

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

Minutes of the Meeting
January 5, 2005

11:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Mr. Larry Durham
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. Miles Loadholt
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Neal Workman

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Jim Konduros
Dr. Mick Zais

Staff Present

Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Ms. Beth Rogers
Mr. Rashad Rogers
Ms. Jan Stewart
Dr. Donald Tetreault

Member of the Press:

no members of the press attended

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University
Mr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. – Columbia
Dr. Christine Ebert, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, S.C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Mary Gunn, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Thomas Higerd, Medical University of S. C.
Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C. – Columbia
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Star Kepner, U.S.C. - Sumter
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Linda Lyerly, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Ms. Candace Morgan, University of Phoenix
Dr. Harris Pastides, U.S.C. - Columbia
Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Charles Shawver, S.C. Budget & Control Board
Ms. Christine Smalls, Medical University of S.C.
Dr. John Sutusky, Medical University of S. C.
Ms. Catherine Watt, Clemson University
Dr. Richard Weldon, Coastal Carolina Universities
Mr. Bryce Wilson, S.C. Budget & Control Board

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

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McCurdy. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests attending, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2005. The motion was made (Byerly), seconded (Mosteller), and carried to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

Dr. McCurdy reported on the status of the work of the group formed, at Governor Sanford's request, to study the needs of higher education in the upstate of South Carolina, and in particular the proposed expansion of USC Upstate on the campus of Greenville Technical College. The study group was composed of Mr. Tex Smalls, Mr. T. W. Edwards, Mr. Larry Wilson, and Mr. C. H. Maguire. The groups' three meetings were held on November 30, December 6, and December 14, 2005. In addition, several CHE staff members, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Sanders, Dr. McCurdy and Dr. Festa were in attendance as were several other interested parties. The conclusion drawn from those meetings is that the need to offer expanded opportunities to earn a bachelors' degree definitely exists in the Greenville area, and that USC Upstate is best situated to attempt to meet that need in collaboration with Greenville Technical College. It was also concluded that this should be done in conjunction with the University Center of Greenville, provided that some modifications are made to the University Center's governance structure. Dr. McCurdy stated that he believed this type of action would represent a wonderful example of inter-institutional collaboration in proactively identifying a need and initiating a process to meet that need. Discussion took place as to the relationship between the modification of the University Center's governance structure and the construction of the proposed building. Dr. McCurdy clarified that that the governance modification would indeed represent a compromise, bringing the University Center into this project and allowing for the construction of the building to take place within the University Center complex. Discussion then followed regarding the inclusion of additional institutions in the activities of the Greenville University Center, whether institutions throughout the state are aware of that this possibility is open to them, and the overall benefit of this type of cooperative and collaborative effort among the state's institutions.

4. Presentation: A Plan for Progress: One Research University's Strategy Dr. Harris Pastides, Vice President for Research and the Division of Health Sciences – USC

Dr. Morrison provided a context for the presentation and then introduced Dr. Pastides. She stated that she hoped to have representatives from MUSC and Clemson also present to the Commission at some point in the future in order to provide the Commission with more exposure to the research enterprise in South Carolina. Named Innovista, this innovation district is located in the artistic and creative hub of Columbia, SC and it will be increasingly focused on research. Its intention is not only to enhance the academic reputation of USC both within the state and nationally, but also to contribute to job creation, wealth creation, and to the betterment of all South Carolinians. A copy of Dr. Pastides power point presentation, which provides more complete detail about Innovista, may be found in **Attachment I**.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Dr. Pastides entertained questions. Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to how much Innovista would contribute to the expansion of academic pursuit. Dr. Pastides responded that it will 1) lead to a more world-class faculty; 2) allow for research to reach all USC students; 3) encourage students to remain in South Carolina after graduation; and 4) increase the reputation and value of a South Carolina education. Dr. Pastides and Dr. McCurdy emphasized the importance of the collaboration of South Carolina's three research universities in getting the state to fund their infrastructure. Commissioner Sanders inquired as the length of time it might take to for these types of initiatives to filter down to an unemployed textile worker. Dr. Pastides responded that it is a lengthy process and would more likely take between five and ten years.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.01 Report of the Executive Committee** **-Layton McCurdy**
(No Report)
- 5.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing** **-Vermelle Johnson**
(No Report)
- 5.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services** **- Dan Ravenel**
(No Report)

5.04 Report Committee on Finance and Facilities

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- 1. College of Charleston - Patriots Point Athletics Complex Facilities Upgrade
- 2. MUSC - Clinical Science Building – Replace Air Handlers
- Bio-safety Level 3 Facility Renovations

Commissioner Byerly stated that each of the projects listed above had been considered carefully and approved unanimously by the Finance Committee at its meeting earlier that morning. Detailed information about these projects may found in **Attachment II**. A motion was then made (Byerly) and carried to approve these projects as recommended.

B. Information Items

- 1. MUSC Property Sales (two parcels)
- 2. Staff Approval of Permanent Improvement Projects

Commissioner Byerly noted the Information Items listed above and indicated that no action on the part of the Commissioners was required.

