

MINUTES
SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
January 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman William Small called the meeting to order at 9:37am. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment 1) was previously circulated to the members. The invocation was extended by Dr. John Corbitt. The roll was called.

Trustees present: Dr. William Small, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Mrs. Linda Edwards Duncan, Mrs. Pearl Ascue, Dr. John Corbitt, Mr. Katon Dawson, Mr. Anthony Grant, Mr. Ronald Henegan, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia Lott, Mr. Robert Nance, Mrs. Cathy Novinger and Dr. Dennis Nielsen (via phone).

Ex-Officio Members present: Mr. Akeem Brown, Ms. Vernell Brown, Dr. Thomas Cassidy and Dr. Jesse Kinard.

Administrators present: *President* Mr. Thomas Elzey; *General Counsel* Mr. Craig Burgess; *Interim Provost* Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *Interim Director of Institutional Effectiveness* Dr. Rita Teal; *Vice President for External Affairs & Communications* Mrs. Sonya Bennett-Bellamy; *Executive Assistant to the President* Mrs. Shondra Abraham and *Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder* Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

Media: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman and the *State* Reporter Mr. Gene Zaleski.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chairman asked for adoption of the agenda. Trustee Katon Dawson motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Trustee John Corbitt to adopt the agenda. Vote: unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Attachment 2)

The Chairman distributed a white paper prepared by the Medical University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston, which pertains to the possible merger and creation of a research consortium. Chairman Small stated that a research university geographically close to SC State warrants some discussion on what that institution would mean to us, and whether or not a research consortium might be a better way of addressing the research needs of the institutions in the area and the service needs of residents in the region. He expressed that it would not be discussed today but to think about as the board moves forward.

SACS CONSULTANT VISIT

Chairman Small shared that information was received from the President on the SACS consultant. The board training is scheduled for the 6th of February. It was suggested that the committee meetings be re-scheduled to the 5th and perhaps arrange some activity for the evening of the 5th to meet the consultant. There are two sessions; each session will last approximately two and half hours.

President Elzey indicated that Silver and Associates have been engaged to provide training assistance to the board regarding governance and finances. In addition, they will assist in formulating the response to SACS. Dr. Silver comes highly recommended from Dr. Belle Wheelan, SACS President. The firm is respected, has worked with many other universities which have had similar problems. Dr. Silver has worked for SACS and his track record is 100% for helping those universities toward removing warnings and or sanctions.

There was discussion on serving minority vendors as a historically black university in South Carolina. President Elzey shared that the University supports engaging minority vendors when possible. But as a state institution, we are managed under the state procurement office and must comply with their policies and procedures. Minority vendors do not always meet the state requirements for bonding and finance. Dr. Small expressed that he respects state's policies and procedures, provided those procedures are fair to minority vendors.

Trustee Grant suggested that the board receive training on whistleblowers. He stated that there are some responsibilities as trustees that must be brought before the board or the university could be held liable.

The Chair disseminated a handout from Winston-Salem Observer (Attachment 3) regarding Bennett College's President's input at the regional hearing that the Department of Education conducted regarding the proposed changes in funding guidelines. The Department of Education's initiative is to make higher education affordable. He asked for the body to think on how to draft communications from alumni association, from the trustees, and the president on concerns related to these new guidelines.

Chairman shared with the trustees a publication from the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities (Attachment 4). He indicated that Trustee Nielsen had shared this information with the 1890 program. It is an opportunity for funding, to participate, and to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair called for a motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice. The motion was made by Trustee Corbitt and seconded by Trustee Waldrep.

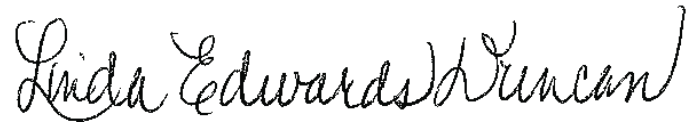
OPEN SESSION

The Chair called for a motion to come out of Executive Session, he motion was made by Trustee Dawson and seconded by Trustee Henegan. The Chairman shared that no decisions or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

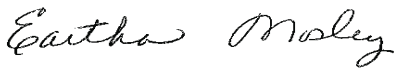
ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Ascue made the motion, seconded by Trustee Henegan to close the meeting. Vote: unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27PM.



Linda Edwards Duncan
Secretary



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1-Agenda
- 2-Medical University of South Carolina & the College of Charleston
- 3-Winston-Salem Observer
- 4-Association of Public Land-Grant Universities