

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**SPECIAL VIA ZOOM BOARD MEETING**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**JULY 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order at 11:11 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 Donnie Shell gave the invocation.

**Board Members Via Phone:** Starlee Alexander, Hamilton Grant, Doward Harvin, Doris Helms, Rodney Jenkins, Milton Irvin, William Oden, Monica Scott, Donnie Shell, Wilbur Shuler, Hubbard Smalls, Daniel Varat, and Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* Javonni Ayers, John Funny, David Staten, and Sharon Wade-Byrd.

**Administrators & Others Via Phone:** *President, James E. Clark; Provost, Learie Luke; Vice President for Finance & Management, Teare Brewington; Chief of Staff, Shondra Abraham; VP Public Relations/Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; Special Assistant, Betty Boatwright; Acting Chief Officer of Information, Curtis Bradley; Marketing Coordinator, Benita Cooper; Athletics Director, Stacy Danley; Director of Facilities, Ken Davis; 1890 Research Administrator, Delbert Foster; Budget Director, Donna Hanton; Vice President for Student Affairs, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; Administrative Coordinator, Eartha Mosley; General Counsel, Mercedes Pinckney; Associate Vice President for Institutional, Gwynth Nelson; Admission's Director, Stacey Sowell; Controller, Brenda Walker; Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension, and Louis Whitesides. President and Executive Director of the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE), Dr. Rusty Monhollon.*

**Media:** *The T&D Reporter, Dionne Gleaton.*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Jenkins asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. ***Trustee Doward Harvin moved the motion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Monica Scott. Vote: unanimously approved.***

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair commended Dr. Louis Whitesides and his staff in the 1890 division along with President Clark on the excellent virtual ribbon-cutting for the 1890 Administration & Community Facility. He also shared that he had an interview with Ms. Dionne Gleaton from the T&D regarding the Transportation Program Project and its funding. In closing his remarks, he thanked everyone for their cooperation and dedication, especially during the COVID-19 period.

**PRESIDENT'S UPDATES**

President Clark stated that he and the Chairman invited Dr. Rusty Monhollon to attend the meeting to speak on COVID-19 response since he moderates the weekly meetings of all the SC college presidents concerning the pandemic and other issues on college campuses. The President then indicated that cabinet members and others would make brief reports on certain topics.

***Ms. Valerie Goodwin*** gave a brief update on the SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation activities. The On-Site Visit is scheduled for September 8-10, 2020. The QEP activities were held during the summer. Faculty training had taken place three weeks and would a week later. A QEP "launch party" (physical and virtual) was scheduled for August so

that students would become excited and knowledgeable about the QEP. The SACSCOC Vice-President, Dr. Crystal Baird, and the On-Site Chair will physically visit the campus. The other committee members will participate virtually. Meanwhile, the campus is preparing for the visit by videoconference.

**Dr. Learie Luke** reported on the University's Readiness for the Fall 2020 semester. The Academic Affairs Leadership Team consisting of the Provost, Associate Provosts, Deans, Chairs, and Directors have been meeting weekly for the past six weeks. Faculty course work for students will be hosted on Blackboard. Signage is going up for social distancing and classroom capacity has been identified. The Leadership Team is scheduled to meet again this afternoon at 2:30 pm.

**Mrs. Brewington** reported on finances stating the University ended the year as projected given the impact of COVID-19. The University received total funding of \$9.7M to help cover COVID-19 impact recovery and related expenses. Reports have been submitted to various agencies as to how the University would be impacted, per their request. There were approximately \$11M in expenses related to COVID-19 including student refunds and cash grants. The institution is anticipating a loss in revenue for the next year (FY21) of \$1.75M. The combination of expenses and loss in revenue anticipated is \$12.7M. As of July 1st, the University has spent 4.6M of the \$9.7M from the time of closure to the end of the semester. Trustee Grant asked about students' refunds from the CARES Act. Mrs. Brewington said that refunds to students were sent early June. The President projected the adverse impact is \$3M if no additional funds are received. The Governor has announced all SC HBCUs will be receiving funds. The University is scheduled to receive \$630K from the Governor.

**Mr. Ken Davis** reported on facilities. He stated that signage had been installed in eight of eleven academic buildings. COVID-19 Signage (occupancy level for classrooms, entrance, wash hands, symptom signs, wear a mask, and traffic directions) and forty-five sneeze guards have been installed in areas of interaction with students, staff, or the public. Five hundred face shields for the faculty and face masks for all employees have been ordered. All rooms in residence Halls have been converted to single occupancy. The current occupancy on the campus is 1,120 beds.

**Mr. Stacy Danley** reported on Athletics. He pointed out that there are no decisions or adjustments. A MEAC meeting is scheduled next week, he expected a decision will be reached at that time. Should there not be a football season, the largest revenue decrease would be in ticket sales. Three options were provided to current tickets holders: 1) they could receive refunds, 2) designate the money spent as credit towards next season's games, and 3) designate the money spent as tax-deductible donations. Trustee Funny asked when the University's Financial Statement would be ready for review? Mrs. Brewington shared that the Preliminary Statement (subject to audit) would be available at the end of July. She would provide it to Trustee Shuler for the Board. Bids for the football field have been submitted and the Track field is next on the list.

**Ms. Jovanni Ayers** shared that she and the President held a Town Hall meeting. Concerns were raised about international students currently residing on campus and those who may desire to return to the USA, but their visas may have expired.

