

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Francis Marion University
4822 East Palmetto St.
Florence, SC 29506

Minutes of the Meeting
November 2007
10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Daniel Ravenel, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Col. John Bowden
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Hood Temple

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Garrison Walters
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Mr. Clarence Bonnette, Denmark Technical
College

Mr. Darryl Bridges, Francis Marion
University
Dr. Richard Chapman, Francis Marion
University
Ms. Donna Collins, USC Columbia
Ms. Libby Cooper, Francis Marion
University
Ms. Angela Crosland, Francis Marion
University
Mr. Jay Dowd, Francis Marion University
Dr. Ron Faulkenberry, Francis Marion
University
Mr. Murray Hartzler, Francis Marion
University
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, USC Columbia
Mr. Jay Kispert, Francis Marion University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education &
Public Works
Mr. John Malmrose, Medical University of
S.C.
Ms. Beth McGuinness, Clemson University
Mr. Mike Parrott, USC Beaufort
Mr. Tom Quasney, USC Columbia
Ms. Christine Smalls-Brown, Medical
University of S.C.
Dr. Rita Teal, SC State University
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC Columbia
Ms. Sandy Williams, Coastal Carolina
University

Members of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above. Chairman McCurdy then asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence in honor of the USC and Clemson students recently killed in the tragic beach house fire in North Carolina.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Wingate), and **carried** to approve the minutes of October 4, 2007.

3. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy welcomed Mr. Ken Wingate back to the Commission following his term as Interim State Treasurer. He reminded the Commissioners about the Lightsey Society membership form which had been distributed and encouraged them to join. He noted that the 2008 Higher Education Hall of Fame Banquet will take place on April 3, 2008. Chairman McCurdy invited Commissioner Ravenel to report on the status of the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC). Commissioner Ravenel stated that the HESC has met four times and was in the process of forming six advisory groups. These groups will meet individually three times to consider the issues they are each charged to address and will report on their recommendations at the Committee's next full meeting on December 3, 2007. Dr. Walters added it is significant that the HESC has accepted the idea that the state should develop an action plan for higher education that clearly connects college and university priorities with state needs. They have also accepted and will use as guidelines for the development of a statewide plan the three basic provisions of the action plan developed by the Commission at its retreat in July, 2007.

4. Executive Director's Report

- A. Special Report: Retaining Graduates of South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities**
- B. Update on Need-based Aid Changes**
- C. Consideration of Proposed 2008 Commission Meeting Schedule**

Dr. Walters introduced Ms. Julie Carullo who provided a summary of the information contained in the special report, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment I**. Also included in this attachment is a related press release. Ms. Carullo stated that the results are promising in that they indicate 68% of South Carolina college graduates remain in the state five years after graduation. Of the graduates who are native South Carolinians, 79% remain in the state. In addition, 67% of graduates who received the Palmetto Fellows scholarship remain in South Carolina as do 77% of those who received the LIFE scholarship. Discussion followed which included conversation about the possibility of including information on Masters and Ph.D. students in future studies of this nature, the

fact that no trend line in this data has yet been established, and the consideration of offering extended tax relief for out-of-state students who remain in South Carolina after graduation. The importance of publicizing this very positive information was discussed. Dr. Walters noted that editorial board visits are helpful in disseminating good news, and these will be forthcoming. Discussion took place about the implications of this type of data and the development of strategy to retain more Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D graduates in the state. Possible additional exploration of this topic may be considered at a Commissioners' retreat in January, 2008.

A final proposal for revising the need-based aid methodology will be presented at the December Commission meeting. Mr. Gary Glenn reviewed the current method of distribution and also provided information on proposed changes in this methodology. He noted that the proposed changes will base distribution on the number of Pell grant recipients at an institution as opposed to the number of FTE's. The proposed methodology will also hold a constant level of support for each student at the rate of 12.5% of the institution's tuition and fees. Mr. Glenn stated the Commission's current budget request of \$12,000,000 in additional funding for need-based aid would allow implementation of the proposed new distribution plan. Brief discussion took place about whether the proposed new methodology would be implemented if the request for the \$12,000,000 in additional funding was not granted.

Dr. Walters reported that his recent meeting with the Governor's budget result team went well as did his meeting with the Greenville legislative delegation and his discussions with various presidents. He reported that the Commission is currently working with the Strom Thurmond Institute on a project regarding the effect of higher education on the state's economy. At Dr. Walters' request, Mr. Charlie FitzSimons briefly explained current efforts underway to provide the Strom Thurmond Institute with access to relevant CHE data in accordance with federal privacy laws.

