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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. R. Austin Gilbert, Jr., Chairman, and Members,
Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Dianne Chinnes, Chairman
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of the
South Carolina Research Initiative Grant Awards
FY1999-2000

Background

In 1999, the General Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million for the purpose of providing small grants to public institutions of higher education to support the development of the research capacities of South Carolina's public institutions of higher education. Of these funds, \$40,000 was set aside for the professional evaluation of the proposals by an external panel of experts whose work was directed by the EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) office. Ten percent of the remaining money (\$246,000) was set aside for research proposals from the State's public comprehensive teaching universities. The rest of the monies (\$2,214,000) was directed for the funding of projects from the faculties at the three research institutions of Clemson, USC-Columbia, and the Medical University of South Carolina.

The Commission issued a call for proposals that were due from the institutions by September 30. These guidelines stressed that grants focused on the economic development of South Carolina would receive priority in funding. Likewise, interinstitutional cooperation was encouraged by the guidelines.

The Commission received a total of 94 proposals from nine public four-year institutions. The breakdown of the number of grants by institution/institutional type is as follows:

USC-Columbia	41
MUSC	21
Clemson University	18
Teaching Universities:	
The Citadel	1
College of Charleston	2
Coastal Carolina	5
South Carolina State	2
USC-Aiken	2
Winthrop University	2
TOTAL	94

All proposals were first subject to review by two different review panels by mail. The first of these panels reviewed the application for its technical/scientific merit; the second reviewed it for its potential contribution to the economic development of South Carolina. On November 18, 1999, an on-site panel was convened in Columbia to determine those proposals which best met the criteria for funding, given the priorities and other requirements expressed within the guidelines.

The panel has recommended which proposals should be funded and has made adjustments in budgets for those proposals. The panel has recommended that from the 94 full proposals which were submitted a total of 30 should be funded. These were distributed as follows:

USC-Columbia	9
MUSC	9
Clemson University	8
Teaching Universities:	
The Citadel	1
College of Charleston	2
Coastal Carolina	1
Total	30

The attached table lists by title and institution those proposals that, based upon the reviewers' recommendations, can be funded within the \$2.46 million appropriated for the

South Carolina Research Initiative Grants program for 1999-2000 in the designated amounts.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the list of proposals on the attached table to be funded under the South Carolina Research Initiatives Grant program, and that the readers' comments and suggestions with respect to each funded proposal be forwarded for consideration and possible use by the grant recipient along with the notification of the award. The Committee further recommends that the Commission authorize the staff to make any final budget adjustments that may be necessary.