

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

Minutes of the Meeting

June 5, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller (by phone)
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Neal Workman

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Ken Wingate
Dr. Mick Zais

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Debra Best
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Courtney Blake
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. JoAnn Gardner
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff

Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Rac McPherson
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Michael Raley
Ms. DeNitra Reese
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Donna Collins, USC Columbia
Dr. Cheryl Cox, State Technical College System
Dr. Anthony Coync, USC Sumter
Mr. William Crank, Michelin North America
Dr. David DeCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Benjamin Dunlap, Wofford College
Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, USC Columbia
Ms. Stephanie Jones, University of Phoenix
Mr. Wayne Landrith, SC Student Loan Corporation
Mr. Mike LeFever, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical College System
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC Columbia
Mr. Bryce Wilson, SC Budget & Control Board

Members of Press

Mr. Ron Aiken, Free Times

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above. Dr. McCurdy noted that Mr. Ludlow was attending his last CHE meeting as he would soon be retiring from the SC Technical College System. He then thanked Mr. Ludlow for his many years of faithful service to higher education.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Temple), **seconded** (Workman), and **carried** to approve the minutes of May 1, 2008 meeting.

3. CHE Forum

**The Economic Development Role of the Liberal Arts and Sciences
in an Era of Globalization**

Special Guests:

Dr. Benjamin B. Dunlap
President, Wofford College

Dr. Mary Anne Fitzpatrick
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Carolina

Mr. William A. Crank
Senior Manager, Community Relations
Michelin North America

The Core Question: *In an era of increased emphasis on technology, will students with degrees in the liberal arts and sciences find satisfying careers that have the potential to contribute significantly to economic development in South Carolina?*

Chairman McCurdy introduced the topic by sharing a quote from Micheal Gelb's book, How to Think like Leonardo Da Vinci describing Da Vinci and contrasting him with business leaders today – *"His was a balanced brain in that he used the left and right hemisphere of his cerebral cortex equally and to their fullest."* Noting that the author goes on to say, *"... corporate executives today tend to be overly linear, logical, and analytical. I'm trying to help them use their intuition and artistic capabilities. If you want to compete in the challenging work of international business, you can't just rely on half a brain,"* McCurdy opened the *Forum* by asking the panelists to consider whether our state is adequately addressing the issue of a liberal arts education.

Each of the three panelists shared their unique perspectives on the topic and engaged the Commissioners in a discussion about the importance of the life of the mind and challenges of ensuring today's students are prepared to compete in our rapidly changing,

globally competitive world.

Dr. Dunlap brought to the table many fascinating stories to illustrate why he finds the liberal arts more important today than ever before. He cited the recent explosion of knowledge and need to access information as having made life-long learning critical, especially since mastery in any field may be obsolete in just a few short years. He stressed today's requirements to compete internationally make language and cultural understanding an essential part of our skill set. Finally, he advanced the need for students to develop fundamental values to guide them in the world of work and in life, stressing the crucial need to graduate students who understand who they are, what they believe in and how to live accordingly. Each of these characteristics is embodied in the spirit of a liberal arts education. He suggested thinking about a liberal arts education as educating students not for their first or second job but for their third job.

As an added perspective, Dr. Fitzpatrick noted her view that the structure of the United States higher education system facilitates the development of the creative mind which is one reason the Chinese admire our system. She explained that students in China and other countries are tracked into one discipline and focus on that discipline, whereas a liberal arts education engages students not only in their disciplines but also in the life of the mind. The liberal arts training enables students to develop the skills needed for true civic participation which helps bind us together as a society. She commented that many public research institutions, like the University of South Carolina, are trying to look more like liberal arts colleges in order to engage students more deeply in the life of the mind. Such education helps students in fully participating in civic life and enables thoughtful consideration of the ethical, social and policy implications of scientific discoveries and advancement.

Coming from a business background, Mr. Crank of Michelin North America related to the competitive world today and the need for students to be able to take their education and apply it to new realms. Noting that 80% of the children entering pre-school today will enter jobs which are not yet in existence, he stressed the need to develop students who are able to think, imagine, be visionary and have decision-making skills. To remain competitive, companies must balance the need for profit with consumer demands for quality. And to do so, they must have workers who can think outside the box, have a broad based education, and who have prepared for more than just a job. While organizations like Michelin require technical expertise, they also need those who are able to use their expertise to think creatively in solving problems and developing products. The liberal arts training helps provide a foundation to prepare individuals for the flexibility necessary in today's rapidly changing world. Mr. Crank also stressed the importance of vision and planning for higher education over the next ten years so that we are positioned to meet tomorrow's challenges.

Prompted by Commissioner Bettie Horne, the panelists provided advice to the Commission on what they can do as they meet monthly and try to make a difference for higher education in South Carolina. Commissioner Hood Temple, a practicing attorney, commented as a graduate of Wofford University on the value of his liberal arts background and asked panelists to discuss how we might value education more in South Carolina despite frustrations with limited funding. Commissioner Neal Workman

stressed the importance of a liberal arts background in developing thinking skills and the ability to change, key attributes of entrepreneurs. He also challenged the group to think about how we can get the educational system to celebrate more than just the "A" student. Several themes emerged as the panelists shared their views with the Commissioners. One was the need for Commissioners to be open to the development of new programs and ideas that may not fit easily into the categories of today.

