

2008

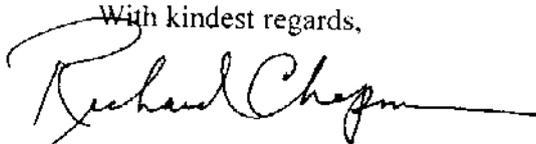
September 26, 2008

Dear Dr. Walters:

In the attached envelope is a Memorandum of Agreement whose purpose is the creation of a Pee Dee Health Education Consortium. On behalf of the four institutions that have signed the MOA. President Carter asked that I bring the agreement and a letter of transmittal to you this morning. I believe Dr. Carter has previously discussed the Consortium with you and with Dr. Layton McCurdy.

As the letter of transmittal explains, Dr. Carter asks that the Memorandum of Agreement be placed on the agenda of the Commission for consideration and approval at its meeting on October 2, 2008.

With kindest regards,



Richard Chapman
Provost, Francis Marion University



FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

September 24, 2008

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Layton:

I enclose a Memorandum of Agreement whose purpose is the establishment of a Pee Dee Health Education Consortium. The members of the consortium are Francis Marion University, the University of South Carolina, McLeod Regional Medical Center, and Carolinas Hospital System. Through the Memorandum of Agreement, the four institutions intend to offer degree programs in the health professions for the citizens of northeastern South Carolina. The consortium is a non-profit entity modeled on similar arrangements that the Commission has already approved (namely, the Graduate Center of the Lowcountry and the University Center of Greenville). Although the Consortium will be established with these four permanent members, affiliate members may be invited to join the collaboration in the future, in a manner similar to that of the other two consortia.

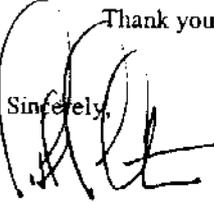
We are asking the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to consider and approve the Memorandum of Agreement at its meeting of October 2, 2008. We understand that approval of the consortium does not constitute a priori approval of degree programs, and any such degree program proposals must undergo normal CHE program approval processes.

CHE approval of the consortium will enhance health education opportunities in a medically underserved region of the state. The consortium is a cost-effective response to needs in the region and to concerns expressed by the medical and health community, as well as by local business and civic leaders, about the urgency of additional professional degree programs in the area of health care and related fields.

The proposed Pee Dee Health Education Consortium will be operated jointly by the four institutions mentioned above and will be housed at Francis Marion University, which will serve as the host institution and fiduciary agent. A Board of Directors will be established, along with an Advisory Council and a set of by-laws.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Luther F. Carter
President

cc: Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director SCCHE
Dr. Harris Pastides, President, University of South Carolina
Mr. James F. O'Loughlin, CEO, Carolinas Hospital System
Mr. Robert L. Colones, President & CEO, McLeod Health

enclosure

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email - lcarter@fmarion.edu

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTENT

Between

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM, AND McLEOD HEALTH

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTENT (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between Francis Marion University (FMU), University of South Carolina (USC), Carolinas Hospital System of Florence (CHS), and McLeod Health (MH)(collectively, the Principals), for the formation of the PEE DEE HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (PDHEC).

A. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this MOU is for the Principals to agree upon a framework for the formation of the Pee Dee Health Education Consortium (PDHEC), through the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). The Principals agree that the purpose of the PDHEC is to provide a structure for the Principals to cooperate and coordinate to identify, enhance and develop graduate and undergraduate health care education opportunities in the northeastern quadrant of South Carolina in response to the health care needs of the region.

B. INTENT.

Upon approval by CHE, it is the Principals' intent to immediately establish an eleemosynary organization for the administration and operation of PDHEC.

C. STRUCTURE OF CONSORTIUM.

It is agreed by the Principals that Francis Marion University will be the host institution and the lead financial and academic agent of the PDHEC and that the governing board of the PDHEC will comprised of the four (4) Presidents or Chief Executive Officers of the Principals. In the case of a specific program or programs, the Principals may designate another institution as the lead academic or financial agent. Upon approval of the consortium by CHE, the governing board will develop and approve by-laws for the consortium and establish the consortium's administration. The by-laws will reflect the necessity of a unanimous vote on the part of the four Principals for the creation of any programmatic initiatives. An advisory council may also be created comprised of members selected by the PDHEC governing board. Support staff for the PDHEC may be hired as necessary and as funding allows.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

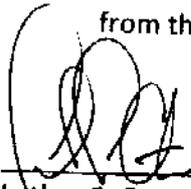
The Principals agree and understand that any educational course programs developed by the PDHEC are subject to the approval of CHE and must be in compliance with all applicable standards and reporting requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

E. FUNDING.

The Principals agree that the PDHEC may seek funding in the form of grants, appropriations, gifts, endowments or other similar types of funding from state, federal, public or private sources. Member institutions shall not be required to provide funding except upon mutual agreement of the Principals and by unanimous vote of the governing board.

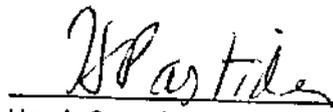
F. EXECUTION.

This MOU shall become effective upon the signature of the Principals. The term of this MOU shall expire in the event of non-approval of the PDHEC by the CHE or one (1) year from the date of its complete execution, whichever is earlier.



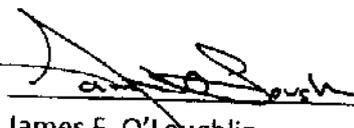
Luther F. Carter
President, Francis Marion University

Date: September 10, 2008



Harris Pastides
President, University of South Carolina

Date: Sep. 17, 2008



James F. O'Loughlin
CEO, Carolinas Hospital System of Florence

Date: September 24, 2008



Robert L. Colones
CEO, McLeod Health

Date: September 16, 2008