



Agenda Item 3.03

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Austin Gilbert, Chairman, and Members
Commission on Higher Education

From: Frank Gilbert, *RB for FG* Chairman, Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services

Subject: Report and Recommendations from the 1998 Access and Equity Conference

By all accounts, the 1998 Access and Equity Conference was a worthwhile and successful event. Enclosed is a report which summarizes the Conference and which includes also information about Conference focus groups that were led by the Task Force to Review and Make Recommendations on the Access and Equity Program. The Task Force will submit a report and recommendations for consideration, first by our Committee and later by the full Commission, in response to suggestions that were included in the October 1997 Management Review of the Commission by the Budget and Control Board.

The attached report is submitted for your information only.

1998 ACCESS AND EQUITY CONFERENCE REPORT

More than 160 higher education faculty, staff, and policymakers convened at the Adams Mark Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina, March 18 - 20, for the 1998 Access and Equity Conference which was sponsored by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and hosted by five area public institutions of higher education: The University of South Carolina, Midlands Technical College, USC-Aiken, USC-Sumter, and Central Carolina Technical College.

Task Force to Review and Make Recommendations on the Access and Equity Program. As a follow-up to recommendations on pages 10 and 11 in the Budget and Control Board's October 1997 **Management Review for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education**, a Task Force met with focus groups during the conference to review the goals, staffing, and resource needs of the Access and Equity Program. The Task Force will prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services in late April and by the full Commission at the May 2, 1998 meeting. (A list showing members of the Task Force is attached.)

Conference Theme, Keynote Speakers, and Major Presenters. Keynote speakers and major presenters addressed the Conference theme, **Visions and Strategies for Ensuring Access and Equity in the New Millennium**. Keynote speakers for the Conference plenary sessions were Dr. Jonathan Alger, Counsel, American Association of University Professors; Dr. Ozell Sutton, Regional Director, Community Relations Services Office, U.S. Department of Justice; and Dr. Robert Poch, Director, Minnesota Higher Education Services Office.

Other major speakers were workshop leaders Arthur Coleman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education; and John Fry, National Affirmative Action Coordinator, U.S. Department of Education. Their presentation was titled, **Technical Assistance Workshop on College Admissions and Affirmative Action: Maintaining Legally Sound Institutional Policies, Programs, and Administrative Practices.**

College and University representatives and CHE staff members presented concurrent sessions on the following topics:

- *Linking Performance Funding and Minority Achievement
- *Increasing Focus on Test Scores for State Scholarship Programs
- *Maintaining Positive Race Relations on the Campus
- *Increasing the Representation of Minority Faculty in Higher Education
- *Using Computer Technology to Promote Opportunity and Equity in Higher Education

Conference Attendance

Total number of persons attending the Conference -----	168
Number of S.C. public colleges and universities represented -----	33
Number of S.C. private colleges and universities represented -----	4
Number of college/university presidents in attendance -----	9
Dr. James Hudgins, Dr. John Palms, Dr. Les Carpenter, Dr. Don Garrison, Dr. Kathleen Noble, Dr. William Moran Dr. Leroy Davis, Dr. Robert Alexander, and Dr. Dan Terhune	
Number of CHE Members in attendance -----	2
Mr. Dalton Floyd and Mr. Frank Gilbert; (Video-taped remarks Mr. Austin Gilbert were made at the opening dinner session.)	
Number of CHE staff in attendance -----	16
Mr. Michael Brown, Ms. Addie Caldwell, Ms. Sandra Carr, Ms. Lorinda Copeland, Ms. Sherry Hubbard, Dr. Lynn Kelley, Mr. Raghu Korrapati, Mr. John Krause, Mr. Alan Krech, Dr. David Loope, Dr. Gail Morrison, Dr. Michael Raley, Mr. Jeff Richards, Mr. John Smalls, Dr. Michael Smith, Ms. Yolanda Solone, and Ms. Julia Wells (Dr. Rayburn Barton made video-taped remarks at the opening dinner session.)	

In addition, several legislators and the mayor of Columbia attended at least one session of the Conference.

Post-Conference Activities of the South Carolina Professional Association for Access and Equity (SC-PAAE). The 1998 Access and Equity Conference was complemented by the post-Conference Third Annual Meeting of the SC-PAAE which consisted of a business meeting, a scholarship banquet (and the award of three scholarships), workshops, and a Legislative luncheon. Keynote speakers were Willie Jeffries, Head Football Coach, S.C. State University at the Scholarship Banquet and Senator Darrell Jackson at the Legislative Luncheon.

Task Force to Review and Develop Recommendations for a Strategic Direction, Staffing, and Resource Requirements for the Access and Equity Program

Chairperson

Dr. Herman Green, Director
The Houston Center
Clemson University

Co-Chairperson

Dr. Joseph Heyward, Vice President for Student Services
Francis Marion University

Other Task Force Members

Dr. Deborah Cureton
Associate Dean for Academic/Student Affairs
USC-Lancaster

Mr. Bob Gillis
Vice President for Human Relations
The College of Charleston

Dr. Ose Henderson, Associate Dean
The Graduate School
The University of South Carolina

Dr. H. D. Hill
Dean of Graduate Studies
S.C. State University

Dr. Frankie Keels, Curriculum Coordinator
State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

Martin Kinard, Director of Access and Equity
South Carolina State University

Jerry Knighton, Interim Director
Office of Access and Equity
Clemson University

Frances McCullough, Associate Dean of Student Development
Technical College of the Lowcountry

Donald E. Melton, Admissions Counselor
Williamsburg, Technical College
Ms. Lottie Otto, Access and Equity Coordinator
Trident Technical College

Dr. Jerry Robertson, Vice President for Student Services
Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College

Dr. Lawrence Rouse, Dean of Student Services
Central Carolina Technical College

Dr. Jacqueline Skubal
Executive Dean for Institutional Research and Planning
Denmark Technical College

Myra Smith, Research Administrator
Office of Equal Opportunity Programs
The University of South Carolina

Dr. Leon Wiles
Vice President for Student Services
USC-Spartanburg