6. Legislative Update

- Rita Allison

Ms. Carullo reported that a summary of major higher education issues for the 2006 legislative session had been prepared and it was distributed to Commission members. She noted that, in light of Judge Cooper's recent ruling on the state lawsuit in behalf of the eight plaintiff school districts, more emphasis will be placed on early childhood education which will have implications for this legislative session. Ms. Carullo also noted that Ms. Cathy Harvin had recently won the Democratic Primary in the race to fill the legislative seat vacated by her late husband. As she is not currently contested, it's expected she will fill that seat. In addition, Ms. Carullo noted that Mr. Bob Staton, Chairman of the Education Oversight Committee, has announced that he will be running as a candidate for the State Superintendent of Education.

Ms. Carullo reported that the Governor had released his proposed budget and delivered highlights, details on which may be found in **Attachment III**. She noted that additional information will follow as time allows a closer study of the budget. Commissioner Ravenel asked whether this information was available on the web, and Ms. Carullo stated that the full budget could be found on the S. C. State Government web site, and that the specific link to that would be sent to Commissioners. Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to whether it was possible to prefile a bill which places a requirement on one public institution, such as the one submitted by Senator McGee relating to the percentage of in-state students at USC. Ms. Carullo responded that this was indeed possible. Ms. Carullo then provided additional information on other prefilled bills, also described in **Attachment III** as well as information on bills that will be carried over from the 2005 legislative session.

7. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa stated the Commission would be facing some very high profile problems in the 2006 legislative session, the major one of which has to do with funding for higher education. This is a problem in South Carolina as well in other states across the nation. The cost of higher education is in the forefront also. Dr. Festa made reference to a study conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) entitled, *A New Look at the Institutional Component of Higher Education Finance: A Guide for Evaluating Performance Relative to Financial Resources*, which examines these issues. At Commissioner Workman's request, a copy of that study will be sent to each of the Commissioners. Dr. Festa reported that the Presidents' Accountability Plan is in the final stages of completion and should be ready to be delivered to Commissioners for review in the very near future. Another initiative being conducted by the State Higher Education Executive Board is that of evaluating student achievement in college, which has been a difficult issue in terms of how to measure achievement and what is fair. Another concern is that of mission creep among the state's institutions, both on the technical college level as well comprehensive university level.

Dr. Festa reminded the Commissioners that he will request from the legislature \$50 million in General funds for the state's institutions which will be divided to fund both Mission Resource Requirements (MRR) and Parity. Ms. Lynn Metcalf and Ms. Julie Carullo will be developing some "Cliff Notes" on the MRR for Commissioners in order to better prepare them to converse with legislators about this as well as the relationship between funding and the capping of tuition increases. Dr. Festa complimented the Commissioners on their work with legislators and

encouraged them to intensify their efforts. This has contributed to a considerable raise in the CHE's profile. Dr. Festa has been emphasizing the fact that higher education must play a role in all of education in South Carolina and that there should be a seamless progression of students and curriculum through education. The result of that emphasis has increased requests that CHE be involved in numerous additional committee responsibilities which has placed somewhat of a burden on the CHE because of staffing issues.

Dr. Festa stated that he was happy to see that the Governor was supportive of program review and added that he would like to see the legislature also restore to the CHE the ability to terminate programs. Commissioner Ravenel noted that some schools are not as devoted to initiating programs as they should be and gave the example of the need for a Master's level degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Charleston area. Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to whether, in light of the concern about cost-effectiveness and efficiency, this would be a good time to request the reinstatement of the CHE's ability to terminate programs. It was suggested that this might be included as part of the Presidents' Accountability Workgroup's recommendations.

Dr. Festa stated that an effort is underway to increase the CHE's proactivity within the state and the nation. He reported that the South Carolina's education preparation programs were recently rated very highly. As a result, the State Higher Education Executive Officers' organization (SHEEO) has asked that South Carolina participate in a study concerning improving teacher education, though again, CHE staffing issues may preclude that participation. Dr. Festa reported that he will also be requesting funding for the hiring of additional CHE personnel.

Dr. Festa noted that the CHE will be working in close collaboration with the State Technical System. He also reported that the Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council (EEDCC) has been active in developing new curriculum in K-12 schools. Transfer and articulation will be examined carefully and ways to further educate the legislature and the general public about that will be developed. The EEDCC will also be working on closing the gap between K-12 and higher education's perceptions of what constitutes adequate preparation for college.

Commissioner Workman thanked Dr. Festa and the CHE staff for developing a brochure which describes the work of the Commission. He also stated that at such time that the Commission is able to develop three main initiatives on which to place its emphasis, that information should be included in the brochure. Commissioner Sanders requested that Commissioners be sent some additional copies of the brochure.

Chairman McCurdy inquired as to whether institutions are aware of the average debt incurred by their students upon graduation. Ms. Lynn Metcalf reported that the federal government compiles that data, though the total debt would be understated because this only includes federal debt. At Dr. McCurdy's request, Ms. Lynn Metcalf will compile that information.

8. Other Business

Ms. Carullo stated that she had neglected to mention in her earlier report that the Governor's budget contained no funding for the statewide electronic library.

9. Adjournment

Chairman McCurdy adjourned the meeting at 1:00 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.