

**Advisory Committee on Academic Programs  
Minutes of March 28, 2019**

**Members Present**

Dr. John Lane, Chair  
Dr. Mark Bebensee, The Citadel  
Dr. Ralph Byington, Coastal Carolina University  
Dr. Donna Elmore, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College  
Mr. Galen DeHay, Tri-County Technical College  
Dr. Clif Flynn, University of South Carolina Upstate  
Dr. Scott Jones, Lander University  
Dr. Peter King, Francis Marion University  
Dr. Brian McGee, College of Charleston  
Dr. Chris Nesmith, University of South Carolina Palmetto College  
Dr. Hope Rivers, South Carolina Technical College System  
Dr. Eric Skipper, University of South Carolina Beaufort  
Dr. Daren Timmons, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Greenville Technical College

**Member Designees**

Dr. Tena Crews, University of South Carolina Columbia, representing Ms. Joan Gabel  
Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University, representing Dr. Debra Boyd  
Dr. Jeremy King, Clemson University, representing Dr. Robert Jones  
Dr. Suzanne Thomas, Medical University of South Carolina, representing Dr. Lisa Saladin

**Staff Present**

Dr. Jennifer Almeda	Ms. Whitney Jett
Dr. Argentini Anderson	Ms. Julissa Nixon
Mr. Clay Barton	Dr. Regine Rucker
Dr. Sandra Carr	Ms. Peggy Simons
Ms. Lane Goodwin	Dr. Lishu Yin
Dr. Samuel Grubbs	
Ms. DaVaris Hatten	

**Guests**

Dr. Judy Beck, University of South Carolina Aiken	Dr. Lauren Geller, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. David Cardenas, University of South Carolina Columbia	Dr. Drew Geyer, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Nancy Carson, Medical University of South Carolina	Dr. Catherine Gutshall, University of South Carolina Columbia
Dr. John Catalano, University of South Carolina Union	Dr. Elizabeth Hammond, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. James Colbert, Lander University	Dr. Mark Hollingsworth, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Jason Coy, College of Charleston	Dr. Tara Hornor, The Citadel
Mr. Rob Dedmon, University of South Carolina Columbia	Dr. Keshav Jagannathan, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Cheryl Lynn Edwards, University of South Carolina Union	Dr. Yiming Ji, University of South Carolina Beaufort
Dr. Daniel Ennis, Coastal Carolina University	Ms. Taylor Johnston, Lander University
	Mr. Aron Kuch, College of Charleston

Dr. Narayanan Kuthirummal, College of Charleston  
Dr. Dale Layfield, Clemson University  
Dr. Kevin LeBlanc, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Dr. Bruce Marlowe, University of South Carolina  
Beaufort  
Dr. Thayer McGahee, University of South Carolina  
Aiken  
Dr. Bridget Miller, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Dr. Dan Parkieck, Lander University  
Dr. Eric Reisenaur, University of South Carolina  
Sumter

Dr. Karin Rosf, The Citadel  
Dr. Joel Scraper, University of South Carolina Aiken  
Ms. Katie Sites, University of South Carolina  
Columbia  
Dr. David Slimmer, Lander University  
Dr. Mark Smotherman, Clemson University  
Dr. Hennie van Bulck, University of South Carolina  
Sumter  
Dr. Sebastian van Delden, College of Charleston  
Dr. Ron Welch, The Citadel  
Dr. Charmaine Wilson, University of South Carolina  
Aiken

## Welcome

Dr. Lane called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Nixon welcomed all in attendance, took attendance via teleconference, and confirmed Freedom of Information Act compliance.

### ~~1. Minutes of November 29, 2018~~

## 2. Program Proposals

- a. The Citadel, B.S., Computer Engineering
- b. The Citadel, M.S., Instructional Systems Design and Performance Improvement

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (Bebensee) and **seconded** (Flynn). Dr. Bebensee explained the proposed program in computer engineering was developed in response to Charleston-area industry requests and would prepare students to design, develop, and analyze computer systems by applying science and math principles. ACAP members commented on the prevalence of computer-based jobs in the Lowcountry and inquired about the difference in enrollment numbers reported for a similar program. The Citadel representatives agreed with the Lowcountry's development into "Silicon Harbor" and clarified the enrollment numbers changed from a semester model to a seven-week model.

