

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

Minutes of the Meeting

February 7, 2008

10:30 a.m.

**Commission Members Attending
by Teleconference**

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Louis Lynn

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Ms. Deborah Henning
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Gail Morrison
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham

Guests

Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. Sumter
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina
University
Mr. Mike Lefever, S.C. Independent
Colleges & Universities
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical
College
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of
Charleston
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. Columbia
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget &
Control Board

Members of Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above. Dr. Lynn's absence was excused as it he was unable to participate in this teleconference meeting due to a conflict with his attendance at the winter board meeting and retreat of the Clemson University Board of Trustees.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Sanders), **seconded** (Mosteller), and **carried** to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007.

3. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy had no report but asked Dr. Walters to provide information on his recent interactions with members of the state legislature. Dr. Walters stated he had testified before the House Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 5. In that testimony he reviewed the CHE's previously presented budget proposal, highlighting the loss of funding for higher education institutions in the last six years due to state budget cutbacks. Also highlighted was an analysis demonstrating that South Carolina's capital support has been substantially below that of neighboring (Georgia and North Carolina) and typical (Kentucky) states for the last ten years. He emphasized that the lack of capital support exacerbates the problem of declining state support and presents difficult times for public colleges and universities. Other key items highlighted were the importance of need-based aid in balancing our portfolio of scholarships and current collaborative activities in South Carolina's higher education system. The importance of state investment in higher education and how that directly relates to growth and strength of economy was also noted. Dr. Walters concluded his testimony by stating South Carolina has a strong foundation on which to build and that the action plan to be delivered by the Higher Education Study Committee should be an effective vehicle to elevate South Carolina in the knowledge economy. Dr. Walters also reported that testimony by the three research university vice-presidents of research on the Centers of Economic Excellence (CoEE) Endowed Chairs program was positively received by the full Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, February 6.

At Dr. Walters' invitation, Ms. Julie Carullo provided an answer to Chairman McCurdy's question about why the CoEE testimony was presented to the full Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Carullo stated that the full committee was considering legislation pertaining to the CoEE program whereas the budget considerations were currently being considered by a subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. She explained that the CoEE legislation had already been through subcommittee and was being considered by the full committee. The full committee had requested briefings by the vice-presidents of research from the University of South Carolina, Clemson University, and the Medical University of South Carolina as part of the meeting at which the legislation was being considered. Ms. Carullo informed the Commission that, following the presentations, the

CoEE legislation (H.4494) was approved by the full Ways and Means Committee and will next be considered by the full House.

Ms. Carullo reported that different subcommittees of the House Ways and Means Committee are currently meeting to develop budget recommendations. She stated that the Higher Education Budget Subcommittee has concluded its presentations and would be developing recommendations in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Carullo also reported that the full Ways and Means Committee is expected to meet and consider subcommittee budget recommendations during the week of February 18.

Discussion followed in which Dr. Walters stated he is in the process of meeting with members of the Higher Education Subcommittee (Representatives Limehouse, Merrill, Littlejohn, and Nielsen) in an effort to follow-up and answer any questions they might have.

Additional conversation took place about the importance of Commissioners acting as advocates for higher education, making every effort to communicate with members of their respective legislative delegations with regard to important issues. Also noted was the need to continue to emphasize to members of the legislature the important relationship between higher education and economic development, perhaps in education sessions organized by the CHE expressly for that purpose.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Bettie Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

4.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Lease

1. Clemson University - Computing & Information Technology

B. List of Staff Approvals for January 2008

Commissioner Ravenel reported that the Committee had met just prior to the CHE meeting and had approved the lease referred to in agenda item 4.04A, described in **Attachment I**.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this lease provided the Clemson University Board of Trustees approves the lease at its February 7 meeting and provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Ravenel stated that the list of staff approvals for January 2008 was provided for information only.

In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about the status of the request to extend the timeline of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC), Commissioner Ravenel and Ms. Julie Carullo replied that a September 15, 2008, extension request had been submitted by Senator John Courson in the form of a joint resolution (S.1034). That resolution has been approved by the Senate and is currently under consideration by the House.

5. Other Business

Commissioner Horne reminded Commissioners to complete their Statement of Economic Interests forms by the required deadline. She also initiated a conversation about the upcoming term expiration dates of several Commissioners. Discussion followed regarding the process by which replacements are named.

Commissioner Mosteller requested that the different funding level scenarios on need-based aid allocation, previously sent to Commissioners by Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, be re-sent, noting on each their original dates of distribution. Commissioner Sanders also requested that the information on the new policy implemented by the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC), recently distributed by Mr. Gary Glenn, also be re-sent.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachment I

*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.