

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

Minutes of the Meeting

March 6, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Renea Eshelman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houp
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Candy Borchick, University of Phoenix
Ms. Michele Bowles, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Ralph Davis, Francis Marion University
Mr. Rex Graves, Clemson University
Ms. Karen Horne, S.C. Department of Education
Ms. Stephanie Jones, University of Phoenix
Dr. Wayne Kannaday, Newberry College
Ms. Angela King, Midlands Technical College
Mr. Kim Klauber, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Dr. Mary Ann Kohli, Trident Technical College
Mr. Mike Lefever, S.C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Ms. Angie Leidinger, Clemson University
Mr. David LeGrande, York Technical College
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical College
Dr. Joe McDonald, Newberry College
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Col. Spike Metts, The Citadel
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, Medical University of S.C.
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Dr. Emma Savage-Davis, Coastal Carolina University
Capt. Jennifer Settlemyer, S. C. Air National Guard
Ms. Christine Smalls-Brown, Medical University of S.C.
Mr. Robert Taylor, Clemson University
Dr. Summer Taylor, Clemson University
Ms. Carrie Thompson, Trident Technical College
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. Columbia
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board
Mr. Dale Wilson, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

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. Chairman McCurdy noted that the minutes of the February 7, 2008 CHE meeting had been adjusted to reflect that Dr. Lynn's absence was 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 (Horne), **seconded** (Temple), and **carried** to approve the minutes of February 7, 2007.

3. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy thanked all those who had been responsible for organizing and executing the February 20-22, 2008, Campus Safety Conference. He noted that its focus on recent tragic events and emphasis on mental health care on college campuses aligns with the American Psychiatric Associations' increased activity in these areas. Dr. McCurdy stated that invitations to the April 3, 2008, Higher Education Hall of Fame banquet had been placed at each of the Commissioners seats, and he encouraged their attendance.

4. Presentation of Commission's Service Learning Awards

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy reported that 15 programs were nominated for these awards. The selection of winners was based on three criteria: 1) number of students involved; 2) impact on the community; and 3) integration into academics. One winner was chosen from the public four-year institutions, one from the public two-year institutions, and one from the private institutions. Chairman McCurdy announced the names of the winners who were: Dr. Summer Smith Taylor of Clemson University for her program entitled, Client-Based Writing Program; Dr. Mary Ann Kohli of Trident Technical College for her project entitled, The Charleston Clemente Course Project; and Dr. Joe McDonald of Newberry College for his program entitled, Grant Homes Youth Development Project.

Ms. Karen Horne of the SC Department of Education explained that the current service learning award program is a result of collaborative efforts between the SC Department of Education, the SC Commission on Higher Education, and State Farm Insurance, which actually provides the funds for these awards. She also thanked members of the service learning award committee as well as all others involved in this effort.

The winners provided a brief summary of each of their programs and were then recognized and were presented with a plaque and check in the amount of \$500.

5. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters began by reporting that in his recent budget presentation to the House Ways

and Means Committee he had provided testimony on capital funding. Mr. Gary Glenn then reviewed the graph used in the testimony, (**Attachment I**), which compares South Carolina's capital funding to that of neighboring states. The graph illustrates that these states are seriously outpacing South Carolina in their higher education capital investment. He stated that inconsistent funding and the lack of a bond bill in recent years has seriously impacted South Carolina's institutions' ability to plan and has increased the necessity for deferring maintenance. This in turn affects academic programs and support of students and can result in increased tuition and fees.

Discussion followed about whether or not institutions in Georgia and North Carolina are allowed to use tuition-based bond offerings independent of an overall general obligation bond bill. Mr. Ravenel asked staff to determine the bonding authority of these states, and Mr. Glenn stated they would do so. Additional conversation took place about the serious nature of the lack of sufficient capital funding in South Carolina.

Dr. Walters reported on the status of South Carolina's involvement with the College Access Challenge Grant, a federal entitlement grant to states to be used to help improve college-going rate. A plan for accessing this money (\$2 million over a period of two years), which will be submitted to the Governor's office, is currently under development. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk has convened a small group of individuals who are working on this plan.

