

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**  
 1333 Main Street, Suite 200  
 Columbia, SC 29201

*Minutes of the Meeting*  
 September 1, 2005

**10:30 a.m.**

**Commission Members Present**

Ms. Rosemary Byerly, Acting Chairman  
 Mr. Larry Durham  
 Dr. Bettie Rose Horne  
 Dr. Vermelle Johnson  
 Mr. Jim Konduros  
 Ms. Cynthia Mosteller  
 Mr. Jim Sanders  
 Mr. Neal Workman  
 Dr. Mick Zais

**Commission Members Absent**

Dr. Doug Forbes  
 Mr. Miles Loadholt  
 Dr. Layton McCurdy

**Staff Present**

Ms. Camille Brown  
 Ms. Julie Carullo  
 Ms. Arlene Criswell  
 Ms. Renea Eshleman  
 Dr. Conrad Festa  
 Mr. Gary Glenn  
 Ms. Alyson Goff  
 Ms. Deborah Henning  
 Ms. Yolanda Hudson  
 Dr. Lynn Kelley  
 Dr. Esther Kramer  
 Ms. Rae McPherson  
 Ms. Lynn Metcalf  
 Dr. Gail Morrison  
 Dr. Mike Raley  
 Ms. Sandra Rhyne  
 Ms. Beth Rogers  
 Ms. Jan Stewart  
 Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Dr. Pete Barr, Coastal Carolina University  
 Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University  
 Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. – Columbia  
 Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University  
 Ms. Donna Collins, U.S.C. - Columbia  
 Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter  
 Ms. Kelly Dawkins, York Technical College  
 Ms. Nicole Ford-Jennings, House Ways & Means  
 Ms. Kimberly Herndon, York Technical College  
 Mr. Craig Hess, Midlands Technical College  
 Colonel Curt Holland, The Citadel  
 Mr. Braden Hosch, U.S.C. – Aiken  
 Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina University  
 Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C., Regional Campuses  
 Dr. Elise Jorgens, College of Charleston  
 Ms. Dorcas Kitchings, Midlands Technical College  
 Mr. Keith Laisure, Piedmont Technical College  
 Mr. Tom Ledbetter, Midlands Technical College  
 Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System  
 Ms. Linda Lyerly, Coastal Carolina University  
 Ms. Beth McInnes, Clemson University  
 Ms. Candace Morgan, University of Phoenix  
 Ms. Diane Newton, Lander University  
 Ms. Rose Pellatt, Spartanburg Technical College  
 Ms. Jody Ploessel, University of Phoenix  
 Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. – Columbia  
 Mr. Ron Rhames, Midlands Technical College  
 Mr. Charlie Schawver, S. C. Budget & Control Board  
 Dr. Jackie Skubal, Denmark Technical College  
 Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.  
 Dr. John Sutusky, Medical University of S.C.  
 Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. - Columbia  
 Dr. Richard Weldon, Coastal Carolina University  
 Mr. Warren Yarbrough, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

**Member of the Press:**

no members of the press attended

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

### 1. Introductions

As Chairman McCurdy was out of the country and unable to be in attendance, the meeting it was called to order by Acting Chairman, Byerly. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending the meeting, all of whom are listed above.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Byerly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 2, 2005. The **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Durham) and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

### 3. Chairman's Report

- Rosemary Byerly

- Acting Chairman Byerly made reference to the mail ballot on interim capitol projects which took place in July due to the fact that there was no Commission meeting that month. The projects were approved by a majority of the Commissioners. See **Attachment I**.

### 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 (No Report)

-Vermelle Johnson

#### 4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Dan Ravenel

##### A. Service Learning Engagement Program Presentation Dr. Pete Barr, Provost, Coastal Carolina University

Commissioner Ravenel introduced Dr. Barr. His presentation included a video that showed responses of the Coastal and K-12 students involved in this program of service learning and mentoring. Approved by the Commission and funded by the General Assembly, the three year pilot program began with 100 student volunteers in Spring 2005. Fourteen classes are presently offered at Coastal which incorporate the mentoring aspect. Coastal's goal is to eventually have a course in each discipline at the sophomore, junior, and senior levels. Dr. Barr entertained and answered questions from the Commissioners. This revealed information on how the mentors and mentees are selected, details on how the program is structured, and whether verifiable data on the performance of the Coastal students involved in the program has been collected.

#### 4.04 Report Committee on Finance and Facilities

**A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects**

- |                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>1. College of Charleston</b>       | - | <b>Maybank Hall Renovation</b>  |
| <b>2. U.S.C. – Columbia</b>           | - | <b>Steam Line Replacement/Repair</b>                                  |
| <b>3. Midlands Technical College</b>  | - | <b>Campus Accelerator, Northeast<br/>Exterior Lighting Upgrades</b>   |
| <b>4. Coastal Carolina University</b> | - | <b>Replacement Lease for Myrtle Beach<br/>Higher Education Center</b> |

Acting Chairman Byerly reported that the projects and lease listed above and described in **Attachment II** had all been reviewed, discussed and approved by her committee.

