



September 5, 2002 Meeting Highlights

Please note the following information is intended to be a brief summary of Commission actions and should not be considered as any form of minutes for the referenced meeting.

Conference Cancellation

Due to budgetary restrictions and unavoidable conflicts with the Governor's schedule, we have canceled the previously announced S. C. Conference on Trusteeship, planned for October 3rd and 4th. The Commission would especially like to thank Mr. Ed Sellers and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina for their willingness to co-sponsor the event. Please be assured that the Commission's commitment to trustee training and collaboration remains strong, and when appropriate resources are available, this event will be re-established in future years.

Commission Approves New Academic Programs

The Commission approved institutional proposals for 11 new academic programs from across 9 institutions. Programs range from the Associate Science level to the Doctoral level and are from both 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities.

The specific programs approved are:

- 1. A.H.S., Radiologic Technology, Technical College of the Lowcountry**
- 2. A.P.S., Human Services, Horry-Georgetown Technical College**
- 3. B.A., Comparative Literature, USC-Columbia**
- 4. B.S., Business Administration, with a Concentration in Management, USC-Beaufort**
- 5. B.S., Middle Level Education, Winthrop University**
- 6. B.S., Nuclear Engineering, S.C. State University and University of Wisconsin-Madison (joint program)**
- 7. M.A., Arts Administration, Winthrop University**
- 8. M.Ed., Languages, College of Charleston**
- 9. M.Engr., M.S., Ph.D., Nuclear Engineering, USC-Columbia**
- 10. M.S., Coastal Marine and Wetland Studies, Coastal Carolina**
- 11. M.S., Physician Assistant, Medical University of SC**



Commission Grants Licenses to Strayer University

The Commission granted the initial license to Strayer University, of Washington D. C., for operations at Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville-Spartanburg. Programs will be offered at the A.A., B.S., M.B.A., and M.S. degree levels. Strayer University, with a history dating to 1892, offers business degrees with concentrations for the offered degrees to include Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Taxation and others. For further information, contact Ms. Renea Eshleman, of the Commission staff, or Strayer University directly.



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Commission Selects Center of Excellence


The Commission received new Center of Excellence applications from four institutions for initial funding during the 2002-03 fiscal year. After careful review of the proposals by an independent review panel, a recommendation was made to, and adopted by the Commission to select the Center of Excellence for the Education and Equity of African American Students at Benedict College. The new center will have a statewide focus that has the potential to affect both teacher education programs as well as currently practicing teachers. The need to close the achievement gap is a very high priority for the state, and the proposed Center will focus its activities to address this issue. As a related item, the Commission also approved the budget request for this program for the 2003-04 fiscal year. \$650,226 will be requested from the General Assembly, which will maintain the program and will provide for the awarding of three new Centers

Commission Approves Guidelines and Distributions Plans for Lottery Funds

During the 2002 session of the General Assembly, plans were finalized for the distribution of lottery proceeds for the 2002-03 fiscal year. Among the programs funded were the Teaching Scholarship Grants Program, the Competitive Grants Technology Program and the Technology Grants Program. The Teaching Scholarship Grants, with a total of \$2 million available, will provide awards of up to \$1,000 to eligible teachers who are working to upgrade their existing content area skills or obtaining a Master's degree in the teacher's content area. For further information on this program, contact Katina Johnson in the Commission offices. The Technology programs provide for \$21.7 million to be divided amount the four-year and two-year institutions. The four-year institution funding will be awarded through a competitive process coordinated by the Commission. Grant proposals are to be for the development of technology and/or technology infrastructure. The two-year institutions will receive direct funding based on enrollment levels (with a minimum amount of funding provided to each institution). Grants for the two-year institutions are to be used for technology upgrades. For additional information on these programs, contact Dr. Lynn Kelley in the Commission offices.



Commission Approves Guidelines for Distribution of Federal Funds



The Federal government's Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, was re-authorized in fiscal year 2001 under the No Child Left Behind Act. One of the programs administered under the former legislation was the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program. That program has been renamed and funded as the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. The purpose of the revised portion of Title II is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and school districts improve teachers and principal quality. A total of \$850,000 is available to award through this program, with grant awards expected to be in the range of \$40,000 to \$60,000. For further information on this program, contact Dr. Nancy Healy in the Commission offices.

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Commission Recognizes College of Charleston



The Commission awarded the College of Charleston a Commendation of Excellence for its academic programs in Computer Science. As a part of the review of academic programs for quality standards, the College's programs in Computer Science were identified as exemplary. The specific programs receiving the award are the Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems.

Commission Approves Teacher Recruitment Budgets

Through the Education Improvement Act, the Commission is provided funding for two teacher recruitment programs. The S. C. Center for Teacher Recruitment (SCCTR) and the S. C. Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SCPRRMT) submitted their annual reports and budget requests to the Commission for consideration and approval. The reports show both programs are succeeding in their respective programs. The Commission approved the annual reports and also the budget requests of \$5,707,891 (includes a \$1.2 million increase) for the SC-CTR, and \$467,000 for the SC-PRRMT. For additional information on these programs, contact Walter Jackson in the Commission offices.



Commission Adopts Budget Request for Higher Education

The Commission adopted a \$231 million higher education budget request to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration in the spring of 2003. The amount represents a requested increase over the existing base budgets of the public higher education entities. The request includes a \$47 million increase for operating funds, \$5.4 million for institution specific items, and \$12.6 million in statewide initiatives. The request also includes \$166 million in funding requested from future lottery proceeds. The lottery related requests represent "re-funding" of items currently funded from lottery proceeds, along with a requested increase of \$17 million for additional funds for the state's needs-based grants program. For further information on these budget items, please contact John Smalls, in the Commission offices



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Updates to Performance Funding Measures and Standards

The Commission reviewed and adopted final revisions to several measures and related standards utilized in the Performance Funding process. The Performance Funding process is used to determine each institutions state appropriations. The measures define areas and activities being evaluated and the standards are the levels of performance against which the institutions are measured.

The measures considered include:

1. Indicator 2A, Academic and Other Credentials of Professors and Instructors as defined for the Research Sector,
2. Measures and Standards for Indicator 4A/B, Cooperation and Collaboration, for Research Sector, Regional Campuses and
3. Measure and Standards for indicator 7A, Graduation Rates, "Success Rate" for Regional Campuses and
4. Status of Indicators 7B, Employment Rate for Graduates, and 7C, Employer Feedback on Graduates With
5. Measure and Standards for Indicator 7E, Number of Graduates Who Continued Their Education, for Regional Campuses and
6. Measure and Standards for Indicator 9A, for the Medical University of South Carolina

For further information on these items, contact Dr. Lovely Ulmer-Sottong in the Commission offices.



Dr. Ray Greenberg, President of the Medical University of South Carolina, addresses the Commission

Dr. Greenberg visited with the Commission to share his views on current and future activities of MUSC along with his thoughts on higher education in the state