

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Baruch Room, Joynes Hall

Winthrop University

Rock Hill, SC 29733

Minutes of the Meeting

October 6, 2005

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Mr. Larry Durham
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Jim Konduros
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Ms. Sherry Hubbard
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Esther Kramer
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Sandra Rhyne
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Donald Tetreault
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Jackie Armitage, Lesley University
Ms. Fran Andrews, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Dr. Frank Ardaiole, Winthrop University
Ms. Priscilla Burbage, College of Charleston

Member of the Press:

no members of the press attended

Dr. Pete Barr, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University
Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Cynthia Brown, Lesley University
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Cheryl Cox, State Technical College System
Dr. Gib Darden, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio, Winthrop University
Mr. Mark Dreyfus - E.C.P.I.
Dr. Chris Ebert - U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Bill Farrell, Clemson University
Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways & Means Committee
Dr. Imtaze Haque, Clemson University
Mr. Walter Hardin - Winthrop University
Dr. Mark Herring, Winthrop University
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Kelly Jones - Spartanburg Technical College
Dr. Tom Keinath, Clemson University
Ms. Star Kepner, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Ken Lewis, S.C. State University
Mr. Ted Little - E.C.P.I.
Mr. Russell Long, Clemson University
Ms. Amanda Maghsoud, Winthrop University
Dr. John McEntire, Clemson University
Mr. J. P. McKee, Winthrop University
Mr. Rick Moul, PASCAL
Ms. Robin Peevey, Lesley University
Ms. Rose Pellatt, Spartanburg Technical College
Dr. Sara Sanders, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Bob Schemel - South University
Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.
Ms. Caroline Thornton, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Catherine Watt, Clemson University
Dr. Fran Welch - College of Charleston
Dr. Kathy Wilson, Clemson University

This meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy. Dr. McCurdy introduced Dr. DiGiorgio, President of Winthrop University, and thanked him for his hospitality in hosting the Commission meeting. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending the meeting, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 1, 2005. The **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Horne) and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

- Dr. Festa mentioned that a few of the institutional representatives mistakenly went to Columbia for the meeting, but were now on their way to Rock Hill and would be arriving late. Chairman McCurdy reported that the September 14, 2005, Commissioners' Retreat was successful and very productive. He and the Commissioners met again at breakfast this morning in follow-up to the retreat and focused on how the Commission might do its job most effectively in collaboration with the institutions as well as with state government. Dr. McCurdy also reported that he and Dr. Festa would be meeting with some of the institutional Presidents on Monday, October 10th, and would then share with them the results of the conversation of the morning's follow-up meeting.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee (No Report)

-Layton McCurdy

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Vermelle Johnson

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

Commissioner Johnson reported that her committee considered thoroughly and approved all six of the proposals listed below at their meeting on September 1, 2006. Detailed information about each of these programs can be found in **Attachment I - VI**.

1. A.H.S., Emergency Medical Technology, Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech
2. B.A., Communication, Coastal Carolina
3. B. S., Recreation and Sport Management, Coastal Carolina
4. M.S. and Ph.D., Automotive Engineering, Clemson
5. Ph.D., International Family and Community Studies, Clemson
6. Institute for Supply Chain Optimization and Logistics, Clemson

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Workman), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in

Emergency Medical Technology at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College for implementation in January 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be requested or required.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Byerly), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication at Coastal Carolina University for implementation in Spring 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be requested or required.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Loadholt), to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Sport Management at Coastal Carolina University for implementation in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

Commissioner Durham inquired as to whether discussion had taken place about other currently existing programs similar to this one. Dr. Pete Barr of Coastal Carolina University responded that although Winthrop, USC and Clemson had similar programs, Coastal's was unique in many respects. Commissioner Sanders inquired about the placement rates of the graduates of the S.C. institutions where this type of program currently exists. Dr. Barr responded that he could not speak for the other institutions, though placement of graduates of Coastal's program has thus far been at about 90% primarily in the Myrtle Beach area. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Sanders), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Automotive Engineering at Clemson University, to be implemented in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Loadholt) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies at Clemson University, to be implemented in January 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that no international internship credit hours be used in the calculation of the MRR.

