

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

January 6, 1994
1:00 P.M.

University of South Carolina at Columbia

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. D. Glenburn Askins, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Fred L. Day
Ms. Elaine Freeman
Mr. Robert C. Gallager
Mr. R. Austin Gilbert
Ms. Reba Anne Kinon
Mr. Ray D. Lathan
Mr. Edward T. McMullen, Jr.
Mr. Lewis Phillips
Dr. Raymond C. Ramage
Mr. Edwin E. Tolbert, Sr.
Mr. Joseph J. Turner, Jr.
Ms. Mildred R. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kenneth E. Goad
Mr. Marvin C. Jones
Mr. Henry D. McMaster

STAFF

Ms. Barbara S. Anderson
Mr. Todd E. Barnette
Mr. Michael L. Brown
Ms. Saundra E. Carr
Ms. Renea H. Eshleman
Mr. Charles D. FitzSimons
Mr. Douglas I. Holleman
Dr. R. Lynn Kelley
Mr. John J. Krause
Mr. Alan S. Krech
Ms. Lynn W. Metcalf
Dr. Gail L. Morrison
Mr. Joseph V. Pendergrass
Dr. Robert K. Poch
Dr. Michael Raley
Mr. Jeff A. Richards
Mr. Fred R. Sheheen
Mr. John E. Smalls
Ms. Janet K. Stewart
Dr. John C. Sutusky
Dr. Aileen C. Trainer

GUESTS

Mr. Arthur M. Bjontegard
Mr. Joe Boykin
Mr. Patrick Calhoun
Ms. Kay Coleman
Dr. Patricia P. Cormier
Dr. Robert W. Denton
Dr. Anthony J. DiGiorgio
Dr. Nancy Dunlap
Mr. Jim Edwards
Ms. Katherine Fanning
Dr. Conrad Festa
Mr. David Fleming
Dr. Carol Garrison
Mr. Sandy Gilliam
Dr. Sally Horner
Ms. Beverly Howard
Ms. Barbara Jenkins
Mr. Carl Jordan
Dr. Harry Matthews
Dr. Michael B. McCall
Dr. Carolyn McIver Smith
Dr. Dennis Merrell
Col. Isaac S. Metts, Jr.
Dr. James C. Moeser
Dr. John M. Palms
Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins
Mr. William T. Putnam
Dr. George M. Reeves
Dr. Jackie Skubal
Dr. Tom Stepp
Mr. George Terry
Mr. W.E. Troublefield, Jr.
Mr. William J. Whitener

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

Mr. Bill Robinson
Mr. Tim Seymour

Dr. Lovely K. Ulmer-Sottong
Ms. Julia E. Wells
Ms. Carol Ann Williams
Ms. Janet T. Williams
Dr. Karen A. Woodfaulk

For the record, notification of the meeting was made to the media as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Dr. Askins introduced Dr. Palms, who welcomed the Commission members, staff, and guests to USC-Columbia. Dr. Askins thanked Dr. Palms and the University on behalf of the Commission and expressed the Commission's pride in being associated with the University.

Dr. Askins introduced Mr. Lathan, who was appointed to the Commission by the Governor on December 14, 1993.

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 2, 1993

It was moved (Tolbert), seconded (Kinon), and voted that the minutes of the December 2, 1993, meeting be approved.

2. Election of Officers

Ms. Williams nominated Dr. Askins for another term as Chairman. It was moved (Williams), seconded (Ramage), and voted that nominations be closed and that Dr. Askins be elected by acclamation. Dr. Askins was elected Chairman.

Mr. Turner nominated Mr. Gallagher for Vice Chairman. It was moved (Williams), seconded (Kinon), and voted that nominations be closed and that Mr. Gallagher be elected by acclamation. Mr. Gallagher was elected Vice Chairman.

3. Committee Reports

3.01 Report of Executive Committee

There was no report of the Committee.

