

January 7, 1976

Dr. R. Cathcart Smith, Chairman  
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education  
Rutledge Building  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Dear Dr. Smith:

This will confirm my telephone call to you that I would not be able to attend the meeting of the Commission on Higher Education tomorrow and my feelings on several matters.

Page 4, paragraph III of the minutes accurately states the report of the Legislative Committee and clearly states, "It was the consensus of the Committee that the Commission not decide upon specific recommendations to the General Assembly at this time, ..." Even though I raised the point that Senator Lake had specifically requested the Commission to make recommendations, the Committee maintained its position and the Commission acquiesced, the results being that the Commission deliberately refused to make Legislative recommendations.

This being the case, it appears that Dr. Boozer's letter of December 16, 1975, to Senator Lake is inconsistent with the action outlined above. The Commission is the policy making body and the staff must administer according to the policy established. Since there were two meetings of the Commission after your appearance before Senator Lake's Committee, and the Commission refused to make any Legislative recommendations, although it had some excellent ones from Mrs. Forbes, I think the only reply Dr. Boozer could have given Senator Lake was the action taken as outlined in the minutes.

My concern in no way means that I am against the six points raised in Dr. Boozer's letter. To the contrary, I agree with all of them. I also think it is unfortunate the Commission ignored this opportunity for Legislative input.

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As to reconsidering appropriations recommendations made on December 21, 1975, the Commission has concentrated all of its efforts on Formula Funding; therefore, to give credence to the formula, I think the only course is to follow those recommendations. Since funds have been frozen at the 1975-76 level, it is logical that enrollment should be frozen at the same level. My position in no way is an endorsement of the formula but is addressed solely to the question of reconsideration as outlined in your memo of December 31, 1975.

One other point, since we are in a period of austerity, I think the Commission should declare a moratorium on new programs until such time as there is a marked change in the economy and an increase in revenue.

Best wishes for a successful meeting and the new year.

Cordially,

Paul W. McAlister

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