

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**APRIL 23, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. 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 Donnie Shell gave the invocation.

**Board Members Present Via Phone:** Alexander Starlee, Hamilton Grant, Doward Harvin, Doris Helms, Milton Irvin, Rodney Jenkins, William Oden, Monica Scott, Donnie Shell, Wilbur Shuler, Hubbard Smalls, Daniel Varat and Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* John Funny, David Staten, and Sharon Wade-Byrd.

**Board Members Absent:** Julie Sainyo

**Administrators & Others Via Phone:** *President*, James E. Clark; *Provost*, Learie Luke; *Vice President for Finance & Management*, Teare Brewington; *Chief of Staff*, Shondra Abraham; *Marketing Manager*, Benita Cooper, *Athletics Director*, Stacy Danley; *Director of Facilities*, Ken Davis; *VP Public Relations/Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations*, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Special Assistant to the President*, Betty Boatwright; *Acting Director of University Computing and Information Technology System*, Curtis Bradley; *Dean of Graduate School*, Frederick Evans; *1890 Research Administrator*, Delbert Foster; *SACSCOC Liaison*, Valerie Goodwin; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *General Counsel*, Mercedes Pinckney; *Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement*, Gwynth Nelson; *Admission's Director*, Stacey Sowell; *Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension*, Louis Whitesides; *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Eartha Mosley (on-site); *SCSUNAA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*, Sharon Wigfall; *SCSUNAA Chaplain*, Rev. Dr. Constance Barnes; *SCSUNAA Mid-West Regional Coordinator*, Hank Allen; and *Vice-Chair of The Foundation*, Edwena L. Crow.

**Media:** The Times and Democrat-Reporter, Dionne Gleaton.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Jenkins asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. ***Trustee Milton Irvin moved the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.***

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Jenkins thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work during the coronavirus pandemic. He expressed special appreciation to the President and his team along with Mrs. Mosley and Mrs. Abraham. He asked for a brief moment of silence in recognition of any SC State family members or friends who passed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Valerie Goodwin lost both her parents within two weeks (not both from coronavirus) and Mr. James Quarles, Augusta, GA Chapter President was mentioned. Trustee Funny was asked for comments on the Board of Visitors (BOV). Trustee Funny noted that the BOV Resolution was approved in December to move forward. Each Trustee would be allowed to nominate two members to serve on the BOV; this was due on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The BOV nomination package should include each nominee's professional resume and a headshot. The Office of Institutional Advancement would provide a one-page statement with the scope of the BOV members.

## **PRESIDENT CLARK'S UPDATES (ATTACHMENT 2)**

The President's report dealt with COVID-19 (a deadly virus) that has affected the world. He began by stating "We're all in this together. This affects everyone and nobody has all the answers." The number one priority is the health, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and community. Discussions on COVID-19 are on-going with the CDC, Department of Education, SACSCOC, CHE, DHEC, and other colleges. He stressed the importance of collaboration and communication, planning the framework for reopening, the University's operations, the protocol, student refunds and credits, funding opportunities, admissions, recruitment and retention, and preparing for the future.

The Academic Affairs Leadership Team has met and is planning for remote learning and remote academic advising. Spring Break will be extended by one week. The mode of instruction will change to remote learning using Blackboard, Blackboard Collaborate, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, GoToMeeting, email, etc. Some of the COVID-19 initial impacts include suspension of all travel, hosting weekly meetings of the Academic Affairs Leadership Team, notifying SACSCOC, increasing communication with faculty; preparing telecommuting reports for staff, grant workers, and faculty with release time; developing a "Remote Teaching" web page for faculty with instructional resources, and developing Just-in-Time handouts on specific remote teaching tips.

Current activities consist of contacting all students via phone, email, and social media; distributing laptops to students with verified needs, providing Zoom accounts to faculty, collaborating on which building should be closed, developing courses on-line, and moving Summer courses fully online.

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act funding the University has received \$4M.

Half of the money must go to students and the other half to be used to cover the expenses of the University. Students eligible for federal Title IV can receive the CARES Act funding.

The Admission's Office will be more aggressive in its pursuit of students. College presidents will use their discretion to waiver SAT and ACT scores for students. Due to COVID-19, May commencement will not be held. Three scenarios are considered for the Fall 1) Normal – On Campus in August, 2) Hybrid–Online August, On-Campus later in Fall, and 3) Delayed–Online Fall, On-Campus Spring.

Mrs. Brewington stated the coronavirus has impacted the University's budget, with projecting a deficit of \$250K as of April 17<sup>th</sup>. She is anticipating about \$750K in lost revenues. So far, the University had about \$300K in unbudgeted expenses related directly to COVID-19.

The President asked Dr. Luke to present the Academic Recovery Alternate Grading Policy for Board approval. Dr. Luke indicated due to the COVID-19 pandemic the University has engaged in remote learning for all courses. The University as well as other institutions have developed similar alternate grading policies to mitigate the impact of remote learning on students. ***The Chairman asked for a motion to bring forth the Policy and Resolution before the Board because neither was presented before the committee. Trustee Helms made the motion to bring the Policy and Resolution on Academic Recovery Alternate Grading Policy before the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smalls. Vote: unanimously approved.*** Discussions: ***Trustee Funny suggested adding the wording "local" to "state and national emergencies" in the policy under the heading "Purpose" on the second line. Dr. Luke recommended adding "for an extended period of time" after the wording "remote learning" on the third line under "Purpose". The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the motion. Trustee Shuler moved the motion with the additional edits along with the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Scott. Vote: unanimously approved.***

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*The Chairman indicated the Board would move into Executive Session. Trustee Grant made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters and personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Trustee Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved.*

## **OPEN SESSION**

Trustee Jenkins made a motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shuler. *Vote: unanimously approved.* The Chairman stated there were no votes or actions taken in Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Shuler moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Grant. *Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Submitted by,

*Eartha Mosley*

Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – President's Updates
- 3 – Policy and Resolution