

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman William Small called the meeting to order at 9:21AM. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment 1) and minutes (Attachments 2) were previously circulated to the members. The 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. Katon Dawson, Mr. Sidney Evering, Mr. Anthony Grant, Dr. Dennis Nielsen, Mrs. Cathy Novinger, Ms. Patricia Lott (*via phone*), and Dr. Carlotta Redish. Ex-officio members: Mr. Gary Carroway (*via phone*), Mr. Aaron Russell, Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Dr. Jesse Kinard. Mrs. Vernell Brown and Ms. Kenita Pitts.

**Trustee absent:** Ms. Erika Abraham, *Ex-officio members:* Mr. Charlton Whipple and Mr. Edward Williams.

**Administrators & others present:** *President*, Mr. Thomas Elzey; *Interim Provost*, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *General Counsel & Interim VP of Operations*, Mr. Craig Burgess; *Vice President for Finance, Facilities and Management* Mr. James Openshaw; *Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Public Relations* Ms. Sonja Bennett; *Interim Vice President of Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Hughes; *Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness*, Dr. Rita Teal; *Athletics Director*, Mr. Paul Bryant; *Board's Legal Counsel*, Mr. Kenneth Childs; *Executive Assistance to the President*; Mrs. Shondra Abraham and *Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

**The Budget and Control Board members:** Ms. Brenda Hart and Mr. Morgan O'Donnell.

**Media:** *The Times and Democrat* Reporter Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman, *WIS* Reporter, Jay Judeas and *WLTX* Reporter Jasmine Styles.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Chairman Small asked for adoption of the agenda. Trustee Corbitt made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Evering. Vote: unanimously approved.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Chairman Small asked for approval of minutes for June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Henegan made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joyner-Fleming. Vote: unanimously approved.*

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked everyone for his or her support during his one-year term he served as Chairman. He will not seek re-election as chairman. As one parting note, he extended congratulations and compliments to the staff's new publications and the reemergence of the student newspaper. In closing, everyone's attention was directed to the University seals hanging on the wall and podium. The seals were donated by Chairman William Small and The Jean E. Small Student Achievement Program at the New Bethel Baptist Church, Early Branch, South Carolina.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Elzey shared highlights on his visit to Philadelphia, PA as a member of the Board of Visitors for Carnegie Mellon and on to Washington, DC to attend an HBCU workshop. Regarding the SACS letter dated July 2014 there are two areas of concern. The first, a letter was received from SACS regarding the foundations relationships raising the issues of our relationship with the foundations. The University has reported to SACS that all foundations have written agreements with the university; the foundations all have bylaws and are separately incorporated; they have their own organizational structure. The University also responded to the second issue with regard control of finances. The issues of funds going from vendors to our foundations have been corrected. It is understood that all funds received must be directed to the office of Finance and then to the CFO. The University believes a comprehensive response was submitted and is waiting for SACS review. The President provided a power point presentation (Attachment 3) on a SACS update for the April 2015 visit.

## **SC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ALLIANCE PRESENTATION (Attachment 4)**

Ms. Mary Carmichael, Director for Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina, gave a power point presentation entitled *The Overview of Authorizing for Higher Education Institutions*, regarding Felton Laboratory School becoming a public charter school. A few highlights from the presentation included the following: 1) upon approval from the Trustees, the University would serve as the authorized sponsor for the school; 2) the sponsor has responsibilities to approve charters, negotiate contracts, provide oversight, monitor reports, ensure legal aspects and compliance, take corrective actions, notify charter of perceived problems, determine renewal, nonrenewal or revocations, and to provide public information about school opportunities; 3) the sponsor has ninety (90) days after receiving the application to take action on the application; 4) the University would be responsible for ensuring that special education services are provided for children with special needs; 5) there are no geographical limitations for applications being submitted; therefore, the University could receive charter applications from anywhere within the state of SC; 6) the Board of Trustees could have an advisory board to handle the authorization needs of Felton, which would allow the school to operate separately from the University; 7) the role of the Board in the application process changed during the summer because of legislative changes; 8) each charter school operates independently with its own insurance; 9) Felton would receive federal and state dollars, as well as funds from fundraising; 10) Felton would participate in advocating for state funds; 11) the University could retain 2 to 5 percent of the state funding and a portion of the federal funding; 12) setting a timeline for all charter application to be approved by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for budgetary reasons; 13) Felton has been in existence since the 1920s; therefore, it would not be considered a startup school; 14) as a charter school, Felton will receive approximately \$6,200 from the state per student. Concerns were voiced as to whether the timing is right for the University to take on more responsibility with trying to maintain SACSCOC accreditation, the University becoming financially stable, increasing enrollment, and other issues.

