



Minutes of the Council of Presidents
May 24, 2023
USC Alumni Center
900 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Council of Presidents Members Present:

Dr. Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University (Virtual)
Dr. Luther (Fred) Carter, Francis Marion University
Ms. Angie Leiding for Dr. James Clements, Clemson University
Dr. Lisa Saladin for Dr. David Cole, Medical University of South Carolina (Virtual)
Dr. Walter Collins, University of South Carolina Lancaster
Dr. April Cone, University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie
Dr. Richard Cosentino, Lander University
Dr. Galen DeHay, Tri-County Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Susan Elkins, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College
Dr. Jermaine Ford, Florence-Darlington Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Marilyn Fore, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Tim Hardee, South Carolina Technical College System

Dr. Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate (Virtual)
Dr. Daren Timmons for Dr. Daniel Heimmermann, University of South Carolina, Aiken (Virtual)
Dr. Patricia Lee, Williamsburg Technical College
Dr. Randy Lowell, University of South Carolina Union
Dr. Forrest Mahan, Aiken Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Jaime Cooper for Dr. Stacey Moore, York Technical College (Virtual)
Dr. Al Panu, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. Jeff Perez, South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
Ms. Beth Young for Dr. Kevin Pollock, Central Carolina Technical College
Dr. Hope Rivers, Piedmont Technical College
Dr. Edward Serna, Winthrop University (Virtual)
Dr. Michael Sonntag, University of South Carolina, Sumter
Dr. Willie Todd, Denmark Technical College (Virtual)

CHE Staff

Bunnie Lempesis Ward, Director
Dr. Kristin Brooks, College Completion Manager

Yarley Steedly, Legislative & External Affairs Manager
Laura Belcher, Senior Advisor to the President

I. Welcome

Chair Fore

Chair Fore called the meeting to order at 11:07 am and welcomed all meeting attendees. Chair Fore asked all members to keep Dr. Monhollon and his spouse in their thoughts and prayers. She acknowledged the Council's purpose to be united in one common cause to promote the value of higher education in the State



of South Carolina, to share ideas, to learn from one another and to be the best in the country. Chair Fore recognized Stephanie Danesie for her administrative support of the Council of Presidents (COP) this academic year.

The meeting agenda was posted on the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) website with proper notice of the meeting. The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There were no public guests or media present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Fore

Chair Fore introduced the draft minutes for the March 1, 2023 meeting and asked whether there was any discussion. President Carter made the motion to accept the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by President Lee. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Discussion Topics:

SC State Transfer and Articulation Action Plan Update

Dr. Kristin Brooks

Chair Fore called on Dr. Brooks, CHE College Completion Manager, to provide an update on the SC State Transfer and Articulation Action Plan. Dr. Brooks announced that the Transfer Taskforce was convened in April at which there were 140 attendees from 45 South Carolina institutions and higher education organizations. She reported that the committee met to discuss the Transfer Report, collaborate on SC Promising Practices and submit suggestions for next steps. Dr. Brooks shared a new website that was created for the Transfer Excellence Knowledge Center, www.che.sc.gov/transfer.

During the April meeting, the committee suggested the following next steps: establishment of the South Carolina Transfer Leadership Council and working groups; assessment of statewide data needs including the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC); review and evaluation of the 86 South Carolina university transferable courses; and finalization of the South Carolina Transfer Promising Practices.

Dr. Brooks noted the next Transfer Excellence meeting will be held October 4, 2023 and asked the COP to invite representatives from their institutions to attend. Dr. Brooks said that updates will be posted on the Transfer Excellence Knowledge Center website following the October meeting. Chair Fore asked if there is a fee for the event, to which Dr. Brooks said that there will not be a fee, but registration will be open to 200 attendees in August. She said that the meeting will be held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Following Dr. Brooks' presentation, the floor was opened for discussion. Dr. Brooks also noted the SC Transfer Leadership Committee will collaborate with CHE's Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP), whose next meeting is June 8, 2023. Following Chancellor Elkins question about how the leadership committee will be formed, Dr. Brooks stated ACAP will make recommendations for the Leadership Committee. President Rivers noted only the South Carolina Technical College System is represented at ACAP and not the 16 individual technical colleges. Chair Fore asked who will conduct the review of the 86 South Carolina universally transferable courses. Dr. Brooks informed that CHE is pulling data from SC TRAC and assessing current transferability and that recommendations will be made for the removal or addition of courses. Chair Fore stressed the importance of the history of the 86 being known and the need to communicate with faculty. Dr. Brooks reiterated the convenings are open to faculty.

Dr. Brooks informed the COP of the Transfer Council's role to determine regional transfer liaisons and working groups for student engagement, communication, technical, and academic pathways. She stated transfer liaisons have not been determined yet but CHE is aware of the difference in institutions and regions across South Carolina. Dr. Brooks noted for each working group, the transfer work goes beyond their institution's job expectations. President Rivers asked how much time will volunteers need to dedicate to committees and working groups and that presidents need to be aware of the time involved. President Carter asked whether the COP could review a draft of the SC State Transfer and Articulation Action Plan relative

to the regulations. Dr. Brooks responded by saying there will be frequent convenings with workgroups and she will follow up with Dr. Monhollon. President Hardee stated the SC State Transfer and Articulation Action Plan's purpose is saving time and money for students. The South Carolina legislature will be interested in what other states have done and how much money will be saved. Ms. Ward stated CHE will work on communication regarding the benefits of the Action Plan and the work in progress, but currently, the focus is to establish the South Carolina Transfer Leadership Council and process.

