

MINUTES  
**COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS**

Executive Board Room  
Wilbur O. and Ann Powers  
College of Business  
Clemson, South Carolina  
October 25, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Notification as required by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act was given at least twenty-four hours before the meeting by posting the notice and agenda on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's website.

After notification as required by the Freedom of Information Act, Dr. Jim Clements, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. with the following present:

Dr. Jim Clements, *Chair, presiding*  
Dr. Luther (Fred) Carter, Francis Marion University  
Dr. Lisa Saladin for Dr. David Cole, Medical University of South Carolina  
Dr. Walter Collins, University of South Carolina Lancaster  
Dr. April Cone, University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie (Virtual)  
Dr. Richard Cosentino, Lander University  
Dr. Susan Elkins, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College  
Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Richard Gough, Technical College of the Lowcountry (Virtual)  
Dr. Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate (Virtual)  
Dr. Patricia Lee, Williamsburg Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Randy Lowell, University of South Carolina Union  
Dr. Forrest Mahan, Aiken Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Stacey Moore, York Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort (Virtual)  
Dr. Kevin Pollock, Central Carolina Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Mary Thornley, Trident Technical College (Virtual)  
Dr. Peter Judge for Dr. Edward Serna, Winthrop University (Virtual)

CHE Staff

Laura Belcher, Senior Advisor to the President and Executive Director  
Dr. Corey Gheesling, Workforce Development Manager

Bunnie Lempesis Ward, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement (Virtual)  
Dr. Rusty Monhollon, President and Executive Director

Guests:

Media PJ Browning, Publisher and Jeff Taylor, Executive Editor, *Post and Courier*

Chair Clements asked participants to introduce themselves.

Chair Clements noted a quorum was present.

Chair Clements introduced the draft minutes for the May 24, 2023 meeting and asked whether there was any discussion. Dr. Carter made the motion to accept the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saladin. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Presentation

Dr. Fred Carter introduced PJ Browning, Publisher and Jeff Taylor, Executive Editor of the Post And Courier for a presentation

### Discussion Topics

#### **CHE Updates**

**Dr. Rusty Monhollon**

1. House Legislative Oversight Committee  
Dr. Monhollon presented an update on the work of the HLOC Committee and questions the Committee has raised with respect to CHE.
2. Transfer Task Force  
Dr. Monhollon delivered an update on the Transfer Task Force stating that the Transfer Conference convened on October 4 with 131 attendees; 35 IHEs across all sectors including a student panel. He also noted the requirements of Proviso 117.135, which include implementation of Transfer Task Force recommendations.
3. Council for Work Force Development  
Dr. Corey Gheesling delivered a presentation on the CCWD and progress towards the Unified State Plan (USP); important dates are November 14: CCWD Executive Committee meeting and December 14: Full CCWD meeting.

#### **Legislative Outlook**

**Council of Presidents**

Discussion among Presidents centered around the need for consistent messaging among institutions with respect to legislation and budget, with CHE included in the common message.

Dr. Carter stated the need for meaningful data related to keeping higher education affordable and tuition mitigation. He proposed shorter term data, realized by bringing together economists for a more rapid study, lending expertise from college and university faculties. It could be done in a month to 6 weeks. Angie Leidinger agreed, stating that something happening between now and January would be most beneficial. She committed that Clemson would help.

Discussion continued around higher education-specific issues with Angie Leidinger proposing

that governmental affairs representatives from institutions should resume meeting and collaborating, as was consistently achieved for a number of years, to develop common messaging. Dr. Carter agreed, stating that the group should come together sooner than later.

Finally, the group discussed the legal requirements of the Council of Presidents. The group recognized that it should be meeting more than it is currently, perhaps adding a meeting that coincides with the Commission. August was proposed, but the group stated that August is a hectic time on campuses with commencement, new faculty and the start of classes. Dr. Monhollon proposed asking the Commission if it would be interested in having the Council join the Commission for its February meeting.

#### Other Business

No other business to discuss.

#### Adjourn

There no being no further business, Chair Clements adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.