

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

December 5, 1968

The Commission on Higher Education met on Thursday, December 5, 1968, in the Conference Room on the fourth floor of the Rutledge Building. Commission members present were Messrs. Coker, Furman, Grier, Osborne, Rogers, Schachte, Vance, Wall and Walsh. Colonel Figg represented The Citadel in Colonel Holliday's absence, and Dr. Morris was present.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Vance at 10:30 a. m.

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission on Higher Education with the Council of Presidents on November 25, 1968, were unanimously approved.

Mr. Vance asked Dr. Morris for a report of the meeting with representatives of the private colleges. Dr. Morris reported that Mr. Pope, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Lane and Mr. McLean, representing the South Carolina College Council, met with Mr. Vance, Mr. Rogers, and Dr. Morris on November 25 to present some views of the independent college group. The group expressed appreciation to the Commission on Higher Education for its interest in private colleges, and went along basically with the Commission's position on private colleges except for the following points:

1. The independent colleges would like tuition equalization grants to apply to all South Carolina students rather than just commuting students.
2. Instead of limiting the amount granted to each student to \$500, the independent colleges felt that 60% of the amount appropriated for students in state colleges would be a better basis.

The group commented that whatever the Commission came up with, they would be fighting for it and appreciated anything the Commission could do to help.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration by the Commission of the action taken by the Council of Presidents on the state personnel classification system. Dr. Morris explained that the State Budget and Control Board had set up a personnel office, whose first effort is to establish a classification system for all state employees. The Council of Presidents has recommended to the Budget and Control Board that because of the unique situation in universities and colleges, certain first and second level college personnel be exempted from the classification system. The Council of Presidents asked the Commission to go on record as approving this request. Dr. Morris stated that he could see no objection to exempting the first level and some of the second level, and felt that the Commission should go on record as supporting the recommendation of the Council of Presidents for exempting key personnel in colleges and universities. Mr. Vance asked Dr. Morris to state his reasons for this. Dr. Morris explained that certain university jobs are unique, some having no counterparts in state government, and that the institutions of higher learning must have flexibility in a tight labor market situation. Dr. Morris said that the Council of Presidents recommendation only exempted about two per cent of the total positions

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in the institutions of higher learning. Mr. Furman asked if Dr. Morris would be classified. Dr. Morris answered that he understood that the number one man in each agency would be excluded. Mr. Walsh suggested that if we go on record as approving this recommendation that we add that we had made no detailed analysis on the subject but would go along with the Council of Presidents generally. Mr. Vance said we should give the reason we made the decision. Mr. Furman made a motion that we go on record as approving the recommendation from the Council of Presidents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Vance asked Dr. Morris to explain the revised position paper. Dr. Morris stated that the Commission had attempted to provide a little more background for the position paper without altering the basic analysis. Following the background analysis, the key issues will be pointed out, then the Commission's recommendations and general reasons for the recommendations. Dr. Morris said there appeared to be agreement by public and private colleges of our original position on the issues except for two points:

1. The Council of Presidents recommended that we might wait awhile before recommending separation of the two year centers.

2. The private college group would like the amount of tuition grants fixed at 60% of the per student appropriation for students in state colleges. They also requested that grants be awarded to all South Carolina students rather than commuting students and that this apply to non-accredited as well as accredited schools. Dr. Morris said the difference in cost would be about \$8 million. Dr. Morris pointed out that by supporting only commuting students, grants would amount to about \$1 million. If aid was extended to all students many arguments would be developed for not doing it at all and it probably would not pass the legislature. Mr. Furman stated that the scholarship program would be better than tuition grants. Mr. Walsh was in agreement with this. Mr. Walsh asked if the amount for grants was set at 60% in lieu of \$500, would it take care of the problem for a longer time. Mr. Furman felt this would satisfy the private colleges and not cost much more than the \$500.