Legislative Updates

Yarley Steedly, Legislative & External Affairs Manager

Chair Fore called on Ms. Steedly, CHE Legislative & External Affairs Manager, to provide an update on the current legislative session. Ms. Steedly reported H.3857, Doctoral/Professional Universities, was signed by Governor McMaster on May 16. She also reported H.3726, Workforce Development, was signed by the Governor on May 19. H.4060, Education and Workforce Development, passed in the House of Representatives on March 29 and is currently in the Senate. S.0314, Capital Improvements, passed in the Senate on May 10 and is currently in the House. Ms. Steedly reported we do not have a 2023-24 Budget yet and that conversations have stalled in Columbia. At present, both chambers agree on allocated amounts as shown for student aid funding, which includes LIFE, HOPE, Palmetto Fellows, Need-based tuition grants, National Guard, Nursing Initiative and PASCAL.

The floor was open for discussion. Chair Fore asked for more information on the Nursing Initiative and the allocation of \$10 million. Ms. Ward stated \$5 million was allocated for salaries and \$5 million for advanced degrees for nursing faculty, which was confirmed by President Hardee, who noted the funding for nursing salaries was dispersed for 2022-2023. Ms. Ward stated CHE is currently in the process of signing a contract for a student loan program, which will be for \$10 million to include funds allocated in 2022-23 and 2023-24. President Carter asked why a third-party loan organization was chosen rather than allowing the college's financial aid offices to administer the funds. Both Presidents Hardee and Carter questioned the funding as a loan rather than a scholarship and asked 1) was that a condition of the proviso; and 2) who will pay the fee to the Student Loan Corporation. President Hardee stated the funds should be offered as a scholarship to nursing faculty who are encouraged to obtain an advanced degree. President Rivers also voiced concern over loans versus scholarships for nursing faculty. Ms. Ward stated CHE worked with deans of nursing for the past two years and is currently working on the contract with the Student Loan Corporation. She will convey COP's concerns to President Monhollon.

Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act (H.3726)

Bunnie Lempesis Ward, Director

Chair Fore called on Ms. Ward, CHE Director, to report on the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act (H 3726), which was signed by Governor McMaster on May 19. Ms. Ward reported the goals and objectives of the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act are to coordinate and align the state's workforce development efforts with centralized oversight for improved accountability; address obstacles unique to rural areas; and to enhance responsiveness to industry needs and economic development commitments. Ms. Ward stated the components include the transfer of workforce development from the state's Department of Commerce to the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW); a new Office of Statewide Workforce Development will be created in DEW led by a director appointed by the Governor, whom has not been named yet; expands the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and changes its Executive Committee membership to six members, which includes the Executive Directors of the State Technical Board and CHE; prescribes a unified state plan; and will require quarterly wage reporting. Ms. Ward stated elements of the unified state plan include a education and workforce portal; inventory of all education and training assets; supply/gap analysis with a supply of skills and education in the state's workforce; and strategies to connect military families, veterans and retirees to job opportunities and career support.

Ms. Ward stated the takeaways for higher education are 1) who will be appointed by Governor McMaster as the Director of the Office of Statewide Workforce Development; 2) how will the state plan unify education and workforce efforts; and 3) how will the collection of program inventory translate to careers.

Ms. Ward stated the COP should anticipate information requests about non-degree programs offered to ensure students are career ready and connecting with available jobs in the state.

The floor was open for discussion. Chancellor Panu mentioned post-secondary credentials and Ms. Ward stated Ascend 60x30 is an overarching goal for the state. CHE staff is currently working through impending data requests and advised the COP they are available for questions. Chair Fore asked what is most meaningful to her institution in light of this legislation and does it include for-profit institutions. Ms. Ward stated the state's goal is to unify education and workforce efforts. There is power and opportunity within the Office of Statewide Workforce Development and how funds will be distributed. Ms. Ward's understanding is the legislation includes current providers of education in the state. Additional comments were made about new employers with specific needs entering the state and the need to keep pace with new industry and technology.

2023 -2024 Annual Dues

Chair Fore

Chair Fore discussed the need for funding the COP meetings to cover the cost of rental space and catering. She stated in the past, some colleges have sent funding to CHE's Foundation in the amount of \$500 or \$1000. It was agreed that CHE staff will send an email to the COP regarding dues for 2023-24 along with a suggested range and deadline.

Nomination and Election of COP Chair 2023-2024

Chair Fore

Chair Fore called upon the COP to nominate a president from one of the research institutions to serve as chair, effective July 1, 2023. President Carter nominated President Clements, Clemson University. President Rivers seconded the nomination. Chair Fore asked for any other nominations, which there were none. The motion passed in favor of President Clements to serve as chair.

IV. Old Business

Chair Fore asked if there was any old business to discuss. Consensus was none.

V. New Business

President Carter, on behalf of President Monhollon, recognized President Fore and Chancellor Panu for their year of service, serving as COP Chair from 2022-2023 and 2021-2022, respectively. President Carter presented both with an award and the COP joined in thanking them for their service.

The COP is asked to think about agenda topics for future meetings and asked to send topics to the incoming chair for consideration.

VI. Adjournment

The Council of Presidents meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. Chair Fore expressed appreciation for their attendance and participation.