

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

Minutes of the Meeting

April 7, 2005

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Mr. Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. Jim Konduros
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Larry Durham

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. De'Nitra Brown
Mr. Mike Brown
Mr. Tony Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Arlene Criswell
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Sherry Hubbard
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Rae McPherson
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Frank Myers
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds

Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Sandra Rhyne
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Jan Stewart
Dr. Donald Tetreault
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Mr. Robert Barkley, Clemson University
Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. – Columbia
Dr. Diane Brandstadter, State Technical System
Ms. Donna Collins, U.S.C. – Columbia
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. – Sumter
Dr. Christine Ebert, U.S.C. – Columbia
Ms. Linda Floyd, S. C. Higher Education Foundation
Mr. Wayne Fogle, Trident Technical College
Mr. Henry Giles, Spartanburg Technical College
Ms. Alyson Goff, CHE Intern
Ms. Sjanna Herrold, Midlands Technical College
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Mr. Darin Junck, College of Charleston
Mr. Ken Kopera, Tri-County Technical College
Ms. Sylvia Littlejohn, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston
Dr. Daniel Nadenicek, Clemson University
Dr. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Charlie Schawver, S. C. Budget & Control Board
Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. – Columbia
Mr. Richard Williams, State Technical System
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board

Member of the Press:

no members of the press attended

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

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Floyd. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending the meeting, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 3, 2005. The **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Byerly) and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

- Dalton B. Floyd

- Chairman Floyd introduced the Commission's newest member, J. Neal Workman, Jr., briefly provided background information on him, and welcomed him to the Commission.
- Chairman Floyd commented that the Access & Equity Conference, held in Columbia March 16 – 18, 2005, was very successful. He also complimented staff member Michael Brown for all the hard work he put into that event.
- Chairman Floyd made reference to the "Corridor of Shame", a recently released video that highlights conditions in eight of South Carolina's poorest and most rural school districts. He stated that he'd like for the Commission to get a copy of the video. Dr. Festa advised that he had asked Ms. Rita Allison to look into that.
- Dr. Festa commented that he'd received a letter from Commissioner Zais that stressed the importance of need-based scholarships and urged efforts to have need-based aid increased.
- Dr. Festa also mentioned an article in *The State* newspaper about the implementation of a lottery in North Carolina and how that might possibly affect the amount of scholarship money generated by the lottery in South Carolina. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk commented on that briefly.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee (No Report)

-Dalton B. Floyd

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

The Committee had no report, however, Chairman Floyd inquired about the Early College High School pilot project, a cooperative effort of the Horry County School District and Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Commissioner Ravenel replied that the project will start in the fall of 2005 and a report on its status will be provided before the end of the 2005-2006 academic year.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities**- Ms. Rosemary Byerly****A. Interim Capital Projects**

Commissioner Byerly reported that her committee had met, reviewed, and approved all nine of the projects as listed below and described in **Attachment I**.

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|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1. College of Charleston | - | 57 Coming Street
Acquisition & Renovation |
| 2. Clemson University | - | Kinard Laboratory HVAC |
| | - | Martin Hall HVAC |
| | - | Rowing Facility |
| 3. S. C. State University | - | Transportation Research Center |
| 4. U.S.C. – Columbia | - | Band Hall Construction |
| | - | Thomas Cooper Library Rare Books Facility |
| 5. U.S.C. – Aiken | - | Convocation Center Site Enhancement |

Leases

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 6. College of Charleston | - | Dixie Plantation Renewal |
| 7. College of Charleston | - | Warehouse Space |
| 8. Spartanburg Technical College | - | Lease with Purchase Option
523 Chesnee Highway, Gaffney, SC |
| 9. Tri-County Technical College | - | Lease with Purchase Option
Anderson, SC |

Information Item

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 10. U.S.C. – Columbia | - | Notification of Sale of Property |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|

A **motion** was made (Byerly) and **seconded** (McCurdy), to approve each of the projects as recommended. Commissioner Byerly stated that Ms. Lynn Metcalf provided an excellent tutorial on the process by which capital projects are approved at the Finance and Facilities meeting that took place that day prior to the Commission meeting. A summary of that information can be found in **Attachment II**. Commissioner Zais questioned whether figures on the average number of dollars spent per undergraduate contained in the CHE Statistical Abstract include the costs of capital projects. Ms. Metcalf explained that those costs are not included. Commissioner Sanders requested that he be provided with a copy of the Statistical Abstract. The motion was then brought to the table and **carried**. Commissioner Byerly stated that item 10 regarding notification of sale of property at U.S.C. – Columbia as listed above was provided for information only.

