

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
July 10, 1997
10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. R. Austin Gilbert, Jr., Chairman
Ms. Rosemary H. Byerly
Ms. Dianne Chinnes
Mr. Timothy N. Dangerfield
Dr. Colgate W. Darden, III
Dr. C. Edward Floyd
Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.
Dr. Joab M. Lesesne, Jr.
Dr. W. David Maxwell
Gen. Thomas R. Olsen
Mr. Lewis Phillips
Mr. Bill H. Stern

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Winfred S. Greene

STAFF

Dr. Rayburn Barton
Mr. Fred Boynton
Ms. Mary Broadwater
Mr. Michael L. Brown
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Charles D. FitzSimons
Ms. Margaret L. B. Hicks
Mr. Raghu Korraparti
Ms. John J. Krause
Mr. Alan S. Krech
Dr. David R. Loope
Ms. Lynn W. Metcalf
Dr. T. Michael Raley
Mr. John E. Smalls
Dr. C. Michael Smith
Ms. Yolanda Solone
Ms. Janet K. Stewart

Ms. Edna Strange
Dr. Aileen C. Trainer
Dr. Lovely Ulmer-Sottong
Ms. Julia E. Wells
Dr. Karen G. Woodfaulk
Ms. Andrea Wyrosdick

GUESTS

Ms. Teresa Arnold
Mr. Arthur M. Bjontegard
Mr. Charles A. Brooks
Ms. Tonya Chambers
Ms. Becky Copeland
Dr. Stan Davis
Ms. Betty B. Davidson
Ms. Jean Denman
Ms. Susan DeWitt
Dr. Nancy C. Dunlap
Mr. James W. Edwards
Mr. John L. Finan
Mr. David Fleming
Mr. Robert C. Gallagher
Mr. Sandy Gilliam
Dr. James L. Hudgins
Dr. David Hunter
Ms. Karen Jones
Mr. Martin Kinard
Mr. J. Thornton Kirby
Dr. Harry G. Matthews
Dr. Michael McCall
Mr. Gary M. McCombs
Mr. Robert Mellon
Dr. Isaac S. Metts, Jr.
Mr. Robert J. Mignone
Dr. Jerry Odum
Dr. Jack Parsons
Ms. Donna Pomian

Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins
Mr. William T. Putnam
Ms. Lindy Smith
Dr. DeWitt Stone
Dr. Jim Vincent
Dr. Lex D. Walters

MEMBER OF THE PRESS

Mr. Bill Robinson

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

I. Approval of Minutes of Meetings of June 5, 1997

Ms. Chinnnes requested that on page 14, the minutes be revised to more accurately reflect her report on the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program status. This was corrected and distributed at the meeting. It was moved (Byerly), seconded (Chinnnes), and voted that the minutes of the meeting of June 5, 1997 be approved as amended.

II. Committee Reports

3.01 Report of the Executive Committee

Mr. A. Gilbert reported on the following matters:

A. Consideration of Request to Present USC Faculty Resolution in Support of Francis Marion Faculty

The Commission received a request by the USC faculty to present a resolution in support of the faculty at Francis Marion University. The resolution called on the Commission to offer support to the Francis Marion faculty and to intervene to help resolve certain governance issues at Francis Marion.

The Committee does not believe that the authority of the Commission as a coordinating board extends to personnel or faculty governance issues on any individual campus. Further, the issue at Francis Marion is a complex one and appears to be related to recommendations from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) visiting team concerning clarifications involving responsibilities pertaining to the making of policy.

Therefore, the Executive Committee declined the request to hear the USC faculty resolution.

B. Consideration of Four Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Appeals

The Commission staff received four requests to reopen the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship application selection process under special circumstances to allow students the opportunity to apply for the 1996-97 scholarship award. The Senate Education and the House Ways and Means Committees indicated that any appeals were to be handled by the Commission. Staff has designed a process to allow for certain appeals when errors might have been made beyond the control of the student.

The appeals process consisted of the following steps: 1) initial review and recommendation by Commission staff; 2) review by the Commission's Executive Director; and 3) final decision by the Commission's Executive Committee.

After extensive review of the four appeals, the Executive Committee endorsed the staff recommendations to: 1) approve two appeals and award Palmetto Fellows Scholarships; 2) deny one appeal; and 3) defer one appeal until the required data is confirmed.

These reports are for information.

3.03 Report of Committee on Access and Equity, Licensing and Veterans Education, and Special Projects

Mr. F. Gilbert, chairman of the Committee, reported on the following matter:

Consideration of Proposed Allocation of 1997-98 Access and Equity Funds

The Legislature appropriated \$395,043 for the Access and Equity Program in 1997-98. This is \$600 less than the 1996-97 appropriation for the Program.

