

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**May 21, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION**

Chairman William Small called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. The public notice was read. The agenda (attachment D) was previously circulated to the members. The invocation was extended by Dr. John Corbitt. The roll was called.

**Trustees present:** Dr. William Small, Mr. Ronald Henegan, Mrs. Pearl Ascue, Dr. John H. Corbitt, Mr. Anthony Grant, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia B. Lott, Mrs. Cathy Novinger, and Dr. Carlotta Redish.

**Trustee Absent:** Mr. Robert Waldrep, Mr. Katon Dawson, Mr. Robert M. Nance (excused), and Dr. Dennis Nielsen (excused).

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

**Administrators present:** President, Mr. Thomas Elzey; Interim Provost, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; Vice President for External Affairs & Communications, Mrs. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; General Counsel & Interim Vice President of Operations, Mr. Craig Burgess; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Ms. Sunya Young; Interim Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tamara Hughes; Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Rita Teal; and Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

**Media:** The Times and Democrat Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman, The State Reporter, Mr. Andy Shain, and WIS News Reporter, Mr. Will Whitson.

The Board of Trustees extended their appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Charlene Johnson, Athletics Director, on her years of service to the University. Mrs. Johnson humbly accepted the recognition and thanked them as well.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

Chairman Small welcomed Mayor Michael Butler and Councilwoman Elizabeth Keitt from the town of Orangeburg to make expressions of support for the University. He stated that the Board sees them as strong and important allies and that SC State contributes at least \$150 million to the Orangeburg region so there is a political, emotional, and symbiotic relationship between them. Mayor Michael Butler began by stating that the city of Orangeburg will be supportive of SC State in going to the State legislator to request funds and in securing federal funding. The Mayor also stated he would present any requests from the University to the City Council for action and personally work with President Elzey and the Board of Trustees in contacting the alumni to express how vital it is for their financial assistance. Councilwoman Keitt added that they are also willing to speak with the businesses downtown in an effort to get them to be supportive of SC State.

## **2014 ANNUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

The Board reviewed the agenda for the planned Annual Leadership Workshop Meeting on June 16 and 17. Chairman Small requested that the Board provide specific questions they want to ask the individuals presenting at the Workshop so that the questions can be compiled and given to those individuals in advance as a way of shaping the discussion. President Elzey respectfully requested that the questions go through him first so he will know what the Board is seeking before it goes to the presenters. Chairman Small had no problem with the request.

The Board would also like to have the opportunity to review the Faculty Handbook before it is up for approval at the retreat. Dr. Cassidy stated that the handbook is still being reviewed and worked on and is usually a two year process. The Board would like to place a time constraint on the Faculty Handbook, but will decide how to move forward at the retreat.

Chairman Small thanked the Faculty Senate for the position they have taken because faculty voices are very important. The investment that the faculty has with the University demands that their voices be a part of the discussion about the future of the University.

Chairman Small stated that he looked at the bill the Senate proposed to establish the Blue Ribbon Panel and he will get a copy to everyone. A lot of things in the bill are broader than what we initially discussed. There has not been a meeting of that panel yet, but it is scheduled for Friday at 10:00 am in Columbia, SC. At this time, many questions will be answered.

Chairman Small raised the question as to what SACS concerns would be as this fiscal crisis is evolving. He stated that there are a lot of rumors and we would benefit from a discussion of our understanding of what those forces and factors are and what they mean to SC State. Not just in terms of how we respond to this fiscal crisis because the way we handle this fiscal crisis will shape how others respond as well. While we are, being encouraged to shrink and make cuts; somewhere right now there are talks 60 miles away about the development of a research facility. A bill just came out about supporting new Ph.D. programs at the College of Charleston, so there is a lot in the mix that affects us and our future generations. Anything less than a complete analysis and the development of a rational strategy to ensure where we will be at the end of the process would be a disservice to those that sacrificed to bring us to this point.

### **Trustee Privilege**

Trustee Lott read a letter she prepared. She began by saying she spent years listening to discussions that had little substance to the growth of SC State but a lot to do with an attempt to dismantle it. A lot of good was happening on campus but only the negativity surrounding the Board meetings made the news. She believes the negative cloud over SC State was manufactured by people in high positions to have an excuse for a takeover. She then asked the Board, Community, and Alumni to begin to right the wrongs that have been done to this University.

President Elzey spoke on the State of the University. He began by stating that our primary objective is to increase the overall enrollment of the University. This has been the primary objective since the budget was passed in September. At this time, SC State has received a record number of applications for the upcoming academic year. The University has over 5300 applications, which are 1000 applications more than we have ever received. In the comprehensive financial report, the auditors stated that increasing enrollment would be the key to reducing and eliminating operating deficits and increasing unrestricted resources.

President Elzey stated that the recent cut of 90 part-time staff was to enable the University to make payroll for the end of the year. However, when the enrollment increases, some of the housing, security, and administrative positions will be brought back to aid in the growth of the University. Trustee Grant stated that he had been around long enough to

know that you cannot cut your way out of budget problems. President Elzey also commented on why the summer camps were cut. He stated that the staff needed to manage the dormitories for the residential camps are no longer employed at the University, therefore those camps cannot occur.

### **THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY**

President Elzey went on to say that in July, we stated that our goal enrollment would be 1250 new students for this year and we are on target so we are optimistic that we will begin the process of moving forward. Our goal and what we will present to the finance committee is a balanced budget for the next year. The balanced budget will be a combination of increased enrollment and other changes with modifications. Trustee Grant asked what cuts are being made to the leadership team. President Elzey responded by saying they are in the process of formulating a budget outlining where they think some adjustments can be made. Trustee Grant responded by stating that cutting Leadership should have been the first consideration because we cannot ask others to sacrifice if we have not sacrificed ourselves. President Elzey stated that it has never been their approach to cut their way out of the situation because the objective is to grow the University and they cannot grow by cutting staff needed for fundraising and recruiting. He also mentioned the Blue Ribbon Panel was created to assist with the restabilization of the University; however, a meeting of that panel has not taken place yet.

Trustee Grant stated that there are many ways to get desired results. Increasing revenue and cost containment are two ways. Cost containment is a major factor in determining desired results. He continued by stating that the Board approved the budget last year based on a contingency that they would have a full plan that they have yet to see.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

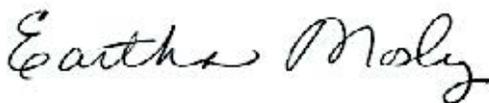
*Trustee Corbitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Trustee Lott. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald B. Henegan



Eartha Mosely  
Recorder

### **Attachment**

Agenda