

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting
May 4, 2006

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Jim Konduros
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Larry Durham

Staff Present

Dr. Buddy Atkins
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Lane Jeschnik
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Gail Morrison
Dr. Mike Raley
Mr. Jeff Richards
Ms. Beth Rogers
Dr. Donald Tetreault
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Betty Boatwright, S. C. State University
Mr. Clarence Bonnette, Denmark Technical College
Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Royce Caines, Lander University
Ms. Beth Carter, St. Leo University
Dr. Cheryl Cox, State Technical System
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Christine Ebert, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, SCICU
Mr. Henry Giles, Spartanburg Technical College
Dr. Hugh Haynsworth, College of Charleston
Dr. Michael Helmick, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Tamara Hughes, S. C. State University
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Lisa Keyon, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Leonard Lundquist, Lander University
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Mr. John Malmrose, M.U.S.C.
Dr. Bud Marchant, Piedmont Technical College
Ms. Janice Oden, St. Leo University
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, M.U.S.C.
Dr. David Persky, St. Leo University
Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia
Dr. Joann Rolfe, S. C. State University
Ms. Marge Sapp, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C. - Columbia

Members of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Julie Carullo

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy. Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests attending, all of whom are listed above. Dr. McCurdy then introduced Mr. Ken Wingate and welcomed him to his first meeting as a Commissioner.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 6, 2006. A **motion** was made (Workman), **seconded** (Byerly), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

Chairman McCurdy reported that the first meeting of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force would take place on Friday, May 5, 2006, in the Commission's main conference room. He stated that the Governor would be in attendance and that the timetable of task force required that they complete their work by the end of the summer. Chairman McCurdy noted that Commissioners Horne and Sanders are among the members of the task force.

Chairman McCurdy also reported that there has been some legislative interest in and recent news articles about the issue of out-of-state students paying in-state tuition in South Carolina. Dr. McCurdy reported that the CHE staff will be reviewing state policy on this issue.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee

(No Report)

- Layton McCurdy

**4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs
and Licensing**

- Vermelle Johnson

A. Consideration of New Program Proposals

1. A.A., Horticulture Technology, Piedmont Technical College
2. A.H.S., Physical Therapist Assistant, Technical College of the Lowcountry
3. B.S., On-line Criminal Justice Management, Lander University
4. M.A., Communication, College of Charleston

Dr. Johnson reported that her committee had thoroughly examined and approved each of these programs, further detail about which may be found in **Attachment I**.

A **motion** was made (Johnson) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program at Piedmont Technical College leading to the Associate

Degree in Agriculture with a major in Horticulture Technology, to be implemented in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

A motion was made (Johnson) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed program at Technical College of the Lowcountry leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Physical Therapy for implementation in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required.

A motion was made (Johnson) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission approval of the proposed program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management at Lander University to begin in Fall 2006, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

Commissioner Workman questioned whether it would be more cost effective for one of the 12 other institutions already offering this program in South Carolina to implement an on-line program. Dr. Morrison explained that Lander's program is unique in that it is a degree in Criminal Justice Management as opposed to a degree in Criminal Justice Administration which is a more generalized program. She further explained that an individual must have already earned an Associate's degree to be enrolled in this program. Dr. Leonard Lundquist of Lander University then provided some history about the program's development.

After further discussion about the cost-effectiveness of the program, the **motion** was brought to the table and **carried**, with one Commissioner voting no (Forbes) and one abstaining (Workman).

A motion was made (Johnson) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the College of Charleston's proposed program leading to the M. A. degree in Communication, to be implemented in Fall 2006, at the Lowcountry Graduate Center, and possibly, at some future time, on the main campus, provided that no additional "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

Commissioner Forbes questioned whether officials at U.S.C. or Clemson University had any comments about this program since it is similar to programs which they already provide. Dr. Morrison responded that they were supportive of it and further explained that it was designed to serve local practitioners. Commissioner Forbes noted that, though the wording of the program proposal indicates that it would not require a new physical plant or equipment, it may over a period of time as more students become enrolled in it. Discussion followed concerning the need for a statewide strategic plan for education with regard to the movement of students from K-12 into higher education.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**, with one Commissioner voting no (Forbes). Commissioner Sanders then stated that he would like the minutes to reflect that in 3 of the 4 programs being considered the MRR is greater than their projected revenues.