Dr. Bebensee explained the proposed master's program would present an updated curriculum for teachers, industry professionals, and military personnel and would enable students to learn instructional design, learning science, performance improvement, and some coding. He continued that graduates could obtain employment in education and industry. Committee members requested additional information on the logistics of the proposed program's delivery modalities and discussed its uniqueness. The Citadel representatives explained the proposed program would be delivered on-campus and online by the same faculty members to maximize efficiency.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for The Citadel to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and the Master of Science degree in Instructional Systems Design and Performance Improvement, both to be implemented Fall 2019.

- c. Clemson University, M.S., Agriculture
- d. Clemson University, Ph.D., Agriculture

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (J. King) and **seconded** (P. King). Dr. J. King stated agriculture is a huge part of the state's economy, but that there is no graduate degree in agriculture in the state. He explained industry has requested students have greater depth of agriculture knowledge, which the master's program would provide through electives; the proposed programs' target audiences would be currently-certified teachers and working professionals, and the proposed programs do not have significant faculty overhead as they consist of extant courses. Dr. J. King also reported students in Clemson University's (Clemson's) current Master's of Agricultural Education would transfer into the agricultural education concentration of the proposed master's program. Dr. Lane requested clarification on the proposals' history and approval timeline prior to submission to the Commission. Dr. J. King outlined the turnover in Clemson's agriculture department and explained that turnover led to the delay, but affirmed the department's new, stable leadership, and the continuing support of the Board of Trustees for the programs. Dr. Lane stated Commission staff will send additional questions regarding the proposed doctoral program, including regarding the external evaluator report.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposals for Clemson to offer programs leading to the Master of Science degree in Agriculture and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agriculture, both to be implemented Fall 2019.

- e. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Applied Statistics
- f. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Public Health
- g. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Religious Studies

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (Byington) and **seconded** (Drueke). Dr. Byington explained the applied statistics and religious studies proposals are elevations of current minors in statistics and religion at Coastal Carolina University (Coastal) which would require the addition of a few courses to create the standalone programs. Dr. Byington also stated the public health proposal outlines the changes to Coastal's existing public health program based on recommendations from the program's national accrediting body to align with fields of study and professions of public health graduates. Committee members inquired about the disparity between state and national employment projections for the religious studies proposal. Coastal representatives stated there is limited state employment data available for religious studies graduates, but employment opportunities are broad. Dr. McGee commended the public health proposal and offered to share College of Charleston's (CofC's) employment outcomes for the institution's current Religious Studies program. Mr. Drueke expressed support for Coastal's public health proposal and recommended an articulation agreement between Coastal public health program and Winthrop University's (Winthrop's) graduate public health program.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for Coastal Carolina University to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Statistics, the Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health, and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies, all to be implemented Fall 2019.

- h. College of Charleston, B.S., Electrical Engineering
- i. College of Charleston, B.S., Systems Engineering

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (McGee) and **seconded** (Jones). Dr. McGee explained both proposed programs were developed in response to regional industry demand for engineers. He gave an overview of CofC's past collaboration with The Citadel on multiple programs and CofC's decision to offer a standalone electrical engineering program to attract, retain, and help a different applicant pool complete the program in four years. The Citadel representatives objected to CofC's proposed electrical engineering program and provided a summary of The Citadel's efforts to facilitate a joint electrical engineering program with CofC. The University of South Carolina Columbia (USC C) also objected to CofC's proposed programs due to The Citadel's proximity to CofC and possible dilution of USC C's applicant pool. Dr. Timmons expressed the University of South Carolina Aiken's (USC A's) support for CofC's proposed programs and noted USC A's standalone engineering program's success. Dr. Thomas suggested the proposed electrical engineering program could help more women enter the engineering profession.

Dr. McGee explained the proposed systems engineering program would be a collaboration between computing, business and engineering, and students could obtain employment in cybersecurity and data science. Committee members inquired about the proposed program's budget and CofC representatives agreed to revise the budget table.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted fifteen to two (The Citadel and USC C voting against) to accept** the new program proposal for College of Charleston to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and the Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering, both to be implemented Fall 2019.