3.02 Report of Committee on Academic Affairs

a. Consideration of Report on Faculty Activity

Ms. Williams reported that after the Commission's consideration of the Report at its December 2 meeting, the staff had revised it by incorporating eleven of the seventeen suggestions made by the institutions. One additional change concerning the capacities of the Commission's CHEMIS system was suggested by CHE staff.

Dr. Morrison pointed out that the staff had considered all of the institutions' suggestions and were able to incorporate most of them into the Report. However, she stated, the cover letter explains why the remaining suggestions were not incorporated.

Mr. Tolbert commented that the comparison between credit and clock hours in the table on page three "continues to be misleading."

Mr. Sheheen pointed out that the conversion factor which follows the table should eliminate any confusion.

Ms. Williams stated that the Committee had discussed but could not agree on another way of illustrating the comparison.

Dr. Festa described the comparison as similar to comparing "apples and oranges."

Ms. Freeman asked how the Compliance Review Committee will use the information contained in the Report. Mr. Sheheen responded that that was unclear, but that the follow-up report had been required by law.

Dr. Askins invited representatives from the institutions to comment on the Report.

Dr. Moeser reiterated that the table comparing credit and clock hours is misleading and "serves no useful purpose."

Mr. Tolbert suggested that the table be collapsed into paragraph form, and the other Commission members agreed.

Mr. Gallagher questioned the capacity of the CHEMIS system to track faculty information. Mr. Smalls reported that the system is "up and running," with student information on line and the facilities database and faculty information to follow.

Ms. Williams stated that the Report had been presented for information only, and Mr. Sheheen affirmed that an amended version of page three would be forwarded to the Compliance Review Committee.

3.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity

There was no report of the Committee.

3.04 Report of Committee on Business and Finance

a. Consideration of Library Automation Consortium Project (LACP)

Mr. Gallagher, speaking for Mr. Jones in his absence, reported that the request was submitted in conjunction with all of the public institutions. The institutions have agreed that this request be submitted as a "below the line" request and that the Commission on Higher Education be the fiscal agent.

The intention of the LACP is that it will use software, hardware, and telecommunications to provide South Carolina

universities with increased access to library resources and to establish a statewide network of library networks.

The Committee recommended that the Commission approve this project for the requested amount of \$1,298,000, with the understanding that the CHE will act as fiscal agent and that the request be funded as "below the line" or through supplemental appropriation. It was moved (Gallager) and seconded (Williams) that the recommendation of the Committee be approved.

Ms. Freeman commented that it would be desirable for independent colleges to join the system in order to "augment resources for all South Carolina students."

Mr. Boykin stated that the system was designed so that other entities including other academic institutions and public libraries could eventually become a part of it.

Mr. Sheheen advised referring questions concerning the participation of the independent colleges to the Library Forum.

Dr. Askins asked whether the public would have access to the system through the use of personal computers.

Mr. Boykin said that public access to the system would depend on the type of information: electronic "card" catalogs would be freely open to the public, but the accessibility of the computer databases would be dependent on contracts negotiated with the database companies.

Ms. McGiver-Smith asked whether the system would be extended to students in the prison system.

Mr. Sheheen advised referring all technical questions concerning the system to the Library Forum for further consideration.

It was voted that the recommendation be approved.

b. Briefing on Response of the Council of College Presidents to the Commission's December 2nd Recommendation

Mr. Gallager, speaking for Mr. Jones and for himself as a member of the Committee on Business and Finance, stated that the Council of Presidents has declined "to join in meaningful discussions on the subject" of funding allocation methodology. He summarized the position taken by the Council as: "Adopt the plan of the Council of Presidents; nothing else is acceptable."

Mr. Gallager also enumerated the changes to its proposed methodology on which the Committee had agreed to compromise:

- (1) Adoption of the Council's recommendation that no institution receive funds in lower amounts than the current year's appropriation, as a baseline guarantee;
- (2) Removal of any differential in the funding of facilities;
- (3) Adoption of the enrollment goals submitted to the Commission as a part of the State planning process, rather than funding enrollment goals which might be adopted by the Commission independently.

