

MINUTES
SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CALLED TELECONFERENCE MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
February 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION

Chairman William Small called the meeting to order at 2:10PM. 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 via phone: Dr. William Small, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Mrs. Pearl Ascue, Dr. John Corbitt, Mr. Ronald Henegan, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia Lott, Dr. Dennis Nielsen, Mrs. Cathy Novinger and Dr. Carlotta Redish.

Trustees Absent: Mr. Katon Dawson, Mr. Robert Nance and Mr. Anthony Grant (*excused*).

Ex-Officio Members present via phone: Mrs. Vernell Brown and Dr. Thomas Cassidy.

Administrators present via phone: *President*, Mr. Thomas Elzey; *Interim Provost*, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *Vice President for External Affairs & Communications*, Mrs. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Vice President for Institutional Advancement*, Ms. Sunya Young; *Interim Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Hughes; *Interim Vice President for Admissions and Director of Institutional Research*, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; *Acting Vice President for Research, Economic Development and 1890 Programs*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *Interim Director of Institutional Effectiveness*, Dr. Rita Teal; *Athletics Director*, Mrs. Charlene Johnson; *Executive Assistant to the President*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham, and *Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

Media via phone: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chairman asked for adoption of the agenda. ***Trustee John Corbitt made a motion to adopt the agenda; the motion was seconded by Trustee Henegan. Vote: Unanimously approved.***

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD

Dr. Small opened the meeting by addressing certain points in response to an editorial that recently appeared in the *State Newspaper*.

- * According to documentation published by the Association of Public Land Grant Colleges, SCSU has historically been and continues to be underfunded.
- * State funding for SCSU has been declining since 1985.

- * When it comes to funding education, one size does not fit all. Because of the historic pattern of racial segregation and the lingering effects of the same, the cost of compensating for the past makes the per student cost required to educate much of the SCSU student population higher than "average."
- * SCSU and other HBCU's are no longer competing against themselves. We are now competing against other higher education institutions on a national and international scale.
- * SCSU continues to be the most important institution in this State, with respect to our underserved student population. This is particularly true for our underserved African American student population.
- * The SCSU record of achievement and leadership production rivals or exceeds the record established by public institutions of similar size anywhere in the country.
- * SCSU needs two plans in order to respond to its current crisis (1) a plan to secure short term funding to remedy the immediate crisis and (2) a larger plan to see how the machinery of the State is going to address the crisis and fully honor its historic obligation to SCSU and the citizens of this State.
- * This is essential for the mutual benefit of SCSU and the future development of the State of South Carolina.

Trustee Ronald Henegan concurs with Dr. Small's statement. Dr. Nielsen stated that he supported the Deficit Recovery Plan (Attachment 2) with future considerations. He stated that "to ask and receive 13 million plus pays the University's outstanding bills but does not give the University any money to implement specific plans for long-term stability and viability." With an infusion of a necessary amount of additional money—future plans and new directions for the University can be realized. Without it, the University will barely be able to pay new bills, with no money to realize a new vision, a new future. The absolute worst that could happen to the University is to receive \$13 million, plus, not get the projected number of students and have to go back to the State to request more funds. He asked that the Board reconsider the amount that is being requested, so the university does not find itself having to go back to the State in a very short time. Trustee Nielsen proposed an addendum to the response that includes dollars to reposition the University's future.

President Elzey stated that his position is that the University focuses on getting the support it needs, now. Understanding that this may not be the time to concentrate on long term needs, but, rather, to focus on the short term needs at hand.

The President also indicated that the Budget and Control Board Staff would visit the University next week to verify the figures of the money requested.

Trustee Joyner-Fleming stated she felt that the Deficit Recovery Plan was not specific enough. Trustee Waldrep concurred with Trustee Joyner-Fleming stating the legislators would need more specifics. Trustee Henegan suggested inquiring into the usage of surplus funds left over in the State's budget. Trustee Lott indicated the plan needed to be "tweeted." Trustee Novinger proposed having talking points so when calling the legislators everyone would be communicating the same message.

In closing, it was the census of the Body to develop an addendum that would be attached to the Deficit Recovery Plan. President Elzey stated he would collaborate with Chairman Small in shaping the message for the plan. Due to time constraints, the Deficit Recovery Plan must be submitted on February 18, 2014 to the SC Budget and Control Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. *Trustee Corbitt made the motion to end the meeting; the motion was seconded by Trustee Novinger. Vote: Unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eartha Mosley".

Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

1. Agenda
2. Deficit Recovery Plan