## **2014-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVAL (ATTACHMENT 5)**

Dr. Rita Teal expounded on the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan stating the plan is about improving and excelling in all areas as the University moves forward. She also listed preparing students to be global leaders and to be competitive,

improving accountability and finances, and improving relationships with the local, state and international communities. The Strategic Plan is for five years with one year annual goals. The chair asked for a motion to approve the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan. ***Trustee Dawson made the motion to approve the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nielsen.*** There was discussion on baseline data, infrastructure and customer service, ***Vote was 10 Yes to 1 No-Trustee Grant. Trustees Abraham and Lott were absent. Motion approved.***

## **STATUS OF THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

President Elzey shared that no further recommendations or discussions had taken place regarding the terms and conditions of the loan. He would keep the Board informed as he receives information.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS PROGRAMS**

The Athletic Director, Mr. Paul Bryant, articulated his concerns for athletics that he would address immediately: 1) **Reviewing the academic progress all athletic teams:** The AD informed the BOT that the University receives certain points for every time a student remains eligible and returns to the institution the following year. The only area of concern is Men's Basketball. Students are leaving because of issues such as the facilities. It is difficult to recruit student when competing against other schools with state-of-the-art facilities. 2) **Compliance:** there were three compliance violations in 2012 that is being addressed; students being marked eligible when they were not. The AD is waiting to hear the decision on violations; 3) **The financial landscape of the department:** The AD would like to seek assistance from state legislators on addressing these needs. He cautioned the Trustees when considering cuts in eliminating programs to not eliminate compliance and sports medicine.

President stated that there are lot of rumors circulating about the MEAC Conference and SC State pulling out of the conference. Those rumors are false; the University will not be pulling out of the MEAC Conference. President shared that Mr. Bryant is working with Ms. Charlene Johnson in generating opportunities and corporate support for the athletic program. Mr. Bryant will also work on developing fundraising programs for athletics facility.

While working on an overall capital plan, President Elzey has two major priorities: 1) a Fitness Center for students and 2) an Athletic Training Facility for athletics.

## **CAMPUS SAFETY PLAN PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 6)**

Chief Gregory Harris introduced himself and stated he previously worked at SC State from 2006-2010. He proceeded with Police Department power point presentation. Chief Harris plans to implement the following: uniform changes; officers arm patches; upgrade radio's 800mhz; more security cameras, card access and call boxes; hire personnel; adjust the organizational chart; adjust working hours; focus on training and customer service; policies and accreditation. There are many improvements that the department would like to make to enhance and make it better, but the University needs new equipment and more personnel, Chief Harris said. Since 2006, the University police department has lost 23 employees. That means he has to use the services of the remaining officers wisely. While it might be nice to have an officer to welcome individuals throughout the day at the gates, it is not a practical use of their service. What is practical is to have a security person at the open gates after dark.

## **SACSCOC PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 7)**

Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reviewed a powerpoint presentation before the Board. She echoed that this presentation is presented on a regularly basis, especially when there is a new president and a new board in place. This is done so that everybody can hear the same materials simultaneously.

She covered the basics of accreditation; the structure of the organization (SACSCOC); the role of the institution's board and how their behavior impacts accreditation; the responsibility of the board; and the requirements of each of the principles of accreditation.