Dr. Walters made reference to the 2008 proposed schedule for Commission meetings, (**Attachment II**), which was reviewed, discussed, and received for information. Schedules of 2008 committee meetings will be forthcoming. Dr. Walters then thanked President Carter and the staff of Francis Marion University for graciously hosting this CHE meeting and related events.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Bettie Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

**5.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity
and Student Services**

- Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

5.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

1. MUSC
 - Psychiatric Institute Second Floor Renovation
 - College of Dental Medicine
2. USC Columbia
 - Sunwalt Trace Metals Laboratory Renovation
 - Patterson Hall Seismic Upgrades and Asbestos Abatement
 - Woodrow Roof Replacement and Exterior Repairs
 - Williams Brice Stadium Training Room Renovations
 - Williams Brice Stadium Level 200 Renovation
 - Columbia Campus Utility Infrastructure Repairs
3. USC Beaufort
 - Science and Technology Building Second Floor Upfit

B. Leases

1. MUSC
 - Roper Medical Office Building, Suites 120, 140 & 100, 170
 - Roper Medical Office Building, Suite 190

C. Consideration of Revised Recommendations to Improve the Higher Education Facilities Approval Process

D. List of Staff Approvals for September 2007

Commissioner Ravenel stated that his committee had met earlier in the morning and had considered and approved all of the projects listed in agenda item 5.04A, a description of which may be found in **Attachment III**.

With regard to the MUSC interim capital projects as listed above, a **motion** was made and **carried** to collectively approve the following recommendation for each of them:

Staff recommends approval of this project as proposed.

With regard to the USC Columbia interim capital projects as listed above, a **motion** was made and **carried** to collectively approve the following recommendation for each of them with the exception of the one pertaining to Patterson Hall:

Staff recommends approval of this project as proposed.

Commissioner Ravenel noted that the Patterson Hall project, as submitted, was not approved by the committee because it appeared to be a piecemeal renovation of an antiquated building.

With regard to the USC Beaufort interim capital project as listed above, a **motion** was made and **carried** to approve the following recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this project as proposed.

Commissioner made reference to the leases listed in agenda item 5.04B, also described in **Attachment III**.

A **motion** was made and **carried** to collectively approve the following recommendation for each lease:

Staff recommends approval of this lease provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to agenda item 5.04C, the Revised Recommendations for Improving the Higher Education Facilities Approval Process, presented to the Commission for their approval, which had been approved by the committee at its earlier meeting. Mr. Gary Glenn and Ms. Alyson Goff provided a brief summary of the history and background of this proposal, explaining that the proposed changes will hopefully prevent project delays which result in additional costs. Mr. Glenn stated that drafting of the revisions is currently underway and that the Budget and Control Board and the Joint Bond Review Committee are working cooperatively with the CHE to accomplish this task. Discussion took place about the fact that all participating parties appear to agree that the current facilities approval process is in need of improvement. Chairman McCurdy thanked Commissioners Sanders and Workman for initiating this very important effort.

A **motion** was then made and carried to approve the following **recommendation**:

Staff recommends a revised set of recommendations to reflect the progress made. The proposed changes are presented below (see Attachment III, pages 14 & 15) with the original recommendation, the suggested change, and rationale.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to agenda item 5.04D, also described in **Attachment III**, and stated that this was provided for information only.

6. Legislative Update

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo provided and explained briefly a list of CHE 2008 Legislative Priorities,

described in **Attachment IV**. She noted that a legislative change to provide flexibility with regard to the number of math and science hours required of freshman for the Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarships enhancements is being requested. She also noted that the Centers of Economic Excellence will request some legislative program changes during the upcoming legislative session and that information about this will be forthcoming. Ms. Carullo reviewed briefly various CHE regulations which will be submitted to the legislature for approval.

7. Other Business

In response to Commissioner Sanders' request, staff will prepare a brief written explanation about why out-of-state, for-profit institutions are allowed to operate in South Carolina, which will be helpful when Commissioners are questioned about this topic. Commissioner Zais noted a recent editorial about the effectiveness of the higher education governance system in North Carolina which appeared in The State newspaper on Sunday, October 28, 2007. Discussion about this followed in which it was noted that this information might provide food for thought for South Carolina's current Higher Education Study Committee (HESC).

Ms. Rita Allison called attention to the fact that a 2:00 p.m. service would be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at the Koger Center in Columbia in memory of the students who died tragically in a beach house fire in North Carolina.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - IV

*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.