

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 6, 1986
10:30 - 11:55 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Fred R. Sheheen, Chairman
Mr. George L. Brighttharp
Mr. Tom Moore Craig
Dr. Willa J. DeWitt
Mr. Robert C. Gallagher
Mr. B. P. Gordon III
Mr. Robert E. Graham
Mr. Harold W. Jacobs
Mr. David B. Smith
Mr. Mortimer F. Smith
Mrs. Nanette H. Smyth
Mrs. Nelle H. Taylor
Mr. Joseph J. Turner, Jr.
Mr. William J. Whitener
Dr. Robert F. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Roosevelt Gilliam, Jr.
Dr. Alba M. Lewis
Mr. Robert L. Utsey, Jr.

STAFF

Dr. Jeffrey Bartkovich
Dr. Howard R. Boozer
Mr. Charles A. Brooks, Jr.
Ms. Sandra E. Carr
Dr. Jeanette A. Deas
Dr. Frank E. Kinard
Mr. Alan S. Krech
Ms. Lynn W. Metcalf
Dr. Gail M. Morrison
Dr. James A. Paschal
Ms. Ann J. Shelton
Dr. Leonard P. Sternbach
Dr. John C. Sutusky
Ms. Gaylon Syrett
Ms. Julia E. Wells

GUESTS

Dr. Francis T. Borkowski
Dr. Carl A. Carpenter
Dr. James D. Daniels
Dr. James B. Edwards
Dr. W. Bruce Ezell, Jr.
Dr. James G. Fox
Mr. Wade Green
Maj. Gen. James A. Grimsley, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Hamby
Dr. O. Joseph Harm III
Dr. H. M. Holderfield
Dr. James B. Holderman
Mr. Hans Knoop
Dr. Max M. Lennon
Dr. Carolyn McIver
Mr. J. Lacy McLean
Dr. W. David Maxwell
Dr. M. Maceo Nance, Jr.
Dr. W. Marcus Newberry, Jr.
Dr. Oscar C. Page
Dr. Miriam Rawl
Mr. Edward M. Shannon III
Dr. Michael Smith
Dr. Thomas C. Stanton
Dr. John W. Zemp

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

Mr. Jerry Adams
Ms. Susan Clary
Ms. Laura Nelson

I. Introductions

Mr. Sheheen introduced Mr. Joseph J. Turner, Clemson, recently appointed to the Commission from the 3rd Congressional District to a term expiring on July 26, 1990. Mr. Turner succeeds Mr. Fedder.

Mr. Sheheen also introduced Dr. Max M. Lennon, new President of Clemson University.

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of February 6, 1986

It was moved (Taylor), seconded (Brightharp), and voted that the minutes of the meeting of February 6, 1986, be adopted as written.

III. Discussion of the AVA Study and of Ways to Achieve Improvement in the Quality of Higher Education in South Carolina

Mr. Sheheen noted that the Council of Presidents of Public Colleges and Universities and the Advisory Council of Private Colleges Presidents were invited to meet with the Commission today to participate in the discussion of "Proposed Initial Activities in Implementation of the AVA Study." He stated that the staff has held extensive discussions on the recommendations presented in the study and the process by which they might be examined and assessed. He noted that both members of the Commission and the presidents will have valuable ideas that should be considered. He stated that, following meetings and discussion with legislators, presidents, members of governing boards, other educational leaders, and the general public, recommendations may be proposed for consideration by the Commission as early as Fall 1986.

Mr. M. Smith suggested that the recommendations contained in the report of the consultants be examined at this time. Mrs. Taylor stated that each issue could have great impact on the higher education system and each requires in-depth study. She expressed the opinion that it would be impossible to approach all the recommendations in the study by Fall 1986, and suggested that the Commission identify the most pressing issues at this time and decide which should be addressed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Holderman suggested that the Commission and the presidents address the question of what can be accomplished in what amount of time. He further suggested that the Council of Presidents, the Commission, and the staff hold a day-long meeting to determine which issues to address, focusing first on those that can be agreed upon and then on the remaining. He expressed the view that the presidents and the Commission need to achieve consensus at the beginning of the process.

Mr. Sheheen stated that, because unanimous agreement might not be possible, the Commission may elect to proceed on recommendations not agreed upon by the institutions and should preserve that prerogative. He noted that the study recommends some departure from past policies, and those options should be kept open.

Dr. Lennon stated that the process is important and commitment should be made by all in the interest of quality improvement in higher education. He suggested that the institutions be asked to respond in detail to the recommendations, as a first step.

Dr. Ezell suggested that senior staff members from the institutions, as well as the presidents, be asked to participate.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the Commission might better devote its time to developing a timetable of obtaining comments from the institutions, and proceed from there.

Gen. Grimsley suggested that, because the timing is critical, the Council of Presidents, the Commission, and a representative from the Advisory Council of Private College Presidents first decide on the course of action.

Mr. Brightharp stated that he agrees with Dr. Holderman's suggested approach.

Dr. Edwards suggested, and it was agreed, (1) that the Council of Presidents, and representatives from the Advisory Council of Private College Presidents and the Commission examine each recommendation in a day-long meeting within two or three weeks; (2) that a subcommittee be formed from those groups to determine how to implement recommendations agreed upon; (3) that another subcommittee be appointed to discuss, at another day-long meeting, those not agreed upon; and (4) that a meeting of the Commission, the Council of Presidents, and the Advisory Council be held to examine all positions, for discussion by institutional vice presidents and other staff members.

Mr. M. Smith suggested that the public be kept apprised of the process. Dr. Ezell stated that caution should be exercised with respect to public hearings. He expressed the view that such hearings should be used to build public support, later in the process.

IV. Other Business

Mr. Sheheen stated that the Commission, with the cooperation of the colleges and universities, adopted on December 5, 1985, the "South Carolina Plan for Equity and Equal Opportunity in Public Institutions of Higher Education, 1986-87 and Beyond." Although the institutions were unanimous in supporting funding in the amount of \$2.2 million, the House Ways and Means Committee recommends only \$1.1 million. He urged the presidents to assist the Commission in persuading the General Assembly to appropriate the entire amount. Mr. Sheheen stated that the plan is an important expression of public policy in South Carolina, and is also an important statement of intent to the Federal Government.

Dr. Holderman urged the presidents and the Commission to contact appropriate legislators with respect restoring the \$7 million that has been cut from the institutions' 1985-86 operating budgets. He noted that the institutions are also \$16 million short for 1986-87.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaylon Syrett
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Recording Secretary