B. Consideration of Licensing Request for Initial License for Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, FL, at Sumter to offer:

A.A. in Liberal Arts; B.A. in (1) Business Administration, (2) Criminal Justice, and (3) Human Resource Administration; and B. S. in Computer Information Systems

Dr. Johnson noted a change of information on page 2 of the information describing these programs which is found in **Attachment II**. In the first sentence of the first paragraph (38 percent are civilians) should read (68 percent are civilians).

A motion was made (Johnson) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission grant initial licensure for five years to Saint Leo University to offer in Sumter the programs leading to the A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts, the B.A. degree in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, and Human Resources Management, and the B. S. in Computer Information Science, to be implemented in Fall 2006.

Discussion followed regarding the fact that St. Leo University has contracted with the Sumter County library and the Central Carolina Technical College library, but has not contracted with USC - Sumter. Dr. David Persky of St. Leo University noted, that though an agreement is not currently in place, St. Leo has an open dialogue with USC Sumter and would keep the CHE apprised of their relationship with them in this regard. Commissioner Wingate inquired as to whether this a funding component accompanied the request for approval of this program and Dr. Johnson responded that the request was for the approval of the program only.

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

C. Consideration of Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-time Entering Freshman, Fall 2005

Dr. Johnson explained that this report presents information on students who met the requirements as stated in **Attachment III** for the fiscal year 2005-06. Dr. Johnson noted increases and decreases as found on pages 19-21 of the report. She also noted that the percentages for the College of Charleston and Coastal Carolina University should be reversed on page 14, Table 5 for the 2005 ACT information.

A motion was then made (Johnson) to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the following:

With a decrease in applicable first-time freshmen meeting all the high school course prerequisites for public college admissions at several institutions, the senior institutions whose compliance rate falls below the state average of 93% should provide by June 1, 2006, to the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing a report on reasons for declining compliance and a plan of action to increase compliance (The Citadel, Coastal Carolina, Lander, South Carolina State, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop), thereby enhancing student preparation for success in college.

Discussion followed about the various reasons for this decrease in the number of students meeting the necessary prerequisites for college admission. Commissioner Workman noted the information contained in Table 2 and Table 3, found on pages 5 and 7 respectively. Discussion then followed about whether too many institutions are competing for too small a pool of applicants, thus admitting marginally qualified students.

The motion was then brought to the table and carried.

D. Consideration of Annual Report on Advanced Placement Course Acceptance Policies, FY 2005-06

Dr. Johnson made reference to this report, a copy of which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

A motion was made (Johnson) to approve the following recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission on Higher Education approve this report and disseminate it appropriately.

Dr. Morrison noted that there had been a policy change with regard to the acceptance of Advanced Placement credit by the technical colleges. They had previously not accepted AP credit if that course was not offered in their curriculum and have now decided to accept it and award elective credit for it.

Discussion followed about the necessity of disseminating this information.

The motion was then brought to the table and carried.

E. Information Report on Improving Teaching Quality Competitive Grant Awards, FY 2006-07

F. Informational Report on Centers of Excellence (Education) Competitive Grant Awards, FY 2006-07

Dr. Johnson explained that of ten proposals received, 3 had been selected as described in **Attachment V**. Those proposals came from Columbia College, the University of

South Carolina, and Winthrop University. She also noted that 7 other previously funded projects will continue to be funding for the coming year.

Dr. Johnson then reported that the proposal submitted by The College of Charleston was one in five proposals selected as a Center of Excellence Program as described in Attachment VI. Discussion followed that led to a conclusion that perhaps the guidelines for considering the types of proposals found in both Attachment V and Attachment VI should be reviewed.

G. Informational Report on Approved and Terminated Programs, FY 2005-06

Dr. Johnson noted that this report (Attachment VII), the purpose of which is to keep academic affairs upgraded and on task, was provided for information only.