Emphasis was placed on the Role of the Board. Dr. Wheelan stressed the three functions of the Board which are to 1) make policy, 2) hire, evaluate and, when necessary, fire the CEO, and 3) fiduciary responsibility for the institution. She noted that the most important relationship between the board and the institution is between the board chair and the president. All communication between the two entities should flow between the two of them. If you choose to do it any other way, SACS will say that the University is in violation of our policies and the accreditation of the institution is in jeopardy.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Affairs and Faculty-Liaison Committee:

Trustee Joyner-Fleming stated that the Committee is recommending the approval of the Graduation Policy. *Trustee Dawson motioned to approve; the motion was seconded by Trustee Henegan. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Trustee Joyner-Fleming stated that the Academic Affairs and Faculty-Liaison Committee is recommending the approval of the Educational Policies (General MBA; MBA Program; Bachelor of Arts in Professional English; and Master of Arts in Teaching Degree). *Trustee Redish motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Trustee Novinger. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Trustee Joyner-Fleming stated that the Academic Affairs and Faculty-Liaison Committee is recommending the approval of Felton Charter School Application. *Trustee Grant motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Trustee Ascue. Roll Call Vote: 11 Yes to 1 Abstaining-Trustee Corbitt. Absent-Trustee Abraham. Motion approved.*

Trustee Joyner-Fleming stated the Committee is recommending the approval of the Tenure and Promotion Candidates. *Trustee Corbitt motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimously approved.*

### Budget, Facilities and Grounds Committee

Trustee Dawson stated the Committee is recommending the approval of the *Overtime and Compensatory*, *Trustee Novinger motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Trustee Evering. unanimously approved.*

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Trustee Ronald Henegan extended gratitude to Dr. Small on his leadership during his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Chairman Small thanked everyone and proceeded the elections. The elections are for chair, vice-chair and secretary. The nominations would be by secret ballots. The floor was opened for nominations for chairman. *Trustee Ascue nomination Trustee Sidney Evering, the motion was seconded by Trustee Dawson. Trustee Corbitt nominated Trustee Tony Grant. Trustee Corbitt motioned for the nominations to be closed, the motion was seconded by Trustee Dawson. The ballots were distributed to Trustees only.* Mr. Ken Childs, the board's legal counsel he asked the trustees to sign their ballots. There was a dialogue between Mr. Ken Childs and Mr Craig Burgess regarding whether or not the trustees are required to the sign the secret ballots. The vote was Trustee Evering - 6, Trustee Grant - 6. There was much deliberation on what course to take with the tie, Trustee Dawson suggested a second election for the chairmanship.

*Trustee Dawson motioned that both candidates give a brief speech on "why they are seeking the seat of Chairman of the Board of Trustee". The motion was seconded by Trustee Grant.* Trustees Evering and Grant both gave short

speeches on “why they are seeking the seat of Chairman of the Board of Trustee,” after the speeches, ***the Board voted again and the vote was once again tied at 6 to 6.*** After some discussion among the trustees, the final decision was that the current chairman would remain the chair until a new election is scheduled. Chairman Small stated that he has no intention of going forward as the chair for a long-term period. He recommended the two candidates talk and come up with some kind of compromise. He asked that they discuss what kind of leadership team can be constructed to work together in moving this University forward in a very critical time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Trustee Henegan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Nielsen. Vote: unanimously approved.***

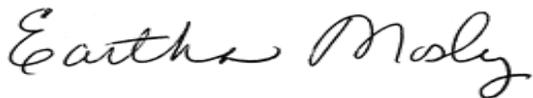
The meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald B. Henegan  
Secretary



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Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

#### Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Minutes
- 3 – President Elzey’s SACSCOC Update
- 4 - SC Public Charter School Alliance Presentation
- 5 - 2014-2019 Strategic Plan Approval
- 6 - Campus Safety Plan Presentation
- 7 – Dr. Belle Wheelan’s SACSCOC Presentation