



Meeting Minutes

Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement

February 2, 2023

Members

Commissioner Doug Snyder, Chair
Commissioner Patrick White, Vice Chair
Commissioner Bettir Rose Horne
Commissioner Ben Satcher
Commissioner Cleveland Sellars
Commissioner Dino Teppara

Commission Staff Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Ms. Bunnie Ward
Mr. Mark Swart
Ms. Shardai Figgures
Dr. Kristin Brooks
Ms. Laura Belcher

Dr. Corey Gheesling
Ms. Ashton Talbert
Mr. Christopher Glenn
Mr. Bryce Wilson

Guests

Vintress Brown, USC Upstate
Trena Houpp, USC Columbia
Sam Kroft, Winthrop University
Elizabeth McInnis Bell, Clemson University
Mary Driscoll, USC Aiken
Gam Reagin, USC Aiken

All attended either in-person or via Zoom.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., a quorum was present.

2. Chair's Report

Chairman Snyder welcomed everyone in attendance and provided opening remarks.

Chairman Snyder stated that there are no action items, but as the Committee is built, the Committee will be able to determine future information and action items.

3. Director's Report

Ms. Bunnie Ward introduced new office staff: Jazmine Lara Guerrero (Legislative Intern), Ashton Talbert, and Kristin Brooks.

Ms. Ward provided updates on the following:

- Legislative Manager Position: CHE is close to announcing a new staff member and will keep the Commissioners posted.
- Hannah-SC: CHE is using this subscription services for news and legislative updates and summaries.
- Transfer Report: Dr. Michael Igbonagwam is the lead staff for this initiative and is very close to releasing the report. The reports is especially timely since there is significant state interest in Workforce Development.
- Workforce Development (H.3726): The Omnibus bill sponsored by the Speaker of the House (Smith) to direct workforce related funding and activities for the state is active. CHE is in a good position for this bill regarding educational strategies, such as transfer.
- Need-based Grant Funding: CHE is very supportive of any effort to expand/add additional dollars and Governor McMaster's budget proposal includes additional funding. Any PELL- eligible student would be able to potentially receive those funds.
- Scholarships: We will monitor these bills closely as they develop, including the education major stipend for state-funded scholarship recipients.
- Educator Preparation Report Card (Act 185): CHE was directed through the Act to develop/establish an annual report card that addresses the preparation of teachers. Staff are actively collaborating with additional agencies named in the act, but CHE efforts are restricted due to no additional funding.
- Bills around academic integrity and responsibility: The CHE is monitoring bills that were specific to K-12 last year, and this year, some bills now include some public postsecondary institutions.

Dr. Monhollon is presenting the CHER budget request for FY 2024-25 to the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee.

4. Legislative Update and Discussion

Chairman Snyder opened the meeting for discussion.

Chairman Snyder suggested the Committee discuss its role and how it will function. Committee members addressed CHE priorities for this session, where the CHE initiatives are at this part of the year, what are the supporting initiatives, and what is being monitored. Commissioner Satcher stated it would be helpful to attach/correlate the bills with each CHE priority.

Vice Chairman White noted other Committees have defined roles regarding actions and this Committee seems more advisory. Dr. Monhollon commented in the future, the budget and legislative items may be action items that don't have formal approval but Commissioner and staff input that would be welcomed.

The Committee discussed data infrastructure. Commissioner Horne noted that previously, CHE used data that was provided by institutions. Commissioner Satcher stated we will need to ensure that institutions can provide the data that we are being tasked to collect and are notified as coordination will be integral to securing the information.

Ms. Ward discussed the Legislative Oversight Committee and Senate Oversight Committee and introduced Ms. Laura Belcher as the CHE staff person running point on these. CHE has been provided with the initial data request from the House, which needs to be completed by mid-March.

5. Other Business

Ms. Ward stated that there would be a Legislative Breakfast scheduled for March 2, 2023, at the Blatt building for a meet and greet and that the Commissioners will be provided an invitation to attend.

6. Adjournment

Chairman Snyder asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.