

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 11, 1977
11:00 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

PRESENT:

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. R. Cathcart Smith, Chairman
Mr. Howard L. Burns
Mr. Arthur J. H. Clement, Jr.
Mr. M. Calhoun Colvin
Mrs. Wanda L. Forbes
Mr. Gedney M. Howe, Jr.
Mr. F. Mitchell Johnson
Mr. Paul W. McAlister
Mr. T. Eston Marchant
Dr. John M. Pratt
Mr. William F. Prioleau, Jr.
Mr. Alex M. Quattlebaum
Mr. Y. W. Scarborough, Jr.
Mr. J. Clyde Shirley
Mr. Arthur M. Swanson

GUESTS

Gen. Wallace E. Anderson
Dr. F. I. Brownley, Jr.
Mr. G. William Dudley, Jr.
Gen. James A. Grimsley, Jr.
Dr. William H. Knisely
Mr. J. Lacy McLean
Lt. Col. Thomas W. Mahan
Gen. George M. Seignious II
Col. James R. Woods

STAFF

Mrs. Rosita M. Coan
Dr. George P. Fulton
Mr. William C. Jennings
Mr. James R. Michael
Mrs. Gaylon Syrett

I. Presentation by The Citadel

President Seignious welcomed the Commission to The Citadel and introduced staff members Gen. Anderson, Gen. Grimsley, Lt. Col. Mahan, and Col. Woods. After brief presentations, President Seignious invited Commission members and guests to join him at lunch and on a tour of the campus, to be followed by a parade of the Cadet Corps.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 1977, Commission Meeting

It was moved (Marchant) and seconded (Johnson) that the minutes of the February 3, 1977, Commission meeting be approved as written. The motion was adopted.

III. Progress Report on Optometric Education

Dr. Fulton reported that a letter, dated February 4, 1977, from Dr. Boozer to Dr. Knisely transmitted a copy of the draft "Proposed Plan of the State of South Carolina for Financing the Tri-State Regional School of Optometry," for review and revision by the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Knisely responded that the Board of Trustees of M.U.S.C., at its meeting on February 11, passed a motion that "the Medical University not proceed until the need for a school of optometry is identified by the Commission on Higher Education. Also, because of the involvement of two other states (North Carolina and Georgia) over whose future action we have no control, the Medical University requests a concurring resolution from the Legislature prior to proceeding with the school of optometry." Dr. Fulton stated that this action did not bring about

any substantial change in the procedures, as presented to the Commission on February 3 (see minutes of meeting, February 3, 1977, pp. 270-72).

Dr. Fulton reported that the Committee on Need, of the Task Force on Optometric Education, held its second meeting on February 16 to review the preliminary draft of a report it is preparing. After considerable refinement of the draft, the committee met again on March 10 to review the revised version of the report. Mr. Shirley chaired the meeting in the absence of the chairman, Mr. S. Norwood Gasque, who was ill and unable to attend.

Dr. Fulton stated that the Liaison Committee on the Interrelationships of Ophthalmology and Optometry will meet on March 20 in Anderson. A nationally known medical educator will make a presentation to urge that ophthalmologists and optometrists make a greater effort to relate to each other in significant ways.

An all-day meeting of the Task Force on Optometric Education will be held on March 21 in Anderson. A visiting consultant will be present to speak on national trends in ophthalmology and ways in which that profession relates to optometry. A special meeting of the Health Education Authority will be held in Anderson on March 22 to consider the optometric project.

Mr. Shirley reported that the Committee on Need has held three meetings, and the consensus of that committee appears to be that action should be taken in South Carolina concerning optometric education. He noted that it is not the role of the committee to make a final decision concerning the proposed tri-state school. Mrs. Forbes stated that the data which the Committee on Need has compiled, along with that compiled by other committees, will aid the Commission in developing its recommendations concerning the proposed school.

Mr. Shirley noted that the Committee on Need, on March 10, passed a resolution commending Dr. Fulton for the excellent job he and his staff have done in gathering and assimilating information from various surveys and other sources. Mrs. Forbes added that Dr. Fulton has provided a thorough, comprehensive study in which the Commission can take pride. Dr. Smith agreed and expressed appreciation for the manner in which Dr. Fulton has handled this as well as other matters for the Commission. Dr. Pratt stated that Dr. Fulton is a most dedicated and conscientious member of the staff.

Mr. Quattlebaum suggested that Commission members be provided a condensed version of the optometry report. Dr. Pratt requested that the condensed report also be sent to members of the M.U.S.C. Board of Trustees. Dr. Fulton indicated that this will be done. He thanked Commission members for their assistance and support, and invited all who are able to do so to attend the forthcoming meetings in Anderson.

IV. Report on Legislative Developments

1977-78 Appropriation Bill. Mr. Jennings reported that, while the \$1 million added to the Tuition Grants Committee by the House remains, the Senate Finance Committee has deleted a proviso requiring that \$138 per student be added to out-of-State tuition by each public institution to compensate for the extra \$1 million. In addition, the Senate Finance Committee has deleted \$1,150,000 which the House Ways and Means Committee added to the appropriations of

certain institutions (\$50,000 each to Francis Marion College, College of Charleston, and Lander College; \$200,000 each to the three new four-year regional campuses of USC; and \$400,000 to USC's two-year regional campus system).

