

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
April 6, 1989  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. William J. Whitener, Chairman  
Dr. D. Glenburn Askins, Jr.  
Mr. George L. Brightharp  
Mr. Walter E. Brooker  
Mr. Palmer Freeman, Sr.  
Mr. Marvin C. Jones  
Mrs. Reba Ann Kinon  
Mr. Howard G. Love  
Mr. Vernon McGuire  
Mr. Lewis Phillips  
Dr. Raymond C. Ramage  
Mr. Edwin E. Tolbert, Sr.  
Mr. Joseph J. Turner, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Tom Moore Craig  
Mr. Robert C. Gallager  
Mr. Kenneth E. Goad  
Mr. Roger E. Henderson  
Mrs. Mildred R. Williams

STAFF

Dr. Jeffrey Bartkovich  
Mr. Michael L. Brown  
Ms. Sandra E. Carr  
Dr. Robert A. Day  
Dr. Jeanette A. Deas  
Mr. Milton Kimpson  
Dr. Frank E. Kinard  
Mr. Alan S. Krech  
Dr. James A. Paschal  
Mr. Robert K. Poch  
Mr. Fred R. Sheheen  
Mr. John E. Smalls  
Dr. Leonard P. Sternbach  
Ms. Janet Stewart  
Dr. John C. Sutusky  
Ms. Gaylon Syrett  
Dr. Aileen C. Trainer  
Ms. Julia E. Wells

GUESTS

Mr. Luther Batiste  
Mr. Les Boles  
Dr. Peter J. Fischinger  
Dr. Ronald Hampton  
Dr. H. McLean Holderfield  
Dr. Albert M. Lyles  
Mr. M. Hurst Marshall  
Dr. Mark D. Musick  
Dr. Carolyn McIver  
Dr. Marcus Newberry  
Dr. Terry Peterson  
Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins  
Mr. William Putnam  
Ms. Gloria Pyles  
Mr. Terry Rogers  
Mr. Leon Sanders  
Dr. Robert Scott  
Dr. Arthur K. Smith  
Mr. Rick Wade  
Mr. William Watson  
Dr. Edwin F. Wilde

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

Mr. Herb Frazier  
Mr. Gary Karr  
Mr. Steve Smith

I. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of March 2, 1989

It was moved (Tolbert), seconded (Ramage), and voted that the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 1989, be adopted as written.

Dr. Askins, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Commission, moved to suspend the rules and add an item to the agenda following consideration of Item III: "Position Statement of the Commission on Higher Education Relative to Super Computer Funding."

II. Report of Committee on Access and Equity

Mrs. Kinon reported on a successful Technical Assistance Workshop which was attended by 200 representatives from the public colleges and universities in South Carolina. The Workshop was held at the Radisson Hotel in Columbia on February 9-10, 1989. Mrs. Kinon thanked Mrs. Wells and the staff for their work on the Workshop. She also welcomed Mr. Milton Kimpson as the new supervisor for the Access and Equity Program.

III. Position Statement of the Commission on Higher Education Relative to Super Computer Funding

As background information, Mr. Sheheen stated that at its March 1989 monthly meeting, the Commission on Higher Education adopted a resolution which urged the Governor and the General Assembly to take no action on super computer funding until the Commission had the opportunity to review and report on the existent proposals. He stated that since that time the matter has become an increasingly controversial item of public policy, and the Commission believes it should set forth the basis for its position and outline the several distinct bases for concern.

Mr. Jones noted that the law requires supplemental appropriation requests from any public institution of higher education to be submitted first to the Commission. He stated that, equally important, the Commission was created to conduct the preliminary evaluation of the fiscal needs of all institutions of higher education. In this instance, both Clemson and the University of South Carolina applied for funding directly from the General Assembly.