Dr. Walters stated that he, Ms. Rita Allison, and Ms. Julie Carullo had visited with officials of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in Atlanta on Monday, February 25, where they received comprehensive and useful information about each of SREB's programs. Of those programs, Dr. Walters noted the Doctoral Scholars program, and he asked Mr. Michael Brown to share information on its recent success in South Carolina. Mr. Brown briefly described the program, the purpose of which is to encourage minority students to pursue Ph.D. degrees. He then distributed a resolution (**Attachment II**) recognizing the 2007 South Carolina SREB Doctoral Scholars Program Graduates. Those graduates are: Dr. Shane Davis who earned a Ph.D. in Clinical/Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina; Dr. Cedric Fairbanks who earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Clemson University; Dr. Dwella Nelson who earned a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Clemson University; and Dr. Valeria Shipp who earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from The Medical University of South Carolina.

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to adopt the resolution and forward it on to the members of the General Assembly.

Discussion took place about the number of Doctoral Scholar Graduates who actually remain in South Carolina. It was noted that it is common practice for Ph.D.'s to move to other areas of the country upon completion of their degrees.

Dr. Walters then called on Commissioner Ravenel to report on the status of the Higher Education Study Committee. Mr. Ravenel stated that the Committee's Advisory Groups have summarized the results of their work. He then explained that the Committee will have a full-day retreat meeting on March 21, 2008, at the Lowcountry Graduate Center in North Charleston to consider all applicable information and begin to compile a statewide

higher education plan. The input of institutional presidents will be received at a meeting to be held in Columbia on April 4, 2008, after which public hearings will be held. It is anticipated that the plan will be presented to the legislature before the end of the current legislative session and that work on how the institutions will help facilitate the plan will take place this summer.

Dr. Walters reported that he had met with independent college presidents on February 28, 2008, at Coker College and that he looked forward to the opportunity to interact with them further since the independent colleges and universities will have an important role in the state plan.

Notes from the January 10-11, 2008, Commissioners' Retreat were distributed (**Attachment III**). Dr. Walters stated that work is taking place to track the items mentioned in those notes, some of which would be discussed later in this meeting's agenda.

Dr. Walters reported that Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, who formerly served on temporary assignment with the CHE, has recently become employed at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Walters noted that Charlie's work had been quite valuable to the agency, and he wished him well in this new endeavor.

Dr. Walters stated that he would be providing testimony to the Senate Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

6. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo briefed the Commissioners on the status of the budget. She reported that the full House would begin considering budget recommendations of the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday, March 11. She said that a document describing the CHE's budget as compared to the House Ways and Means Committee's recommendations had been distributed at each of the Commissioners' places (**Attachment IV**). In response to questions, Ms. Carullo confirmed that the House Ways and Means Committee did not entertain any discussion about tuition caps this year. Ms. Carullo briefly reported on the status of legislation of interest and informed the Commissioners that Mr. Kenneth Jackson, a board member at Francis Marion University, has been recommended by the Governor for the 4 year comprehensive appointment that was recently vacated on the CHE board. She noted this appointment now awaits Senate confirmation. In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about budget cuts for individual institutions, Ms. Carullo replied that in regard to recurring funds, each institution would receive a 2.4% base reduction and additional reductions for travel and CIO charges as in the House budget. She stated that similar recommendations were made across most state agencies. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about whether there were recommendations for additional need-based grant money, Ms. Carullo stated that the House Ways and Means Committee had not recommended increased program funds, but did include a provision to provide need-based aid with the balance of any unclaimed lottery fund money after the first \$8.4 million in unclaimed prize funds are allocated.

7. Discussion: Commission Topics

A. Meeting/Communication Plans

**- Garrison Walters
Rita Allison**

Dr. Walters began the discussion about the suggested considerations for changes to the CHE meeting format, detail about which may be found in **Attachment V**. Proposed changes advocate compressing the routine activities of the meeting in order to have more time to discuss important higher education topics and policy issues. This may necessitate the use of a consent agenda whereby Committees move to the full agenda items which they have already discussed at length. The items would only be discussed again individually at the full Commission meeting if a Commissioner had a particular concern about any of them. Discussion took place about these changes as well as about proposed meeting schedule changes. It was the general consensus that the proposed new format was acceptable and that it would be implemented for a period of six months after which it will be evaluated. Commission staff will work on scheduling details and development of CHE meeting forums.

