

ROLE AND FUNCTION
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE
STATE DESEGREGATION PLAN

On July 30, 1981, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education authorized the Chairman, Dr. James E. Bostic, Jr., to appoint a committee of commission members to "monitor the progress of the Desegregation Plan during the life of the Plan" and stipulated that "the previously appointed CHE Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action in Higher Education be dissolved and replaced by the new Committee." Additionally, the following specific functions of the committee were discussed:

1. To oversee the implementation of the Desegregation Plan;
2. To review and analyze reports from the institutions;
3. To assist in drafting annual reports; and
4. To make recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

In view of the wording of the motion which established the Special Committee and the specific function discussed during the deliberation of the motion, we recommend the following as the role and function of the Committee:

1. To consider the activities and responsibilities of the former CHE Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action in Higher Education which are not addressed in the State Desegregation Plan and to recommend action for addressing them.

Rationale: The role and functions of the former CHE Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action in Higher Education are compatible with the charge to the Special Committee but are narrower in scope. Further, certain of these responsibilities are addressed in the State Desegregation Plan.

Since the CHE is committed to having all the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Affirmative Action in Higher Education addressed in a manner most beneficial to higher education; and the responsibility for recommending action in

these recommendations were originally that of the CHE Advisory Committee on Affirmative Action; and since the Special Committee replaces the former Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, it becomes the responsibility of the Special Committee to complete the work of the former CHE Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.

2. To present to the CHE timely reports with recommendations, on the allocation of all funds appropriated for implementation of the State Desegregation Plan which are not allocated directly to institutions.

Rationale: Funds appropriated for implementation of the State Desegregation Plan, with the exception of faculty salary adjustment and capital improvement funds, will be allocated to the Budget and Control Board for re-allocation to institutions and the CHE.

The Special Committee is charged to "oversee the implementation of the Plan." Consequently, the CHE will recommend to the Budget and Control Board the allocation of funds appropriated for implementation of the State Desegregation Plan through action on reports and recommendations of the Special Committee on Implementation of the State Desegregation Plan.

3. To approve the plans for the CHE Workshop for institutional representatives on implementation of the State Desegregation Plan.

Rationale: A workshop on the implementation of the State Desegregation Plan is need to:

- Set the tone for its implementation.
- Disseminate and discuss vital information for its implementation.
- To receive input from institutional representatives on its implementation.

- To establish procedures for the implementation of specific activities (to include the role of the Special Committee on Implementation of the State Desegregation Plan).
- To establish monitoring and evaluation procedures to be utilized by CHE.
- To discuss monitoring and evaluation procedures to be utilized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- To establish reporting procedures and timetables.

The development and implementation of such a workshop is a component of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation function of the CHE (in cooperation with the Governor's Office and the institutions). The Special Committee on Implementation of the State Desegregation Plan is the Committee of the Commission responsible for developing and implementing the workshop.

4. To direct the accomplishment of the activities and measures for implementing the State Desegregation Plan.

Rationale: The South Carolina Plan for Equity and Equal Opportunity in the Public Colleges and Universities as accepted by the U. S. Department of Education includes a number of activities and measures to be undertaken as part of the State's good faith efforts to remove any remaining vestiges of its former dual system of public higher education. These measures and activities are designed to establish and achieve reasonable interim benchmarks toward the achievement of the goals set forth in the Plan. These interim benchmarks are the criteria upon which the State's "good faith efforts" to meet its stated commitments will be evaluated.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is the State agency charged with the responsibility of implementing and monitoring the State Plan. However, the implementation process directly involves all the State's public postsecondary institutions, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the State Department of Education, the State Human Affairs Commission, and the General Assembly.

A plan with procedures for coordination by CHE of the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Desegregation Plan is needed to enhance the prospects for the level of inter-agency, inter-institutional involvement and cooperation required if the Desegregation Plan is to be effective. The Special Committee on Implementation of the State Desegregation Plan is the committee of the Commission responsible for developing and implementing the coordination plan.

5. To evaluate and report to the Commission annually on progress toward achievement of Master Plan goals relating to equity and equal opportunity in higher education.

Rationale: Chapter III, "Goals for Postsecondary Education," of the South Carolina Master Plan for Higher Education, establishes nine goals. Criteria for evaluating progress toward the achievement of these goals must be established in order to facilitate the annual updates to the Master Plan.

The following two goals in the Master Plan relate to equity and equal opportunity:

1. To provide the opportunity for learning beyond the secondary school level for all who need or seek it; and
2. To reduce the socio-economic barriers to postsecondary education.

The South Carolina Plan for Equity and Equal Opportunity in the Public Colleges and Universities contains a number of goals relating to minority students and faculty. The State has committed to establish interim benchmarks (over a five year period) for achieving these goals. The interim benchmarks when established will serve as criteria for partially evaluating progress towards the achievement of the aforementioned Master Plan goals. However, additional criteria are needed.

The measures required to attain these aforementioned two goals are closely related to the responsibilities of the CHE Special Committee on the Implementation of the State Desegregation Plan. Consequently, this committee should assume the responsibility these two goals.