Mr. Gallagher concluded that: "Two years of discussion have yielded no modification in the position of the institutions. It is apparent that further attempts at formulating a mutually agreeable plan face insurmountable difficulties."

Ms. Freeman asked whether the full Commission had ever heard a formal presentation of the methodology advocated by the Council of Presidents. Mr. Gallagher responded that the Council's position had been presented at the Commission's October 7th meeting. Mr. Sheheen referred to the minutes of the October 7th meeting and confirmed that the Council of Presidents' position had been discussed.

Dr. DiGiorgio clarified that the Council of Presidents had never made a formal presentation to the Commission. Mr. Gallagher affirmed that the Council's position had been presented by the Business and Finance Committee, not by the Council itself.

Ms. Freeman stated that she would like to hear a formal presentation of the methodology proposed by the Council of Presidents, particularly the "advocacy aspects" of the proposal.

Mr. Gallagher reminded the Commission members that by voting to approve the December motion, the Commission had already adopted the methodology proposed by the Committee.

Dr. Askins asked Dr. DiGiorgio if he would like to speak on behalf of the Council of Presidents. Dr. DiGiorgio declined for the present, saying that he would be prepared to make a formal presentation at the February meeting.

Dr. Askins commented that he would be interested in hearing the Council of Presidents' methodology, particularly the Council's reasons for rejecting the "linkage between critical need and critical funding," as proposed in the Committee's methodology.

Dr. DiGiorgio stated that the Council does not oppose linking funding to need, but it does oppose the specific method by which the Committee's methodology links them.

Dr. Askins stated that the Commission would hear the Council of Presidents' presentation at its February meeting.

3.05 Report of Committee on Facilities

There was no report of the Committee.

3.06 Report of Committee on Planning and Assessment

a. Consideration of Reports of Act 255 of 1992 and Summary Report on Institutional Effectiveness; January, 1994

Mr. Krech presented the Report and thanked the institutions and the CHE staff for their invaluable assistance.

Ms. Freeman questioned the Committee's statement in the cover letter to the Report that although the Commission and the institutions are "seriously concerned" about some of the data, the Report does "accurately correspond to the requirements of the legislation."

Mr. Krech stated that the Commission staff has contacted those institutions whose assessments were deficient in order to point out the deficiencies and to offer assistance.

Mr. Sheheen stated that Act 255 requires quite a restrictive reporting of institutional effectiveness and that the draft responds to its prescription.

Ms. Premo-Hopkins expressed her hope that graduation rates be tied to an institution's mission, since the rates are naturally lower for institutions serving older adult students.

Mr. Holleman commented that the CHEMIS system will provide more accurate reporting of data since it will allow students to be tracked by their social security numbers if they transfer to other public institutions in South Carolina.

The Committee recommended that the Commission approve Reports on Act 255 and Summary Report on Institutional Effectiveness subject to last minute editorial changes or corrections prior to printing.

It was moved (Turner), seconded (Williams), and voted that the recommendation of the Committee be approved.

4. Report of the Commissioner

Mr. Sheheen reported on appropriations for the Commission in the Governor's initial budget.

Dr. Askins expressed his concern about there being no increase in

the budget for the operating costs of the institutions.

Dr. Palms agreed, adding that the percentage of funding allocated for higher education is constantly decreasing.

Mr. Day questioned whether all institutions have facilities master plans. Dr. Sutusky responded that they do, although the quality of the plans varies. He also stated that the Committee on Facilities has advised improvements of the plans of certain institutions.

Mr. Day commended USC-Columbia for its long-range facilities master plan, which has allowed the institution and the Commission to work together to prioritize facilities requests.

5. Other Business

Mr. Smalls reported that the license tags for the Commission members would be available January 21.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet T. Williams
Recording Secretary