- j. Francis Marion University, B.S., Biology, Pre-Professional Studies Option

Dr. Lane introduced the item for consideration. A motion to approve the proposed program was **moved** (P. King) and **seconded** (Thomas). Dr. P. King explained the proposed 3+4 program was developed at the request of, and in partnership with, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and would enable Francis Marion University (FMU) pre-medical and pre-dental students to matriculate on an accelerated pathway into MUSC graduate programs. He continued that once students complete their first year at MUSC, FMU would confer students' bachelor's degree in the proposed program. Dr. Thomas stated MUSC also has accelerated pathway partnerships with Clemson and The Citadel, and welcomes other institutions to develop the same partnership.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for Francis Marion University to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Pre-Professional Studies Option, to be implemented Fall 2019.

- k. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A., Chemistry

Dr. Lane introduced the item for consideration. A motion to approve the proposed program was **moved** (Timmons) and **seconded** (Rivers). Dr. Timmons explained the proposed program would improve student retention and completion in chemistry and would provide a degree option for pre-professional students interested in pursuing graduate education. Committee members asked about the proposed program's low enrollment projections and detailed operational expenses, requested USC A provide additional evidence of student interest in a bachelor of arts in chemistry, and suggested USC A clarify the impact the proposed program

will have on increasing women and minorities in science. Dr. Flynn commended the proposed program as a wise retention strategy. USC A representatives explained the enrollment estimates are conservative and both the institution's undergraduate chemistry programs will be counted together for program productivity.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for University of South Carolina Aiken to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry, to be implemented Fall 2019.

- l. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A., Communication & Digital Arts
- m. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A., Music
- n. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.F.A.

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (Timmons) and **seconded** (Jones). Dr. Timmons explained the proposed communication and digital arts program would elevate an existing concentration in digital arts to a standalone program which would combine communication, media, and digital technology coursework. He stated the proposed program would prepare students for employment in social media and the communications industry in USC A's region. Committee members recommended USC A include other similar programs around the state, to which USC A representatives agreed.

Dr. Timmons explained the proposed music program was developed at the recommendation of the national accreditor's re-accreditation site visit and would enable USC A to better track and report student interests and outcomes. USC A representatives also stated the required coursework and faculty are currently in place for the proposed program. Committee members recommended USC A include education employment opportunities as noted on CERRA's website.

Dr. Timmons explained the proposed fine arts program would focus on improving students' writing skills, either to enter graduate school or to fill professional writing positions in USC A's local area. He stated local industry has requested interns with technical writing skills. Committee members commended the proposed program on its innovation.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for the University of South Carolina Aiken to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Digital Arts, the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Writing, all to be implemented Fall 2019.

- o. University of South Carolina Beaufort, B.S., Information Science and Technology
- p. University of South Carolina Beaufort, M.Ed., Literacy

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed programs was **moved** (Skipper) and **seconded** (Flynn). Dr. Skipper explained the proposed information science and technology program would provide an alternative entry point for students interested in information management rather than computer science, and graduates of the program would help meet local demand in the state's technology-related industries. Committee members requested the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC B) differentiate existing courses from new courses and asked for clarification on current faculty capacity to accommodate the proposed program. USC B representatives agreed to clarify coursework differentiation and agreed to revise the proposed program budget to include the current National Science Foundation grant and to include future faculty needs.

Dr. Skipper explained the proposed master's program was developed in response to USC B's regional need for highly-qualified literacy specialists and would help improve local schools' teacher retention. Committee members commended the proposed program and discussed the need for literacy specialists in USC B's region. USC B representatives explained, in response to a 2016 survey, over 500 teachers expressed interest in graduate study at USC B.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposals for the University of South Carolina Beaufort to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Information Science and Technology and the Master of Education degree in Literacy, to be implemented Fall 2019.

q. University of South Carolina Columbia, D.N.P., Nurse Anesthesia

Dr. Lane introduced the item for consideration. A motion to approve the proposed program was **moved** (Crews) and **seconded** (McGee). Dr. Crews explained the proposed program is the result of changes in the national accreditor's standards which would require all master's level graduate programs to transition to doctoral programs by 2022. Dr. Crews stated USC C has arranged a teach-out plan for the existing Master of Nurse Anesthesia program and USC C's School of Medicine and College of Nursing have collaborated to eliminate course duplication. Committee members expressed concern about affordability and the proliferation of doctoral nurse anesthetists. USC C representatives stated while there are significant salary differences between nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologist assistants, the salary difference between master's level and doctoral level is not significant.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for the University of South Carolina Columbia to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in Nurse Anesthesia, to be implemented Summer 2020.

r. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.A., Community Health

Dr. Lane introduced the item for consideration. A motion to approve the proposed program was **moved** (Flynn) and **seconded** (P. King). Dr. Flynn explained research shows a demand for the proposed program which would serve as a retention program for students who did not meet requirements for traditional healthcare pathways. Dr. Flynn highlighted the 16% increase in demand in community health positions over the next ten years and provided letters of support from local employers. He stated the proposed program was also designed to allow any student who completed an associate of arts or associate of science degree could enter the program with her general education requirements met. Committee members commended USC U's articulation agreements with technical colleges.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the new program proposal for University of South Carolina Upstate to offer a program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Health, to be implemented Fall 2019.

Dr. Lane recommended the majority of the program modifications move forward in a consent agenda format to which the Committee agreed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **3. Program Modifications**

- a. Clemson University, M.S., Computer Science, Add New Site
- b. Coastal Carolina University, M.B.A., Add concentration
- c. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Communication, Add Sports Communication concentration
- d. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., English, Add concentrations
- e. Coastal Carolina University, B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies, Revise Curriculum
- f. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies, Revise Curriculum
- g. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Engineering Science, Revise Curriculum
- h. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Information Systems, Revise Curriculum
- i. Coastal Carolina University, B.S., Information Technology, Revise Curriculum
- j. College of Charleston & The Citadel, M.S., History, Add Public History concentration
- l. Medical University of South Carolina, B.S., Healthcare Studies, Revise Curriculum
- m. Medical University of South Carolina, M.S., Dentistry, Add Digital Dentistry concentration
- n. Medical University of South Carolina, Pharm.D, Dual Degree with M.S., Health Informatics
- o. Medical University of South Carolina, Ph.D., Molecular and Cellular Biology, Add concentration
- p. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A., Early Childhood Education, Add New Sites
- q. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.A., Elementary Education, Add New Site
- r. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.S., Chemistry, Add Engineering concentration
- s. University of South Carolina Aiken, B.S.N., Nursing, Add New Sites
- t. University of South Carolina Beaufort, B.S., Hospitality Management, Add New Site
- u. University of South Carolina Columbia, Ed.D., Curriculum and Instruction, Add STEM concentration
- y. University of South Carolina Upstate, B.A., Middle Level Education, Move Two Concentrations to Single concentration

Dr. Lane presented the consent agenda with the condition that any remaining questions would need satisfactory response to finalize approval. A motion to approve the consent was moved (McGee) and seconded (Crews). Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the consent agenda.

- k. Lander University, B.S., Environmental Science, Add Forensic Science concentration

Dr. Lane introduced the item. A motion to approve the proposed program modification was **moved** (Jones) and **seconded** (Whirl). Dr. Jones explained the proposed program modification would add a forensic science concentration to the existing environmental science program and the concentration would teach students about litigation and liability issues, and would teach students to assist in maintaining the integrity of evidence. Committee members asked about the current size of the program and whether any undergraduate programs in forensic science are extant in the state. Lander University representatives explained that they hope the proposed program modification will attract additional students to the environmental science program and confirmed there are no full undergraduate programs in forensic science; the representative from Winthrop affirmed that the institution offers a concentration in forensic science.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the program modification for Lander University to modify its program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science to add a concentration in Forensic Science, to be implemented Fall 2019.

- v. University of South Carolina Columbia, B.S., Hospitality Management, Dual Degree with National Economic University, Vietnam

Dr. Lane introduced the item. A motion to approve the proposed program modification was **moved** (Crews) and **seconded** (J. King). Dr. Crews explained the proposed dual degree program is the result of 2018 discussions President Pastides and Dean Oh conducted with National Economic University (NEU) in Vietnam, which Provost Gabel was currently in Vietnam to continue. She stated the proposed dual degree would admit four to five NEU students to USC C's hospitality management program at non-resident rates. Dr. Crews reported those students would complete two years at NEU and two years at USC C, culminating in a United States-based summer internship. Dr. Lane thanked USC C representatives for providing responses to Commission staff's questions prior to the meeting and explained staff are awaiting one remaining document.

