

## SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1333 Main Street, Suite 200

Columbia, SC 29201

*Minutes of the Meeting*

December 1, 2005

11:00 a.m.

**Commission Members Present**

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman

Ms. Rosemary Byerly

Mr. Larry Durham

Dr. Doug Forbes

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne

Mr. Jim Konduros

Ms. Cynthia Mosteller

Mr. Dan Ravenel

Mr. Neal Workman

**Commission Members Absent**

Dr. Vermelle Johnson

Mr. Miles Loadholt

**Staff Present**

Ms. Rita Allison

Ms. Camille Brown

Mr. Mike Brown

Ms. Julie Carullo

Ms. Renea Eshleman

Dr. Conrad Festa

Ms. Alyson Goff

Ms. Sherry Hubbard

Dr. Tajuana Massie

Ms. Lynn Metcalf

Dr. Gail Morrison

Dr. Mike Raley

Ms. Sandra Rhyne

Ms. Beth Rogers

Ms. Jan Stewart

Ms. Karen Wham

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

**Guests**

Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University

Dr. JoAnn Boyd-Scotland, Denmark Technical College

**Member of the Press:**

no members of the press attended

Dr. Nancy Breard, Converse College

Dr. Russ Bumba, State Technical Board

Ms. Donna Collins, U.S.C. - Columbia

Mr. Robert Connelly, U.S.C. - Upstate

Dr. Cheryl Cox, State Technical College System

Ms. Betty Davidson, Governor's Office

Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, S.C. Independent Colleges &amp; Universities

Mr. Tuck Hanna, Midlands Technical College

Mr. Craig Hess, Midlands Technical College

Mr. Brian Hill, U.S.C. - Beaufort

Dr. Braden Hosch, U.S.C. - Aiken

Dr. Jim Hudgins, State Technical Board

Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C. - Columbia

Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, U.S.C. - Columbia

Ms. Betty Jenkins, S. C. State University

Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University

Ms. Star Kepner, U.S.C. - Sumter

Dr. Carol Lancaster, Medical University of S.C.

Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System

Dr. Jed Lyons, U.S.C. - Columbia

Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston

Colonel Spike Metts, The Citadel

Dr. El Nautt, Clemson University

Dr. Pam Niesslein, Francis Marion University

Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia

Mr. Charles Shawver, S.C. Budget &amp; Control Board

Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.

Ms. Virginia Steel, U.S.C. - Aiken

Dr. John Sutusky, Medical University of S. C.

Dr. Steve Thompson, U.S.C. - Columbia

Dr. Lex Walters, Piedmont Technical College

Mr. Dale Wilson, Piedmont Technical College

Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget &amp; Control Board

This meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Items were considered in the following order and numbered as they appeared on the agenda.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy who then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 3, 2005. The motion was made (Ravenel), seconded (Horne), and carried to approve the minutes as written.

## 4. K-12 Collaborative Grant Programs

### A. Improving Teacher Quality: "Professional Development in Literacy"

Dr. Nancy Breard – Converse College

### B. Centers of Excellence: "Center for Engineering and Computing Education"

Dr. Jed Lyons – USC - Columbia

Dr. McCurdy explained that he had skipped over agenda item three, the Chairman's Report, in order to allow adequate time for the presentations listed above. These were to have been made at the November 3, 2005 Commission meeting. Due to the extended length of the business portion of the meeting, however, these individuals graciously agreed to come back to the December meeting to deliver their presentations. Dr. Gail Morrison introduced the presenters and emphasized the importance of their work with regard to the collaboration of K-12 and higher education projects. Detail about each of these programs may be found in **Attachments I and II**.

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Breard's presentation, Commissioner Byerly asked whether these graduate courses were offered only in Spartanburg school districts 4, 5, and 7. Dr. Breard responded that this was case because the book studies are extensions of the courses and the book studies are done on site. Commissioner Horne inquired as to the percentage of representation of teachers of color in this program. Dr. Breard replied that the percentage was between 5% and 10% which is reflective of the teaching body in the three districts.

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Lyons' presentation, Commissioner Ravenel commented on the similarities of this program to service learning. He suggested that it could be expanded to include a larger number of students within the University as well as in K-12. Commissioner Ravenel also inquired as to why a much higher percentage of Eastern European and Indian students are enrolled in science and math classes as opposed to Western European and American students. Dr. Lyons' colleague, Dr. Steve Thompson, speculated that the reason may have to do with societal values and attitudes with regard to these subjects. Commissioner Byerly inquired as to whether teachers from all of South Carolina's school districts are invited to participate in these summer workshops. She was informed that they are.

## 3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

- Dr. McCurdy noted that this was Dr. Jim Hudgins last meeting with the Commission as he would be retiring as Director of the State Technical College System at the end of the month. He recognized Dr. Hudgins for his outstanding service to the state of South Carolina.
- Dr. McCurdy reported on meetings that had taken place since the CHE last met with Representatives Bobby Harrell and Chip Limehouse in which the Commission's legislative agenda was discussed. He also reported that he had met with Dr. Skip Godow of the Lowcountry Graduate Center and that this meeting was very informative.

- Dr. McCurdy gave a brief summary of the first meeting of the Higher Education Study Group which took place at 3:00 p.m. on November 30, 2005 in Greenville. The group, consisting of Mr. Tex Small (Chairman), Mr. Larry Wilson, Mr. T. W. Edwards, and Mr. C. H. Maguire, was formed at the request of Governor Sanford to examine the proposed expansion of USC – Upstate on the campus Greenville Technical College. Dr. Tom Barton of Greenville Technical College and Dr. John Stockwell, of USC – Upstate delivered effective presentations at this meeting. The second meeting of this group will take place on December 6, 2005 at which a presentation will be made by representatives of the University Center of Greenville. Prior to the initial meeting of the Study Group, positive discussion about the CHE legislative agenda took place between Dr. McCurdy and Senator David Thomas, Representatives Rex Rice and Bruce Bannister as well as Commissioner Byerly, Dr. Festa, Ms. Rita Allison, and Ms. Julie Carullo.

