

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1333 Main Street, Suite 200

Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

February 1, 2007

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Col. John Bowden
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Mick Zais

Staff Present

Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. George Benson, College of Charleston
Ms. Priscilla Burbage, College of Charleston
Dr. Robert Cape, College of Charleston
Ms. Donna Collins, USC - Columbia
Dr. Cherry Daniel, College of Charleston
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina
University
Dr. Conrad Festa, College of Charleston
Dr. Rew Godow, Lowcountry Graduate
Center
Dr. Tom Higerd, MUSC

Ms. Daphne Holland, Clemson University
Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina
University
Mr. David Hunter, USC - Columbia
Mr. Guy Ilagan, Clemson University
Mr. Sam Jones, College of Charleston
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Dr. Elise Jorgens, College of Charleston
Ms. Elizabeth Kassebaum, College of
Charleston
Dr. Carol Lancaster, MUSC
Ms. Pam Leonard-Ray, Clemson University
Mr. John Malmrose, MUSC
Mr. Rick Matthews, Clemson University
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Col. Spike Metts, Citadel
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, MUSC
Ms. Christine Smalls-Brown, MUSC
Dr. Sue Sommer-Kresse, College of
Charleston
Dr. Rita Teal, SC State University
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC - Columbia
Dr. Fran Welch, College of Charleston
Dr. Richard Weldon, Coastal Carolina
University

Members of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy at approximately at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests all of whom are listed above and who were announced at the meeting. Dr. Conrad Festa, Interim President of the College of Charleston, offered words of special introduction for Dr. George Benson, the College's new President effective today's date. Dr. Benson then delivered brief remarks regarding the importance of innovation in education. Chairman McCurdy thanked College of Charleston officials for their gracious extension of hospitality in hosting the meeting and related activities.

3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy noted that magnetic nametags had been placed at each of the Commissioners' places, and asked that they please wear them to identify themselves as being members of the CHE when dealing with the legislature and other public bodies. He then reported on the proceedings of the second phase of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force. He stated that he was currently in collaboration with the Governor in selecting leaders for this entity and solicited from the Commissioners their suggestions about possible candidates for that purpose. Chairman McCurdy then reported that the presentation of Dr. Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education, scheduled for this meeting, had been cancelled due to bad weather in the Columbia area and difficult traveling conditions. An attempt will be made to re-schedule his presentation for the March 1, 2007, CHE meeting.

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy reported that the Commission's Executive Committee had met on the previous day, January 31, 2007. Dr. Gail Morison stated that an item of discussion at that meeting was the upcoming Trustee's Conference which will take place on April 26, 2007. This will be preceded by the inaugural S. C. Higher Education Hall of Fame Banquet on the evening of April 25, 2007, at which Dr. Harry Lightsey, Jr. will be inducted as the first honoree. The Trustee's conference is a professional development event which provides an opportunity to bring institutional trustees together to discuss and learn more about higher education issues. Commission staff are currently in the process of arranging for possible speaker(s) for that event. Other topics discussed at the Executive Committee meeting were a state plan for higher education, and 2007 legislation to date relevant to higher education.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy noted that he had inadvertently passed over agenda item 2. A **motion** was then made (Wingate), **seconded** (Bowden), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2006, meeting.

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing - Bettie Rose Horne

Commissioner Horne reported that the committee had no formal report. CHE staff member, Dr. Mike Raley, then delivered a brief overview of the publication, "A Closer Look at Public Higher Education in South Carolina: Institutional Effectiveness, Accountability and Performance, FY 2005-2006". A copy of his PowerPoint presentation may be found in **Attachment I**. Dr. Raley stated that 2006-2007 version of this publication was not yet available, but its printing should be completed very soon and copies will be distributed at that time. Dr. Raley delivered a brief description of the information in each of the publication's eleven chapters. He stated that the document presents the previous fiscal year's performance funding data in a unique way and also reports new data which is exclusive to the institutional effectiveness report.

Following this presentation, Dr. Horne asked whether the transfer of students from technical to four-year institutions was equal to the movement of students from four-year to technical institutions. Dr. Raley replied that data shows there are twice as many students moving from technical to four-year institutions as there are in the reverse scenario. It was noted that this report is required by law, is used for accountability purposes, and no funding is linked to it. Representing USC, Mr. David Hunter provided information about the transfer of students from USC's two-year regional campuses to its four-year campuses, and he explained why they are not reported as transfer students.

5.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Cynthia Mosteller

Commissioner Mosteller reported that there has been a good institutional response to the recently distributed need-based aid survey. She stated that the report resulting from the conclusions of the survey will soon be completed and will bring into focus a clearer picture of this proportional issue. She noted that since 1998, the merit-based aid funding has increased 349% whereas need-based aid funding has increased only 34%. It was noted that the \$10 million in additional funding the Commission has requested this year for need-based aid is only a small portion of the estimated current need of \$350 plus million. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk then explained the methodology used to calculate this need.

