

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Milton Irvin called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. He noted that proper notice was given regarding the meeting to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda was circulated to the members (Attachment 1). Trustee Rodney Jenkins gave the invocation.

Board Members Present: Mr. Milton Irvin, Mr. Rodney Jenkins, Mrs. Starlee Alexander, Mr. Hamilton Grant, Mr. Doward Harvin, Dr. Doris Helms, Ms. Monica Scott, Mr. Donnie Shell, Dr. Wilbur Shuler, Dr. Hubbard Smalls, Dr. Daniel Varat and Mr. Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* Mr. John Funny, Mr. DeAndre Hurley, Ms. Kenita D. Pitts, and Dr. David Staten.

Administrators & Others Present: *President*, Mr. James E. Clark; *Provost*, Dr. Learie Luke; *Vice President of Finance*, Mrs. Teare Brewington; *Chief of Staff*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; *Consultant for Students & Administrative Operations*, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; *Athletics Director*, Mr. Stacy Danley; *Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *SACSCOC Liaison*, Ms. Valerie Goodwin; *Budget Director*, Mrs. Donna Hanton; *Director of Operations, Institutional Advancement*, Mrs. Angelia P. Jackson; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *General Counsel*, Ms. Mercedes Pinckney; and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

Media: The Times and Democrat-Reporter, Gene Zaleski.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Irvin stated the Standing Committee Reports will be made before the President's Updates and he asked for a motion to adopt the amended agenda. ***Trustee Grant made the motion to amend the agenda to have the President's Report after the Committee Reports. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jenkins. Vote: unanimously approved.***

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

The Chairman referenced the openness of the committee meetings, however, he pointed out that cabinet members should submit all Board materials earlier, to allow ample time for Trustees to review them and be more prepared for committee meetings. Trustees were asked to think about Board initiatives that can make a positive contribution to the University.

Trustee Varat shared information about his visit to Greenville with President Clark in the Fall. This led to meetings with two school superintendents in the Upstate. He shared that the Greenville area schools graduate between 6,000-8,000 students each year and that area would be another location to recruit students. Discussions are ongoing to re-establish the University partnership with the University Center of Greenville. Dr. Luke and Dr. Matthew Guah are spearheading this project.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Academic Affairs and 1890 Research Extension Committee – Chairperson Helms asked Dr. Luke to provide the recap of the committee meeting. He shared the following highlights: Mr. Delbert Foster reported that SC State and Clemson University are recipients of \$1.2M Children Youth and Families At-Risk Grant; currently, there are twenty (20) research

projects totaling \$3M funded by 1890 funds. The projects provide over \$500K in release time funding to the Academic Affairs Division. Construction of the 1890 building on the campus and at Camp Daniel is on schedule. Mr. Foster will provide more details at the next committee meeting to include what programs will be housed in those buildings. A Farm Bill approved by Congress will provide \$500K Scholarship Grants to students over a four (4) year period. There were discussions about reviewing the Agricultural program with the focus on SC State as one of the two land grant colleges in the State.

Ms. Valerie Goodwin provided the committee a progress report on the 2020 Reaffirmation. A SACSCOC Team is scheduled to visit the campus in March 2020. Another critical date is September 2019, when the University must submit its Compliance Certification to SACSCOC. A draft will be ready in May 2019 for the Trustees' review. Trustee Helms complimented Ms. Goodwin on an outstanding job as the SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison.

Dr. Charlie Spell, Chair of Department of Education, provided strategies to improve the department and the success rate of students with Praxis exams. Dr. David Staten shared information about faculty tenure and promotion workshop held in January. The faculty will launch a mentoring program in the Spring. Concerns were expressed regarding staffing in the Admission's Office since there is not a director for the office. In closing, Dr. Staten shared an enthusiasm for the Senate's commitment in working to assist the Administration in ways to improve the University.

Audit/Risk Management and Legal Committee - Chairperson Starlee Alexander gave a brief review explaining that her committee had a lengthy but positive discussion concerning the director and officers' insurance; several proposals were sent out and some were received but the project is not finished. Mrs. Brewington was to continue to search. An executive session was convened to discuss contractual matters.

Finance and Operation Committee - Chairperson Wilbur Shuler reported that the University is improving its financial strength. The record keeping has improved which contributes to the belief in the University as it relates to the finance since it is in good shape. A presentation from the University was made to the House Ways and Means Committee in January with a request for \$20M for appropriations. A request for non-recurring items was also made for \$37M for major revocations on the campus. He concluded by stating that corporate and foundation funds are good, but those funds are restricted. Enrollment growth is needed to make the University stronger.

