

Academic Affairs – List of Recommendations approved by the Commission September 3, 1998

3.02

- a. Funding Request for Centers of Excellence Program FY 1999-2000 \$526,850
- b. *Revised Guidelines for New Academic Programs Approval*
- c. *Revised Guiding Principles for Distance Education in South Carolina*
- d. Commendations for Excellence: Health Sciences
- e. License Renewals: Johnson & Wales University, Charleston and D.C. Sherman College of Straight chiropractic, Spartanburg
- f. Amended Regulations for the SC Academic Endowment Incentive Act of 1997
- g. Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 1997 – information
- h. Annual Report on English Fluency in Higher Education Act for FY 1997-98 to the General Assembly
- i. Annual summary report on the Academic Common Market

Complete records available in Academic Affairs Division

For September 3, 1998 CHE Meeting SUMMARY AGENDA

3.02 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

a. **Consideration of Funding Request for Centers of Excellence Program FY 1999-2000**

The Committee recommends to the Commission a funding request of \$526,850 for FY 1999-2000 to fund the Centers of Excellence Program. This amount would fund the following:

Center of Excellence in Geographic Education: University of South Carolina \$66,669
Center of Excellence in Educational Technology: University of South Carolina-Aiken \$101,182
Center of Excellence in Instructional Technology: Clemson University \$121,281
New Center \$135,000
Centers of Excellence Mini-grants \$90,718
CHE Expenses \$12,000

b. **Consideration of *Guidelines for New Academic Program Approval***

Revisions to these *Guidelines* were prompted by the Budget and Control Board's 1997 Management Review of the Commission, which suggested that CHE ensure that its policies and procedures are not unduly burdensome on or regulatory of the institutions. To this end, the new *Guidelines* significantly free up the colleges and universities to offer programs in a more rapid fashion, especially in cases where distance education technology is used or where institutions develop certificates (discrete blocks of coursework) for specific purposes. The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission approve the revised *Guidelines for New Academic Programs Approval*.

c. **Consideration of *Guiding Principles for Distance Education in South Carolina***

The Commission's Strategic Plan for Higher Education requires CHE and the institutions to "participate actively in the development of state-level plans and policies for technology and distance education." These *Guiding Principles*, which include the principles, responsibilities, and priorities of the higher education community in South Carolina relative to distance education, are designed to serve as a foundation for subsequent policy development in this area. The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission approve the revised *Guiding Principles for Distance Education in South Carolina*.

d. **Consideration of CHE Consultants' Evaluations of Existing Programs: Health Sciences**

A statewide review of academic programs in the Health Sciences was conducted in November 1996. Owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Commission the report was not returned until April 1998, at which time it was distributed to the institutions for comments and review of facts. The consultants cite two programs for Commendations for Excellence: the M.S.

in Genetics Counseling at USC-Columbia and the B.S. in Physical Therapy at MUSC. The latter program has been converted subsequently to the M.S. in Rehabilitation Science with a track in Physical Therapy. While the report generally concludes that there has been considerable progress made in the quality and quantity of programs in the health sciences in South Carolina since 1989, it cautions against the conversion of bachelors' level programs to masters' level programs and also points out the weak enrollments and graduation rates of the baccalaureate Medical Technology programs (one of which, Clemson, has subsequently been terminated by the institution.) The staff report contains a recommendation that the remaining baccalaureate programs in Medical Technology be placed on "provisional approval," but that if these programs cease to be free-standing degree programs and become concentrations within an existing, appropriate science program major, their designation be changed to "full approval." The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the designations for programs as contained in the staff report be accepted.

e. Consideration of License Renewals:

1. A.A.S. and B.S., Johnson & Wales University, Charleston

The Commission has licensed Johnson & Wales University since August 1983, and last renewed the institution's license in November 1993 for a period of five years. The associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science degrees are in culinary arts and food, beverage, hotel, restaurant, and travel-tourism management majors. The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission grant a five-year renewal of the license for Johnson & Wales University, Charleston Campus, to award the Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science degrees. Further, the Committee recommends that the Commission continue authorization for employment of enrolled students in commercial activities as are essential to their programs

2. D.C., Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, Spartanburg

The Commission has licensed Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic since June 1980, to offer a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. The curriculum consists of 13 academic quarters, and the prerequisite for admission is a minimum of 60 semester hours of undergraduate credit. The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission grant a five-year renewal of the license for Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic to award the Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Further, the Committee recommends that the license be subject to the institution maintaining accreditation as stipulated under the provisions of Act 307 (1980).

f. Consideration of Amended Regulations for the S.C. Academic Endowment Incentive Act of 1997

During the 1998 session, the General Assembly amended the S.C. Academic Endowment Incentive Act of 1997 to allow participation by the technical colleges under the jurisdiction of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. As a result, the Commission now needs to amend the approved regulations so that they are consistent with State law. Accordingly, CHE staff has made technical revisions to the regulations. The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission approve the technical revisions displayed in bold on the attached regulations for submission to the General Assembly for consideration during the 1999 legislative session.

g. Consideration of Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 1997

Attached is the annual report on 1997 admission standards for first-time entering freshmen at South Carolina public senior colleges and universities. This document summarizes the results of five different reports related to admission standards and to measures of achievement. The Committee recommends that the Commission accept this report for information as meeting the stipulations of Act 692 of 1988 and Act 359 of 1996 with respect to reviewing admissions standards.

h. Consideration of Annual Report on English Fluency in Higher Education Act for FY 1997-98

Each year since the General Assembly passed legislation in 1991 known as the English Fluency in Higher Education Act the Commission has been required to prepare a report on compliance with this legislation by all thirty-three public institutions of higher education and send the report to the General Assembly. This year's report, which covers the academic year just completed, is the first report which shows that all 33 institutions are in compliance with all parts of the legislation and the attendant policies of the Commission. All institutions have written policies 1) to assure that faculty whose first language is not English are able to speak and write in the English language in a readily understandable manner; and 2) to ensure that an institutional policy exists for students to grieve if a faculty member might not have been able to communicate effectively in English. Since passage of the legislation an average of less than one student grievance per year has been filed under the provisions of this law. Recommendation: The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Commission approve the 1997-1998 report and send it to the appropriate committee chairpersons in the General Assembly.

i. Consideration of Annual Summary Report on the Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market is a cooperative tuition reduction agreement among 14 Southern Regional Education Board States which allows students to take academic programs not available in their state. Students pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain degree programs at participating out-of-state colleges or universities. Eligible programs are those undergraduate and graduate programs which are at least 50 percent different in curricular content from programs offered in the home state. During the 1997-98 academic year, South Carolina certified 96 residents for participation in the Academic Common Market in other states. During this same period, 247 residents from other states enrolled in South Carolina institutions through the Market. There were 76 undergraduate and 66 graduate programs offered to South Carolina residents during this time period. The Committee recommends that the Commission accept this report for information as to the number of students and programs certified through the Academic Common Market for Academic Year 1997-98.