Mr. Jones stated that the Commission believes, over the long term, the State will best be served by postponing the acquisition of super computers until the needs and potential solutions have been given full study, both at the institutional and the statewide level. The Commission believes that unplanned expenditures on super computer technology may have an adverse affect on the following aspects of higher education:

1. The drain in capital and operating funds will diminish the prospect of improving faculty salaries.
2. The drain in capital and operating funds may entice the institutions to turn to higher tuition and fees to defray the costs.
3. Appropriations directly to the two universities for capital and operating funds for excess super computing capability will diminish funds available to other institutions in the State for capital and operational purposes.

Mr. Jones stated that the Commission will send copies of its Position Statement to the Governor, members of the Budget and Control Board, all the members of the General Assembly, and the presidents of the institutions of higher learning in South Carolina and will work actively to implement this policy in the General Assembly.

Dr. Kinard reported that he has made telephone inquiries regarding super computers in some other states. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has initiated a program leading to the creation of five national centers. Each of the centers is linked by data networks to the others, and to many major United States universities by one or more other networks. NSF financial support for these five is now at about \$45 million per year.

Dr. Kinard stated that he has contacted informally persons in eight states that own super computers other than the five NSF centers. The general purchase price averages \$10 million and the annual operating costs range from \$1 to \$10 million, requiring additional state subsidy. Dr. Kinard noted that common expectations have not been met that sales of time to non-university users would be substantial.

Dr. Askins stated that his concerns are that a study has not been made to see if the state needs two super computers, both universities have ignored coming to CHE first, and costs for housing and operating the super computers may exceed expectations.

Mr. Jones stated that all state institutions should have a share of supplemental funds, not just USC or Clemson.

It was moved (Askins), seconded (Jones), and voted that the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the proposed "Position Statement of the Commission on Higher Education Relative to Super Computer Funding" be adopted. The position statement is attached as Exhibit A.

IV. Consideration of Request to Increase Budget of Dormitory Project, South Carolina State College

It was moved (Brightharp) and seconded (Freeman) to suspend the rules and add another agenda item to entertain a request from S. C. State College.

Mr. Brightharp stated that in the process of renovating a dormitory at South Carolina State College, there was a shortfall of \$600,000 in the second phase which is to be finished next fall. S. C. State is requesting permission to add \$600,000 to the renovation project. The Facilities Committee recommends approval.

Mr. Love stated that since the shortfall so far exceeds the original estimate, S. C. State should be more cautious in preparing estimates.

It was moved (Brightharp), seconded (Freeman), and voted that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.

V. Remarks by Dr. Peter J. Fischinger, Vice President for Research, Medical University of South Carolina

Mr. Whitener welcomed Dr. Fischinger, a microbiologist who directed a national AIDS program in Washington for 14 months and presently conducts research on cancer and AIDS at MUSC. Dr. Fischinger gave a presentation on research possibilities for the State of South Carolina, stating that a comprehensive center is to be established at MUSC with a combination of specialists for cancer and AIDS.

VI. Report on Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Initiatives, Goals for Education: Challenge 2000 by Dr. Mark D. Musick, Director of State Services and Information, and President-Elect, SREB

Dr. Musick stated that nearly every SREB state has passed education improvement acts, and by the year 2000 he hopes that we will lead the nation in setting goals for where we want our educational systems to be. Dr. Musick also stated that in order to keep the public's interest, goals must be set for education, progress measured toward achieving them, and results reported to the public in clear terms. The report is attached as Exhibit B.

VI. Report of the Commissioner - New Publication for Public Schools

Mr. Sheheen reported that book covers are being sent to junior high students with prerequisites for college listed on the cover. Mr. Sheheen stated that the Governor's Office provided \$12,200 for the project. Dr. Kinard and Dr. Deas coordinated the design of the book covers.

VII. Dr. Deas noted that the Palmetto Scholars Banquet to recognize finalists will be held on Thursday, May 4, 1989. She expects 45 to 50 awards to be presented at the banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Stewart*

Janet Stewart  
Recording Secretary