

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes of the Meeting

April 3, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Commission Members Attending

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chairman
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Ken Jackson
Dr. Louis Lynn
Ms. Cynthia Mosteller
Mr. Daniel Ravenel
Mr. Jim Sanders
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Randy Thomas
Mr. Ken Wingate
Mr. Neal Workman
Dr. Mick Zais

Commission Members Absent

Dr. Doug Forbes
Dr. Raghu Korrapati

Staff Present

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director
Ms. Rita Allison
Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Altheia Anthony
Ms. Laura Belcher
Mr. Michael Brown
Ms. Lorinda Copeland
Ms. Sjanna Coriarty
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Mr. Gary Glenn
Ms. Alyson Goff
Dr. Paula Gregg

Ms. Trena Houp
Ms. Yolanda Hudson
Ms. Lane Jeselnik
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Ms. Rae McPherson
Dr. Gail Morrison
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Michael Raley
Ms. Stephanie Reynolds
Mr. Jeff Richards
Ms. Beth Rogers
Ms. Courtney Walker
Ms. Karen Wham
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Guests

Dr. Raymond Barclay, College of Charleston
Ms. Candy Borchick, University of Phoenix
Ms. Suzanne Cherry, University of Phoenix
Dr. Anthony Coyne, USC Sumter
Ms. Jackie DiMaggio, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Tuck Hanna, Greenville Technical College
Mr. Craig Hess, Midlands Technical College
Dr. Elise Jorgens, College of Charleston
Mr. Jay Kispert, Francis Marion University
Mr. Mike Lefever, SC Independent Colleges & Universities
Dr. Learie Luke, SC State University
Mr. John Lummus, Tri-County Technical College
Mr. Scott Ludlow, State Technical College System
Mr. Stuart McAlister, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Ms. Beth McGinnis, Clemson University
Ms. Diane Newton
Mr. Fred Payne, citizen of Greenville
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Dr. Aileen Trainer, USC Columbia

Members of Press

none

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

1. Introductions

- Lynn Kelley

Dr. Lynn Kelley introduced the guests, all of whom are listed above. Chairman McCurdy then introduced and welcomed Mr. Kenneth Jackson, recently appointed by the Governor to fill the vacated position of the Commissioner representing the four-year institutions.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ravenel noted a needed revision to the minutes of the March 6, 2008, CHE meeting, changing the word "insufficient" to "sufficient" in the second paragraph of page 3. A **motion** was made (Ravenel), **seconded** (Sanders), and **carried** to approve the minutes of March 6, 2008, with this correction made.

3. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McCurdy

Chairman McCurdy commented on a recent meeting he had attended in Washington, DC, which concerned the relationships US Medical Centers have with health care systems in other parts of the world. He cited examples on how globalization is evident in health care education, noting in particular the Medical University of South Carolina's current engagement with the hospital system in Nanjing, China.

4. Report of the Executive Director

- Garrison Walters

Dr. Walters reported that Mr. Gary Glenn of the CHE staff had recently been named the Director of the agency's Division of Finance, Facilities and Management Information Systems. Mr. Glenn had previously been the Acting Director of that Division. Dr. Walters commended Mr. Glenn for his outstanding performance. Dr. Walters stated he had been favorably impressed with the Access & Equity conference, held in Spartanburg March 20-21, 2008, and coordinated by CHE staff person, Mr. Michael Brown. Commissioner Horne also commended Mr. Brown for his excellent work and noted that the conference did a very good job of balancing ideas and practical suggestions, particularly with regard to the minority workforce. Commissioner Mosteller stated that the conference's sessions on networking to bring students into healthcare professions were very good.

Dr. Walters reported on his recent visits to the editorial boards of The State newspaper and The Greenville News, as well as on his recent visit to Greenville Technical College. He stated that South Carolina had, unfortunately, not been selected as a finalist in the Lumina Foundation's Making Opportunity Affordable grant competition. He reported that CHE staff were in the process of planning the first CHE forum for the May meeting, the topic of which will likely be internships and co-ops in undergraduate and graduate education and the impact that they have on higher education and on the state's economy. Dr. Walters stated that the first off-site meeting for the 2008-09 academic year will be hosted by BMW in Greenville. The CHE forum topic for that meeting will relate to contributions higher education can make to the knowledge economy and how those

contributions might connect to the Action Plan under development by the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC).

Dr. Walters reported he hoped to have one or two staff internships during the 2008-09 academic year for institutional faculty to come work at the core of the agency. This will allow them an opportunity to broaden their perspectives on state level administration and give the CHE a better window with regard to current activities at the state's colleges and universities.