**Dr. David Staten** noted the Faculty Senate's emphasis on keeping the lines of communication open. Faculty had safety concerns about returning to the campus given the increase in COVID-19 cases in South Carolina.

**Mrs. Sharon Wade-Byrd** pointed out that staff members have expressed concern about returning to campus and they have not received masks as promised. Mrs. Brewington indicated that a process would be in place to provide masks to all staff and students.

A concern was raised that given the impact of COVID-19, should the changes to the student code of conduct be presented for Board approval? The Student Handbook is being reviewed by President Clark, General Counsel, and VP of Student Affairs. The President requested two weeks to review the matter and get back with the Board.

**President Clark** communicated the fall registration process is on-line, the University continues to invest in COVID technology for remote and online development of courses. COVID guidelines and health information are shared with everyone, dates for activities are publicized through the campus, more programs have been approved by CHE, namely offering the EDS and EDD online and the BS in Mechatronics Engineering.

President Clark then asked Dr. Monhollon to share his experience from a state-wide perspective on COVID-19.

**Dr. Monhollon** shared that his tenure as CHE President is close to one year. Since COVID-19, he's facilitated meetings concerning the virus with university presidents, technical college presidents, as well as the State Executive Director of Technical Colleges. The meetings are helpful and foster collaboration between institutions with common problems and concerns. They allow the collection and sharing of information from one another and best practices on how to address some issues. The challenges are all the same, how to get students, faculty, and staff back to the campus safely, how to provide protection, and what best procedures to implement. He concluded by stating the group will continue to meet weekly in August to share experiences and practices as campuses reopen.

Trustee Grant asked whether students would be required to take a COVID-19 test and provide results before returning on campus? President Clark shared that he didn't know but was asking his administration to follow the guidelines of agencies that are providing direction to the University which includes DHEC and others. In addition, he pointed out that the guidance and recommendations received so far are not in support of tests and testing. However, he would like to change the guidance. Trustee Grant stated he was alarmed because of the effect of COVID-19 on African Americans, an alarming rate, and the statistics reveal that in SC the highest numbers of COVID cases are among college-age students. He hoped the Board and administration would implement a policy or a strong recommendation for students to provide negative test results before entering the campus in order to limit contact and exposure to those who may have the virus. He also supported contact tracing in the event students show up with symptoms of COVID. The President concurred.

Trustee Grant also asked whether there were funds from the CARES Act that would allow students who selected virtual learning to be issued tablets or laptops if they did not have broadband access in their geographical location. The President said Yes. Trustee Grant also asked whether the University had to wait for DHEC to develop guidelines before they were put in place at the University? President Clark stated the Governor has given University Presidents an extreme amount of latitude to do whatever they feel is the right thing to do. Dr. Monhollon concurred. Discussions continued around testing, how often to test, the turn-around time in receiving the results, and the testing of faculty and staff members as well.

Trustee Harvin noted that the positive rate of testing as of March increased from single digits to over 20-25%. South Carolina is considered the third-worst hotspot in the world. While the local hospital has grown, he asked, what is their capacity level for persons to go there for testing and treatment. He also asked, what has changed between the spring semester and today to make it more logical to return to the biggest sport, football, and had the students returned on campus? Why would any University return to in-person classes? The President indicated he and his team have been wrestling with alternatives. On the other hand, he informed the students the probability of there being an on-campus fall experience is none to zero. If the University is unable to manage COVID, the University will go 100% on-line. Dr. Monhollon concurred that other institutions are preparing and planning to bring students backs safely or even to delay the semester but also had other plans as well.

Ms. Sowell added that not having in-person instructions will have a negative impact on enrollment. Students would likely not pay full tuition for on-line only instruction. She anticipated that the University would see at least a 20% enrollment decline in new students.

Trustee Helms inquired whether, under the circumstances, the legislators would consider out-of-state students paying the same as in-state students for tuition if the University classes are all online? Dr. Monhollon shared that the suggestion was offered as a possibility but there had not been much interest by the legislators to act on the recommendation.

Trustee Helms mentioned that in the legislature there is an agreement to have a certain percent out-of-state vs in-state (there has to be a difference) tuition, but the difference is not a set amount. Is it possible to say for out-of-state students we have in-state plus \$100 and go that way which would be the board setting its tuition and would not have to get the approval from the legislature? President Clark stated that he would assess the matter and return with a recommendation to the Board.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman indicated that the Board would move into Executive Session. Trustee Doris Helms move the motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee William Oden. *Vote: unanimously approved.*

## OPEN SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Milton Irvin moved the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee William Oden. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Chairman Jenkins stated while in Executive Session, a matter was mentioned that requires approval from the Board. President Clark shared there is the opportunity for HBCUs that took part in the HBCU Capital Financial Loan Program (for Hugine Suites Loan) if we qualify to receive deferred payments (principal and interest) for at least one year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Upon qualification, the paperwork must be submitted within days with signatures from the Board of Trustees Chairman, University President, and Vice President of Finance.

*Trustee Donnie Shell moved the motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board, the President, and the Vice President of Finance to approve and accept the loan deferral associated with the HBCUs Capital Finance Loan Program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Monica Scott. Vote: unanimously approved.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Trustee Milton Irvin moved the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Donnie Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachments  
1 – Agenda