

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:04AM. Chairman Way noted that proper notice had been given to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda (Attachment 1) and minutes (Attachment 2) had been circulated to the members. Chairman Way indicated that all Trustees were present. Trustee Clark extended the invocation.

Trustees present: Mr. Charles S. Way, Jr., Mr. James Clark, Dr. Doris Helms, Mr. Milton Irvin, Mr. Donnie Shell, Mr. Steve Swanson and Mr. Jeff Vinzani (via phone). *Ex-Officio Member:* Mrs. Vernell Brown.

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Mr. Justin Brown.

Administrators & others present: *Interim President*, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *General Counsel*, Mr. Craig Burgess; *Acting Provost*, Dr. Learie Luke; *Vice President of Finance and Management*, Mr. Edward Patrick; *Vice President for Enrollment Management*, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Vice President for Institutional Advancement & University Relations*, Ms. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Executive Director for 1890 Programs and Extension*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness*, Dr. Rita Teal; *Special Assistant to the President for Executive Affairs*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley; *Southern Strategy Group*, Ms. Heather Smith.

Media: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman and *WLTX* Reporter, Ms. Joyce Koh and *WIS* Reporter, Ms. Billie Jean Shaw.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Way asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Swanson so moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Helms. Vote: unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Way asked for a motion to approve the minutes for October 15th and November 12th. Trustee Helms so moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Clark. Vote: unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman shared that he met with the Joint Bond Review Committee at the request of Senators Hugh Leatherman and Harvey Peeler. He plans to advise the legislators that this institution is a State agency and is requesting support due to past mismanagement from previous administrators. Currently, the University have a balanced budget and student enrollment is up however, there are debts to vendors and the State. He continue by stating, one problem is the loans do not have a

termination date and with no termination date it is listed as a debt for the University and therefore affects the University's ratio.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (ATTACHMENT 3)

SACSCOC

President Evans elaborated on the SACSCOC Annual Meeting held in Houston, TX that the University delegation attended. He stated Dr. Belle Wheelan and Dr. Crystal Baird were most complimentary regarding University and what they were hearing and reading. However, even though the institution currently has a balanced budget, it is extremely important that the institution demonstrate that it's making strides towards reducing the debt ratio. The consultants have been identified to evaluate the University's level of preparedness and are expected to be on the campus in February. The President stated he will have Ms. Sharon Goodwin, Director of Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), at the next Board meeting to report on the QEP. The QEP is a major part of the Fifth Year Review of SACSCOC for continued reaccreditation. There was much discussions about the "growing concerns" from BDO. Trustee Clark noted it appears that BDO is looking at the financial figures from last year. It is important that the auditors have the latest and greatest information, especially data for the past six months. The institution has very good financial status given where the University has been in the past. Mr. Patrick shared that the University responded to BDO questions with documentations and continues to send more information. Mrs. Brewington indicated a lot of the positive results came late in the year and after June 30th.

Enrollment and Recruitment

There are 146 prospective students graduating in December. There are approximately 2400 current students eligible to enroll for the spring semester. Trustee Clark inquired as to whether the institution expects to meet, exceed, or be below the target number of students for the spring. Ms. Betty Boatwright replied that the University expects to meet the target enrollment for spring 2016. Currently 138 new students have been admitted for the 2016 spring semester, to help offset the 146 students that are potential graduates for December 2015. With the 209 dual enrollment students, the total enrollment for Fall is 3,054. The Admissions Office plans to execute annual recruitment activities and events designed to attract freshman and transfer students to our university.

Financial Aid

The President expounded that Financial Aid staff have attended trainings offered by the University Computing & Information Technology Services (UCITS) and Commission on Higher Education (CHE), specifically in-house training on the fundamentals of the administration of federal and state aid. Trustee Clark asked that with the necessary changes made in Financial Aid and the concerns and issues being expressed by students, has the University addressed all major issues over the past semester as a result of persons being placed in areas and is there clarity on what is expected and approved for students receiving refunds in a timely manner? The President stated "yes." However there were some challenges with students or parents not providing corrected documentation, and the University was also notified by the US Department of Education that accounts from previous years were not closed out and would need to be handled in a more timely manner. The staff is multitasking, but progress is being made. Trustee Helms asked was BANNER being used daily and not having two sets of records. President Evans replied that updates needed to have been made to the BANNER system, and strides are being made towards those updates.

