

MINUTES
SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALLED MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 11, 2014

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman William Small called the meeting to order at 9:09 P.M. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment) were previously circulated to the members. Trustee Corbitt extended the invocation. The roll was called.

Trustees present: Dr. William Small, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Mr. Ronald Henegan, Mrs. Pearl Ascue, Dr. John Corbitt, Mr. Sidney Evering, Mr. Anthony Grant, Ms. Patricia Lott, Dr. Dennis Nielsen *via phone*, Mrs. Cathy Novinger and *Ex-officio members:* Ms. Vernell Brown, Mr. Gary Carroway, Dr. Larry Watson *representing Dr. Thomas Cassidy*, Mr. Aaron Russell and Mrs. Kay Snider.

Trustees absent: Ms. Erika Abraham, Mr. Katon Dawson and Dr. Carlotta Redish. *Ex-officio members:* Dr. Jesse Kinard, Mr. Edward Williams and Mr. Charlton Whipple.

Administrators present: *President* Mr. Thomas Elzey, *Interim Provost* Dr. W. Franklin Evans, *Vice President for Finance, Facilities and Management* Mr. James Openshaw, *Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness* Dr. Rita Teal, *Interim Athletics Director* Dr. Octavia Miro, *Interim Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs* Dr. Tamara Hughes, *Vice President for Research, Economic Development and 1890 Programs* Mr. Delbert Foster and *Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Public Relations* Mrs. Sonya Bennett-Belleamy; *Executive Assistance*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham and *Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder* Mrs. Eartha Mosley

Media present: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman, *WLTX* Reporter Mr. Colby Gallagher and *WIS* Reporter Mr. Mike Desumma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Small asked for adoption of the agenda. Trustee Corbitt made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition-Felton Laboratory School. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joyner-Fleming. Vote: unanimously approved.

The Chairman extended warm welcomes to Board of Visitors Chairman, Mr. Gary Carroway, '95 graduate of SC State, Staff Senate President, Ms. Kenita Pitts, and the SGA President, Mr. Aaron Russell.

Mrs. Evia Thomas gave a brief update on the upcoming Bulldog Pride March and Rally in support of the University scheduled for Saturday, August 16th.

FELTON LABORATORY SCHOOL DISCUSSION

Dr. Winkler gave a brief overview of the process of Felton applying for charter school status. The following were highlighted:

- Applying for charter school status would allow Felton to be self-sufficient
- The University stands to gain 2% of all state funds received
- Felton initial application through state school district was denied
- Legislation was passed that would permit the University to serve as the sponsor
- Felton's niche would be music, art, visual art and performance art
- Student teachers will not be placed at Felton because of the 45 day consecutive count for charter school vs standard 62 consecutive days' requirement by the State Department of Education for student teachers.
- Felton will continue to engage training teachers with 150 hours of clinical experiences
- The charter application was submitted on June 20th to the State Department of Education and legislation was changed on June 25th.

Members of the Board supported the efforts of the staff, but suggested to keep the Board abreast.

HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES REVISIONS

Following the Fiscal Affairs and Operation Committee meeting, *Trustee Corbitt made a motion to accept the Non-Faculty Employee Grievance Procedures, Progressive Discipline Policy, the Reduction in Force Policy and the committee would return with a black line copy of the Overtime/Compensatory Time Policy and action will be taken at that time. The motion was second by Trustee Evering. Vote: unanimously approved.*

THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of Trustee Dawson, Trustee Nielsen was asked to update the Board on the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations. Trustee Nielsen said the committee met and a proposal of \$12M dollars in increments from Senator Leatherman and the Blue Ribbon panel was presented. Trustee Novinger asked should the University comply with the request and show good stewardship; could we approach the Senator regarding forgiveness on the loan or additional appropriating dollars to assist the University in some way? Trustee Nielsen stated it was mention but no promises were made from Senator Leatherman. However, Mr. James Barker, Clemson University President, stated in previous years the University of South Carolina loaned SC State \$2Million and at the end of the legislation session that the money was found and the loan was forgiven. So, there was an indication that this may be an option. There were several questions related to the interest rate of the loan, terms of the loan, repayment, why was the loan given in increments when vendors needed to be paid now and what is the governor's expectation on her \$6M dollars loan. Trustee Grant stated that the Board welcomes the state help but feels there should be mutual discussions regarding the loans, balancing the budget within a year and addressing the needs of the institution because the University issues did not develop overnight. Trustee Lott stated that all entities offering assistance have requested a comprehensive plan and the Board has not seen a plan from President Elzey. President Elzey expressed, as everyone knows that the process with the governor and Senator Leatherman do not fit any model of negotiating or strategy that anyone is aware of or encounter. The University's request was for \$13M dollars in a grant or appropriations to address the needs. Plus, additional funds of \$12M dollars to be able to address our strategic plan. He recommends strongly that the Board move forward with the plan from Senator Leatherman to support the university in moving forward. Concerns regarding SACS and the loans were discussed as well. *Trustee Grant made a motion that SC State University Board formally express appreciation to its Finance Committee for the Committee's work, Senator Leatherman and the Blue Ribbon committee, as well as its appreciation to Senator Leatherman for his support of SC State University; that the Board go on record accepting the SC State Plan set forth in the draft working paper approving the proposal*

in concept while reserving to the Board the right to continue appropriate discussion with Senator Leatherman and others. The motion was second by Trustee Corbitt. Vote: unanimously approved.

SACS UPDATE

President Elzey informed the Board that a task force team was created with former president Dr. Leroy Davis being asked to serve as a co-chair because of his experiences with SACS, various positions with accreditations teams, evaluations and expertise. Drs. Evelyn Fields and Rita Teal will also serve as co-chairs. The task force includes a broad prospect of faculty and staff. The co-chairs will make assignments and responsibilities to faculty and staff. In addition, certain individuals have been designated as reviewers to examine the materials generated by individuals. Dr. Joseph Silver and his firm will be engaged in the process. The objective is to develop a time line; there will be drafts with regards to responding to those specific points mentioned in SACS letter from October 2013. There is also a subcommittee directed by Mr. James Openshaw and Mrs. Tease Brewington. Their task will be to outline specific audit findings that are included in the A133 audit as well as the University's annual financial audits firms. The President asked that SACS be placed on every Board's agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. *Trustee Corbitt made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joyner-Fleming. Vote: unanimously approved.*

OPEN SESSION

The Chair stated that no votes or actions were taken in Executive Session. *Trustee Henegan made the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was second by Trustee Grant. Vote: Unanimously approved.*

Following an additional Fiscal Affairs and Operation Committee meeting, *Trustee Grant made a motion to approve the contract for the University Chillers for Turner Hall Building. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lott. Vote: unanimously approved.*

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Mrs. Betty Boatwright informed the Board that the University is in the process of enrolling the freshman class. As of today 6,591 applications had been received, of those 2,970 had been admitted and 827 freshman have paid their deposits. Three thousand and fifty five students have class schedules. The Enrollment Management office is optimistic about reaching the goal.

CONCERN

Trustee Grant stated his concerns regarding the search for the athletic director position. He asked that there be some consideration given to the Board being provided information as to this position, the funding, salary, and what it means in term of the budget. He has concerns about the deep cuts in athletics in the excess of \$700,000. Without funding in the budget and the deficits are yet to be structured and clearly defined. Yet the University is paying the new athletic director a pretty decent salary. His request is that the Board receives information in connection to the budget impact connected with the hiring of this position.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Trustee Corbitt made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Joyner-Fleming. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 4:24PM.

All referenced attachments are made a permanent part of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald B. Henegan
Secretary



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments
1 – Agenda
2- HR Policies