At this point Dr. Jones arrived and was welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Vance turned the meeting over to Dr. Jones for a report to the Commission on the University's two year branches. Dr. Jones expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be heard by the Commission. He stated that he felt the Commission would become the spokesman for higher education in the state. Dr. Jones then gave a brief history of the centers, and with the use of figures and statistics, described the progress of the branches from 1961 until the present. He stated that the progress in the last two years had been slowed because of politics and loose talk. He announced that the centers were now fully accredited and that the University would like very much to keep them for the time being. Dr. Jones strongly urged that no legislative action be taken with regards to the centers until the situation was fully investigated. Also, he would like the Midlands branch left out of any action so that it could continue to be an experimental program, hopefully developing into a four year college. Dr. Jones thanked the Commission for letting him come and then retired from the meeting.

Mr. Vance asked Dr. Morris to resume the discussion on the position paper.

Going back to private colleges, Dr. Morris stated that from the previous general discussion his opinion was that the Commission favored going on record as recommending tuition grants to private colleges for commuting students to fully accredited institutions, or institutions formally being considered for accreditation,

and basing the amount awarded on 60% of the amount appropriated for state students. Mr. Furman made the motion that this recommendation be accepted. It was seconded by Mr. Osborne and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Morris then asked if the Commission would like to reaffirm the decisions of November 7 on separation of branches, or reconcile the differences of opinion. Mr. Coker stated that he did not want to change his views. Mr. Wall was in agreement. Mr. Wall brought out the fact that all reports had favored separation. Mr. Osborne stated that he was inclined to go along with the college presidents. Dr. Morris was asked to state his opinion. Dr. Morris said he felt that the University of South Carolina deserves sincere thanks for what it has done for South Carolina in setting up branches but that the state is now moving toward a new approach to higher education, a move toward improved planning and coordination. He stated the following reasons why branches should be separated:

1. The University should concentrate all of its efforts in becoming a great graduate and research university and not divert its talents to the problem of junior colleges or branches.

2. A board of junior colleges, with a competent staff to get ideas throughout the state, would provide a better program for the state than would the universities who spend only a little bit of its time on this problem.

Dr. Morris commented that it was nice for the centers to carry the name of a university but it was not a good enough reason for continuing this way.

Dr. Morris felt that the Commission could go along with Dr. Jones' recommendation that the Midlands branch remain at the University until the state-wide board recommended otherwise. Dr. Morris also felt that there should be a local advisory board for the two year colleges in addition to the state-wide board.

Mr. Furman moved that the issue of separation of branches from the universities be recommended as originally stated but adding the recommendation to leave the Midlands branch under the University, and the addition of local advisory boards for two year colleges in addition to the state board. The motion was seconded by Colonel Figg and was passed. All were in favor except Mr. Osborne, who was opposed.

There was no further discussion on the remainder of the position paper and Mr. Rogers made a motion to accept the position as revised, with the addition of the following two exceptions:

1. Private college tuition grants would be awarded on a basis of 60% of the amount appropriated for state students and only to commuting students.

2. The Midlands branch should remain at the University until a state-wide board recommended otherwise.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Schachte and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Wall stated that he was in accordance with establishing a four year college in Florence but would like for us to establish criteria. Dr. Morris said the Commission staff had come up with some basic points in this connection which he explained briefly. Dr. Morris said he felt the Commission would like to study this in more detail and discuss it further at the next meeting. Dr. Morris stated that he would rather see criteria published by the Commission than have them put into law.

In closing remarks Dr. Morris commented that the Commission had come a long way, but it had just begun its efforts to implement its ideas. He stated that he would work with the Governor to suggest that the Commission's views get into his message. He said that next month we would have to have a plan of action for implementation of our views and that he would have some thoughts in January on how we can sell our ideas to the legislature so it can act properly on them.

Mr. Furman asked if there was any objection from the Commission if he was on a panel in support of private colleges. The general opinion of the Commission was that it was all right as long as the confidential nature of the Commission's position was not disclosed.

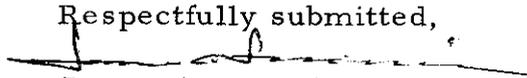
Mr. Coker announced that he does not like to be put in a position to vote for or against the institution he represents and felt that ex officio members should be relieved in such cases. Mr. Osborne stated that you only had to ask not to vote and you would not have to. This was taken as a matter of information.

Mr. Walsh went on record to say that once the position paper was sent to the Governor we should all support it.

Mr. Vance asked if everyone was satisfied with the way the meetings were being conducted. All agreed they were.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Morris
Commissioner