Dr. Johnson explained that considerable time had been spent considering this program, a result of which is the information contained in **Appendix I of Attachment V**. Clemson representative, Dr. Debbie Jackson introduced her colleague, Dr. Kathy Wilson, who explained that the traditions of this program are linked to law and social policy with an emphasis on urban and social policy planning. There is also a heavy component of non-profit management. She also stated that the program would be supported through contracts and grants that currently exist as a revenue stream and will continue to be sought once the doctoral program receives approval. Dr. Wilson emphasized that, though the internship segment of the program is required, it is not a credited experience and would not affect the calculation of the MRR. Dr. Gail Morrison stated that Commissioner Konduros, who was unable to be at the meeting today, had asked her to express the fact that he was extremely impressed with the breadth and depth of this program. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Durham), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Clemson University's Institute for Supply Chain and Optimization and Logistics (CISCOL) for immediate implementation.

B. Consideration of Requests to Amend License to add:

New Programs:

1. Associate in Graphic Design; B.S., Graphic Design; B.S., Criminal Justice, South University, Savannah, GA at Columbia

New Location:

2. A.A.S. degrees in (1) Computer and Information Science with Concentrations in Information Technology/Business Systems Administration, Information Technology/Networking & Security Management, and Medical Administration; (2) Computer Electronics Engineering Technology and (3) Health Science with a concentration in Medical Assistant, at Columbia, ECPI College of Technology, Virginia Beach, VA

Additional detail about items 1 and 2 above may be found in **Attachments VII and VIII**, respectively.

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Loadholt) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve an amendment to the license of South University to add the programs leading to the Associate degree in Graphic Design, the B.S. degree in Graphic Design, the B. S. degree in Criminal Justice to be implemented in January 2006 at the Columbia site.

Commissioner Horne stated that, based on her research, she felt it was worthy to note that a similar existing program at Midlands Technical College produces 50 graduates per year. Commissioner Ravenel commented that the constraints placed upon public

institutions in a situation of this nature do not apply to private-for-profit institutions.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Byerly) and **carried** to approve the following recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve an amendment to the license of ECPI College of Technology to offer in Columbia programs leading to A.A.S. degrees in (1) Computer and Information Science with concentrations in Information Technology/Business Systems Administration, Information Technology/Networking & Security Management, and Medical Administration; (2) Computer Electronics Engineering Technology and (3) Health Science with a concentration in Medical Assisting; the Committee further recommends the Commission delegate to the staff authority to license the site in Columbia when the facility is developed.

C. Consideration of Program Productivity Study Follow-up South Carolina State

Commissioner Johnson explained that several people from South Carolina State met with the staff to determine how the institution might best meet production standards. Commissioner Johnson then noted the recommendation found on page 12 of **Attachment IX**, calling particular attention to item 2c and 4.

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Sanders) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission:

- 1) Accept the plans of corrective action submitted by S. C. State for the programs Leading to a Bachelors degree in Art Teacher Education, Health Teacher Education, and Physics.
- 2) Accept the proposed terminations submitted by S. C. State as follows:
 - a. program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Language and Literature
 - b. program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Language and Literature
 - c. program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance, with the new program proposal for a Bachelors degree in Performing Arts to be submitted to CHE following established procedures.
- 3) Accept the proposed program consolidation by S.C. State establishing a new program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern Languages with a concentration in Spanish and Spanish Education to be offered initially and a concentration in French and French Education to be added at a later time.
- 4) Recommend to the University that the administration ensure that each program area have adequate faculty as enrollment growth expands including new hires projected in the report, with the goal of a minimum of three faculty per program area. Commissioner Ravenel requested and received clarification about the termination of some of the programs mentioned in the recommendation. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

D. Consideration of NCATE/State Partnership Program Evaluations

1. Francis Marion University
2. Lander University
3. College of Charleston

Commissioner Johnson made reference to the actual recommendations that were made by NCATE and the in-state evaluation team beginning on page 5 of **Attachment X**. Summarizing that information, a **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Ravenel) that the Commission approve the following **recommendations** made by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing:

1. Grant to the programs of Education at Francis Marion University, Lander University, and the College of Charleston the designations for each of the institutions as noted in **Attachment X**.
2. Congratulate the College of Charleston for achieving full approval from NCATE.
3. Urge all institutions to get professional speciality evaluation if there is a body that provides that kind of approval to insure full rather than probational approval.
4. Accept no new program requests from Francis Marion University and Lander University in Education until the unit obtains full accreditation as opposed to accreditation with conditions.
5. Require that each institution submit to the Commission as part of its institution effectiveness report due August 1, 2006 a progress report that summarizes the responses made by the institution for improvement with respect to the UAB findings as well as findings by the CHE.