Without further deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the program modification for Winthrop University to modify its program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management to include a dual degree with National Economic University, Vietnam, to be implemented Fall 2019.

- w. University of South Carolina Sumter, A.A., Add New Site
- x. University of South Carolina Sumter, A.S., Add New Site

Dr. Lane introduced the items for concurrent consideration. A motion to approve the proposed program modifications was **moved** (Nesmith) and **seconded** (McGee). Dr. Nesmith explained Richland School District Two requested dual enrollment and early college for their high-achieving high school students. The proposed program modifications would allow the University of South Carolina Sumter (USC S) to offer coursework at Ridgeview High School beginning Summer 2019, with the full associate of arts degree available at the school in 2021. Committee members representing the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) and its institutions requested clarification on who would teach the dual enrollment courses and expressed concern about quality control of courses taught by adjuncts. USC S representatives explained the USC system adjunct approval process and discussed supervision of adjunct faculty.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted thirteen to four (SCTCS, Tri-County Technical College, and Orangeburg Technical College voting against, Greenville Technical College abstained) to accept** the program modifications for the University of South Carolina Sumter to modify its programs leading to the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to offer coursework at Ridgeview High School, to be implemented Summer 2019.

#### **4. Petitions to Add Specialized Accrediting Agencies**

*Agenda items 4-7 discussed before agenda item 3*

Dr. Lane introduced the item for consideration. A motion to approve the proposed petition was **moved** (Lane) and **seconded** (Drueke). Ms. Goodwin presented the eight new specialized accreditors institutions sent for Commission consideration.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to recommend approval of** the *Petitions to Add Specialized Accrediting Agencies*.



**5. Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Programs**

- a. FY15
- b. FY16
- c. FY17

Dr. Lane introduced the items for consideration. A motion to approve the reports was **moved** (Lane) and **seconded** (Byington). Dr. Yin and Dr. Rivers explained the reports are program productivity at the associate's degree level and is based on self-reported SCTCS data. Dr. Rivers explained SCTCS provided Commission staff the data for the reports. Committee members discussed transfer rates' and bridge programs' effects on the report.

Upon concluding deliberation, the Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the *Annual Evaluation of Associate Degree Program* reports for FY15, FY16, and FY17.

**6. Annual Report on the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) and South Carolina Activities**

*(For information, no action required)*

Dr. Lane introduced the item for information only. Mr. Barton provided an overview of the report and named the top three NC-SARA participants in the state: University of Phoenix, Western Governors University, and Southern New Hampshire University. ACAP members discussed online education. Dr. Lane cited the problems with attempting to compare out-of-state institutions with in-state public institutions. Dr. McGee suggested SC public institutions should consider greater collaboration to promote their online course offerings around the state.

**7. Notifications of Program Changes and/or Terminations, November 22, 2018 – March 21, 2019**

*(For information, no action required)*

Dr. Lane introduced the item for information only.

**8. Other Business**

*Discussed before agenda item 3*

Dr. Lane introduced Dr. Thomas, state representative on SACSCOC's ad hoc committee on risk-based differential review standards. Dr. Thomas provided a thorough overview of SACSCOC's differentiated review process, to begin in 2023. SACSCOC staff will contact eligible institutions that meet the following criteria: SACSCOC accredited for at least 10 years; no SACSCOC public sanction in the past five years; not listed on the U.S. Department of Education Heightened Cash monitoring list; and no SACSCOC monitoring report.

Dr. Lane expressed best wishes to Dr. McGee in his new role as President of Quincy University in Illinois.

- a. Project Lead the Way

Dr. Lane introduced Dr. Almeda. Dr. Almeda provided findings of the ad hoc Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Task Force. Dr. Elmore provided historical information on PLTW and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College's (OCTC) collaboration with USC C. She explained PLTW is a tremendous opportunity for high school students to engage new and different learning opportunities. OCTC began with PLTW engineering courses and PLTW coursework has expanded to healthcare and computer science areas. She reported currently 15,000 students are in PLTW

courses. Dr. Elmore noted there is currently no four-year institution participating in PLTW. Dr. Jones reported PLTW is very active in Indiana. Dr. Almeda and Dr. Elmore requested Committee members think about re-implementing PLTW statewide.

b. June 20, 2019 ACAP Meeting

Dr. Lane reminded the Committee of the June 20, 2019 ACAP Modifications meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.