



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION SEI FILING REQUIREMENT

South Carolina Code of Laws Section 8-13-1110(A) states, "No public official, regardless of compensation, and no public member or public employee as designated in subsection (B) may take the oath of office **or enter upon his official responsibilities** unless he has filed a statement of economic interests in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with the appropriate supervisory office. If a public official, public member, or public employee referred to in this section has no economic interests to disclose, he shall nevertheless file a statement of inactivity to that effect with the appropriate supervisory office. All disclosure statements are matters of public record open to inspection upon request."

As a result of recently enhanced oversight and compliance reviews at the State Ethics Commission, Tuition Grants Commission staff were contacted in May with information concerning the timing of the Statement of Economic Interests report for persons appointed to the agency's governing board (i.e., our Commission Members). The agency's previous practice, based on guidance available in prior years, was to notify new Commission Members, based on the Commission's approved rotation schedule, on their appointment date and allow them a 45-day period in which to complete the required SEI report with the State Ethics Commission.

After receiving communication from the State Ethics Commission in May, the agency has revised its internal procedure for appointing voting members of the Commission so that new Commission Members are notified approximately one month prior to the beginning date of their term of service with instructions to complete the SEI report on or before June 30 in the event of regularly scheduled annual Commission rotation. In the event a college President leaves his or her employment during a scheduled three-year term of service, his or her replacement will be notified to complete the required SEI report as soon as possible so they can be officially appointed to fulfill the remainder of the original President's term of service.

The three incoming Commission Members announced earlier in today's meeting were notified on June 3, 2024, via email and hard-copy letter, of the requirement to file on or before June 30, 2024.

It is vitally important for the President's Office at each institution to inform the Executive Director of the Tuition Grants Commission any time there is a change in Presidential leadership to ensure the Commission continues to remain compliant with these requirements.