

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1333 Main Street, Suite 200

Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

November 2, 2006

Commission Members Present

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Col. John Bowden
Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cyndi Mosteller
Mr. Dan Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Ken Wingate
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Mr. Neal Workman

Staff Present

Dr. Tina Anderson
Mr. Mike Brown
Ms. Julie Carullo
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Mr. Franklin Davis
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Sybil Gibbes
Ms. Alyson Goff
Mr. Gary Glenn
Mr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Deborah Henning
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Rae McPherson
Dr. Tajuana Massie
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Mr. Frank Myers
Mr. Mike Raley
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds
Ms. Sandra Rhyne
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Melissa Santilli
Ms. Karen Wham
Ms. Virginia Winfrey
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Jeff Beaver, Lander University
Mr. Bill Bragdon, USC - Columbia
Dr. Richard Chapman, Francis Marion University
Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clemson University
Ms. Donna Collins, USC - Columbia
Mr. Al Cope, Clemson University
Dr. Bob Costello, USC - Sumter
Ms. Liz Costello, USC - Sumter
Ms. Gala Corcoran, USC - Sumter
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC - Sumter
Dr. David DiCenzo, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC - Upstate
Dr. Christine Ebert, USC - Columbia
Dr. Pearl Fernandez, USC - Sumter
Mr. Charles FitzSimons, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Sally Horner, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Charles Jeffcoat, USC - Columbia
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University
Ms. Star Kepner, USC - Sumter
Dr. Angela Letourneau, Winthrop University
Dr. David Letourneau, Winthrop University
Ms. Judy Longshaw, Winthrop University
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical System
Ms. Beth McInnis, Clemson University
Dr. Isaac Metts, The Citadel
Dr. Tom Moore, Winthrop University
Ms. Candace Morgan, University of Phoenix
Ms. Diane Newton, Lander University
Mr. Steve Osborne, College of Charleston
Ms. Jennifer Pearce, MUSC
Dr. Dan Philbeck, Spartanburg Methodist College
Dr. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Dr. James Privett, USC - Sumter
Mr. Charles Schawver, Budget & Control Board
Dr. Rita Teal, SC State University
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC - Columbia
Dr. Roger Weikle, Winthrop University
Dr. Richard Weldon, Coastal Carolina University
Mr. Bryce Wilson, Budget & Control Board
Mr. Chuck Wright, USC - Sumter

Members of the Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCurdy. Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests all of whom are listed above and who were announced at the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Oct. 5, 2006. A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Temple), and **carried** to approve the minutes as written.

3. Chairman's Report

- Layton McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy introduced and congratulated Dr. Angela Letourneau of Winthrop University and Dr. James Privett of USC - Sumter, winners of the Governor's 2006 Professor of the Year award. He then asked Ms. Karen Wham to provide a report on the status of the Lightsey Society recently established to help raise money in support of the S.C. Higher Education Foundation. Named for the late Dr. Harry Lightsey, Jr., the Society will honor him at the first S.C. Higher Education Hall of Fame banquet on April 25, 2007. A copy of the Lightsey Society membership form (**Attachment I**) was distributed and Chairman McCurdy encouraged Commissioners to join.

Chairman McCurdy reported a meeting of the Council of Presidents would take place on December 7, 2006, following the CHE meeting. Additional information about this will be distributed as it is developed.

Chairman McCurdy called attention to a brochure describing the South Carolina Centers of Excellence, which address issues involved with improving education in the K-12 sector. He commended the Centers for the important work they are accomplishing.

Chairman McCurdy called to the Commissioners' attention his response to a letter he had received from Governor Sanford (both found in **Attachment II**) about the Commission's assistance in continuing the work recommended in the report of the Higher Education Task Force. Specifics on this will be developed with the Governor's office after the second week of November.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 Report of the Executive Committee (No Report)

- Layton McCurdy

**4.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs
and Licensing
(No Report)**

- Bettie Rose Horne

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

- Cyndi Mosteller

**A. Summary Report on South Carolina Scholarships and Grants,
1988 - 2005**

Commissioner Mosteller presented information about this report (**Attachment III**) which describes the history, administration, and efficacy of each component of the State's Scholarships and Grants Programs. This information was compiled in response to five questions (found on page 4 of **Attachment III**) raised about the original intent, retention, and statistics pertaining to each of the scholarship programs. Information about the number of students in each of the programs, total state appropriations for them, overall scholarship retention rates, and need-based versus merit-based aid was provided, details about which may be found in **Attachment IV**.

During the course of her delivery, Commissioner Mosteller noted though the requirements to obtain each of the scholarships varies, the GPA required to retain them is the same.

Commissioner Wingate inquired how the increase in African-American LIFE scholarship recipients from 1998 - 2004 compared with that of the entire population of SC college students. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that this information was not included in the report but it can be provided.

A significant result of this report was the realization that the allocation of need-based funds to each of the institutions is not based on their percentage of identified needy students, but rather on the overall headcount of students. This was based on a formula devised at the inception of the scholarship programs in 1998-99. Discussion took place about how this might be corrected to make more equitable the distribution of these funds to the most needy students. Chairman McCurdy then requested that CHE staff develop a one-page document about need based aid which more clearly reveals how these funds are distributed.

Commissioner Mosteller concluded that the main points to be addressed as a result of the report are the issues raised regarding the allocation of need-based aid as well the total amount allocated by the General Assembly for this purpose. Allowing for earlier certainty about student eligibility for need-based aid is also an important topic which should be addressed.

