



Meeting Minutes

Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement

November 1, 2023

Members

Commissioner Doug Snyder
Commissioner Hugh Mobley
Commissioner Gene Fant

Commissioner Dino Teppara
Commissioner Wes Hayes

Commission Staff Present

Ms. Bunnie Ward
Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Mark Swart
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Shardai Figgures
Dr. Kristin Brooks
Ms. Christina Seale

Ms. Ashton Talbert
Ms. Nia Simmons
Ms. Andrea LaTouche
Ms. April Jones

Guests

Jeff Leonard
Evelyn Sexton Tucker
Allison Dean Love

Chip Limehouse
Susan Elkins
Pam King

Jenell Peoples
Beth Bell

All attended either in-person or via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Snyder opened the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement meeting. Ms. Laura Belcher took attendance and noted Commissioners Cleveland Sellers and Patrick White were not in attendance, but the Committee had a quorum and was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. Motion was seconded, agenda approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Snyder noted that there were three corrections that needed to be made to the September 7, 2023, minutes and asked for a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Motion was seconded, minutes were approved.

4. Chair's Report

Chairman Snyder provided brief remarks due to the technology delay and noted the Committee would need enough time to discuss item seven on the agenda. Chairman Snyder also noted that Chairman Wes Hayes was in attendance.

5. Director's Report

A. Legislative:

Ms. Bunnie Ward provided a brief legislative update noting the CHE is waiting for profiles from the House and Senate. Ms. Ward also noted that the budget has been presented to the Governor's

office and the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Engagement has responded to several legislative inquiry requests.

B. Transfer

Dr. Kristin Brooks provided an update regarding the participation and feedback survey from the Transfer Convening that took place on October 4, 2023. Dr. Brooks also provided information related to the work being done with Ithaca S&R for an exploratory transfer data project. Chairman Snyder asked if the CHE is on target to meet the General Assembly's April 30 transfer report deadline. Dr. Brooks stated there would be significant progress to report on a majority if not all six recommendations by that time.

C. Workforce Development

Ms. Ward updated the Committee, reporting there are four Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD) meetings weekly related to the Unified State Plan. The staff at the Department of Employment and Workforce engage actively with various entities and stakeholders. OSIE staff, especially Dr. Corey Gheesling, provide significant input about the future role higher education institutions play in the state's workforce development.

D. Committee Charters

Chairman Snyder stated that the Committee draft charter was included in the packet for review to fine tune prior to the December meeting. He requested Committee members review the draft and provide feedback to Ms. Ward and Chair Snyder.

E. CHE Mission, Vision & Values

The Committee discussed the CHE Mission, Vision & Values and reviewed the preliminary '3x3' document with statutorily mandated roles and functions mapped to CHE goals. The goal is to provide updates to the 3x3 in future meetings.

6. Communications and Engagement Update

Mr. Mark Swart provided an update on communications and engagements, including College Application events staffed by the Office of Student Affairs, the OSIE's discussion of workforce development with various stakeholders and President Monhollon's presentation and discussion at the October Council of Presidents Meeting.

7. External CHE Studies

Ms. Laura Belcher provided updates regarding the House Legislative Oversight Committee study and noted additional questions were received September 25. A few of the questions pertaining to the recent action by West Virginia University (WVU) and student involvement on the Board would be discussed in this meeting and the full CHE meeting.

Chairman Snyder facilitated a discussion among the Committee members in response to some HLOC questions:

- Discuss how the state's higher education system will reckon with the exponential changes occurring in higher education absent an immediate shift from the current paradigm.
 - Two issues: enrollment cliff does not look the same in SC and SC is further along than other states with Econ dev and workforce action.
 - We want to be proactive and plan while we can.
- Identify and discuss the responsibility of each level governance involved in ensuring the state has a productive, efficient, and solvent higher education system (e.g., college and university presidents, college and university boards, Commission on Higher Education, General Assembly, etc.).
 - We don't need to change the structure, but we should become more agile.

- We should work within CCWD framework.
- Discuss how the CHE plans to influence each of these governance levels to ensure the state's mission, as stated in S.C. Code Section 59-103-15, is achieved.
 - We are going to implement what we have been tasked to do by statute.
 - If we need to accelerate specific initiatives or highlight issues, we can do so as a strategic initiative.
- Discuss what the CHE's role would be in this evaluation process.
 - We need to continue moving in the direction of data-driven decisions.
 - We could review school fiscal viability and identify those schools that may need further analysis. Expand program productivity reporting to be more frequent and robust.
 - Do we have the authority to collect critical data? If not, we need to request the authority.
- Discuss the CHE's opinion on the West Virginia University (WVU) cuts to programs, departments, and staff and the process used to make the cuts.
 - WVU's situation is very different from the State of South Carolina. Due to significantly lower enrollment, WVU made wide scale cuts in programs and faculty.
 - WVU and the State of South Carolina operate in very different environments, with contrasting state governance systems.
- Discuss the merits, benefits, and drawbacks of the state's higher education institutions conducting evaluations like that of WVU.
 - SC schools are already evaluating programs through their own academic review and budgeting processes. If there is an academic program that costs more than it generates, schools can decide to balance those costs with generating dollars from auxiliary programs.
- Discuss the CHE's position on student representation on the Board.
 - Helpful for a school to include a student representative so the student experience (customer's voice) is heard.
 - At the state level, would need more robust student representation to reflect geographic areas and types of schools, among other variables.

8. Other Business

The Committee did not have any further business to discuss.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Snyder asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.