

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

Minutes of the Meeting

April 1, 2004

11:30 a.m.

Commission Members Conference Call

Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Rosemary Byerly
Larry Durham
Doug Forbes
Austin Gilbert
Vermelle Johnson
James Konduros
Miles Loadholt
DeLoris Oliver
Tom Olsen
Daniel Ravenel
Roger Stevenson

Commission Members Unable to Call

Sue Cole
John Griffith

Staff Present

Rita Allison
Renea Eshleman
Conrad Festa
Charlie FitzSimons
Betsy Gunter
Lynn Kelley
Gail Morrison

Guests

Bob Eisenhower, Spartanburg Tech

I. Introductions

A Commission meeting by telephone conference call was conducted on April 1, 2004. Commission members called into the bridge at 11:30 and introduced themselves as they entered the conversation. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Floyd at 11:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting on March 4, 2004. A **motion** was made (Olsen), **seconded** (Oliver) and **carried** to approve the minutes as submitted.

3. Chairman's Report

- ◆ Chairman Floyd took this opportunity to comment on the Safety Conference and asked that Larry Durham give a report on the Conference, since he was there for the entire conference.

- ◆ He and Mr. Durham agreed it was indeed a success. Chairman Floyd commented that this is one of the best things the CHE does and the colleges, both public and private, appreciate programs such as the Safety Conference that involves everyone and is of concern to all colleges but they individually may not undertake.
- ◆ Mr. Durham agreed to give a report on the conference at the next Commission meeting on May 6.

4. Committee Reports

A special committee consisting of Jim Konduros, Dan Ravenel and Austin Gilbert was formed and charged with the task of authoring a proposal to the Legislature for the electronic library. This committee has met on two occasions, the most recent being this morning. The Committee, along with Charlie FitzSimons and Conrad Festa, is meeting this afternoon in order to have a draft proposal prepared send to every university and college president, public and private, for their perusal. Ideas were exchanged as to legislators to be contacted for support of this proposal. Austin has offered to talk to his legislator, Dan will help and Jim Konduros will call Dr. Ingle, who has expressed his willingness to be in the forefront of this effort. As soon as the Committee receives acknowledgement from the presidents, it will consider any changes suggested and then go forward with the proposal to the legislature.

Chairman Floyd thanked Committee for their work getting this project underway. The Commission has been supportive for three or four years, but it has not really taken the lead until now.

Dr. Johnson asked who the four presidents were that Mr. Konduros wanted approval from on this proposal before it was submitted. Mr. Ravenel answered that question: Ron Ingle, Andrew Sorensen, Ray Greenberg and Fred Carter. Since this proposal was initially drafted on April 2, 2004, it is **Attachment III** to these minutes.

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee **-Dalton B. Floyd**
(No Report)

**4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs
and Licensing** **-Sue Cole**
(No Report)

4.03 Report of the Committee on Student Services **- Ms. Sue Cole**
(No Report)

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities **- Ms. Rosemary Byerly**

Ms. Byerly reported that the Committee on Finance and Facilities had met here in Columbia and considered and made recommendations on all projects listed. The list of projects and descriptions were sent out prior to the meeting. When the Committee met, two additional projects were placed on the agenda and considered. Staff was familiar with these projects and the Committee felt, in the spirit of cooperation, that they should accept the late projects, since it would be an entire month before they could come before the Commission again. The Committee accepted the late projects, approved them and now they are brought before the full Commission for consideration.

A. Interim Capital Projects

The summary of projects and their descriptions are **Attachment I**. Hearing no objection to the addition of the two more projects, Ms. Byerly again explained that all of them have been approved by the Committee and asked that the group be considered at once. After a request from Chairman Floyd to do so, Ms. Byerly made a **motion** that all projects be considered at once except the Spartanburg Tech project. That motion was **seconded** by Dr. Johnson and after no discussion, the motion was unanimously **carried**.

Ms. Byerly reported that Dr. Dan Terhune, President of Spartanburg Technical College attended the Committee meeting and gave a presentation thoroughly explaining the project in detail - how the property was acquired and support gained from the surrounding community and the business community. This project that has been in the system for at least two years. It is a very well-planned, well thought-out project. This was approved by the Commission in the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plan. Spartanburg Technical College gained approval for this project last year.

Chairman Floyd asked if the project had already been approved by the Budget and Control Board, the Governor's Office and the Technical College System, to which the answer was yes. He (Chairman Floyd) then expressed concern that this project involves establishment of a new campus (expansion). Mr. Konduros commented that he was sure everyone here is suitably sensitive to the scrutiny concerning state dollars at this particular time and therefore the staff was asked to do a thorough review of the process and investigation to be sure all the necessary approvals had taken place.