Dr. Walters asked Dr. Woodfaulk to report on the status of the CHE's application for the College Access Challenge grant. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that a small task force has been created to develop a plan for the grant money. There are three allowable activities for this \$2 million non-competitive grant: 1) provide information about college to students and their families; 2) direct financial aid to needy students or repay their loans; and 3) provide professional development opportunities to middle and high school guidance counselors. Possible ideas developed thus far include: 1) guidance counselor of the year award; 2) linking with the SC Department of Education to develop one-stop comprehensive resource centers; 3) provide recertification courses for guidance counselors in needy communities; 4) provide resources and activities to help guidance counselors be better prepared to advise students about financial aid; 5) expand College Goal Sunday activities; and 6) get high-profile people in communities to become advocates for higher education.

Dr. Woodfaulk also reported that National Scholarship Day would take place on three different days and at three different locations throughout the state this year. The event will take place on May 5 at The Citadel, on May 12 at USC Columbia, and on May 19 at Clemson University.

Commissioner Ravenel reported on the status on of the HESC. He stated that the Committee would be meeting with Presidents and/or their representatives on Friday, April 4, to receive their comments on the results of the Committee's work to date. Revisions to the Committee's draft report will then be made after which a preliminary report will be developed and presented to the legislature early in May. Following that, public meetings will take place at various locations within the state. Information received at those meetings will be considered by the Committee by the end of June with a view toward revising the Committee's work and developing a statewide plan for higher education to be presented to the Governor and General Assembly in mid-September. A proposed timeline which summarizes these steps may be found in **Attachment I**.

Dr. Walters briefly reviewed the goals developed by the HESC. A copy of the draft goal outlines may also be found in **Attachment I**. The HESC initially developed three goals which are: 1) increase education levels; 2) increase research and innovation; and 3) increase training and educational services. A fourth goal was developed at the HESC retreat, held in Charleston on March 21, 2008, which is to increase efficiency and effectiveness. He noted that the final Action Plan will be practical in nature as opposed to abstract, have a four to five year horizon, and will include realistic, achievable, and demanding goals. It will also act as a foundation for future plans for improvement. Dr. Walters then invited questions and comments from Commissioners.

In response to Commissioner Thomas' question about establishing benchmarks, Dr. Walters stated that specific targeted numbers or percentages will be developed for each of the goals, incorporating information gathered from communication with the institutions. In response to Commissioner Workman's comment about the importance of involving business in the development of the Action Plan, Dr. Walters agreed that business involvement is critical and stated that the plan is designed to incorporate views of the business community. Commissioner Ravenel stated that examination of other states' plans reveal they emphasize the importance of increasing educational levels. Determining what training is necessary to address the workforce needs of states is also considered to be important. In response to Commissioner Mostellers' comments on interfacing with the business community in regard to curriculum necessary to address the educational needs of the state, Dr. Morrison replied that the CHE regularly attempts to accumulate this type of quantifying information. Discussion took place about whether education is driven by business or by an individual's desire for self-improvement.

Dr. Walters stated that the quality of South Carolina's institutions is much better than in many other states, a fact which is not currently appreciated. He also stated that public awareness of the importance of higher education to the state's economy and quality of life is comparatively low. He noted that the HESC Action Plan will help enormously in communicating that information. He stated that a contractor will be retained to do a return on education investment analysis, which will reveal what the difference will be in the state's economy if the Action Plan goals are achieved in 4-5 years. In response to Commissioner Workman's comments about using whatever money is available to try to develop solutions to increasing access to higher education, Dr. Walters replied that CHE staff had begun to research the most efficient way to scale-up to educate more people in the state using available resources. Commissioner Horne emphasized the importance that the Action Plan speaks to quality of life issues as well as workforce issues. She commented favorably on the Action Plan developed to date, stating that it provided a strong approach to increasing higher education levels while involving education, business and government. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about how to engage various constituencies in the presentation and implementation of the Action Plan, Dr. McCurdy responded that an approach has not yet been developed, and must be addressed. The need for consistent, positive planning for year-to-year funding of higher education will have to be emphasized. In response to Commissioner Sanders' question about whether the movement to a knowledge economy has been defined for South Carolina, Dr. Walters replied that New Carolina's report on clusters has developed that information at the macro level. He added that more work is needed to make sure our return on educational investment analysis recognizes South Carolina as a place where people want to be employed and businesses want to locate.

5. Legislative Report

- Rita Allison

Ms. Allison provided the legislative report in the absence of Ms. Julie Carullo who was monitoring the House considerations of several CHE regulations and Senate Finance budget deliberations. Ms. Allison stated that the Senate Finance Committee did adopt the House version of the need-based aid allocation plan proviso. The Senate Finance Committee also adopted S.1252 which allows for disbursement of accumulated interest in the Center of Economic Excellence (CoEE) fund for program proposals, and also retains

the current \$200 million cap on appropriated CoEE funds. Ms. Allison reported that the conference committee on immigration legislation is in the process of working out an agreement which includes provisions relating to higher education enrollment. She stated that H.4408, which pertains to state scholarship enhancements for students enrolling in additional math and science courses and the CHE's related 14 hour flexibility requirement received a favorable report from the Higher Education Subcommittee of Senate Education. Ms. Allison noted that Dr. Walter's editorial regarding math and science education appeared in The State newspaper today. She stated that recent meetings with newspaper editorial boards had gone well and that work was underway on developing a comprehensive higher education awareness program.

