

MINUTES
SC STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairperson Gail Joyner-Fleming called the meeting to order at 9:07AM. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment 1) and minutes (Attachments 2) were previously circulated to the members. Trustee Corbitt extended the invocation. The roll was called.

Trustees present: Dr. William Small, Jr. (*via phone*), Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Mr. Ronald B. Henegan, Sr., Mrs. Pearl V. Ascue, Dr. John H. Corbitt, Mr. Sidney J. Evering, III (*via phone*), Mr. Anthony T. Grant, Mrs. Tammy Adams-Kelly, Dr. Dennis J. Nielsen, and Dr. Carlotta Redish (*via phone*). Ex-officio members: Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Dr. Jesse Kinard, Mrs. Vernell Brown, and Ms. Kenita D. Pitts.

Trustees absent: None; *Ex-officio members:* Mr. Gary Carroway, Mr. Aaron Russell, Mr. Charlton Whipple, and Mr. Edward Williams.

Administrators & others present: *Acting President*, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *General Counsel & Interim VP of Operations*, Mr. Craig Burgess; *Vice President for Fiscal Affairs*, Mr. James N. Openshaw; *Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Public Relations* Mrs. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Vice President for Land Grant Services/Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension Programs*, Mr. Delbert T. Foster; *Interim Vice President of Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Hughes; *Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness*, Dr. Rita Teal; *Director of Athletics*, Mr. Paul Bryant; Board's Legal Counsels, Mr. Kenneth Childs, Esq. and Mr. Venie Williams, Esq.; *Executive Assistance to the President*; Mrs. Shondra F. Abraham and *Administrative Coordinator to the Board and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha J. Mosley.

Trustee John Corbitt stated he would like to make a presentation to Mr. A.L. Fleming. He presented a check from his church, Monks Grove Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC for \$1,000 for student scholarships.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to change the agenda moving the executive session to item #9. Trustee Corbitt made a motion to adopt the change in the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Henegan. Vote: unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion for the approval of minutes for December 4th, December 10th and February 5th. Trustee Grant made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Corbitt. Vote: unanimously approve.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report was given.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report was given.

SACSCOC UPDATE

Acting President, Dr. W. Franklin Evans began his update stating that his desired initiative was to move forward and focus on the priority of addressing the status of the university as it relates to the *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)*. Dr. Evans provided details for conducting a 'mock review' on February 16th and 17th by the university's consulting firm, *Silver and Associates Consulting, Inc. (Silver Consulting)*. This review was intended to groom the university for the imminent visit in April of this year. Dr. Evans stated that prior to the mock review a 'draft' of the most recent monitoring report addressing the targeted standards was submitted to promote compliance. The mock review was very beneficial to the university in delineating strengths and flaws. Dr. Evans further informed the Board of the different facets relevant to the scheduled SACSCOC visit and assured Board members of his intent to be prepared.

Trustee Pearl V. Ascue articulated her concerns for the financial aspect of the upcoming SACSCOC visit and also inquired of the board's attorney, Mr. Kenneth Childs, Esq., the viable time line in which the current board would be removed. Speaking to Trustee Ascue's concerns, Dr. Evans acknowledged the major importance of the financial aspect of the SACSCOC visit and stressed the very dire financial status. He furthered that the university's status could be positively affected if the State could provide the university with the funds to "*make us whole*"; this would "*instantly*" go well in satisfying the accrediting body. Attorney Childs followed by stating that indeed the removal of the board continues to be a "*critically important*" dynamic in the accreditation; however, in his speaking with the *Silver Consulting* and the Senate Education Committee, he assured the current board that the university's relationship with SACSCOC would not be damaged.

Trustee Anthony T. Grant chimed in the discussion stating his adamancy in the university providing the necessary information to Columbia as the provision that information would be critical to further support of the University's status. Trustee John H. Corbitt voiced that during his serving of terms on the university board as a trustee he had seen state appropriations go from \$35M to \$12M and was therefore ambiguous to the fact that anyone was surprised the university was experiencing problems; "*I hope, madam chair, that this board is not being made scapegoats, scapegoats- and I hope someone else will share the blame for our financial problems*". Vice Chairwoman Joyner-Fleming thanked everyone for their views and added how "*disturbed*" she was with the portrayal of the current board in the media. Dr. Evans interjected thoughts of remaining hopeful and asserting the perceptual position of SACACOC relating to the university's financial standing. Trustee Anthony T. Grant joined the discussion with his views "*as a trustee*" regarding the removal of the current board and his situational outlook as chair of the finance committee. Chairman William Small agreed with all stated and added his insight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice. Trustee John H. Corbitt made a motion for the board to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tammy Kelly
Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to return from executive session. Trustee Corbitt made a motion for the board to return from executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimously approved. The vice chair stated that there were no actions or votes taken in Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Real Estate Chairman, Dr. Jesse Kinard submitted resumes of candidates to serve on the Real Estate Foundation Board. Vice Chairwoman Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to accept the recommendations. *Trustee Corbitt made the motion to accept the following name: Pamela Goodwine-Glover, Rick A. Howell, Marcellus T. Pitts, Timothy D. Etson, Howard Jackson, and Leonard Brown. Trustee Ascue seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 3)