Chairman McCurdy pointed out that there are a series of recommendations incorporated in this motion and stated that unless members of the Commission disagreed, action would be taken on the motion as is, rather than break it down. Commissioner Horne stated this action represents another example of the need for comprehensive program review. Dr. Festa pointed out that accrediting bodies sometimes change their standards and that Francis Marion and Lander may not have understood that or had time to deal with those changes. He also said that those institutions do, however, have every intention of conforming to the new requirements. Some discussion took place as to whether these institutions have attempted to comply with the requirements in a timely manner. Discussion also took place as to whether programs at other institutions may find themselves in a similar state of non-compliance. Dr. Festa stated that this may be true, though institutions are becoming more keenly aware that they may be in difficulty and are moving more rapidly to remedy their situations. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

E. Consideration of Annual Budget for Research Centers for Economic Excellence/Endowed Chairs Program, FY 2005-06

A full description of this budget request may be found in **Attachment XI**. A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Loadholt), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission

approve the proposed budget for FY 2005-06.

F. Consideration of Proposed *Guidelines for the Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Competitive Grants Program, Project Year 2006-07*

Complete information on these guidelines may be found in **Attachment XII**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the *Guidelines for the Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Grant Program* for Project Year 2006-07.

G. Consideration of Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)

1. Budget Allocations for FY 2005-06 and Appropriations Request for FY 2006-07
2. New *Guidelines* for Centers of Excellence (RFP), FY 2006-07

Complete information on items 1 and 2 may be found in **Attachments XIII and XIV**, respectively.

In consideration of item 2 above, a **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Forbes), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the Guidelines as found in **Attachment XIV**.

In consideration of item 1 above, a **motion** was then made (Johnson), **seconded** (Horne), and carried to approve the following **recommendation**:

In order to permit the funding of a new Center of Excellence in Teacher Training at the full \$150,000 level during FY 06-07, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission authorize the staff to seek an increase of \$13,624 or 1.88%, from the Education Oversight Committee for this program. (In the event that the increase is not approved, and assuming level funding, then a new center could be established with \$136,376.)

H. Consideration of Annual Report on English Language Fluency Act, FY 2004-05

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **seconded** (Workman) to approve the following **Recommendation** as found in **Attachment XV**:

With a caveat for action by Greenville Technical College to include two references in its unified academic/student affairs document to the legitimacy of student grievance under the English Fluency in Higher Education Act, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends to the Commission that this report be approved and transmitted to the appropriate chairpersons of the education committees of the

General Assembly.

Discussion took place about the number of incidents that occurred in the last year. Because the reports of incidents have been virtually non-existent in the 14 years of the statute's existence, the Commission requested that CHE staff consult with members of the education committees of the General Assembly with regard to possible repeal of the statute or modification of it to require it that would require less frequent reporting. The **motion** then came to the table and **carried**.

I. Consideration of Policy and Procedures for Approval of New or Revised Mission Statements

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Durham), and carried to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the Policy and Procedure for Approval of New or Revised Mission Statement document as found in **Attachment XVI**.

J. Consideration of Revised Mission Statement:

1. Central Carolina Technical College
2. Spartanburg Technical College

Revisions to the mission statements of the above institutions are noted in **Attachment XVII**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the revised mission statements for Central Carolina Technical College and Spartanburg Technical College.

K. Consideration of Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2004

A **motion** was made (Johnson), **seconded** (Loadholt) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the following recommendation as found in **Attachment XVIII**:

1. With a decrease in applicable first-time freshmen meeting all the high school course prerequisites for public college admission, the senior institutions whose compliance rate falls below the state average of 95.26 percent should provide to the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing a plan of action to increase compliance (Coastal Carolina, Francis Marion, Lander, USC – Aiken, USC –

Beaufort, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop), thereby enhancing student preparation for success in college.

2. Staff recommends that Lander University should adjust its admissions process so that provisional acceptances fall within the CHE approved guideline of 15% for comprehensive teaching institutions. The Commission should commend the other four-year public institutions for falling within the CHE guidelines for acceptance of provisional students (10% for research universities; 15% for comprehensive teaching universities.)