5.04 Report of the Committee on Finance & Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. College of Charleston | - | Grice Marine Laboratory New Construction |
| 2. USC - Columbia | - | 1600 Hampton Distributed Data Center
Renovations |
| | - | Athletic Master Plan - Phase I Development |

B. Lease

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Medical University of SC | - | Rutledge Tower Parking Garage |
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C. List of Staff Approvals for November 2006

Commissioner Ravenel reviewed each of the items listed above, also described in **Attachment II**. He stated that all items had been unanimously approved by the Finance and Facilities Committee at their meeting on January 4, 2007.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) to collectively approve the following **recommendation** for projects 1 and 2 of item A:

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

Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to whether the last sentence in the USC project description which states that the project will not require an increase in tuition and fees, was a new statement with regard to consideration of projects of this nature. Ms. Lynn Metcalf explained that this statement had been included in the description of other projects. The funding to be used for this project will come from athletic funds which are auxiliary funds and not educational and general (E&G) funds. Revenues are in place to support the project and an increase in fees is not necessary.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

With regard to item B, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) 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 Horne inquired whether it would be more cost efficient for the MUSC Foundation to purchase this property as opposed to it being leased. Dr. McCurdy stated that it wasn't unusual for foundations to purchase a facility and lease it to an institution at a favorable rate. Mr. Ravenel noted the leasing process addressed the institution's need to move quickly as opposed to the longer time frame involved in procuring property.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to item C, the List of Staff Approvals for November 2006, also described in Attachment II, which was provided for information only. In response to Commissioner Mosteller's question about the College of Dental Medicine Building at MUSC, Ms. Lynn Metcalf explained the staff approval process, which provides that staff has authority to approve projects budgeted at \$500,000 or below or up to 10% of the project's total budget. In the case of this particular project, the 2006 General Assembly appropriated \$7 million and the staff approved the remaining \$3.7 million as that figure is under 10% of the total budgeted amount.

Chairman McCurdy recognized Dr. Cherry Daniel, a College of Charleston trustee, who had been in attendance earlier in the meeting.

7. Report of the Interim Executive Director**- Gail Morrison**

Dr. Morrison reported she had participated in several meetings with members of the legislature about the CHE's budget requests and that progress in this regard was being closely monitored. She stated that the CHE hosted an orientation for freshmen legislators on January 18, 2007. Representative Bob Walker, Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, also attended that meeting. Commissioner Temple, who was present at the meeting, stated he thought it had gone quite well, and that he had received positive feedback as a result of it. Dr. Morrison noted the difficult work of the state legislature in formulating the budget, and solicited the Commissioners' assistance in expressing support of the CHE's budget recommendations in their communication with members of the legislature. At Commissioner Wingate's request, Dr. Morrison stated that CHE staff would be happy to notify Commissioners about upcoming legislative meetings in as timely a manner as possible as well as to provide them with appropriate related information. At Dr. McCurdy's request, Dr. Morrison also agreed to send the Commissioners a list of the freshman legislators who attended the January 18th orientation. Dr. Morrison reported on the status of the web-based system, a development of the Education and Economic Development Act, which will greatly facilitate transfer and articulation throughout K-16. She stated that the State Department of Education had included in their budget request \$10 million for dual enrollment, which will allow for high school students to take college courses. Discussion took place about the effect dual enrollment might have on Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) high school courses. Dr. Morrison stated it is hoped that dual enrollment may be expanded to also allow high schools students to earn college credit at the technical college level. Commissioner Ravenel expressed concern that duplication in the expenditure of state funds may occur in some instances with AP and IB students taking similar courses at both their high schools and on college campuses.

Dr. Morrison noted that the Governor's School for Math and Science would be honoring House Speaker Bobby Harrell at its Townes Award Dinner on February 27, 2007 at the Columbia Convention Center. She invited any interested Commissioners to attend that event with her.

6. Legislative Update**- Julie Carullo**

Ms. Carullo made reference to materials distributed including a 2007 Legislative Session listing of bills pertaining to higher education, a schedule for appropriations bill deliberations for the 2007 legislative session, and the CHE FY 2007-08 Budget Presentation delivered to the House Ways and Means Higher Education, Technical, & Cultural Budget Subcommittee on January 16, 2007. These documents may be found in **Attachment III**.

In response to a question of Commissioner Wingate about the relationship between H.3170 and S.291, Ms. Carullo described S.291. This bill is the companion bill of H.3170, which provides for an additional stipend for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship recipients who major in science or math. She stated that Senators Ritchie,

McConnell, Malloy, Shehcn, and Peeler are the sponsors of S.291. Commissioner Wingate inquired as to whether any of the proposed legislation is potentially adverse to the interests of higher education. Ms. Carullo then reviewed a number of bills that had in the past been of interest to the CHE in regard to its responsibilities or had been of concern to higher education. She noted bills related to different programmatic issues, such as the bill recommending the creation of a law school and an engineering school at SC State University, the bill authorizing USC Sumter to offer four-year degree programs, and a series of bills which provide for free tuition for various groups of students. In response to Commissioner Lynn's inquiry about how he and other Commissioners might track the legislation which affects entities such as the Lottery and the Endowed Chairs program, Dr. Morrison replied that CHE staff would be happy to keep Commissioners updated. She also stated that the CHE did not support the Governor's proposed Endowed Chairs program budget cuts. Dr. Morrison reported that H. 3146, a bill which supports the development and promotion of hydrogen fuel cell technologies in South Carolina relates to the Endowed Chairs. Additional conversation ensued regarding the endowed chairs program and lottery funding.

Dr. McCurdy reported he had received indications that there is a fair amount of uncertainty among institutional representatives about the details of the Light Rail project at present. He noted that Commissioners should become familiar with these details in an attempt to keep those with whom they come in contact informed about this important issue. It was agreed that Commissioner Mosteller's suggestion that information tracking current legislation be posted on the CHE web site was an excellent one. CHE staff is in the process of working on this and will see it is accomplished in the very near future.

8. Other Business

At approximately 1:00 p.m., a **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Sanders), and **carried** that the Commission go into Executive Session in order to discuss a personnel matter.

9. Adjournment

Commissioners returned to the meeting at approximately 1:25 p.m. whereupon it was immediately adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
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.