Commissioner Lynn expressed concern that merit-based aid not be penalized at the expense of need-based aid. He was assured that the CHE's request for an

increase of \$10 million for need-based aid would have not affect the amounts for the merit-based scholarships.

Chairman McCurdy remarked that the report makes evident the fact that financial incentives work, both in keeping students in South Carolina to attend college and in encouraging students to attend who may otherwise not have considered doing so. He stated that a version of this report, along with some interpretation, would be sent to legislators. He thanked the CHE staff and the members of the committee for all their hard work on this two year project.

A **motion** was made (Mosteller), **seconded** (Ravenel), and **carried** to accept the report with a slightly expanded version of the Executive Summary.

4.04 Report of the Committee on Finance and Facilities

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Biosciences/Life Science Building Design & Construction |
| | - | Information Technology Facility |
| | - | Sirrine Hall Fourth Floor HVAC |
| | - | Calhoun Courts Chill Water Lines |
| 2. College of Charleston | - | Science Renovation & Construction |
| 3. Lander University | - | Campus Entrance Construction from Calhoun Avenue |
| 4. USC - Columbia | - | Baseball Stadium Construction |

B. Leases

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Clemson University | - | Information Systems Development |
| 2. MUSC | - | 135 Cannon Street |
| | - | McClennan Banks, Fourth Floor |

C. List of Staff Approvals for July - September, 2006

Commissioner Ravenel reviewed each of the projects as described in **Attachment V**. Ms. Lynn Metcalf also provided information about them.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) to collectively approve the following recommendation for each of the projects:

Staff **recommends** approval of this project as proposed.

Commissioner Sanders had a question about what the bonding limit is on

institutional bonds of each of the institutions listed above. Ms. Metcalf responded that the limit is calculated based on tuition and fee revenues. Mr. Sanders inquired about where each institution stands relative to their bonding capacity. Ms. Metcalf responded that the institutions would have to be surveyed to obtain that information, and that she would work on coming up with those figures.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

Commissioner Ravenel and Ms. Metcalf provided information on the three leases listed above and also described in **Attachment V**.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) to collectively approve the following recommendation for each of the leases:

Staff **recommends** approval of this lease provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board.

Commissioner Lynn asked if future building need information might be extracted from a summary of leases.

The **motion** was then brought to the table and **carried**.

In response to Commissioner Lynn's question, Commissioner Sanders concluded that the bottom line question is whether current capital needs include space that is leased. Discussion about this followed and it was concluded that this question should be addressed as a subsection of a statewide strategic plan. Commissioner Ravenel commented that it might be helpful to review the history of the building on Cannon Street as similar discussion about this topic took place at the inception of that project.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to the List of Staff Approvals July - September 2006, also described in **Attachment V**, which was provided for information only.

5. Legislative Update

- Julie Carullo

The legislative update was deferred in the interest of time, though Ms. Carullo did report that information on how commissioners might act as advocates for the CHE budget requests for both the agency and institutions would be forthcoming.

6. Report of the Interim Executive Director

- Gail Morrison

Dr. Morrison reported that the Student Loan Corporation is going to contribute \$1.5 million for student aid for public institutions, \$1 million for student aid at the private institutions, and \$500,000 for student aid at the technical colleges. The CHE will be

partnering with them to administer those funds, which are a result of interest earned on repaid loans.

Dr. Morrison complimented Dr. Woodfaulk and her staff for their work in applying for and receiving a \$150,000 grant from The Lumina Foundation to be used for College Goal Sunday, a program designed to increase access to higher education. On three consecutive dates (February 3, 10, and 17, 2007), CHE staff will be working at some of the technical colleges along the I-95 corridor in partnership with state admissions and financial aid officers, staff from the S. C. Department of Education, and high school guidance counselors in the TRIO GEAR UP programs in an attempt to reach out to students in that area. Dr. Woodfaulk noted that staff member, Sandra Rhyne, was the lead person responsible for the writing of this grant.

Dr. Morrison stated that an article had been sent to Commissioners about the North Carolina student access portal. She recommended that they review that website (www.cfnc.org) as it might be helpful in understanding more about this type of portal. CHE has requested funding for a similar project in South Carolina.

Lastly, Dr. Morrison made reference to an article distributed to Commissioners entitled, *Recessions That Never End*, which demonstrates that higher education is paying a heavy price nationwide every time there is a recession. It shows that South Carolina is one of six states that has never recovered from the last two recessions, and is in fact the state in the greatest deficit position at minus 27%. The article concludes that we have been moving from a position of low tuition to a position of high tuition in addition to high aid. The article also concludes that states who have had high need-based aid have weathered recessionary setbacks more successfully than states that have had high merit-based aid which is information CHE might be able to use to advance the argument that more need-based aid is necessary in this state. More specific data from the study about South Carolina is also attached to that article. A memo from the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia to the states' institutional Presidents regarding strategic planning principles was also distributed and Chairman McCurdy recommended all Commissioners review it. All the written information mentioned in this paragraph may be found in **Attachment VI**.

Commissioner Wingate commented that legislators might find the information found in *Recessions That Never End* shocking and that it should definitely be highlighted in conversations with them.

7. Introduction of the Governor's Professors of the Year - Layton McCurdy

This took place during the Chairman's Report as stated above.

8. Other Business

A **motion** was then made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Bowden), and **carried** for the Commission to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

9. Adjournment

CHE members returned to the meeting after Executive Session and no further action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. and Commissioners proceeded to the Professors of the Year Luncheon at USC Capstone.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

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Recording Secretary

Attachments I - VI

*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.