Another strong message was the need for all of us across education and business to collaboratively help others recognize the value of education. We need to work together to ensure that students have the tools to develop necessary skills and knowledge for several careers over their lifetimes.

Higher education's responsibility in regard to working with early childhood and K-12 education, promoting higher awareness of education, and using research to put forth best practices was discussed. Panelists noted the important responsibility of higher education institutions to produce graduates who are employable and who can exercise responsible citizenship.

Finally, the importance of long-term planning and investment to improve rural development was discussed as an area of consideration for South Carolina's future success. Emphasized was the need to ensure we are taking action that will address challenges and propel us forward.

4. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy had no report.

5. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters reported he had been working with Dr. Woodfaulk and her staff on a systematic analysis of the K-12 to higher education pipeline. A report on this analysis will be delivered in September. He then called on Dr. Woodfaulk to share information on current difficulties students are having with access to student loans. These problems stem from significant changes in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) due to lack of available capital. Mr. Wayne Landrith of the SC Student Loan Corporation shared the good news that in recent weeks they had been able to acquire adequate investments to obtain 100% of the funds needed to fund student loans for the 2008-2009 academic year. He noted that the SC Student Loan Corporation's default rate is less than 2% compared to the national default rate of 4-5%.

Chairman McCurdy reported that the term of one of the Commission's longest standing members, Dan Ravenel, would be soon be expiring (July 1, 2008). Commissioner Mosteller (who had called in to attend this portion of the meeting) complimented Commissioner Ravenel and expressed her admiration for him as an outstanding person and wonderful mentor. She commended him for the level of leadership he has brought to the Commission. She stated further that "the Commission has not seen the last of Dan Ravenel." Commissioner Ravenel remarked that it had been a joy to be involved with the important work of the Commission and that he would continue to be an advocate of

higher education in South Carolina. Chairman McCurdy reported that Commissioner Ravenel's replacement, Mr. Yancy Wilcox (Bill) Scarborough, III, would begin his term on the Commission effective July 1.

Dr. Walters reported that Mr. Michael Brown was leading an effort on a comprehensive study of the critical importance of student success to graduation. A report on this work will also be delivered in September.

Dr. Walters asked Mr. Gary Glenn to report on the May 15-16 Finance Officers retreat which had taken place at Lander University. Mr. Glenn commented briefly on the topics covered and stated that a make-up retreat was being offered on June 11 for those who were unable to attend the original event.

Dr. Walters reported that Academic Affairs Officers had held a productive retreat on June 4. He stated that he had made a limited number of visits to individuals, institutions, and editorial boards recently and that the number of those visits would accelerate during the summer months.

At Dr. Walters' request, Commissioner Ravenel reported that the Higher Education Study Committee would be meeting at 2:30 this afternoon, and that they were moving toward the final stages of developing a report to be delivered to the legislature. He stated that the Action Plan for Higher Education should be implemented in 2009 upon conclusion of the 2009 legislative session. Commissioner Ravenel invited all to attend the HESC meeting.

6. Legislative Report

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that the 2008 session of the General Assembly would end at 5:00 p.m. today, although they adopted a resolution to come back to deal with outstanding business at the end of June. She distributed to each of the Commissioners two documents: 1) a summary of legislation pertaining to higher education that has either passed during the 2008 legislative session or was still pending as of June 4, 2008 (**Attachment I**); and 2) a report on the CHE's FY 2008-09 budget requests as compared to the FY 2008-09 Appropriations Act (**Attachment II**). Ms. Carullo provided a brief overview of the information contained in those documents.

7. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

7.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Bettie Horne

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing had no report.

7.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Bettie Horne

**A. Consideration of Proposed FY 2008-09 Administrative Budget,
S.C. Student Loan Corporation**

Commissioner Horne provided this report in the place of Commissioner Mosteller who was unable to be physically present. Commissioner Horne made reference to the information referred to in agenda item 7.03 A above, a detailed description of which may be found in **Attachment III**.

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

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the SC Commission on Higher Education approve the proposed FY 2008-09 budget for administration of the SC Student Loan Corporation's Teachers Loan Program.

7.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities - Daniel Ravenel

Consent Agenda Items:

A. Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plans (CPIPs)

1. Year One Project Approvals
2. Year Two, Three, Four, and Five Summaries (for information only)

B. List of Staff Approvals for May 2008 (For Information)

Commissioner Ravenel referred to the Comprehensive Permanent Improvement Plans (CPIPs) as listed in agenda item 7.04 A above, a detailed description of which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

There being no objections to any of the projects listed, a **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities **recommends** approval of these projects (year one) as proposed.

The summaries of CPIPs for years two, three, four and five as well as the list of staff approvals for May 2008 were provided for information only.

Commissioner Ravenel noted that a few changes in committee procedures had been made with regard to staff approval of projects, and he asked Mr. Gary Glenn to provide an explanation on those changes. Mr. Glenn stated that the changes will allow CHE staff to continue to process phase one pre-design project approvals if the budget for those projects is under \$500,000, with staff providing the same type of support normally provided for projects that had come through the CPIP Year 1 process.

8. Other Business

There being no other business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers
Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachment 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.