In response to Dr. McCurdy's question about when below-the-line items are considered in the budget process, Ms. Allison replied that final information on this will be available after the House and Senate conference committees have met and the final version of the budget is presented. She stated that the House had recommended base cuts of approximately 2.5% this year, and that budget cuts were still under consideration in the Senate. Commissioner Mosteller applauded the House and the Senate on their quick response to the CHE's need-based aid allocation proposal and encouraged Commissioners to continue to inform the legislature about and advocate for this issue as well as for higher education funding.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Report of the Executive Committee

- Layton McCurdy

The Executive Committee had no report.

6.02 Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

-Bettie Horne

A. Discussion Item, Consent Agenda Timetable

Commissioner Horne referred to the Draft Consent Agenda Timetable and asked Dr. Walters and Dr. Morrison to review and describe the process. Briefly, the consent agenda will minimize repeat discussion of individual programs at the CHE meetings. Only items which are of continued concern after consideration at their respective committee meetings would be topics of discussion at the CHE meeting. This will allow for more meeting time to consider and discuss larger issues pertaining to higher education. Dr. Morrison provided details on the timetable as described in **Attachment II**.

Discussion followed in which Commissioner Sanders recommended the use of project management software which allows for numerous individuals to concurrently review information electronically and share questions and ideas. Dr. Walters stated that the use of this type of software is presently under consideration. Commissioner Mosteller expressed concern about whether the use of a consent agenda was really necessary given that lack of time has not been an issue in the past. Dr. Walters stated that this method is not designed to filter out substantive questions, but rather to filter out routine ones, allowing more time for consideration of major topics of concern. Additional comments

were made in support of using the consent agenda at least on a trial basis.

**6.03 Report of Committee on Access & Equity
and Student Services**

- Cynthia Mosteller

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services had no report.

6.04 Report of Committee on Finance and Facilities

- Daniel Ravenel

A. Consideration of Interim Capital Projects

1. Francis Marion University - Center for the Performing Arts
2. Tri-County Technical College - Pickens County Land Acquisition

B. Lease

1. Greenville Technical College - Academic Building on Brashier
Campus

**C. Consideration of Method for Calculating Infrastructure
Maintenance Needs**

D. List of Staff Approvals for March 2008

Commissioner Ravenel reviewed information about the two interim capital projects the Committee on Finance and Facilities had unanimously approved in its meeting which took place earlier in the morning. More detail about these projects may be found in **Attachment III**.

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

The Committee on Finance and Facilities **recommends** approval of this project as proposed. With regard to the Tri-County Technical project the following phrase was added to the recommendation: pending approval by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (SBTCE) on April 8.

Commissioner Ravenel stated his Committee had also unanimously approved the lease renewal referred to in agenda item 6.04B. A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities **recommends** approval of this lease provided the rates and terms are approved by the Budget and Control Board. Recommendation is also pending approval by SBTCE on April 8. The Board was originally scheduled to meet on March 25, but had to reschedule its meeting.

The March 2008 permanent improvement projects approved by the staff, as described in Agenda Item 6.04D, were provided for information only.

Commissioner Ravenel made reference to Agenda Item 6.04C, Consideration of Method for Calculating Infrastructure Maintenance Needs, also described in **Attachment III**. He stated that this method had been unanimously approved by the Facilities Advisory Committee. It was noted that this pertains to infrastructure only and not to buildings. Also noted was the fact that this method provides more of a statewide approach to the calculation of infrastructure maintenance needs, which has been lacking in the past. Upon adoption of the method, data will be collected from each of the institutions which will be compiled and ready for review by September of 2008. In subsequent years, this procedure will take place annually.

A **motion** was made (Ravenel) and **carried** to approve the following **recommendation**:

The Committee on Finance and Facilities **recommends** approval of the proposed method to calculate infrastructure deferred maintenance needs.

9. Other Business

Commissioner Mosteller requested that the May 1, 2008, CHE meeting include time for Commissioners to discuss their reactions to the information recently provided them on the work of the HESC to date. This will have given them adequate time to consider it carefully. Dr. McCurdy stated that this may well be the topic considered during the CHE forum portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Temple noted that the South Science Project, the development of which he had been involved with over the last several years, had opened recently in the Florence area. This is a hands-on learning center for K-12 students. Commissioner Temple invited all to come by and see it in action when in Florence.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Rogers

Beth B. Rogers

Recording Secretary

Attachment I-III

*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.