

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

Minutes of the Meeting

August 1, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Randy Thomas
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Col. John Bowden
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Tina Anderson
Mr. Arik Bjorn
Ms. Camille Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Arlene Criswell
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Nan Ford
Ms. Alyson Goff
Ms. Deborah Henning
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Ms. Rae McPherson

Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Mr. Clint Mullins
Ms. De'Nitra Reese
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Dr. Garrison Walters
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Ms. Donna Collins, USC Columbia
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC Sumter
Mr. Edgar Dyer, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Walter Hardin, Winthrop University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical College System
Ms. Julie Lybrand, House Education & Public Works Committee
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Col. Spike Metts, The Citadel
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC Columbia
Mr. Bryce Wilson, SC Budget & Control Board

Member of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Julie Carullo introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above. Chairman McCurdy introduced and welcomed Dr. Garrison Walters, who became the new Executive Director of the Commission effective July 9, 2007.

2. Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made (Lynn), **seconded** (Thomas), and **carried** to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2007, meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy opened his report with remarks about the Commissioners' Retreat which took place in Columbia on July 23 and 24, 2007. As a result of the work accomplished at the retreat, information was developed to present to the legislatively mandated Higher Education Study Committee, meetings of which will be scheduled as soon as all Committee members have been appointed. Dr. Walters then delivered a Power Point presentation entitled, *Action Planning for Higher Education in South Carolina - Ideas for a New Framework*, which summarized that information and is intended to assist the Committee with its discussion focus. A copy of this presentation may be found in **Attachment I**.

Discussion took place about the purpose of the Committee and the magnitude of the task it has been assigned to accomplish. Commissioner Zais noted that a position statement had also been drafted as a result of the Commissioners' Retreat which advocates limiting substantive changes in institutional missions until the Committee's work to complete a statewide strategic plan for higher education has been completed. He then read the position statement (**Attachment II**) and made a **motion** that the Commission endorse it, which was **seconded** by Commissioner Horne. Additional discussion followed in which the definition of mission change was clarified as well as the number and types of requests for mission change which are presented to the CHE. The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Lynn remarked that he would like to see accelerated collaboration between the CHE and the S. C. Department of Commerce to increase workforce development in the state. Ms. Allison replied that Dr. Walters had recently met with Mr. Joe Taylor, Secretary of the S.C. Department of Commerce, and discussed collaborative efforts. Chairman McCurdy remarked that an effort to strengthen teacher education programs and increase the number of qualified teachers in S. C. is also of crucial importance.

Chairman McCurdy then made a special observation with regard to the importance of the consistency of the CHE's excellent information system, much of which has been attributable to the hard work of Ms. Lynn Metcalf, Director of the Division of Finance, Facilities and Management Information Systems. He noted that Ms. Metcalf would be retiring effective August 3, 2007, and that she had been a marvelous asset to the CHE staff. Dr. McCurdy then congratulated her on 34 years of service and for an extraordinary job well done.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing - Bettie Rose Horne

A. Change to Regulation 62-6: Licensing Criteria Requiring Recognized Accreditation for Degree-granting Institutions

Commissioner Horne provided introductory remarks about the change to Regulation 62-6 as described in **Attachment III**. This change adds language to require all non-public degree-granting postsecondary institutions operating within the state to seek appropriate accreditation. Ms. Renea Eshleman, Coordinator of the CHE's licensing staff, explained that bringing this information forward at today's meeting provided a public hearing to receive comments about the changes and that she had received none to date.

Commissioner Horne noted that this action represented a quality measure which helps ensure that South Carolina consumers receive opportunities for quality education. In response to Chairman McCurdy's question about reconciling the technical difference between licensing and accreditation which often occurs with recently started institutions, Ms. Eshleman explained that provisional licensure is granted until actual accreditation is achieved. This applies only to in-state start-up institutions and not those that operate only through the internet, a dilemma which will soon need to be addressed. Ms. Eshleman stated that this provision also indirectly deals with the quality of the physical presence of such institutions.

A **motion** was then made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Horne), and **carried** to close this public hearing.

