

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**APRIL 30, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Milton Irvin called the meeting to order at 2:04 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 Rodney Jenkins gave the invocation.

**Board Members Present Via Phone:** Mr. Milton Irvin, Mr. Rodney Jenkins, Mr. Hamilton Grant, Mr. Doward Harvin, Ms. Monica Scott, Mr. Donnie Shell, Dr. Wilbur Shuler, Dr. Hubbard Smalls, Dr. Daniel Varat and Mr. Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Member:* Mr. John Funny. **On-Site:** Dr. David Staten.

**Absent:** Starlee Alexander, Doris Helms, DeAndre' Hurley, and Kenita Pitts Howard.

**Administrators & Others:** Via Phone: *President*, Mr. James E. Clark; *On-Site: Provost*, Dr. Learie Luke; *Athletics Director*, Mr. Stacy Danley; *VP Public Relations/Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations*, Mrs. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *General Counsel*, Ms. Mercedes Pinckney; and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

**Media:** The Times and Democrat-Reporter, *Bradley Harris*.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**HONORARY DEGREE**

Dr. Learie Luke shared the recommendation from the Honorary Doctorate Committee that Senator Cory Booker should receive an honorary doctorate at the commencement convocation. Senator Booker is a public servant, has served as mayor of Newark, NJ., served on the Newark City Council, and from 2013, he is served in the capacity as a senator. He has agreed to be the May 2019 Commencement Convocation Speaker and the University wishes to award him with the Doctor of Laws Degree. ***Chairman Irvin asked for a motion to approve the University awarding Senator Cory Booker with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. Trustee Shuler moved the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimously approved.***

**GRADUATION WITH HONORS POLICY**

Dr. Luke stated the next resolution deals with students graduation with honors policy. Students have expressed concerns that the current policy restricts transfer students from earning the honor of *summa cum laude* even though the student has met all requirements. Therefore the Administration would like to revise the policy by eliminating the clause restricting the honor of *summa cum laude* from transfer students. ***Chairman Irvin asked for a motion to approve the Revision of Graduation with Honors Policy. Trustee Scott moved the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chairman indicated that the Board would move into Executive Session and he asked for the following persons to remain for the session: Trustee Funny, Stacy Danley, Mercedes Pinckney, and President Clark. Trustee Grant made a motion to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jenkins. ***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 floor was opened to discuss the football contract renewal approval for Coach Pough. Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to approve Coach Pough’s contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shuler. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

Trustee Jenkins asked about the status on the transportation webinar concerning Chestnut Street from the Department of Transportation (DOT). President Clark shared there were discussions with Congressman James Clyburn and DOT offices. He would like to share information at the July meeting.

Chairman Irvin acknowledged Trustee Grant being helpful in soliciting potential candidate to the campus.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Scott. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Submitted by,

Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Resolutions for Senator Cory Booker & Graduation with Honors Policy