Ms. Elaine Epps, Director for Renaissance Fine Arts Academy gave a charter school power point presentation. After some discussion, followed by questions and answers, *Trustee Grant motioned to accept the recommendations from the Charter School Application Review Committee stating that the Renaissance Fine Arts Academy Charter School Application did not meet the requirements. Trustee Henegan seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.* Trustee Grant expressed, moving forward that the Charter School Application Review Committee should inform the applicants what the deficiencies are in the application before the presentation.

MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 4)

Ms. Ellen Zisholtz, Director for the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium, presented a power point presentation on I.P. Stanback Museum & Planetarium, a Museum of Conscience and Social Justice. The information discussed is contained in Attachment 4. Mr. Kenneth Childs, Esq. presented a picture by Jonathan Green titled “A Breath of Freedom” to Ms. Zisholtz.

CYBERSECURITY PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 5)

Mr. Elbert Malone, Vice President for Sponsored Programs, presented a power point presentation on K-20 Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium funded by the US Department of Energy. The information discussed is contained in Attachment 5

COMMITTEE REPORTS – ACTION ITEMS ONLY

External Affairs and Communications/Institutional Advancement and Governmental Affairs:

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming stated that the External Affairs and Communications/Institutional Advancement and Governmental Affairs Committee are recommending the following individuals to serve on the Board of Visitors: Mr. Davion Petty and Dr. Lana Williams and Mrs. Hazel Bennett (after additional review, no seat currently available, Mrs. Bennett will be seated later). *Trustee Grant motioned to approve; the motion was seconded by Trustee Henegan. Vote: unanimously approved.*

A presentation was given on the Capital Campaign Fund Raising Plan by Mr. A.L. Fleming. After some dialogue, *Trustee Nielsen motioned to approve 1) the name of the campaign, 2) a timeline 3) and the dollar amount of \$20M. Mr. Fleming will investigate to ensure that there is no trademark or copyright infringement in naming*

the effort. The motion was seconded by Trustee Corbitt. Vote: unanimously approved.

Athletics, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Committee:

Trustee Henegan stated that the External Affairs and Communications/Institutional Advancement and Governmental Affairs Athletics, Enrollment Management, and Student Affairs Committee are recommending the approval of the Enrollment Plan. *Trustee Corbitt motioned to approve; Trustee Ascue seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Fiscal Affairs and Operations Committee:

Trustee Grant stated that the Fiscal Affairs and Operations Committee is recommending the “conditional” approval of the “framework” of the *Rightsizing Plan* with the caveat that Dr. Evans would factor into the current plan executive level positions, as well as, recommending renaming of the plan. *Trustee Grant motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Trustee Corbitt. Vote: unanimously approved.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Trustee Corbitt made a motion for the board to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION

Vice Chair Joyner-Fleming asked for a motion to return from executive session. *Trustee Corbitt made a motion for the board to return from executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimously approved. Trustee Corbitt made a motion for the Vice Chair to read the public statement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ascue. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Public Statement...

“On advice of legal counsel, the Board of Trustees of South Carolina State University will take no action today concerning the status of President Thomas J. Elzey who remains on administrative leave. The Board was informed today that President Elzey has retained legal counsel, Mrs. Nancy Bloodgood of Charleston, as of yesterday. Mrs. Bloodgood has requested additional time to meet with her client and become familiar with the presidents employment contract and the issues involved in his recent administrative leave status. The Board will provide a public report of President Elzey’s status on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. At present, South Carolina State University has excellent leadership provided by Dr. W. Franklin Evans - an experienced administrator with years of distinguished service to our university. As long as the current board remains in office we will make every effort to preserve, protect, and advance the best interest of this historic university”.

Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Corbitt made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Henegan Vote: unanimously approved.

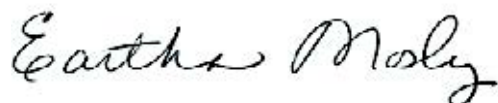
The meeting adjourned at 4:07PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald B. Henegan
Secretary



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Minutes
- 3 – Charter School Presentation – Renaissance Fine Arts Primary Academy
- 4 – Museum and Planetarium Presentation
- 5 – Cybersecurity Presentation