Dr. Morrison then responded to Commissioner Sanders' questions concerning accountability with regard to the funding of the Improving Teacher Quality Awards. Commissioner Wingate requested information on the financial impact of the 28 terminated programs versus the 21 approved programs referred to in Attachment VII. Dr. Morrison responded that perhaps a general document about this may be developed. Dr. Horne commented that this presents another example of an area where program review (if funded) would help.

4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Dan Ravenel

Commissioner Ravenel reported that this committee would be meeting as soon as possible after lunch and he invited all interested Commissioners to attend.

4.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Dan Ravenel

Commissioner Ravenel filled in for Commissioner Byerly who had to leave the meeting early for personal reasons.

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. Medical University of S. C. - Bee Street Parking Garage Construction
- 2. Spartanburg Technical College - Cherokee County Campus Construction

Commissioner Ravenel reported that the three capital projects as listed above and described in Attachment VIII had been reviewed, discussed, and unanimously approved by the committee.

A motion was then made (Ravenel) and carried to approve the above mentioned projects.

B. Information Items

Commissioner Ravenel noted the permanent improvement projects approved by staff as found on the last page of **Attachment VIII** were provided for information only.

5. Legislative Update**- Julie Carullo**

Ms. Carullo stated that a bill intended to provide free tuition for students in the custody of the Department of Social Services is being considered by the Senate Education Committee as is a bill which would allow USC - Sumter to become a four-year institution. A statewide bill allowing for the name change of technical colleges to technical community colleges is also residing in the Senate Education Committee. She also updated the group on the current status of the budget, details about which may be found in **Attachment IX**. This information reflects the difference between the House and Senate funding recommendations, provisos pertaining to the CHE, and a comparison of the House and Senate budget bills for higher education lottery funds.

Ms. Carullo responded to Commissioner Ravenel's question about the outcome of the conference committee, advising that she would inform the Commissioners about names of the conferees once they are chosen. In response to Commissioner Forbes' question regarding a cap on tuition, Ms. Carullo stated that the House has proposed that tuition increases be limited to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) plus \$250 per semester, and the Senate does not have a tuition cap provision. At Commissioner Forbes request, Ms. Carullo stated she would keep the Commission posted on the status of the bill which would allow USC - Sumter to become a four-year institution. Ms. Carullo also provided information about the process followed by the conference committee.

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

Dr. Festa reported that a major disappointment was that the legislature did not support funding for program review. He also stated that funding for technology for the CHE was not recommended, though the legislature did approve money which will support the hiring of two additional CHE staff members, one in the area of technology and one in facilities. Dr. Festa reported on the work of the committees formed by Education and Economic Development Act and stated that this was a very promising initiative. If funded, the work of this initiative will help increase the number of students graduating from high school and continuing on to higher education. There has been a great deal of cooperation in this regard between the CHE, the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Technical College System. In response to Chairman McCurdy's question, Dr. Festa explained that some of the objectives of the EEDA committees' work are to provide students with information about the courses they need to take to graduate and get into college and to increase the standards for those courses, thus better preparing them to do college work. Also, more counselors will be placed in high schools so that those high school students who really need it, will have a greater chance of receiving adequate counseling. The schools will also be mandated to provide remediation for students as they move through the K-12 level. The deadline date for implementation of the work of the EEDA committees is 2011.

In response to Commissioner Forbes' question, Dr. Festa stated that the legislature had not recommended funds for digitization of records as requested by the CHE. Commissioner Forbes also inquired as to how many staff members would be hired if the \$300,000 for program review had been granted. The response was that this money would provide for 1.5 staff members (one professional and one support person) in addition to providing for other services pertaining to program review. Discussion then followed about the advantages of and procedures involved in program review.

**A. Consideration of \$1,600 office furniture purchase under
S. C. Code of Laws 11-35-450**

Mr. Jeff Richards reported that some new chairs needed to be purchased for the conference table in the Executive Director's office and that purchase required approval of the Commission. A motion was then made (Sanders), seconded (Workman), and carried to approve that purchase.

7. Other Business
(none)

8. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - IX

*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.