

MINUTES
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID MEETING
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
APRIL 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Douglas Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He noted that proper notice was given regarding the meeting to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda was circulated to the members (Attachment 1). Trustee Rodney Jenkins gave the invocation.

Board Members Present: Jameel Allen, Louvetta Dicks, Ronald Friday, Douglas Gantt, Rodney Jenkins, Monica Scott, Wilbur Shuler, Macie Smith, Daniel Varat. **Board Members Via Zoom:** Starlee Alexander, Darrell Johnson, William Oden, and Robert Reese. *Ex-Officio Members:* Hank Allen, Zyah Cephus, Franklin Pressley, Alexander Thierry.

Administrators & Others: *President*, Alexander Conyers; *Provost*, Frederick Evans; *CEO of Finance*, Gerald Hubbard Smalls; *Chief of Staff*, Shondra Abraham; *Outside General Counsel*, Pete Balthazor; *Board's Outside General Counsel*, Nashiba Boyd; *Vice President for Athletic*, Dr. Nathan Cochran; *1890 Research Administrator* Delbert Foster; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Vice President Institutional Advancement & University Relations*, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Facilities Director*, Ken Davis; *VP Enrollment Management*, Dr. Manicia Finch; *SACSCOC Liaison*, Valerie Goodwin; *Chief Information Officer*, Mr. Eric Ham; *Associate Provost*, Dr. David Staten; *Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension*, Louis Whitesides; *Administrative Coordinator*, Chrystel Rogers; *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Eartha Mosley; *The Southern Group*, Jeff Griffith; *Governmental Liaison*, Hope Blackley and the *J.F. Group, Inc.* Jerry, Steve, and Donna. There were many other participants in attendance via Zoom.

Media Present: *The Post and Courier Reporter – Ian Grenier, WIS Reporter – Jalen Tart, and the T&D Reporter – Dionne Gleaton via Zoom.*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Gantt asked for a motion to approve the agenda. *Trustee Macie Smith made the motion to amend and adopt the agenda by adding the approved program degrees from the Academic Affairs Committee. Trustee Monica Scott stated that the Turner Hall Replacement Project shall be added from the Finance Committee as well to the agenda. The amended agenda was seconded by Trustee Rodney Jenkins. Motion approved.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *Attachment 2*

Chairman Gantt asked for the approval of the minutes from March 1, 2024. *Trustee Macie Smith made the motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Trustee Rodney Jenkins. Motion approved.*

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms. Mosley was recognized for her thirty years of service with the institution. The new trustees, Dr. Darrell Johnson, and Mr. Robert Reese were also recognized and received a warm welcome. Chairman Gantt mentioned an onboard training will take place in June for new and current trustees at the retreat. The Chairman asked Mr. Jerry F. Smith to come forth with his presentation.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION *See Attachment 3*

Mr. Jerry F. Smith, Founder and Chief Executive Officer provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the feasibility study on the institution. Over his 37 years in the business, he has never read a report that shows the love for an institution as the report for SC State University. The Chairman thanked Mr. Smith for the overview of the Feasibility Study.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES *Attachment 4*

President Conyers began his presentation by acknowledging the recent inductees to the Miller Society, who have contributed \$100K to the University.

President Conyers has been engaged in 22 community activities. He shared highlights on the following events he visited: the TMCF HBCU Transformation Project Presidential Summit, New Orleans, and LA, Las Vegas – Donar, Recruitment Visit. SCSU hosted its first home track meet after 12 years of absence. The meet was named the Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Classic, in honor of our former track standout who was tragically killed at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, SC in 2015. Dr. Sunya Young was hired as the New Title III Director. SC Independent Consumer Finance Associate has established a scholarship fund at the University in memory of the late Senator John L. Scott. The scholarship will be awarded to 5 students at \$2,000 each over the next years. A huge thanks to Dr. Barbara Adams and the BECT Institute. A Bulldog Recovery Program has been created on the campus. State grant for \$195,000 to develop Bulldog Recovery, a collegiate recovery program. Cassandra McClain is the Director of Bulldog Recovery Program and Ellen Rickenbaker is the Recovery Substance Abuser Counselor. We have a New K-9 Officer on campus “Priss” trained to detect the presence of firearms.

He shared the following ongoing priorities: Retention, plans to hire a construction manager to oversee projects, private investors building student housing in very close proximity to campus, obtaining approval for a new dormitory, continuous campus improvements in facilities, academic offerings, and auxiliary services.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs Committee

The Committee Chair, Dr. Lovetta Dicks gave a summary from their committee meeting afterward she shared resolutions from the committee for approval; she asked Dr. Fredrick Evans to present the resolutions. ***Dr. Evans presented the three resolutions below to the Board of Trustees for approval.***

1. *Honorary Doctorate Degrees*
2. *Spring 2024 Graduates*
3. *Tenure and Promotion/Post-Tenure*

The resolutions above were approved by the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Alexander Theirry gave a brief report from the Faculty Senate.

Finance and Administration/Operations Committee

The Committee Chair, Monica Scott, deferred to Dr. Smalls, who the summary from the committee.

Trustee Franklin Pressley also provided a brief report from the Staff Senate.

Public Relations/Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee

The Committee Chair, Jameel Allen deferred to Dr. John Lee, and Mrs. Sonja Bellamy for a review from the committee.

Public Service and Agriculture Committee

The Committee Chair, Starlee Alexander deferred to Dr. Louis Whitesides for an overview from the committee.

Sponsored Research and Information Technology Committee

The Committee Chair, Ronald Friday enlightened the board with a summary from the committee.

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee

The Committee Chair, Hank Allen provided a short summation from the committee. Words of appreciations were extended to the exiting SGA President, Zyah Cephus. The New SGA President was introduced, Lauren Fraiser.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

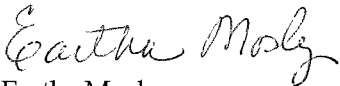
None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other matters to discuss, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. *Trustee Jameel Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Motion Approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Minutes
- 3 – Feasibility Study4
- 4 – President's Update
- 5- Academic Affairs Resolutions -3