



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. R. Austin Gilbert, Jr., Chairman and Members
Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Ms. Susan Cole, Chair and Members
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Scholarship and Grant Programs Audit Appeals

**Audit Report Number SSA-03 - University of South Carolina-Columbia
Audit Report Number SSA-05 - University of South Carolina-Spartanburg**

Background: On September 2, 1999, the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services voted to render final decisions on all unresolved audit resolution issues. The Committee's recommendation along with the Audit Resolution for Scholarships and Grants and the Appeal Process was submitted for consideration under Agenda Item 3.03 B during the October 7, 1999 full Commission meeting at Lander University.

As a result, the Committee moved forward and scheduled a date to hear audit appeals for the University of South Carolina-Columbia, and the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg. The Committee met on October 20, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. and the following summarization is being submitted for information.

Finding: The on-site program reviews disclosed five continuing students that did not have the minimum earned credit hours (30 credit hours-sophomore, 60 credit hours-junior, 90 credit hours-senior) at the time of the initial LIFE Scholarship award, based on their initial college enrollment date.

Committee's Final Decision: Based on an overall review of all source documentation presented during the appeal, the Committee has determined that the LIFE Scholarship awards may have resulted from the institutions not having a clear understanding as to whether students were awarded based on earning 30 credit hours each year, or the 30/60/90 rule. Therefore, the Committee has moved to grant the University of South Carolina-Columbia and University of South Carolina-Spartanburg a waiver of funds awarded for academic year 1998-99 only. The Committee believes that this waiver does not violate the intent of the law. However, the Committee recommends that both institutions adhere to the 30/60/90 credit hour requirements when awarding students for 1999-2000 and subsequent years.