The question was raised as to whether this information was contained in the CHE Statistical Abstract. The response was that parts of it are not included in the Abstract. Commissioner Ravenel suggested that Commissioners retain this report as it contains data that may be helpful at some point in the future. Dr. Gail Morrison commented that now that the CHE once again has an auditor in place, there will be greater assurance that the institutions accurately report compliance to prerequisite data. Dr. Morrison also stated that parts of this report will be available on the CHE web site for review by high school students when making determinations about which college they may plan to attend.

The motion was then brought to the table and carried.

L. Annual Report on Academic Common Market, FY 2004-05

This report, as found in **Attachment XIX**, was provided for information only. Dr. McCurdy commended Commissioner Johnson, her committee members, and members of the CHE staff who worked very hard in putting this report together.

4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Dan Ravenel

A. Consideration of Proposed Regulations for Lottery Tuition Assistance, SC HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships Programs

1. Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Proposed Regulatory Amendments, 2006-07 Academic Year
2. SC HOPE Scholarship Program Proposed Regulatory Amendments, 2006-07 Academic Year
3. LIFE Scholarship Program Proposed Regulatory Amendments, 2005-06 Academic Year
4. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program Proposed Regulatory Amendments, 2006-07 Academic Year

Commissioner Ravenel stated that some legislative actions had been taken on South Carolina's scholarship programs which have resulted in new regulations and asked Dr. Karen Woodfaulk to provide an explanation of them. In addition to providing that explanation, Dr. Woodfaulk stated that language in the regulations was clarified for the purpose of consistency throughout all the scholarship programs. Details on all changes may be found in Attachments **XX – XXIII**.

On behalf of the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services, a **motion** was then made (Ravenel) and **seconded** (Durham) to accept the proposed changes to the LTAP, SC HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Programs. Commissioner Ravenel then stated that the economic impact of these changes is not presently known, though that is currently under study and information should be reported to the Commission before the end of the year. Discussion about some of the regulation changes and what their effects might be followed. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

4.04 Report Committee on Finance and Facilities

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Lightsey Bridge Fire Sprinklers Retrofit |
| | - | Riggs Hall – Window Replacement |
| | - | Chilled Water System Improvements |
| 2. Winthrop | - | Bancroft Tower Constructoin |
| | - | Baseball Park |
| 3. Greenville Technical College | - | Acquisition – 415 Keith Street |
| 4. Spartanburg Technical College | - | Acquisition – Hwy. 290 Property |

For Information Only: Greenville Technical College – Land Disposition
Donation of five acres to Hospice House of Greenville

Commissioner Byerly reported that the projects listed above and described in **Attachment XXIV** had all been reviewed, discussed and approved by her committee.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** was made (Byerly) and **seconded** (Ravenel) to approve the above mentioned projects as recommended.

Commissioner Durham pointed out that one of the funding sources for the Winthrop Baseball Park project was a \$1.5 million donation. Dr. DiGiorgio explained that this gift had been anonymous and will allow for the completion of phase two of this project. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

B. Commission on Higher Education Budget Plan For FY 2006-2007

Commissioner Byerly asked Ms. Lynn Metcalf to give a brief run-down on the plan as well as an explanation of Priorities 1 and 2 as found on page 7 of **Attachment XXIV**. Ms. Metcalf explained that Priority 1 would allow for the hiring of staff members for academic program, facilities, and CHEMIS programming, all of which are sorely needed at the Commission. Ms. Metcalf also pointed out the \$40,000 request for Student Record Digitization, found on page 8 of **Attachment XXIV**, will allow for much-needed maintenance of records for closed institutions. Ms. Metcalf then pointed out that Priority 2 also requested funds in the amount of \$400,000 for Access & Equity Statewide Competitive Grants, \$600,000 in additional matching funds for the SC GEAR UP program, and \$440,100 to cover SREB contract fee increases for students in specified degree programs as well as for an increase in SREB membership dues for the state.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** was made (Byerly), **seconded** (Johnson), and **carried** to approve the Commission's budget request as proposed.

Some discussion then took place about the Commission's recovery of user fees and both Ms. Renea Eshleman and Dr. Gail Morrison offered information on some of the CHE's current practices and procedures.

