

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

January 6, 2005

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Present

Mr. Dalton Floyd, Chairman
Ms. Rosemary Byerly
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Layton McCurdy
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Ms. Deloris Oliver
Gen. Tom Olsen
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Larry Durham
Dr. Vermelle Johnson
Mr. Jim Konduros
Mr. Miles Loadholt

Staff Present

Ms. Rita Allison
Ms. Camille Brown
Mr. Mike Brown
Mr. Tony Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Angela Enlow
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Conrad Festa
Ms. Sherry Hubbard
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Dr. Esther Kramer
Ms. Rae McPherson
Dr. Lynn Metcalf
Mr. Mike Raley
Ms. Sandra Rhyne
Mr. Jeff Richards
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Jocelyn Ross
Ms. Laverne Sanders
Ms. Jonnita Smalls

Ms. Jan Stewart
Ms. Edna Strange
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Peter Barr, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Betty Boatwright, S.C. State University
Dr. Bill Bragdon, U.S.C. – Columbia
Dr. Diane Brandstadter, State Technical System
Ms. Leslie Brunelli, U.S.C. – Beaufort
Dr. Kathy Carter, S. C. Department of Education
Dr. Anthony Coyne, U.S.C. – Sumter
Ms. Betty Davidson, Governor's Office
Mr. Charlie FitzSimons, S. C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Mr. Alan Godfrey, Clemson University
Dr. Tom Higerd, M.U.S.C.
Col. Curt Holland, The Citadel
Ms. Karen Horne, S. C. Department of Education
Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C.
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Star Kepner, U.S.C. - Sumter
Dr. Carol Lancaster, M.U.S.C.
Mr. Wayne Landrith, S. C. Independent Colleges & Universities
Mr. Gary McCombs, College of Charleston
Mr. J. P. McKee, Winthrop University
Mr. Bob Mellon, State Technical System
Ms. Jackie Olsen, Visitor
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, M.U.S.C.
Ms. Susan Prior, U.S.C. - Columbia
Mr. Charlie Schawver, S.C. Budget & Control Board
Dr. John Sutusky, M.U.S.C.
Dr. Aileen Trainer, U.S.C.
Ms. Catherine Watt, Clemson University

Member of the Press:

no members of the press attended

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

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Floyd. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced numerous guests attending the meeting, all of whom are listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 4, 2004. The motion was made (Byerly), seconded (Mosteller) and carried to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

- Dalton B. Floyd

- Chairman Floyd reported that Commissioner Konduros had quadruple bypass surgery over the holidays. He is recovering well and sends his thanks to all for their good wishes, flowers, and cards.
- Chairman Floyd introduced the newest Commission member, James R. Sanders, from the 5th Congressional District. He also provided a brief biographical sketch on Mr. Sanders and welcomed him to the Commission.
- Chairman Floyd reported that Commissioner Sanders had been assigned to the Committee on Finance and Facilities and that Commissioner McCurdy had been assigned to the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing.
- Chairman Floyd recognized departing Commissioner, General Tom Olsen, and his wife, Jackie. He thanked General Olsen for his years of outstanding service to the Commission, and presented him with a gift of engraved bookends. General Olsen remarked that he had enjoyed his time on the Commission and wished the remaining Commissioners well.
- Chairman Floyd brought to the Commissioners' attention information about the Campus Safety Conference to be held February 23-25, 2005 on the Columbia campus of U.S.C. The theme of the conference is *Communication, Innovation and Risk Reduction – Keys to Campus Safety*. He invited Commission members to attend and stated that the registration fee of \$95.00 would be waived for them.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee

(No Report)

-Dalton B. Floyd

4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

(No Report)

-Vermelle Johnson

4.03 Report of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

- Dan Ravenel

A. Service Learning Task Force Proposal

Commissioner Ravenel reported that his committee had voted to approve the proposal presented by the Service Learning Task Force as described in Attachments I – III. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk introduced Dr. Pete Barr of Coastal Carolina University. Coastal

will host a three-year service learning pilot program whereby students at institutions of higher learning serve as mentors to at-risk middle school students. Chairman Floyd stated that the major purpose of this program is to attempt to help reduce the high school drop-out rate in S. C. Dr. Barr delivered a power point presentation that explained the program and its benefits to both the mentors and the at-risk middle school students, as well as the surrounding community. Discussion followed as to the success of the program thus far, as well as the measures used to determine that success. It was pointed out that S. C. is somewhat of a pioneer in undertaking an effort of this nature. Funding required for the program is \$65,000 for the first year, \$44,000 for the second year, and \$88,000 for the third year. A motion was made (Ravenel), seconded (McCurdy), and carried to approve the following recommendation:

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the Commission approve the Statewide Service Engagement proposal, including a request for funding for FY 2005-06, the first year of the three-year service learning pilot program.

After the vote, Chairman Floyd provided information about a program supported by the Gates Foundation called the Early College Laboratory High School. Designed to help underachieving high school students succeed, three of these schools will be developed in South Carolina beginning in the Fall of 2006. Chairman Floyd also stated that Dr. Richard Marks, a consultant involved with this program, will be coming to speak to the Commission in the near future.

Dr. David Hunter, U.S.C. Regional Campuses, questioned whether the last sentence of the third paragraph of page 2 of Commissioner Ravenel's memorandum should read "four" sectors rather than "three". It was decided that it should and that the change would be made accordingly.

- B. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 2003-04 Informational Report**
- C. LIFE Scholarship 2003-04 Informational Report**
- D. HOPE Scholarship 2003-04 Informational Report**
- E. Need-based Grants 2003-04**
- F. Lottery Tuition Assistance 2003-04 Informational Report**

Items B through F above (Attachments IV – VIII) were accepted by the Commission as information. Commissioner Ravenel stated that his committee would discuss this information more thoroughly at their next meeting and report to the Commission at that time.