Ms. Byerly noted that the Midlands Technical College Campus Accelerator project was exceptional in that it encourages collaboration between institutions and promotes economic development. Ms. Byerly then introduced Mr. Tom Ledbetter, Director of Corporate Services for Midlands Technical College, who described the project in more detail. In summary, the Accelerator will provide space and resources for small businesses emerging from incubators at the research institutions as they grow to full capacity and become a source of quality jobs. An outline of Mr. Ledbetter's presentation is found in **Attachment III**. Dr. Morrison suggested that communication with the S. C. Research Authority might prove to be beneficial to this project. Commissioner Workman inquired as to how the viability of a potentially marketable product would be extracted. Mr. Ledbetter responded that internal resources, instructors and staff members engaged in the activities, and independent investment counselors would be consulted for that purpose.

A **motion** was then made (Durham), seconded (Workman), and carried to approve the above-mentioned projects and lease as recommended. Commissioner Sanders pointed out that deferred maintenance on infrastructure is not included in the amounts listed for each of these projects.

**5. Legislative Update****- Rita Allison**

Ms. Allison reported that property tax will be a big issue in the next legislative session and that the education segment of property tax will need to be addressed. A Result Team, of which Dr. Home and Dr. McCurdy are a part, is currently reviewing the Commission's budget. The team will meet again next week to go over activity reports for U.S.C., the State Technical Board, and the Commission. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, a budget hearing for the Commission, the State Technical Board, and the S. C. Tuition Grants Commission will take place at Winthrop University. The location may change, however, due to the current situation with gas shortages caused by the effects of Hurricane Katrina. The Governor has urged all cabinet and state agencies to conserve as much as possible and to eliminate any non-essential travel. Commissioner Sanders inquired as to how much South Carolina's lottery proceeds would be reduced when a lottery goes into effect in

North Carolina and the answer was 12-17%. Ms. Allison stated that North Carolina's lottery will not be as expansive as South Carolina's and therefore we may not feel a huge impact from it initially, though concern about its effect on our scholarship programs is valid. That issue is currently being considered by the CHE's Division of Student Services as well as the General Assembly.

## 6. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa reported on his attendance at the July 11-15 service-learning conference in Denver, CO, sponsored by the Education Commission of the States. He stated that South Carolina has become very visible in this initiative, which has been closely linked with retention and performance of K-12 students. Dr. Festa reported that the work of the Presidents' Accountability Group has reflected an emphasis on service-learning. He reported that the Commission has worked together with the State Department of Education on its High School Reorganization Committee and that recommendations from that group are under development. Progress is also taking place in his work with the Chamber of Commerce and Department of Commerce in terms of pathways to success in the K-12 area as well as with regard to transfer, articulation, and smooth movement through the pipeline to the college level. Much effort has been put forth into the development of the Commission's budget request which will be considered by the Governor on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Festa provided information on the National Accountability Conference which will take place in Charleston September 22-24, 2005, and encouraged the Commissioners to attend. In response to Dr. Horne's inquiry about the status of the Presidents' Accountability Plan, Dr. Festa stated that with the development of a few more specifics, the plan will be ready to be presented to legislative leaders. Conversation took place about the mission specific objective portion of the plan which allows each institution to assert its strength in its individual mission by working on a goal of that mission. Additional conversation followed regarding how this accountability plan would interface with performance funding. At this point no financial components have been developed as a part of the new plan, as the appropriate measures to develop the link between accountability and funding are still being determined. Ultimately it is hoped that this will replace performance funding. When the Presidents have developed the plan further, it will be brought to the Commission for review. Commissioner Konduros then made reference to the state of Arkansas' June 2004 Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education, a copy of which had recently been sent to all Commissioners (**Attachment IV**). Although Mr. Konduros stated that he was not fully supportive of the idea of a central state authority for education as advocated in the report, he does encourage continued dialogue between the Commission and the institutions for the betterment of education in South Carolina. Dr. Festa remarked that, though it is often misunderstood, there is a lot of accountability already in place, and that data reveals that South Carolina's institutions of higher education have done well in husbanding the stewardship of their resources. Acting Chairman Byerly recommended that the discussion of these issues continue at the Commissioners' Retreat on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Byerly then reminded the Commissioners to make sure they respond as to whether they'll be able to attend the retreat events of the September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners were also reminded that the October 6, 2005 meeting of the Commission would take place at Winthrop University.

## 7. Primers on Mission Resource Requirements and Performance Funding

In the interest of time and due to the fact that the Academic Affairs and Licensing Committee

was scheduled to meet at 1:00 p.m., it was determined that the educational presentations on Mission Resource Requirements and Performance Funding would be delivered at a later date.

**8. Other Business**  
(None)

**9. Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth Rogers*

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - IV \*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.