Commissioner Byerly called attention to the request for budget proviso changes regarding the distribution of funds for Access & Equity programs and the use of a portion of lottery technology funds for support of higher education data services as described on page 9 and 10 of **Attachment XXIV**. Ms. Julie Carullo briefly reviewed those changes and also noted a series of provisos for deletion that had been codified in the 2005 legislative session or were no longer applicable. These are described on page 10 of **Attachment XXIV**.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** was made (Byerly), **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to approve the 2006-07 budget proviso changes as recommended.

C. Public Institutions of Higher Education 2006-07 Budget Plan

1. Institutional Operating Funds
2. Statewide Higher Education Electronic Library
3. Lottery Funded Programs
4. Special or "Below-the-Line" items

Commissioner Byerly stated that the report on item one above would not be made until the November 3 Commission meeting.

It was noted that the amount of \$27 million in paragraph three of Priority 2 on page 11 of **Attachment XXIV** regarding \$2 million in recurring funds for the Statewide Higher Education Electronic Library should correctly read \$2.7 million.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to approve the budget request as outlined for the Statewide Electronic Higher Education Library as recommended.

Commissioner Byerly noted the details of the \$18, 600,000 funding increase requests for lottery funded programs as found on page 13 of **Attachment XXIV**.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to approve lottery appropriations for higher education as recommended.

Commissioner Byerly explained that below-the-line items are those items which are not included in the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) or are legislatively mandated. Of the 49 items that were initially submitted, only 15 met the criteria for submission. Those 15 items are summarized on page 15 of **Attachment XXIV**.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** was made (Byerly), and **seconded** (Workman), to approve the 15 below-the-line items as presented.

Discussion took place about the fact that only a portion of the submitted below-the-line items were presented to the Commission for review which had not been the case in previous years. Ms. Lynn Metcalf made reference to the criteria for selecting eligible below-the-line items as found on page 14 of **Attachment XXIV** and gave a brief background explanation as to why those criteria were developed and approved by the Commission in 1996. She also stated that a complete list of all 49 of the originally submitted items would be made available to any of the Commissioners who may care to review it. Commissioner Ravenel stated that he would still like to see a list of all the items on a regular basis in order to be more fully knowledgeable about what items were or were not approved. Dr. McCurdy then stated that his concern is that requests for below-the-line funds is helping to perpetuate the absence of regular adequate institutional funding. He further stated that the Commission should place its focus on more appropriate below-the-line projects as well as on greater advocacy for increased funding above-the-line. It was also noted that Dr. Festa is in the process of working with institution Presidents on the development of a legislative agenda which includes a unified request for adequate institutional funding. Commissioner Horne questioned the inclusion of the requests for the S. C. Area Health Education Consortium as well as the one for the S C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Ms. Metcalf, Chairman McCurdy, and Dr. Festa provided information as to their institutional connections and CHE's responsibilities. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

D. Capital Improvement Bond Requests, Scores and Priorities

Commissioner Byerly noted that the projects and the criteria by which they are scored and prioritized has already been approved. She also made reference to the institutions' Priority 1 and Priority 2 Requests found in Tables 1 and 2 on pages 24 and 25 of **Attachment XXIV**.

A **motion** was made (Byerly) and **seconded** (Loadholt) to approve the institutions' Priority 1 requests for Capital Improvement Bond Funding for 2006-07, to be submitted in statewide priority order as listed in Table 1 as recommended.

Commissioner Ravenel questioned the methodology of the prioritization process and suggested that the Commission should present a list of rated requests to the legislature without regard to the priority preference of the institutions. Discussion about that idea followed. Chairman McCurdy asked Commissioner Ravenel to put his thoughts regarding changes to the rating system down on paper in order to share them with the other Commissioners. Additional discussion about possible revision of the prioritization process took place. At Commissioner Workman's suggestion, Commissioner Byerly stated that she would include on her Committee's agenda a tutorial of the current prioritization process in order to insure that it is more completely understood. Dr. DiGiorgio then commented that if any re-analysis of these requests is to be made, the institutions should have the opportunity to submit all possible project requests in addition to those of their first and second priorities. The motion was then brought to the table and **carried**.

