



Executive Session

August 25, 2003

12:45 p.m.

The Commission met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The item discussed was the appointment of Dr. Conrad Festa to the position of Executive Director. After a short discussion the unanimous consensus was that Conrad Festa be appointed the Executive Director effective August 25, 2003.

The issue of the salary was discussed. Mr. Floyd explained that the salary offered to Conrad initially was \$130,000 annually. He later learned that the salary must be approved by the Agency Head Salary Commission chaired by Senator Leatherman. After having a conversation with the senator, Senator Leatherman informed Dalton that, in the senator's opinion, the maximum amount that the Agency Head Salary Commission would recommend is \$125,000. Since Dalton had already offered Conrad \$130,000, Dalton recommended that the SC Higher Education Foundation provide Conrad with a \$5,000 housing supplement. In fact, at a meeting held earlier in the day, the Foundation approved the \$5,000 supplement. Dr. Stevenson and Mr. Konduros expressed reservations regarding supplementing the salary from the Foundation. Other members spoke in support of the supplement. After further discussion, the members agreed to the supplement from the Foundation. Therefore, the salary will be \$125,000 from state funds and an additional \$5,000 supplement.

John Smalls
Executive Director