

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**APRIL 13, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. 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). President James E. Clark gave the invocation.

**Trustees Present:** Mr. Charles S. Way, Jr., Mr. Milton Irvin, Dr. Doris Helms, Mr. Donnie Shell, Mr. Steve Swanson, and Mr. Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* Mrs. Vernell Brown and Mr. Juwan Ayers.

**Administrators & others present:** *President*, Mr. James E. Clark; *Acting Provost*, Dr. Learie Luke; *Controller*, Ms. Teare Brewington; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Acting Athletics Director*, Mr. Doug Robertson; *Director of Public Relations*, Mrs. Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins; *Special Assistant to the President for Executive Affairs*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; *Legislature Liaison*, Ms. Heather Smith and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

**Media:** *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mr. Christopher Huff.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Chairman Way asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Irvin made the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ATTACHMENT 2)**

*Chairman Way asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January 25, 2017 and March 9, 2017. Trustee Swanson moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustees Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The Chairman's Update was omitted.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ATTACHMENT 3)**

President Clark stated that since the last meeting, the following reports have been submitted: Clery Act Compliance Report, SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report, SC FY '16 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, Deficit Monitoring Report, Legislative Quarterly Report #3, Single Audit, and the Bond Bill Request.

The President recognized Marketa Marcanikova, a senior from the Czech Republic and a member of the tennis and track teams. She maintained a 4.0 grade point average for all four years of her college tenure. He also recognized the December 2016 graduate, Samuel Cole, a Nuclear Engineering student, currently enrolled at the University of Michigan, who has had an internship at the NASA Space Flight Center in Maryland and conducted research at NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In addition, Nawal Bryant, a business major, was acknowledged for her selection to participate in the highly

competitive Apple HBCU Scholars Program. She is among the 35 scholars from 16 HBCUs to be named an Apple HBCU scholar.

The President continued by stating that the Charleston Land Deed had been finalized; an undertaking which began in 2003. The land was donated to the University by the City of Charleston. A brief report was given on the Donnie Shell Celebrity Golf Tournament, which was created to support scholarships for students.

The President met on April 4<sup>th</sup> with the SC Legislative Black Caucus. During the meeting, he informed the Caucus of the specific needs and priorities of the University.

The Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD) Research Symposium was held April 2-3, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. After attending the symposium, the President plans to “amp up” the amount of research coming out of the University’s 1890 program. There are many research grants that are waiting for qualified HBCU proposals, which SC State should pursue.

Officials from SC State University and Midlands Technical College announced a new partnership to provide greater access to higher education. The MOU was signed on March 30, 2017 creating the Bulldog Bridge Program, which will have a seamless accelerated pathway from associate’s to bachelor’s degrees.

President Clark spoke with the editor of the *Post & Courier* regarding an unfavorable article about the BARC partnership which appeared in the *Post and Courier*. The article suggested that the University of Phoenix would get rich from enrolling SC State students, which was not factual.

The institution has a \$250,000 commitment from alumnus Armstrong Williams for scholarships for the Broadcast Communication Program of which \$50k has been received. The Earvin “Magic” Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund received \$100,000 towards its \$2.5M commitment. Students in the School of Business will benefit from that endowment.

The White House & “HBCU Flyover” Meetings were held on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC in February. One meeting was more of a listening session. However, the HBCU presidents were given the opportunity to share views with White House staff and legislators. While there was a lot of negative press regarding the meeting with President Donald J. Trump, President Clark felt the meeting was a good first meeting.

The Road Project, phases I and II were completed, including milling and paving of sections of Geathers and Buckley streets. Phase III will be completed later on. Plans are being discussed on clearing away the under-brush along Goff Street to the Chestnut Street entrance.

The I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium will have a Grand “Re-Reopening” announcement soon. The museum was used for the installation of President Clark on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, planning efforts are underway with the Orangeburg community for the Solar Eclipse event on August 21st.

The launch of the Be-Fit Health and Wellness Program is tentatively scheduled for the end of April. The Regional Medical Center, The City of Orangeburg, and Claflin University are partners in the program. The initiative is to improve the health of students, faculty, staff and the community.

President Clark stated that the Acting Athletics Director and the tennis coach approached him and recommended suspending women’s tennis as a cost-saving measure. Because the institution would need another women’s sports program to meet NCAA Division 1 requirements, the University is reinstating women’s golf, which was suspended on 2014.

Admission applications are up 24% from last year and acceptance applications are down by 30% due to the University acceptance of students with higher ACT scores. The director of Admissions and the director of Financial Aid will be hired very soon.

Vendor payable invoices are down by \$1.5M. Mrs. Brewington and the accounts payable staff are managing the cash and making sure that vendor documents are in order.

President Clark stated that the current projection of \$4M under budget was misleading because there was an additional \$1.8M in unbudgeted expenses to be accounted for. The University also needs to maintain a cushion for unexpected year-end expenses. In addition, the University needs to build up its cash reserves.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Trustees entered into Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters. Heather Smith, Dr. Barbara Adams, Stathis Poulos, Teare Brewington and Donna Hanton were asked to be available for Executive Session.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Way asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Irvin moved the motion, and Trustee Vinzani seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chair shared that no actions or votes were taken in executive session.*

Chairman Way indicated that the standing committees met this morning. He requested a short report from each committee. In the absence of Trustee Helms, Dr. Luke was asked to present. Dr. Luke stated Academic Affairs has two resolutions for approval by the board:

*1) The resolution to approve the graduates for the May 2017 Commencement Convocation. Trustee Vinzani moved and Trustee Irvin seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

*2) The resolution for the revision of the policy pertaining to the completion of degree requirements for baccalaureate degrees in Psychology and Sociology. Trustee Vinzani moved, Trustee Irvin seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

*President Clark and Dr. Luke shared that the federal government requires that institutions receiving federal grants cannot discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Therefore, they recommended the approval of a change in the language in our policies to reflect "Gender Identity" as appropriate. Trustee Irvin moved, Trustee Shell seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Audit Committee, Trustee Irvin stated the presentation given by Stathis Poulos, from BDO, confirmed a clean audit for the University. The Composite Financial Index score was positive for the first time in four years. However, there were some significant deficiencies, which was mostly related to antiquated IT systems and lack of adequate personnel. If the University resolves those two problems, there should be no deficiencies moving forward.

Communication/PR/Institutional Advancement, Trustee Swanson was not present. Ms. Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins stated there was nothing to add.

Finance and Operations, Trustee Vinzani shared that the current budget was reviewed, which was on target. However, some expenses in the last quarter were somewhat higher than expected. The FY'18 budget was also discussed.

Student Affairs and Athletics, Trustee Shell indicated that the meeting with Dr. Jackson was a good one. Students were pleased about the implementation of the evening meal plan. The athletics department is moving forward and looking to have a great fall season.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Trustee Irvin moved, and Trustee Vinzani seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:15PM. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 31, 2017.

Submitted by,



Recorder

### Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 -- Minutes
- 3 – President's Clark Handouts
- 4 – Resolutions from Academic Affairs