Athletics and Student Affairs

The President shared that reductions, some fundraising, and other initiatives were made in Athletics. Student Affairs has increased its visibility on campus and throughout the community. Trustee Clark asked with all the cuts and reductions the administration has taken, are the student needs being met? He stated happy and excited students are our best ambassadors

when others visits the campus. He asked what investments are being made to increase “students’ happy factor” and what actions do we have to demonstrate student happiness? The President indicated that the University is providing quality of services, not necessarily quantity of services. Dr. Jackson communicated that surveys are on hand documenting the students’ satisfaction. Ms. Kenita Pitts shared that students are actively involved in activities and student recruitment initiatives among other things; however, one concern was the Student Center not being available to students on Sundays. There was much discussion on the “needs of the students” in the Student Center. In conclusion, the Trustees would like to see more passion or assertiveness from the University’s administration in “asking” for what is needed so the University can thrive, not just survive.

Charter School Sponsorship Update

Trustee Swanson imparted that he is working with legislators to remove SC State University as a Charter School Sponsor. President Evans concurred and said the University has stated its concern and intent and therefore, the institution is moving in a different direction. The University has received eight Letters of Intent from schools seeking sponsorship. The Trustees recommended informing the schools that a legislative change may happen and therefore the petitioning schools may want to consider other pathways to obtaining sponsorship.

International Faculty and Students

The President shared that there are 52 international faculty and 42 international students. Trustee Helms inquired of the strategic plan for recruiting international students. Dr. Luke responded that discussions are underway with Ms. Betty Boatwright and the enrollment staff to revamp the plan.

Budget Maintenance

The vendor’s payables has a reduction of 30% from November 30, 2014 to November 30, 2015; Salary reductions were 20%; Scholarships had a 30% reduction and other expenses a 50% reduction.

Facilities Update

The RFP has been submitted and approved. The demolition of Bradham and Manning Halls will take place over the Christmas Holiday. Completion should be done by January 8, 2016.

Fundraising

The President shared the current initiatives, upcoming events, and fundraising results. The University currently has raised \$1,310,884.87 in 5 ½ months compared to \$1,201,045.39 for the entire previous year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Clark made a motion for the Trustees to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Helms. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION

Chairman Way asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. ***Trustee Clark so moved and Trustee Shell seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chair stated that there were no actions or votes taken in Executive Session. While in Executive Session, Contractual and Personnel Matters were discussed.***

Trustee Clark made a motion to approve the proposed Settlement Agreement between South Carolina State University and Ontario Leasing, Inc. that was negotiated during a mediation meeting on last week which the State of SC

Procurement Office Services presided over the meeting in Columbia, SC. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.

Trustee Milton Irvin announced on behalf of the Board of Directors of Education Executive Leadership Foundation, The Executive Leadership Council and the Community Impact Committee that the Community Impact Committee will support the University's Strategic Enrollment Initiative with \$50,000 for 2016. The funds are for a one year project mutually agreed upon by the organization and the University.

UNIVERSITY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE (ATTACHMENT 4)

Mr. Ed Patrick indicated that the Unrestricted Budget shows a change in net position of \$10.7M; however, December is excluded, and revenues will carry forward over the next seven months in addition to the drawdowns from Financial Aid. Athletics currently has a surplus of \$111K. Issues are being addressed concerning Athletic Scholarships. Some \$2.7M in scholarships are available for the spring semester for students. Trustee Clark inquired as to the ownership of the \$2.7M scholarship dollars. Mr. Patrick stated that it is within four budget accounts, and Ms. Donna Hanton, Budget Director, would have final approval over the budgets.

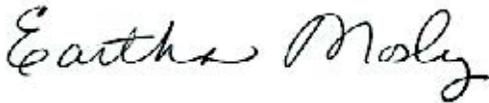
Trustee Clark requested that each month the Trustees receive data concerning actual vs budget to ensure that the University is on target. In addition, he also asked that he be made aware of any surprise investment requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Trustee Clark so moved and Trustee Shell seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.***

The meeting adjourned at 1:46PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Minutes
- 3 - President's Evans Handouts
- 4 – University's Financial Update