

DRAFT, – In response to Commissioner's request for a position statement on mission change in the context of statewide planning.

Higher education in South Carolina needs a coherent, focused, statewide plan. The presidents have been working on this issue for some time, the Governor's Task Force recommended that a plan be created, and now, through the FY08 Budget Proviso 5A.28, the Governor and the General Assembly have appointed a Higher Education Study Committee to "...develop and recommend an evolving, multi-year statewide strategic plan for higher education in South Carolina to meet the needs of the state as can be addressed by higher education." Given the importance of this legislatively mandated effort in shaping the future direction of higher education in the state, the Commission strongly believes it would be inappropriate to approve substantive changes in institutional missions before the planning process is complete.