4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity

- Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

4.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Master Land Acquisition Plans (MLAPs)

1. Coastal Carolina University
2. Winthrop University

B. Recommendation for By-law Change

C. List of Staff Approvals for April 2007

Commissioner Ravenel expressed his appreciation for having had the privilege of working with Ms. Metcalf and wished her well in her retirement. Ms. Metcalf then provided information about the Master Land Acquisition Plans (MLAPs) for Coastal Carolina University and Winthrop University, details about which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

It was noted that as land within the footprint of the MLAP becomes available, the institution is authorized to purchase this land with CHE staff approval. Ms. Metcalf stated that institutions are encouraged to have MLAPs on file so that they can expedite the land acquisition process and avoid becoming landlocked.

In response to Commissioner Lynn's question about the CHE's approval role in public/private partnerships for construction projects, Ms. Metcalf replied that the Commission is only responsible for approving projects which are executed by the institution.

A motion was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following recommendation, applicable to both Coastal Carolina University and Winthrop University:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities recommends approval of the proposed MLAP as presented.

Ms. Metcalf provided information about the by-law change recommendation and also described in **Attachment IV**. She noted that this change applies only to interim capital projects, and that the revised process would be reviewed and evaluated after it is in place for one year. Commissioner Ravenel commended Commissioners Sanders and Wingate for their efforts in moving this recommendation forward.

A motion was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendations**:

The Committee on Finance & Facilities recommends suspension of the requirement that Committee recommendations requiring Commission action be submitted in writing to the Commission at least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting. This suspension will be applied only to recommendations concerning approval of interim capital projects and will be reviewed annually from the date of suspension by the Commission for continued applicability.

The Committee further recommends that staff materials concerning interim capital projects be sent to the full Commission at the time of the Committee mail-out to provide the Commission with all available information on the projects prior to the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Ravenel provided a progress report about proposed changes in the facilities approval process which have been brought to the attention of the Budget & Control Board, the legislature, and the Office of the State Engineer. He emphasized that the intent of this effort is to modernize the process and save the state money which will assist other state agencies in addition to the CHE. Ms. Metcalf will return from retirement to accompany Commissioner Workman when a meeting with Budget and Control officials has been arranged.

Commissioner Ravenel stated that the List of Staff Approvals for April 2007, also found in **Attachment IV**, was provided for information only.

5. Legislative Update

- Julie Carullo

Ms. Carullo reported that the General Assembly would be returning to Columbia for a special session on Friday, August 3, 2007, to elect a new state treasurer. She noted all but two of the allotted appointments to the Higher Education Study Committee have been made. Ms. Carullo stated that work on development of the CHE's budget request was in progress, and that Dr. Walters has had several meetings with members of the legislature since assuming his position as Executive Director.

Discussion took place about Mr. Ken Wingate returning as a CHE Commissioner upon the expiration of his term as interim state treasurer. Chairman McCurdy and Ms. Rita Allison will communicate with the Office of the Governor to determine if that is a possibility.

6. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters reported that he has had opportunities to meet with both members of the House and Senate, as well as the Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor, Superintendent of Education Dr. Jim Rex, and several institutional presidents.

Dr. Walters has also discussed generally with institutional fiscal and academic officers the issues of planning and working collaboratively to develop an overarching strategy for higher education as well as about the connection between education, the state's economy, and its quality of life. Issues which have surfaced where stronger agreement is needed include capital and bond bill concerns, need-based aid, and institutional de-regulation. Dr. Walters stated that he would like to create informal study groups to talk about these types of issues and define and develop a sense of direction about them, resulting in possible recommendations to carry forward to the Commission. Using an example from a meeting he had attended at the University of North Carolina, he emphasized the

importance of widespread collaboration. Dr. Walters reported that he would be working with Ms. Rita Allison to develop a new communications plan for the CHE in an effort to increase connections in the community.

Chairman McCurdy agreed that Dr. Walters' idea of developing study groups was an excellent one. He also emphasized the power of collaboration and stated that he would like to see the institutions in the comprehensive sector follow the path of the research and technical sectors to also increase their collaborative efforts.

7. Other Business

There was no other business to consider.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers
Recording Secretary

Attachments I - IV

*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.