



## Minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services Meeting Virtual Meeting

August 5, 2022  
12:00 p.m.

### Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Paul Batson, Chair  
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne, Assistant Chair  
Commissioner Hugh Mobley  
Commissioner Doug Snyder

### Commission Members Present

Commissioner Linda Dolny  
Commissioner Edgar Dyer  
Commissioner Ben Satcher  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Dino Teppara

### Staff Members Present

Dr. Rusty Monhollon  
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Dr. Mariam Dittmann  
Ms. Bunnie Ward  
Dr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. Kathryn Harris  
Mr. Frank Myers  
Ms. Laverne Sanders  
Ms. Crystal Standifer  
Ms. Tanya Weigold  
Mr. Daniel Jeng  
Ms. Alfie Mincy

### Guests

Dr. Jeff Perez, President and CEO  
South Carolina Independent Colleges  
& Universities

## 1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Laverne Sanders introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Paul Batson provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance.

Chairman Batson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services' June 2022, meeting. A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Snyder), and carried to approve the minutes.



## 2. College Transition Scholarship Annual Report

Dr. Woodfaulk provided an overview of the College Transition Program (CTP). Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the CTP program allowed intellectually disabled students to receive a postsecondary certificate for vocational purposes. She said there are five institutions in S.C. that participate in the federal program. She said the institutions are Clemson, College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina, Winthrop University, and the University of South Carolina Columbia.

Ms. Kathryn Harris explained that the CTP programs are comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities. She said the programs can focus on anything from academics to career skills, immediate job ready skills, and/or independent living skills, and varies by individual. Ms. Harris reported that as of May 2022, the US Department of Education had approved 155 programs throughout the nation, and that S.C. is home to five of the approved programs.

Ms. Harris provided some background information for the CTP program:

- The SC General Assembly approved Proviso 11.19 in 2013-2014.
- In FY2015-2016 SC General Assembly approved need-based funding for the CTP programs in the amount of \$179,178 in 2015-2016.
- In FY2016-2017 the SC General Assembly increased the need-based grant funding to \$350,000, and it has remained at that funding amount.
- Beginning in FY2017-2018, the maximum award amount was \$7,500 per student, and students can receive up to eight terms of funding.

Ms. Harris reported that 40 eligible students participated in the CTP Need-based Grant program in academic year 2021-2022 throughout the state. She said the CTP Need-based Grant total disbursement for 2021-22 was \$296,168.

Ms. Harris provided the background for College Transition Program Scholarships. She said Proviso 3.5 enacted by the SC General Assembly appropriated \$750,000 to the SC Commission on Higher Education for College Transition Program Scholarships. She explained that eligible students enrolled in an established public CTP program can be awarded \$2,500 per semester and should not exceed \$5,000 per academic year, including summer.

Ms. Harris explained that the Commission, in cooperation with the CTPs, issue a year-end report (attached) to the Governor, the Chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee, Senate Education Committee, House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee by September 30th.

Ms. Harris provided an overview of the College Transition Scholarship Program. She stated that the CTP Scholarship was established during the 2021 legislative session for residents enrolled in CTP. Ms. Harris stated the CTP Scholarship award was up to \$5,000 per year in 2021-22 and up to \$10,000 per year in 2022-23 as directed by the proviso. She said eligible students can receive both the CTP Grant and the CTP Scholarship at the same time for up to eight terms of funding.

Ms. Harris provided the demographics for the CTP Scholarship Program. She reported that 60% of the students were white/non-Hispanic, 30% were black, 7% were Asian and 3% were reported as unknown. Ms. Harris stated 62% were male, and 38% were female. She said 60 students were

awarded the CTP Scholarship program for Academic Year 2021-22, and the total amount awarded was \$295,000.

Ms. Harris reported that CHE started tracking persistence and retention data in 2021-22. She stated that continued collection and expansion of data will assist CHE to determine if the CTP Scholarship program improves student outcomes. Ms. Harris reported that there were 40 CTP graduates in 2021-21, and there was a total of 219 CTP graduates from 2013-2021. She said that the retention rate for year 1 to year 2 was 86% and 91% for year 2 to year 3.

Commissioner Horne asked about the student's experience in CTP and what is a typical day like for a student. Ms. Harris replied that each of the programs will vary, and the daily schedule varies depending on the individual student. She said some students are in academic programs at different campuses, and other students' focuses are on independent living and job skills.

Commissioner Horne asked about the percentage of participants diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Woodfaulk replied that the program participants have broad range of disabilities, which may include autism spectrum disorder. Commissioner Horne asked if there were other institutions interested in the CTP programs. Ms. Harris replied that one other USC institution has requested approval from the US Department of Education. She said that this institution expects to hear from the US Department of Education in August, and that they also are expecting to begin the new CTP program in 2023-24. Ms. Harris stated that three other technical institutions expressed that they have a similar program in place but have not gone through the US Department of Education approval process. She explained that when institutions receive approval from the US Department of Education, the institutions may award the PELL Grant as well as the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant to eligible participants.

Commissioner Horne **motioned** approval of the College Transition Scholarship Program 2021-22 Summary Report. Commissioner Snyder **seconded** and the motion **carried**.

### 3. Other

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a presentation of the residency and scholarships/grants workshops. She explained that the scholarship team traveled around the state to invite residency officers, admission officers, and financial aid officers to discuss scholarships, residency, review regulations, provide program updates and discuss any concerns the institutions may have. She stated the workshops were held at Coastal Carolina University, Piedmont Technical College and TriCounty Technical College

Dr. Woodfaulk reported that the College Application Month (CAM) events, directed by Dr. Gerrick Hampton, will be held across the state in the fall. She stated that high school students will complete college applications at the CAM events. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that assistance is solicited from the colleges and universities' admissions and enrollment staff for the CAM events. She said that many of the colleges and universities allow high school students to apply during the CAM events without charging an application fee.

### 4. Adjournment

There being no additional items before the Committee, Commissioner Batson requested a motion for adjournment. A **motion** (Horne) was made, **seconded** (Snyder), and **carried** to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.