### **1. Introductions**

Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests attending the meeting, all of whom are listed on page one of this document.

### **5. Committee Reports**

#### **5.01 Report of the Executive Committee (No Report)**

**-Layton McCurdy**

#### **5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (No Report)**

**-Vermelle Johnson**

Dr. McCurdy stated that he had been in contact with Dr. Johnson who expressed her regrets at being unable to attend the meeting due to a family obligations.

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

**- Dan Ravenel**

Commissioner Ravenel reported that the CHE had approved regulations for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, SC HOPE, and LTAP appeals at its October 6, 2005 meeting and that in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act a public hearing on that action was to take place today, December 1, 2005. He then asked Chairman McCurdy to open the meeting to the public to hear comments regarding these regulations which had been published in the State Register on October 18, 2005. Dr. Russ Bumba of the S. C. Technical College System entered a comment on behalf of the system's chief student services officers. His comment pertained to the denial of eligibility for Lottery Tuition Assistance for men who failed to register for selective service. The system's chief student services officers believe that if this standard is to be applied to the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, it should be applied to the other scholarship programs as well. As no other comments were offered, the public hearing was then closed.

#### **5.04 Report Committee on Finance and Facilities**

##### **A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects**

##### **1. Clemson University**

**Calhoun Courts – Chill Water Lines  
Replacement**

- |                                    |   |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2. South Carolina State University | - | Chestnut Street Entry                 |
| 3. USC – Aiken                     | - | Pacer Downs Upgrades                  |
|                                    | - | Pacer Commons Acquisition             |
| 4. USC – Columbia                  | - | Biomedical Park Garage Construction   |
|                                    | - | Energy Performance Contract           |
|                                    | - | Implementation – Phase I & II         |
|                                    | - | Band Hall Construction                |
| 5. USC – Upstate                   | - | Health Education Complex Construction |
| 6. Greenville Technical College    | - | Northwest Campus Construction         |

Commissioner Byerly stated that each of the projects listed above had been considered carefully and approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting earlier that morning. A **motion** was then made (Byerly) to approve these projects as **recommended**.

Commissioner Mosteller inquired about the future impact of capital projects on the state of South Carolina. She stated that she would like to receive information about the ongoing cost of these projects, including maintenance, before being asked to vote on their approval. Ms. Lynn Metcalf stated that this information can be provided and agreed to incorporate that information in the materials when presented at the request of Dr. McCurdy. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

#### **B. Staff Approval of Permanent Improvement Projects**

Commissioner Byerly made reference to the list of Permanent Improvement Projects approved by staff as listed on page 9 of **Attachment III** and stated that this was provided for information only.

#### **6. Legislative Update**

**- Rita Allison**

Ms. Allison reported that work on the Executive Budget was being concluded. It should be presented by the end of December or the first of January, 2006. She stated that much effort has been placed into communicating with legislators about the CHE legislative agenda and budget requests. Ms. Allison reported that the House and Senate have begun to pre-file bills. Two of the House bills, H4314 and H4340 have to do with tuition caps and first year freshman enrollment at USC – Columbia, respectively. To date, no bills pertaining to higher education have been pre-filed in the Senate.

#### **7. Report of the Executive Director**

**-Conrad Festa**

Dr. Festa stated that he had been spending a lot of time with legislators in discussion about institutional and CHE needs. Conversation has also taken place about the CHE's role in fulfilling its legislatively mandated responsibilities. Legislators have been very responsive to the CHE's emphasis on the importance of higher education and its effect on the economic development of the state. Much of their concern has to do with efficiency and affordability of higher education. Dr. Festa reported that he and CHE staff members have been working with the Economic and Education Development Council on restructuring of South Carolina's high schools to include raising high school students' awareness about career objectives and qualifications and the

education required to meet career goals. This work should be completed and a restructuring plan should be available by the end of January 2006. Dr. Festa reported that significant progress had been made at recent SREB meeting at which moving students through the education pipeline was the main topic. Conclusions of that meeting should be available for review in the near future. Dr. Festa encouraged the Commissioners to continue to stay in touch with their respective legislators to keep them aware of higher education concerns.

## 8. Other Business

Chairman McCurdy reported that a brochure and a one page summary of the CHE budget request had been prepared and would soon be mailed to each Commissioner. It will also be presented to members of the legislature. Chairman McCurdy urged Commissioners to continue to communicate with legislators about higher education issues. He reported that the Association of Technical College Commissions has expressed an interest in working collaboratively with the CHE in this regard. Chairman McCurdy stated that he is hopeful that these efforts will help identify achievable short-term goals.

Dr. Festa stated that when the legislature and the Governor consider funding for higher education, they're considering all money allocated for that purpose, not just that which is allocated for institutional E & G funding. Higher education currently receives almost 17 % of the discretionary state budget and there is growing concern regarding available state funding and increased higher education costs. Dr. Festa stated that it is the Commission's job to work with the legislature on recommending a funding plan. Dr. Festa reported that the Accountability Workgroup would be working on finalizing measures that afternoon. When their work has been completed it will be brought to the Commissioners and the Institutional Presidents for review before it's presented to the legislature. Discussion then followed about the variety of efforts the Commission is making to help make higher education more cost efficient and the importance of bringing these efforts to the attention of the legislature.

## 9. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Beth 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.