5. Legislative Update**- Rita Allison**

Ms. Allison reported that the September 30th issue of the Commissioners' Bulletin had recently been mailed to Commissioners. She also welcomed Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, representing the House Ways & Means Committee to the meeting, as she did all others who had traveled some distance to attend. Ms. Allison stated that a Senate ad hoc committee had just finished their work on property tax, and that the House ad hoc committee was having a hearing on property tax at Spartanburg Technical College that evening at 6:00 p.m. She also reported that a House ad hoc committee was currently considering testing and assessment practices. Ms. Allison stated that the Governors' Result Teams were working diligently on all areas of the budget, and that Dr. McCurdy and Dr. Horne were serving on the higher education result team. She reported that Commissioner Zais is serving on the Governor's Education Reform Committee which deals primarily with K-12 issues, but also includes conversation about collaboration with higher education. Reports from both the Result Teams and the Education Reform Committees will be coming out in December 2005.

6. Report of the Executive Director**-Conrad Festa**

Dr. Festa made reference to the Alternate Procurement Code as found in **Attachment XXV**. This code was developed as a standard to be used by all three of South Carolina's research institutions for research infrastructure projects. Ms. Lynn Metcalf provided information on the development of this code, and also pointed out highlighted sections noting methods of source selection which had previously been left out. This information was provided for information only. Commissioner Sanders expressed his appreciation for the work done in consolidating what had previously been separate codes at each of the institutions.

Dr. Festa then reported on events that had occurred over the summer months both in South Carolina and nationally. He remarked that a great deal of activity is presently taking place in higher education and that there appears to be a great large amount of interest in the changing face of higher education. Dr. Festa reported that the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill is currently being considered by the U.S. Senate and House. Their versions of reauthorization requires collection of data on graduates that will create a great deal of work for the institutions. He further stated that SHEEO has agreed to either reject that version or request that it be modified to include funding to assist in the collection of that data. Dr. Festa stated that the proposed act also includes a raise in the dollar amount of Pell Grants, as well as an increase in student loan interest rates from 5.4 to 6.1%. In addition, in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, this HEA reauthorization bill includes language about the assessment of higher education student learning.

Dr. Festa recognized CHE staff members, Dr. Mike Raley and Dr. Tajuana Massie for their hard work in planning and hosting the national accountability conference that took place in Charleston, SC on September 22 – 24, 2005 and has been commented on most favorably. Dr. Festa stated that the major result of that conference is that higher education is now looking towards adopting a statewide agenda for state needs, as opposed to one that addresses only the needs of higher education. South Carolina has already made some progress in that regard with the development of the Presidents' Accountability Plan. Dr. Festa reported that he will be meeting with the Governor and his staff to discuss funding issues. He then thanked the Commissioners for their efforts in communicating with both the Presidents and state legislators. In response to Commissioner Horne's question regarding SHEEO's opposition to the possible collection of data on graduates, Dr. Festa clarified that the objection is not with regard to

accountability, but to the amount of work that action would require and the necessity of funds to accomplish it. Dr. Festa also stated that federal government has rejected the idea of a national student database because of confidentiality issues involved.

7. Other Business

Chairman McCurdy made reference to the tentative schedule of the 2006 Commission meetings, a copy of which had been given to each of the Commissioners for their review and approval. Commissioner Ravenel suggested that the meeting time be changed to 11:00 a.m. in order to accommodate committee meetings earlier the same day. A **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Horne), and **carried** to accept the 2006 tentative meeting schedule with the time of the meetings changed from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Workman also recommended that the Commissioners be notified well in advance if any of the meetings will require an overnight stay in order that this information may be posted on their calendars as soon as possible. Commissioner Horne also requested that Commissioners be sent a calendar of dates for the subcommittee meetings. Chairman McCurdy and Dr. Festa stated that *The Chronicle of Higher Education* is an excellent resource and that it will be made available to all Commissioners, possibly electronically. Dr. Morrison then reminded the group that the November 3, 2005 Commission meeting will be followed by a luncheon at which the nominees for the Governor's Professor of the Year Award will be recognized and the two winners of the award will be announced. Dr. Dori Helms, Provost of Clemson University, will be the guest speaker at the event to which all Commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioner Sanders then expressed thanks to staff members for all their efforts, and Chairman McCurdy thanked the Winthrop staff for graciously hosting the meeting and related events.

8. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - XXV *Attachments are not included in this mailing, but will be filed with the permanent record of these minutes and are available for review upon request.