Ms. Rita Allison reported on recommendations for having off-site CHE meetings, information about which is also provided in **Attachment V**. She stated that the host institution/business/organization would provide the presentation during the forum portion of the meeting. She also noted that these recommendations would provide for opportunities to build a media plan, an anticipated result of which would be greater publicity about higher education and its relationship to the knowledge economy. Ms. Allison reported that she and Dr. Walters had met with SC Educational Television (SCETV) officials and had discussed possible ways they might assist in expanding higher education awareness. Ms. Allison also provided a document describing current and proposed CHE communications activities, details about which are found in **Attachment V**. Commissioner Temple noted the importance of continuing to provide members of the legislature with opportunities to become more educated about matters pertaining to higher education.

B. Recognition Programs

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley provided information about current and prospective recognition programs implemented by the CHE, more details about which also may be found in **Attachment V**. Conversation took place about the importance of providing media with information about higher education achievements of their local citizenry, as well as about providing them with more material on current and future events and activities in both undergraduate and graduate education. Ms. Allison reported that she is in the process of scheduling editorial board meetings for Dr. Walters which will take place throughout the state.

C. Web Site Design

**- Rita Allison, Camille Brown
Clint Mullins**

Ms. Allison, Mr. Mullins, and Ms. Brown provided information about web site design. They solicited ideas about ways in which the CHE website might be improved, and the

Commissioners offered several suggestions. Commissioners responded favorably to CHE staff's suggestion that a student competition be held in order to acquire ideas on re-designing the CHE web site. Commissioner Wingate suggested that institutional representatives might also be asked for their recommendations on improvements to our web site.

8. Committee Reports

8.01 Report of the Executive Committee - Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

8.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing - Bettie Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

8.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services - Cyndi Mosteller

A. Consideration of Proposed SC National Guard College Assistance Program Regulation: Public Hearing

Commissioner Horne, serving in capacity as Chair in Commissioner Mosteller's absence, introduced Captain Jennifer Settlemyer of the S. C. National Guard. She then referred to a document containing changes made to the regulations of the S. C. National Guard Assistance Program, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment VI**. A **motion** was made (Horne) and **carried** to convene a public hearing for the purpose of discussing these regulations. In response to Chairman McCurdy's question about whether these changes represent an expansion of opportunities for those in the National Guard, Captain Settlemyer explained that the changes remove the annual yearly cap of \$4500 to allow for more fund disbursement flexibility. Changes to the regulations will become effective in the fall of 2008. The public hearing was then closed.

8.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities - Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Dining Hall/Post Office |
| 2. Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College | - | Transportation and Logistics Center |
| 3. Piedmont Technical College | - | Saluda County Extension Center |

B. Lease

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. Medical University of S. C. | - | 30 Bee Street |
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C. Master Land Acquisition Plan (MLAP)

1. York Technical College

D. List of Staff Approvals for February 2008

Commissioner Ravenel reviewed information about the three interim capital projects his Committee had unanimously approved in its meeting which took place earlier in the morning, more detail about which may be found in **Attachment VII**.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to collectively approve the following recommendation for each of the interim capital projects:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of this project as proposed.

Commissioner Ravenel stated that his Committee had also unanimously approved the lease renewal referred to in agenda item 8.04B. 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 rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Ravenel provided information about the Master Land Acquisition Plan as referred to in agenda item 8.04C, stating that his committee had also approved unanimously.

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

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends conceptual approval of the proposed Master Land Acquisition Plan for York Technical College, such approval to be good for an initial five-year period after which it must be renewed by the Commission.

The February 2008 permanent improvement projects approved by the staff, as described in Agenda Item 8.04D, were provided for information only.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

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

Attachment I-VII

*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.