

Chair Horne asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.