Mr. Michael noted that the permanent provisions of the 1977-78 Appropriation Bill contain a requirement which will reduce public school teacher-pupil ratios, effective in 1978-79. While this does not affect 1977-78 appropriations, provision for additional funds for that purpose must be included in the 1978-79 Appropriation Bill, which will be formulated in Fall, 1977.

Capital Improvement Bonds Act. Mr. Michael distributed copies of an excerpt from the Senate Journal of February 23, 1977 (Exhibit A), which reported the recommendations of the Budget and Control Board concerning the Capital Improvement Bonds Act. He noted that the Budget and Control Board made no recommendation concerning requests made by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, but stated its position that "the original concept of local funding for capital projects for technical education centers should be continued. If this procedure proves to be inadequate, a plan similar to those now in effect in most State colleges and universities should be developed to fund construction projects from student fees." The Board made the following recommendations for new projects: \$300,000 for boiler replacement, South Carolina State College; \$1,000,000 for hospital renovations, M.U.S.C.; \$2,600,000 for Capers Hall renovation and additions, The Citadel; \$125,000 for Fine Arts Building - Planning, Francis Marion College; and \$125,000 for Learning Center - Planning, Lander College.

Bill to License Non-public Educational Institutions. Mr. Michael reported that Commission members were provided, on February 17, copies of the bill to authorize the Commission to establish a procedure for licensing non-public educational institutions. Copies also were delivered to the chairmen of the Senate Education Committee and the House Education and Public Works Committee, and both have indicated their support of the bill.

Lake Committee Bills. Mr. Michael reported that the House version of the Lake Bill (H.2183) was introduced as a committee bill in January and referred back to the House Education and Public Works Committee, where a subcommittee is holding a series of public hearings concerning the bill. The first public hearing was held in Greer on February 28 and the second in Columbia on March 2. Dr. Kinard attended both hearings as an observer, at the request of the Chairman; Mrs. Forbes was present at the one in Greer. Additional hearings will be scheduled to be held in Charleston and in Florence.

An identical bill (S.251), but with amendments, was approved and recommended by the Senate Education Committee. Commission members were provided copies of that bill on February 28. Mr. Michael noted that three amendments of interest to the Commission would (1) appoint the Commission as the 1202 agency "upon approval of the Governor"; (2) require SBTCE to submit a single budget request to the Commission; and (3) require Commission approval of new off-campus construction by any institution of higher learning. On March 10, S.251 received second reading in the Senate, with notice of amendments on third reading.

On behalf of the Council of Presidents of Public Senior Colleges and Universities, Dr. Knisely expressed opposition to the following provision in Section 4 of H.2183 and S.251:

"While the commission is conducting its study and until such time as the master plan is adopted, no public institution of higher learning shall expand its curricula, administrative staff or faculty nor shall there be further construction of physical plants other than construction already approved by the General Assembly unless such expansion or construction is approved by the commission and the Budget and Control Board or the General Assembly to satisfy pressing local needs."

Mr. Scarborough concurred with Dr. Knisely's objection. Dr. Smith stated that this matter will be discussed further at the weekend meeting on March 11 and 12. Mr. Quattlebaum requested that the Commission take action on the provision at this time. Dr. Smith stated that the Commission should make known its recommendations concerning the Lake Bills at the public hearings to be held in Charleston and Florence. Mr. Quattlebaum suggested that the Commission's concern be brought to the attention of appropriate members of the General Assembly by a letter from the Chairman.

Mr. Clement stated that several Commission members recently made the observation that the report of the Legislative Audit Council, released on January 18, 1977, was critical of Commission action over the past several years. He stated that in his opinion, in light of that report, a moratorium on expansion and construction would be in order during the period when the Commission is being reorganized. Mr. Shirley agreed.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Commission should review its decision concerning the authority to eliminate programs. He expressed the opinion that the boards of trustees and administrations of the institutions, rather than the Commission, should make such decisions. Mr. Quattlebaum suggested that the Commission discuss these matters with the presidents at the weekend meeting and take action as needed.

Mr. McAlister expressed the view that ex officio members should continue to serve on the Commission but should not have the right to vote. Mr. Howe stated that diversity on the Commission is beneficial and that, in his view, ex officio members should be allowed to vote as well as to participate in other ways. He stated that the Commission gains strength from such diversity.

V. Other Business

Dr. Smith read a letter from Dr. Boozer, dated February 28, thanking members of the Commission for their thoughtfulness in sending the potted plant while he was in the hospital, for the numerous cards and telephone inquiries, and for their continuing concern.

Dr. Smith expressed appreciation to Mr. Michael and other staff members for performing official duties in a smooth and efficient manner during Dr. Boozer's absence from the office.

Mr. Michael noted that Mr. Jennings made a presentation on the financing of higher education at a meeting of the Christian Action Council, held in Columbia on March 8. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Jennings' participation in this Intercollegiate Seminar on Legislation, attended by students from over the State.

Mr. Prioleau announced that The Citadel's staff photographer would be available to make a group photograph of the Commission immediately following the parade.

Dr. Smith expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Commission, to President Seignious and Mr. Prioleau for the generous hospitality that had been extended.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaylon Syrett
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Recording Secretary