The Committee recommended:

- 1) The Access and Equity program allocation for each institution in 1997-98 shall be in amounts that are shown in Attachment A.
- 2) Access and Equity Program funds shall be awarded to public higher education institutions for implementation of activities that are described in their Access and Equity plans and progress reports which are on file in the CHE office. These activities include the Graduate Incentive Scholars Program, minority recruitment

and retention activities, and activities for enhancement of public historically black institutions (SC State University and Denmark Technical College).

3) Institutions receiving Access and Equity Program funds in 1997-98 will continue to be required to match these funds on a dollar for dollar basis (not in-kind contributions).

4) The award of competitive grants for projects that address priority issues affecting minority participation and achievement in higher education will not be funded from the State Access and Equity appropriation in 1997-98.

It was moved (F. Gilbert), seconded (Byerly), and voted that the recommendations of the Committee be approved.

3.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

Although there was no report from the Committee, a memo was distributed for information only regarding Emergency Permanent Improvement Projects for Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College and USC-Columbia. No Committee or Commission action was required regarding these items: 1) Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College - Roof Restoration - The total cost was \$888,000 from Insurance Reserve Funds. 2) USC-Columbia - 300 Main, Clean Room Facilities - The total cost was \$400,000 from Appropriated State Formula Funds.

3.05 Report of Committee on Planning & Assessment

Mr. D. Floyd, chairman of the Committee on Planning & Assessment, reported on the following matters:

A. Performance Funding Update

Mr. Floyd gave an overview of the evaluation process as presented by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee met in June and approved the following: 1) sector benchmarks; 2) "aspirational peer" institutions for research universities; 3) the format for institutional responses on the transferability of credits indicator; and 4) the time line.

B. Resolution

Mr. Floyd presented the following resolution to the Commission for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In order to maintain fairness toward all the institutions, Commission members will not engage in *ex parte* discussions of the performance of any one institution or group of institutions and will confine discussion of institutional performance with institutional representatives to formal meetings of the Commission on Higher Education and its standing committees.

It was moved (D. Floyd) and seconded (Stern) that the motion be approved. After some discussion, Dr. E. Floyd suggested that the institutions should not engage in discussions as well as Commission members. It was moved (D. Floyd), seconded (F. Gilbert), and voted that the following amended resolution be approved.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: In order to maintain fairness toward all the institutions, Commission members and institutions will not engage in *ex parte* discussions of the performance of any one institution or group of institutions and will confine discussion of institutional performance with institutional representatives to formal meetings of the Commission on Higher Education and its standing committees.

III. Report of the Executive Director

A. DSS Memorandum of Understanding

Dr. Barton stated that he is working with the director of the Department of Social Services, Mr. James T. Clark, on a memorandum of understanding to facilitate awareness among AFDC recipients regarding educational opportunities available at institutions of higher learning in South Carolina. This report is for information.

B. Management Review/Fiscal Audit

Dr. Barton stated that he has requested the Budget and Control Board to conduct a program/management review during August and September. The intent is to evaluate the responsibilities of the Commission office and recommend how best to organize and manage staff functions. He has also arranged for a fiscal audit as of the assumptions of his responsibilities. The State will also be conducting a separate performance audit of all education agencies this fall which should be completed by January of 1998.

C. Budget Shortfall

Dr. Barton reported that the Commission had a budget shortfall of \$150,000 when he arrived. He stated that he and the directors have put a plan in place in which the budget has been balanced.

D. Statewide Meetings

Dr. Barton stated that he will hold a series of 13 meetings around the State that will be hosted by the institutions, focusing on the agenda for higher education and performance funding. He indicated that a major responsibility of the Commission is the role of being an advocate for higher education in the State as a whole, not just from the perspective of individual institutions. He noted that he already has had discussions with Dr. Bob Alexander and Dr. Mike McCall on this subject. The meetings will provide information to legislators and citizens of the State on what the Commission is doing in response to the Legislature's charge to implement performance funding. It is Dr. Barton's hope that Commission members will be able to participate in the meeting that is held in their region.

IV. Other Business

- A. Mr. Jim Edwards of USC-Union and Dr. Lex Walters of Piedmont Technical College spoke about an agreement for the offering of credit courses in Laurens, South Carolina and the duplication of courses there. Mr. A. Gilbert asked the two institutions to try to work out a solution to the issues that were raised and bring a report to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- B. Tuition Costs - Articles on keeping tuition costs down were distributed by Mr. D. Floyd. He also handed out samples of fees in undergraduate catalogs in South Carolina institutions. Mr. Floyd stated that he would like to see a uniformity of fees in our institutions. This idea will be referred to the Planning and Assessment Committee 's next meeting.
- C. Dr. E. Floyd stated that Dr. Barton had attended a recent University of South Carolina board meeting. He encouraged him to meet with the other boards of trustees in the State.
- D. The Commission agreed that the Step 12 review should be more appropriately assigned to the Finance and Facilities Committee as opposed to the Planning and Assessment Committee. The Finance and Facilities Committee will meet and present a report at the next Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet K. Stewart

Janet K. Stewart
Recording Secretary