

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:03AM. Chairman Way 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.

Trustees Present: Mr. Charles S. Way, Jr., Mr. Milton Irvin (*via-phone*), 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; *Vice President of Finance and Management*, Mr. Edward Patrick; *Vice President for Enrollment Management*, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement*, Mr. A.L. Fleming; *Executive Director for 1890 Programs and Extension*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *Athletics Director*, Mr. Paul Bryant; *Director of Public Relations*, Mrs. Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins; *Special Assistant to the President for Executive Affairs*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; *The Strategy Group*, Ms. Heather Smith and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

Media: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman; *WIS* Reporter, Mr. Charles Molineux.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman Way stated that Trustee Doris Helms, Chairperson of the Presidential Search Committee, would address the Board. Trustee Helms said that as of July 1, 2016 the Board elected James E. Clark as President of South Carolina State University and that she worked with the State of South Carolina to finalize his contract. This included a request to the Agency Head Salary Commission regarding approval of the salary recommended by the Board; additional salary would come from private funds. She thanked Attorney Vernie Williams for his assistance in preparing the legal document. Negotiations with the Agency Head Salary Commission were successful and the contract was reviewed by all Trustees. *Trustee Helms made a motion to execute the contract retroactive to July 1, 2016 when the Board announced James E. Clark as the President of South Carolina State University. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vinzani. Vote: unanimously approved.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ATTACHMENT 2)

President Clark reported that the fall enrollment exceeded 2,900 students surpassing last year's number in a good way. The good news was that the number of new and transfer students had increased over 39% compared to the previous year. However, there were fewer returning students due to stricter financial requirements. The number of new undergraduate students was 833. This was 39.5% or 236 students greater than the fall 2015 enrollment. The final fall 2015 undergraduate new student enrolled was 597.

President Clark reported that "the current customer service process for registration and residential housing is broken" and would undergo significant changes beginning fall 2017. Plans to expedite the registration process for students who complete all steps of the process prior to coming to campus would be put in place. Incentives, including priority residence hall selection, would be given to those students. The new registration procedures would be communicated through emails and the US mail to every student.

There was extensive collaboration with State Fiscal Accountability Authority, State Auditor and the Treasurer's Office with Mr. Patrick and his staff concerning the \$12M Agreement, which was signed on July 29th ahead of schedule.

The President shared that the University has the opportunity to participate in an HBCU Loan Refinancing of Hugine Suites, that would potentially save the institution \$14M. Mr. Patrick was engaged in conversation with Gary Pope, Bond Counsel, and staff in Washington, DC. The deadline for submission was September 27th with only a few slots available and other HBCUs were competing as well.

Trustee Irvin inquired about the Presidential Promise Program and what was the impact for the fall semester. President Clark conveyed that while something similar to the Presidential Promise Program had existed in the past, a new twist was added this semester. Not only will the Foundation and family members have responsibility for the debt owed by students, but the students themselves must be engaged by accepting some of the obligations. Depending on the debt level, all students accepted into the program must commit to 50 – 175 hours of campus service. More than 60 students have been accepted with another 50 applying for the plan.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Learie Luke communicated the following: 1) Classes began on August 17th; 2) ten new full time faculty were hired; 3) 18 grants were awarded between July 1 and August 22, 2016 totaling \$6,702,886, and 4) SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report is due on March 15, 2017.

Regarding partnerships and collaborations, President Clark met with President Walter Tobin and VP Donna Elmore from OC Technical College; and planned to meet with officials from Denmark Technical College and Midlands Technical College.

Beautification and enhancement of the campus is continuing and include: 1) bringing the SHM swimming pool back online; 2) bringing Rowe Hall back online; 3) completing Staley Hall asbestos abatement and renovations; 4) renovating Mays II interior (including window replacements) was completed; 5) bringing Truth Hall fitness facility back online, 6) painting the exterior of buildings; and 7) replacing the chiller in the Fine Arts building. Chairman Way inquired of the status on the improvements from the county and city of Orangeburg. Mr. Patrick stated there is a process with CHE and the next Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) meeting is in October. There was some discussion as to why the JBRC would be involved. The Chairman asked Mr. Patrick to keep the Trustees abreast concerning the project.

The President had interactions with the following: 1) SCSU National Alumni Association; 2) Dr. Henry Tisdale, Claflin University President; 3) Orangeburg Rotary Club; 4) SC State Board of Visitors, and 5) SC State Foundation Chairman.

He has upcoming visits with Dr. Harris Pastides, USC President, and Dr. James Clement, Clemson University President. Trustee Helms asked Dr. Luke whether any students participate in MedEx Academy this past summer. Dr. Luke stated that five students applied but none was selected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Swanson made a motion for the Trustees to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, personnel, and to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION

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

The next Board will be on Monday, September 26, 2016.

RATIFICATION OF HUGINE SUITES BOND RESOLUTION

The Chair asked Mr. Patrick to elaborate on the Bond Resolution. Mr. Patrick shared that even though the Bond Resolution was approved by the Trustees at the August 15th Special Meeting, the Bond Counsel, Gary Pope, was concerned that the agenda notice had not been posted on the University's web page 24 hours prior to the meeting in accordance with *Section 30-4-80 Freedom of Information Act*. Chairman Way requested advice from the Board's Counsel, Mr. Vernie Williams. Mr. Williams asked whether the University had complied with the Freedom of Information Act for today's (August 23, 2016) meeting. Mr. Patrick expressed that the University was in compliance.

Chairman Way asked for a motion. *Trustee Vinzani moved for the Board to adopt the Bond Resolution to refinance Hugine Suites, for a lower interest rate, which was previously approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson. Vote: unanimously approved.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:36PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – President's Clark Handouts
- 3 – Ratification of Hugine Suites Bond Resolution