

LGC Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
LGC Conference Room 148

The Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC) Academic Affairs Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 noon by Committee Chairman Mark Sothmann. In attendance were college provosts Connie Book and Brian McGee, executive director Nancy Muller (ex-officio, non-voting), and non-voting member Godfrey Gibbison. Sothmann duly noted that advanced public notice had been given of the meeting with its agenda, in accordance with the state's FOIA.

Distribution of minutes from the Committee's previous meeting February 2, 2016 was noted. McGee moved approval, seconded by Book, and approval was unanimous.

Muller noted that current usage of the facility for classes is light, as reflected by the table illustrating Summer 2016 Course Offerings. Enrollments this summer at 161 are down from last summer at 221, despite the fact that year to year comparisons overall are essentially flat for the 12-month period. Enrollments in the MSW program are up substantially over prior year.

In the fall, Clemson is expected to move all of its graduate engineering classes to CURI upon the opening of the new Zucker Family Education Center still under construction. USC's new dean of Engineering & Computing visited in May. Dean Haj Hariri wishes to either restructure the instructional format of Engineering Management so that students in Charleston can benefit from some live instruction by Columbia professors or discontinue the program after "teach out" with currently enrolled students. Two of the original five are already immersed in their "thesis" in the form of on-the-job projects. Separately, McGee asked Muller to show the Computer Science offerings as joint programs, using more than a footnote.

USC is interested in offering a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, structured as a 2+2 program with Trident, based on a daylong visit with Boeing eager for it. Also on the LGC's list of new programs in development are the three fully approved MS degrees in engineering plus associated graduate certificates, although these are not being marketed by the LGC because no classes are scheduled in the immediate future at this location. Dean Ron Welch estimates that it will be at least 18 months before enrollments are sufficient to add the faculty and additional sections to be at the LGC. SCSU has expressed a willingness to bring its BS in Industrial Engineering, through a 2+2 arrangement with Trident, to North Charleston. Its interim dean, department chair and engineering professor met with the LGC's Advisory Board in April to discuss this. Book asked that all the provosts be notified of these meeting dates so she can remind her deans to attend. Muller responded that deans had been invited but only Bill Trumbull had been present at this most recent meeting, as he has for the last three such meetings.

Book said that The Citadel still has only 20 students enrolled in its new engineering offerings, but most are signing up for graduate certificates. Muller mentioned that she was told by Program Director Jeff Davis that 4-5 MPH students at MUSC had wanted to take his new graduate course this summer in the Public Health & Built Environments program but lack of an applicable MOU prevented the transfer of tuition dollars. Book said she would check on this, as The Citadel has a PharmD/MBA and MD/MBA agreement with MUSC that should work. Sothmann said he had heard nothing about this obstacle. Book said that although its threshold is a minimum of ten

students, she still allowed this course to be offered this summer. McGee said he found a cross-registration agreement among MUSC, the College of Charleston, and The Citadel; however, it is dated, having been enacted in November 1978.

In the LGC's targeted sector of healthcare and community wellness, SCSU is waiting for its financial and administrative probation by SACSCOC to be lifted so it can file notification paperwork. A full prospectus is not likely to be necessary. A decision about the sanction is expected in mid-June. On this basis, it has delayed offering classes in the new MBA concentration in healthcare management until at least Fall 2016. Meanwhile, MUSC's Department of Public Health Sciences has expressed renewed interest in assuming program responsibility for the new graduate certificate in Child & Adolescent Wellness and Obesity Prevention. A meeting at MUSC including Nursing, Pediatrics, and Public Health representatives is scheduled June 6th in John Vena's office.

Muller then reminded the provosts that the March Board of Directors meeting had delegated to the provosts the decision on what to charge Anderson University for its Master of Criminal Justice program offering at the LGC. Brian stated that it seemed fine to simply structure a requirement that parallels what USC and Clemson are charged; namely: 5% of academic tuitions. When asked specifics, Muller explained the program expects to enroll 15-20 students. It will be taught mid-week during daytime hours because that is when Lowcountry police forces want it offered. The format is a year-round executive format, i.e., two full days once monthly. Book said The Citadel is fine with this offering and sees no conflict. With a motion and second, the group agreed unanimously to the 5%.

In K-12 Teacher Education, the College of Charleston has had its hopes of CCSD teachers enrolling in its M.A.T. in Special Education offering at the LGC dashed by the district's budget problems. Thus far, no new enrollments are known to have materialized. Meanwhile, the LGC has been promoting The Citadel's MS in Literacy Education with blogs, social media, and is building an inbound marketing campaign to generate interest and send prospects to The Citadel's web site. Muller has been to several outlying counties with Dan Ouzts to visit with superintendents, especially in poorer, more rural areas.

Turning to financials, McGee said that the \$340,475 approved by the LGC Board for lease payments in FY 2017 to the College of Charleston is "in dispute." Still, the College has agreed to work towards a smaller number. Sothmann said that it is time to resolve the matter. The LGC has made cuts, as requested, in every other area of expense. He made the motion for a definitive number from the College of Charleston by June 8th so that the LGC can reach a fundamental decision as to whether it stays or goes. Book seconded the motion, and the group agreed. Sothmann said further that The Citadel needs to envision what its enrollment four years from now at the LGC is likely to be. Each of the provosts needs to make a decision as to what to advocate to each of their respective presidents.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Sothmann.

June 17, 2016