Public Relations/IA and Alumni Relations Committee - Chairman John Funny deferred to Mrs. Shondra Abraham who reported that a press conference was held regarding the MOU Signing with SC Technical College System. In addition, marketing was completed for the Orangeburg Massacre Program, which was well attended by the media. Two students, Anthony Sterling and Kimberly Bing will have the opportunity to train with the Coca Cola Company. In addition, Chairman Funny stated that money is available for a consultant to work on branding the University. He had hoped that the individual selected for the position of Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Public Relations would be present, but that did not happen. Trustee Hubbard recommended keeping students involved with branding the University. The Chairman concurred and stated that Mr. Hurley would be creating a list of students to submit to Mrs. Abraham and Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson mentioned that the Office of Institutional Advancement is slightly above the target of raising \$3M by June 30th. Presently, they are preparing for the March Scholarship Gala and Class Reunions held during Commencement weekend. Discussions were also held regarding the position of Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Chairman John Funny explained that the alumni are waiting for the University to fill the role of Vice President of Institutional Advancement, which would help to increase momentum of reaching the goal. There are 31 active chapters, and one military chapter. As of January, there were 1,970 members in the Association. Legislative Day for the University is March 6th at the Capital in Columbia, SC. Talking points will be made available. The Alumni Convention will be held on the campus on July 18-21, 2019. A Young Alumni Task Force has been established and Trustee Hamilton Grant is a member of that group. During the Super Bowl halftime show, Darius Leonard was recognized as "The Rookie Defensive" of the Year. The alumni plan to recognize this alumnus.

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee - Chairman Donnie Shell shared that some enhancements were made in the Student Center. Several safety programs had been developed on campus by Chief Joseph Nelson. Ninety-eight cameras were installed around the campus. Mr. Danley's coaching staff was present and each coach presented a passionate plea regarding the needs and challenges they face in the Athletics program. The R.I.S.E. Campaign initiated by Mr. Danley has raised over \$1M in cash, gifts, and pledges. The STATE Club, the official Booster Club for Athletics, has contributed over \$394K towards Athletics. Trustees Jenkins indicated that to support Athletics the S.T.A.T.E Club is sponsoring an Athletics Black-Tie Gala that will be held in Columbia, SC on April 13th with proceeds for Athletics.

Ms. Pitts added that the Staff Senate is willing to join the Faculty Senate to work with the Board and the Administration to change the morale of the University. The Staff Senate will also assist in the Call Center, housed in the Admission's Office, to encourage students to complete the enrollment process. Two staff members were selected by the students for giving outstanding customer service and were recognized in January at the General Assembly. They were Ms. Mary White in the Honors College and Ms. Kenita Pitts.

Mr. Hurley encouraged the Trustees to have more engagement with students; to possibly cultivate a relationship with them. He highlighted some upcoming activities for the students.

Dr. Staten indicated that retention is more important than recruitment at this time. To assist with retention, the faculty will be launching a faculty-student mentoring program. Also, a new faculty to faculty mentoring program will be established to motivate faculty to share their research, build morale and to support each other.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES (ATTACHMENT 2)

The President provided the following highlights on the Strategic Initiative 2018-2022. The University shall:

- **Ensure Fiscal Stability** by developing a financial budget model and balanced budgets to align with resources with strategic goals; 2) maintain a positive net position for adequate cash flows and increases debt flows; 3) and increase philanthropic giving.
- **Enhance Student Enrollment and Success** by 1) a diversifying and increasing student enrollment to 3,500 by 2022; 2) increasing the overall retention rate from 73% to 82% by 2022; 3) increasing the number of student internships; 4) increasing and improving mentoring programs and 5) developing an initial design for new Student Activity Learning and Innovation Center.
- **Transform the Curriculum and Resources** by 1) realigning academic programs to workforce demands and include experiential learning; 2) increasing the number of programs delivered via distance and online education; 3) recruiting and retaining a high-quality diverse faculty; 4) increasing research and grant funding and collaborations across the University while improving the efficacy of 1890 Research and Extension.
- **Improve the Campus Environment** by 1) updating academic, residential, administrative and athletics facilities to ensure an environment conducive to successful educational outcomes; 2) improve safety and security on the campus; 3) update, revisit, and realign the Facilities Master Plan; 4) update the campus IT infrastructure and 5) improve the overall student campus experience.
- **Enhance the University Brand** by 1) creating a University brand that is recognized on local, regional, national and international levels; 2) increasing and improving internal and external communication to promote the University; 3) improving customer service to all stakeholders and fostering a caring environment on the campus, and 4) enhancing the recognition and sustainability of the Marching 101 Band and Athletics Program.

The President shared information about his visit to Washington, DC where he met with US Senator Tim Scott along with other prominent senators in Congress. Discussions included the possibility of endowments for the public HBCUs.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has joined forces with the Educational Advancement Foundation for the creation of the AKA-HBCU Endowment Fund. During the first phase, 32 HBCUs will receive \$50,000 on February 28. Amongst the schools that are slated to receive the endowment gifts is South Carolina State University.

Trustees Helms asked when will the Strategic Plan be completed? After some dialogue, the President indicated April 5 as a deadline for completion of the plan.

Trustee Shuler inquired about the timeline from the President regarding his cultivating of relationships with corporations. He wanted to know when the Board could expect results. Talks are on-going with Boeing, Westinghouse, and a few other companies. Trustee Funny encouraged the President to keep up his efforts with the corporations until some deals are closed.

Trustee Grant stated he would like to see more emphasis placed on “FTE” numbers vs “head counts” in order to allow a clearer picture of revenue.

Dr. Staten suggested a President's Gala during Homecoming with invitations to corporate entities as a fundraiser.

Trustee Shuler asked about the historical marker for Lowman Hall since it is on the Historic Register. The Administration would follow up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss legal matters and Personnel Issues. Trustee Jenkins moved the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Jenkins moved the motion, and Trustee Vinzani seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chair shared that no actions or votes were taken in Executive Session.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Submitted by,

Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments
1 – Agenda
2 – President Clark’s Updates