

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL VIA ZOOM BOARD MEETING
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
JULY 23, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. 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 Zoom: Starlee Alexander, Hamilton Grant, Doward Harvin, Doris Helms, Rodney Jenkins, William Oden, Monica Scott, Donnie Shell, Wilbur Shuler, Daniel Varat, and Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* Javonni Ayers, John Funny, David Staten, and Sharon Wade-Byrd.

Board Members Absent: Milton Irvin (excused) and Hubbard Smalls.

Administrators & Others: *President*, James E. Clark; *Provost*, Learie Luke; *Vice President for Finance & Management*, Teare Brewington, *Chief of Staff*, Shondra Abraham, *Acting Director Information Technology, Administrative Coordinator*, Patrice Benson; *Acting Chief Officer of Information*, Curtis Bradley; *VP Public Relations/Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations*, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *Special Assistant*, Betty Boatwright; *Assistant Marketing Coordinator*, Benita Cooper; *Athletics Director*, Stacy Danley; *Director of Facilities*, Ken Davis; *Dean Graduate School*, Frederick Evans; *1890 Research Administrator*, Delbert Foster; *SACSCOC Liaison*, Valerie Goodwin; *Assistant Athletics Director*, Kimberly Greene; *Senior Assistant Athletic AD*, Melvin Hines; *Director of Operations*, Angelia Jackson; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Administrative Coordinator*, Eartha Mosley; *General Counsel*, Mercedes Pinckney; *Associate Vice President for Institutional*, Gwynth Nelson; *Administrative Coordinator*, Chrystel Rogers; *Director of Marketing*, Kay Snider; *Admission's Director*, Stacey Sowell; *Title IX Coordinator*, Alexander Sutler; *Acting Provost*, William Whitaker and *Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension*, Louis Whitesides; *Public Relations Coordinator*, Chaundra Mikell; *SCSUNAA Member*, Vandy Gaffney, and *Faculty Senate Members*; Evelyn Fields, Alexander Thierry, and Thomas Cassidy.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jenkins stated he would like to include three items under "Other Matters:" 1) Capital Campaign Update, 2) Brief Finance Update, and 3) Institution Updates on Reopening Fall Semester. He asked for a motion to adopt the amended agenda. *Trustee Wilbur Shuler so moved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Starlee Alexander. Vote: unanimously approved.*

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

The Chair cited *Trusteeship Magazine* as having some great articles related to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage the members to review them. Thank you was extended to members of the Board and the Administration.

OTHER MATTERS

Dr. Gwynth Nelson reported on the Capital Campaign. Some of the highlights were 1) the bidding for consultants was extended and will be accepted until July 31, 2020; 2) the review committee will consist of two employees from the University, and alumni and Dr. Nelson; 3) applicants will be reviewed and an offer extended to the consultant by the end of August.

Some highlights concerning objectives of Institutional Advancement including the following: 1) private giving raised from FY 2020 is \$1.8M, however; there were a few gifts for June that have not been posted; 2) to increase the percentage of donations given by alumni and to increase the number of alumni who give; 3) better relationships among the Alumni Association, individual chapters, and IA; 4) Board's assistance in identifying corporation and donors; 5) continue to work with the Miller Society to increase membership; 6) work with President Clark and his contacts; 7) hire a development officer, director of alumni relations, proposal for research officer and alumni relations officer.

Regarding the COVID-19 Relief Fund, Institutional Advancement received over \$16K with 131 student applications submitted for aid. The money was distributed to students and 10 laptops will distribute to students as well. The 40 Under 40 Fundraiser is getting ready to set-up a committee to review the 60 applicants submitted.

Institutional Advancement Office is still receiving Board of Visitors (BOV) nominations from members of the Board. President Clark is reviewing the BOV document. Dr. Nelson will provide a feasibility study for Board members. Dr. Nelson was asked to provide her current corporation listing to the Board for assistance.

Mrs. Teare Brewington reported on the University Budget-to-Actual Preliminary Status as of June 30th as requested by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. She shared the revenue is down \$6.6M. Under Operating Expenses, the services and supplies are down \$6.5M and it is subject to change as invoices are still being recorded to the proper fiscal year. The Annual audit is scheduled for August 17, 2020. The interest and debt services as of June 30th are down \$1M. She pointed out no revenue is reflected in COVID-19 related revenue. Mrs. Brewington also provided revenue and expenses by department. Trustee Shuler thanked Mrs. Brewington for an excellent report. (*Attachment*)

President Clark announced the recent significant escalation in infections in South Carolina and the Orangeburg community has caused the University to revisit **all** plans to date for this coming fall semester. As a result, the University will start the Fall Semester 2020 with all classes being delivered remotely, effective Aug 10th. Special accommodations will be made for students needing access to laboratories. As a guiding light for navigating these turbulent times of COVID-19, SC State has established two guiding principles:

1. The health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and the community we serve; and
2. The ability for students to continue their educational pursuits.

The President asked the Board to support the administration's decision. ***The Chairman asked for a motion in support; Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to vote in support of the administration's decision to open the Fall 2020 classes remotely in August. The motion was seconded by Trustee Donnie Shell.*** During the discussion, Trustee Harvin asked if all students pay in-state tuition? The President said no; there will be appropriate adjustments made to accommodate, but the University is not allowed to charge all students in-state tuition. Trustee Hamilton Grant commended the President and his administration on their recommendation on putting the students first. He asked that the lines of communication be kept open among students, faculty, and staff. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Monica Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Trustee Hamilton Grant. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Submitted by,

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Eartha Mosley

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Recorder

Attachments

1 – Agenda

2 – Finance Information