4.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Ms. Rosemary Byerly

A. Interim Capital Projects

Commissioner Byerly gave a brief description of the nine projects listed below, details about which can be located in Attachment IX.

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| 1. Clemson University | - | Cooper Library HVAC |
| | - | Athletic Facility Construction |
| 2. College of Charleston | - | Development of Dixie Plantation |
| | - | Patriots Point Athletic Complex Upgrades |

3. Francis Marion University - Department of Nursing Facility
4. Medical University of S.C. - Harper Student Center Pool Repairs
5. U.S.C. – Columbia - Recreational Facilities Development

6. Winthrop University - Bancroft Classroom Tower Construction
Lois Rhame Physical Education & Wellness Center

7. Midlands Technical College - General Maintenance & Alterations
(This project was not considered as Midlands Technical College asked that it be removed for consideration at this time.)

Commissioner Byerly stated that her committee had considered and approved them. A motion was made (Byerly), and seconded (Ravenel) to approve these projects as recommended. Commissioner Mosteller inquired as to whether M.U.S.C. had pursued the issue of the windows in need of repair at the Harper Student Center Pool with whomever installed them originally. Dr. John Sutusky of M.U.S.C. responded that their legal department was in the process of doing that. Commissioner Forbes inquired as to whether it was better to break out and discuss in detail each individual project during the committee meetings or at the Commission meeting. Chairman Floyd responded that unless there were specific issues with a particular project, it should be considered in detail at the committee level. He added, however, that discussing individual projects at the Commission meeting is always a possibility. The vote was then brought to the table and carried.

5. Legislative Update

- Rita Allison

Ms. Allison delivered information about the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal. She stated that a group of approximately 70 individuals reviewed programs and activities within state government agencies. This team then prioritized these programs and activities on the basis of their merit and funded them accordingly until funds were depleted. Ms. Allison also stated that the Governor was very aligned with limiting the growth of recurring expenses and kept those at 3 percent, called for by the Fiscal Discipline Act. In addition, total funds for higher education have increased in this proposal by \$250 million, largely due to the double digit tuition increases. According to the Governor's budget proposal, 17.1 percent of the state's total budget was spent on higher education in the last fiscal year, as opposed to 10.5 percent which is the national average. Limits on increasing tuition were considered in compiling the budget as was strengthening the ability of the Commission to review academic programs and better identify under-utilized or duplicative programs. A handout (Attachment X) that gives a summary of the Executive Budget with regard to higher education as well as higher education issues to be considered in the 2005 legislative session was distributed. Also distributed was a spreadsheet on how total funds are to be disbursed at each institution and a spreadsheet with financial details on higher education lottery funded programs (Attachment XI). Other handouts distributed at this time had to do with the latest trends from the SREB-State Data Exchange (Attachment XII), and several recent newspaper articles pertaining to higher education (Attachment XIII). Ms. Allison introduced Julie Carullo, the Commission's Director of Governmental Affairs and Special Projects, who highlighted some of the pre-filed bills related to higher education as found in Attachment X, including the Education and Economic Development Act, as well as bills

pertaining to scholarship programs, a board of regents bill, a bill related to the TERI program, a bill pertaining to tuition pre-payment, and a bill allowing a state employee to count prior service time at a private institution towards his state retirement. Ms. Carullo stated that the Commissioners will be updated on the status of these bills periodically. Chairman Floyd noted that the Virtual Library, the Professor of the Year Awards, and the Greenville University Center were not included in the Governor's budget request and Ms. Allison and Ms. Carullo addressed that. Ms. Allison complemented the CHE staff for the excellent job they do in communicating with the General Assembly and staying abreast of matters pertaining to it.

6. Report of the Executive Director

-Conrad Festa

Dr. Festa reported that he has been in touch with several members of the legislature and has discussed with them funding issues, including funds needed to handle student scholarship appeals, and funds to replace someone to the CHE auditor position. He also briefly summarized that status of the Presidents' Accountability Workgroup new accountability plan. Ultimately there will be three levels of accountability at the state, sector, and institution levels. There has been a good level of cooperation between the Presidents and the CHE staff on this effort and progress is moving along well. Some discussion followed as to when lottery money will no longer be available to fund scholarships. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that S. C. is, in fact, leveling off in terms of revenue for scholarship funding and that the Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarships would still be funded by the state even after lottery funds are no longer available. Ms. Carullo stated that about 85% of lottery money goes to fund scholarships. She also stated that the second page of Attachment XI offers a good explanation of the funding sources for the various scholarships offered in South Carolina. Ms. Carullo also referred to Attachment XI in responding to Commissioner Sanders' questions about other proposed cuts in the budget for higher education and what their effects might be. Commissioner Mosteller asked if might be possible to see a more detailed version of the Governor's budget proposal. Ms. Allison replied that she would see that that information is provided to each of the Commissioners.

7. Brief review and follow-up discussion of the report "Foundations for the Future: Higher Education in South Carolina", December 2003.

Chairman Floyd reviewed a power point presentation (Attachment XIV) on the above-mentioned report which focuses on higher education issues and challenges facing South Carolina. At the conclusion of his presentation, he stressed that the Commission keep this information in mind as issues are addressed and requested that Dr. Festa and the CHE staff help keep them focused in that regard. Discussion followed about retaining an educated workforce in South Carolina and how to go about accomplishing that. Additional discussion took place regarding the necessity to increased need-based scholarships as well as the importance of continuing to develop the state's Virtual Library.

8. Other Business

There was no other business that needed to be addressed.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Floyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. It was seconded (Ravenel) and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachments I - XIV

*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.