On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Oliver) and **carried** to approve this project.

B. Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program – Proposed Regulations

A public hearing for the proposed regulations for the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEP) was held this morning at the Commission office. Ms. Byerly asked that Dr. Festa explain exactly what these regulations are and for what purpose.

Dr. Festa explained that the regulations before the Commission for approval (**Attachment III**) are the regulations for the distribution of funds to the various institutions for the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program. The public hearing was held and one person attended, representing the institutions. He told us that whatever concerns they had were met by the staff and changes were made. These regulations are now ready to, with the approval of the Commission, be submitted to the legislature for consideration. On behalf of the Committee on Finance and Facilities, a **motion** (Byerly) was made, **seconded** (Olsen) and, with no further discussion, the motion was **carried** to approve these regulations.

Ms. Byerly recommended that a report explaining the components of the *Life Sciences Act* in detail, be distributed to the Commissioners. This report was authored by Charlie FitzSimons and distributed to the Committee on Finance and Facilities during their meeting on Tuesday and it is now recommended that it be made available to all Commissioners.

5. Report of the Executive Director**-Conrad Festa**

- ◆ Yesterday the Commission on Higher Education Budget Request was presented to the Senate Higher Education Sub-Committee of the Senate Finance Committee. It is essentially the same budget request submitted to the Senate. It contained requests from the institutions and the electronic library (a top priority with the Commission).
- ◆ Other information on Commission activities was presented. It was apparent that the legislators know very little of what the Commission does on a day-to-day basis. It is imperative that a strategy be developed for informing the public of what the Commission and staff do day-to-day in order for the public to understand the importance of what the Commission does.
- ◆ Dr. Festa complimented the staff on their work not only in special projects, but in the overall work they do day-to-day.
- ◆ Dr. Festa spoke to the *SC Independent Colleges and Universities* organization recently and made a presentation on the *Foundations for the Future* report. A discussion followed during which he gained some input from them and was assured that they are clearly behind the Commission and their activities. They are organizing a committee to meet with the Commission probably once a year in order to keep abreast of what's happening at the state level and exchange ideas.

Legislative Update**-Rita Allison**

Rita Allison was recognized and called upon for a legislative update. She reiterated Ms. Byerly's recommendation that the *Explanation of the Life Sciences Bill* document be distributed to all Commissioners.

It was previously announced that the Governor would have an eleven o'clock press conference today, at which time he would make public his decision as to whether or not he would institute litigation concerning the *Life Science* bill. That press conference has been postponed for today. The legislature has asked the Governor to give them an opportunity to work through this legislatively. The Governor is very concerned about how State business is being handled with bob-tailing, etc. It remains to be seen how the House is going to be able to deal with this issue and hopefully they will be able to.

Chairman Floyd asked about the appropriations bill and how it looks as far as the institutions and the Commission are concerned. The listening phase is in now and some consideration is anticipated perhaps week after next. He requested that Rita keep the Commissioners informed between meetings of what's happening in the legislature and she agreed to do so.

6. Other Business

Dr. Stevenson asked about the mail ballot sent out prior to this meeting and was informed that the vote to be submitted by mail was no longer necessary, sin this meeting has taken place.

Dr. Fobes asked if Senator Leventis spoke as he had planned to at the last Commission meeting, and if so, what comments did he have? He (Senator Leventis) did not appear at the meeting as scheduled and has not contacted the Commission to reschedule.

Dr. Forbes suggested offering a resolution of congratulations to Spartanburg Technical College. He read the resolution offering congratulations and support, and complimenting their methodical approach to the procedure.

Chairman Floyd suggested that this would not be the thing to do because of other programs approved and the fact that they had not been acknowledged in like manner. Two other Commissioners agreed that, while it was an excellent gesture, it would not be advisable.

Dr. Forbes agreed to withdraw the suggestion due to lack of support.

Ms. Byerly expressed appreciation to Dr. Forbes for his resolution and said that the Committee had complimented Dr. Terhune and staff for the manner in which they exercised proper protocol in seeking approval for this project.

7. Adjournment

There being no other business, a **motion** (Durham) was made and **seconded** (Ravenel) to adjourn.

Chairman Floyd re-opened the conversation by reminding the Commission that this is the 50th anniversary of the *Brown vs Board of Education Decision* and recommended that the Commission do something to commend the decision made in that case. A **motion** (Olsen) was made **seconded** (Johnson) and **carried** to have the staff recommend some action on the part of the Commission, whether that be separately or in conjunction with the Governor's office and/or institutions.

The motion to adjourn was restated and seconded, voted on and carried. The meeting subsequently adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Gunter

Recording Secretary

Attachments I-III

*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.