

RESOLVED, THAT:

The Commission has reviewed carefully funding for the institutions of higher learning as reflected in the currently pending version of the Appropriations Bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives.

The level of formula funding for the universities and colleges is alarmingly depressed, representing about five-tenths of one per cent increase over the appropriation for the current fiscal year.

This essentially flat level of funding comes at a time when the increase in enrollment in the institutions, systemwide, is 5.78% or 5,358 students. Taken together, those numbers indicate a significant drop in funding per student for higher education, a fact which must surely have a serious impact on the quality of the academic programs in the colleges and universities, and which will gravely affect the ability of the institutions to maintain competitive faculty salaries.

The Commission pledges to work with the institutional presidents and the members of the General Assembly to identify and allocate additional funds for higher education for the fiscal year which begins July 1, 1990.

We must observe, however, that serious damage would come to higher education if the current level of funding is not improved during the course of the General Assembly's deliberations on the Appropriations Bill.

The preservation of the fiscal base for higher education, with its link to the overall social, educational and economic welfare of the state should cause the current situation to be of immense concern to all South Carolinians.

The Commission hereby directs the Commissioner and the staff, working in conjunction with the Council of College Presidents and the joint Commission-Council Legislative Committee, to undertake all feasible efforts to improve funding for higher education in the 1990 Session of the General Assembly and to report back to the Commission at its April meeting.

NOTE:

The Commission notes that, at approximately 86 per cent of formula, currently in the Ways and Means version of the bill, the level of formula funding is at its lowest level since fiscal year

1982-83. A history of formula funding for the last nine years is as follows:

1981-82	91.6%	1986-87	92.6%
1982-83	80.7%	1987-88	88.2%
1983-84	92.9%	1988-89	93.2% (incl. one-time funds)
1984-85	99.7%	1989-90*	92.7% (incl. one-time funds)
1985-86	98.9%		*(excl. vacancy reduction)