5. Legislative Update**- Rita Allison**

Rita Allison stated that she and Julie Carullo are closely monitoring activities taking place in the legislature regarding funding for higher education and that things are looking favorable. She

reported that the Education Economic Act will probably be going to conference committee and that there will mostly like be some adjustments made to the various state scholarships. Ms. Allison stated that consideration of additional funds for need-based aid had come up and that support of funding for the Statewide Virtual Library has been evident. She reported that, as of the previous evening, it appeared an additional \$5 million may be allocated for higher education, although the breakdown on how that money would be distributed had not yet been made available. Dr. Festa commented on the Commission's funding needs for scholarship administration and appeals, as well as those for program review. At that point Julie Carullo arrived, having just come from the Senate Finance Committee meeting, and reported that it was apparent that \$2 million was going to be allocated for the Statewide Virtual Library, as well as \$250,000 for academic program review, and an additional \$100,000 for the African-American student loan program. Ms. Carullo stated that it appeared that overall higher education will receive an increase of funding in the amount of \$5 million. Chairman Floyd commended Ms. Allison and Ms. Carullo for all their hard work in monitoring and reporting on legislative activities with regard to the budget for higher education.

6. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa stated that work had been completed on the accreditation of the schools of education and report on that will be available in a month or so. Most of the institutions fared well and only three of them will be revisited. He reiterated some of the information shared by Ms. Allison and Ms. Carullo in the legislative update and expressed his thanks to all the Commissioners for their help in acting as advocates of the Commission's funding requests with members of the legislature. Chairman Floyd inquired as to whether there had been any discussion of a bond bill this year and Ms. Allison replied that there had not. Ms. Allison stated that there has been some discussion and concern in the legislature about whether lottery funds will be able to adequately cover the amount needed for scholarships in the future. She also mentioned that the Superintendent of Education would be holding a press conference that afternoon, the subject of which is the increase in the number of South Carolina students earning scholarships. The question arose as to whether our request for additional funding for the administration of scholarships had been denied. Ms. Allison replied that at present it was not certain whether the Senate Finance Committee had retained that proviso. Dr. Festa stated that the legislature had become much more aware of the work of the Commission on Higher largely due to the hard work of Ms. Allison and Ms. Carullo. Ms. Allison commented that Dr. Festa played a major role in that effort as well. Dr. Festa reported that Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, President of S. C. Independent Colleges and Universities, and Dr. Mick Zais, President of Newberry College, had been instrumental in increasing the cooperation and discourse between public and independent institutions. He also stated that a joint meeting of the public and private institutions would take place in the fall. Dr. Mick Zais stated that representatives of the business community would be in attendance at that meeting, the primary purpose of which would be to develop policy statements on what is in the best interest of the citizens of S. C. in terms of higher education. Chairman Floyd advised that there would also be a conference of both public and independent trustees in the fall and that perhaps the two conferences should be coordinated. Dr. Morrison reported that a national conference on accountability and cost containment in higher education, sponsored by the Commission and funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), would take place September 22 – 24, 2005 (see **Attachment IV**). She then requested that the Commission make note of conference on their calendars.

7. Presentation

S. C. Commission on Higher Education On-line Application and Resources – SCHOLAR

Chairman Floyd commented that he became involved at the inception of this program early in his tenure with the Commission and that he was happy to see how successful it has become. Dr. Woodfaulk introduced the individuals who provided the presentation. They were Mr. Robert Barkley, Clemson University, Mr. Darin Junck, College of Charleston, Ms. Sjanna Herrold and Ms. Sylvia Littlejohn, Midlands Technical College, and Ms. Emily Mieren and Ms. Patricia Summers from CollegeNet, who participated via long-distance conference call. Beginning with Mr. Barkley, these individuals shared information about the history and current status of the SCHOLAR program in general and with regard to their specific institutions. This program evolved from a desire to have compatibility between the institutions' systems in terms of on-line application for admission. CollegeNet was consulted about this in 1999, and created a common system for South Carolina which became operational in 2000. The system allows that information be shared in the on-line application process of participating institutions, thus reducing the amount of time required for students to complete individual applications as well as the time for employees of the institutions to process them. It is being used to process undergraduate applications and, in the case of some institutions, honors and graduate applications as well. In addition, SCHOLAR allows for on-line application for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. Twenty-two of South Carolina's public institutions are currently utilizing the SCHOLAR program. **Attachment IV** demonstrates the increase in the number of on-line transactions at those institutions during the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 academic years. Seven or eight of the state's private institutions are also currently utilizing SCHOLAR.

8. Other Business

Chairman Floyd thanked institutional representatives, past and present members of the Commission, members of the Commission staff, and Dr. Festa for the privilege of having had the opportunity to work with them. He mentioned in particular what an asset Dr. Festa has been to the Commission. He also recognized his wife, Linda, for her support as well as for the hard work she has contributed to the annual Campus Safety Conference. He then introduced the new Chairman, Dr. Layton McCurdy, and highlighted his vitae. After Dr. McCurdy's remarks, he read a proposed resolution (**Attachment V**) commending Chairman Floyd, and moved that it be adopted. The motion was **seconded** (Ravenel) and **carried**. Chairman McCurdy also read a letter from Governor Sanford which thanked Chairman Floyd for his outstanding service to the state. Dr. Festa then offered his remarks of respect and appreciation.

9. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy asked if there was any other business before the Commission. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - V

*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.