

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

**CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 Doward Harvin gave the invocation and included prayers for the families of George Floyd, Ahmad Aubrey, and Breonna Taylor and families suffering from COVID-19.

**Board Members Via Zoom:** Starlee Alexander, 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, Alexander Thierry representing David Staten and Sharon Wade-Byrd.

**Board Member Absent:** Hamilton Grant (excused)

**Administrators & Others Via Zoom:** *President, James E. Clark; Provost, Learie Luke; Vice President for Finance & Management, Teare Brewington, Chief of Staff, Shondra Abraham, Acting Chief Officer of Information, Curtis Bradley; Marketing Coordinator, Benita Cooper; Athletics Director, Stacy Danley; Director of Facilities, Ken Davis, VP Public Relations/Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; Special Assistant to the President, Betty Boatwright, Dean of Graduate School, Frederick Evans; 1890 Administrator, Delbert Foster; SACSCOC Liaison, Valerie Goodwin; Director of Budget, Donna Hanton; Admin; Vice President for Student Affairs, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; Public Relations Coordinator, Chaundra Mikell Yudchenko; Administrative Coordinator, Eartha Mosley; General Counsel, Mercedes Pinckney; Assistant Professor, Michelle Priester; Director of Marketing, Kay Snider; Admission's Director, Stacey Sowell; Title IX Coordinator, Alexander Sutler; Controller, Brenda Walker; Acting Associate Provost, William Whitaker; and Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension, Louis Whitesides. Chairman of SCSU Foundation, Steve Beatty; and SCSUNAA Member, Vandy Gaffney.*

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Jenkins asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. ***Trustee Gerald Smalls made the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Milton Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved.***

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 14, 2020)

Chairman Jenkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. ***Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.***

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chair extended thanks to the President and the administration in moving the University forward during the pandemic and the Board for continuing to persevere. Well wishes to Julie Sainyo as she graduates from SC State. The Chairman concluded with a brief statement surrounding the climate of the nation and the world for social justice.

## **PRESIDENT CLARK'S UPDATES (ATTACHMENT 2)**

The President indicated the updates will focus on COVID-19, the transition, and the reopening. The President thanked the Trustees for their unprecedented vote of support for moving forward and working with all constituents as the University continues with stability and the great work.

### **COVID-19**

Currently, the University is still closed. Only open to essential personnel with no reported cases of COVID-19. Summer School Session I and II will be held remotely. Twelve students are living in the residence hall, eleven are international students. Faculty and staff continue to work deliberately remotely. Reopening plans are underway with two teams consisting of Students, Faculty, and Staff. The Blue Team lead by Dr. Learie Luke will deal with students and academics and the Garnet Team lead by Mrs. Teare Brewington deal more with finance and operations.

\$12 billion for Higher Education to Cover COVID-19 items only  
SC State will receive \$4M - \$2M allocated for students and \$2M to assist the University  
HBCU Funds – SC State allocation of \$5.7M

The University continues to work on the following: Land Grant assistance, State level assistance, and the Governor's discretionary funds.

The reopening plans are for classes to begin August 10, 2020 and end Thanksgiving. Academic personnel will begin returning to campus on July 1. Employees must follow the *Return to the Workplace* protocols, a guide will be shared with all employees. Mask or face coverings is required for everyone on campus. Social distancing and associated protocols must be observed. Washington Dining Hall will operate at 50% occupancy, with a carry-out option. Faculty must ensure that social distancing is maintained in the classrooms. Sneeze guards will be installed in offices where needed. Quarantined buildings will be assigned for symptomatic and sick students.

All students must be cleared before given an appointment to move in. Arena-style registration will not be held. A flow diagram for registration and enrollment processes will be available. Student leaders' move-in day is August, freshmen move-in day is August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and returning students' move-in date is August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

General Education courses will be offered in a mix of online and face-to-face. Lab, studio, and demonstration-style classes will be held in-person to the extent possible. Some will be held online. Some courses may have online courses only, except for lab courses (i.e. Speech Clinic).

Laptops will be critical for futures college readiness and success. SSRP will use current laptops as loners to students in need. The University will pursue an option to acquire additional laptops as needed. Students and families will be encouraged to secure internet connectivity as part of a requirement for success. Licenses for software for students will be secured. The staffing mix in all departments will need to be reviewed for success in the new model.

### **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

Spring 2020 Virtual Commencement was held on Sunday, May 31, 2020 for nearly 400 graduates. The speaker was Congressman James E. Clyburn, '61.

Three students received the President James E. Clark Academic Excellence Award for maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout their matriculation at SC State. Each of the following students received \$5K: David Bottenberg, Biology major; Kayla Hasty, Biology major; and Roosevelt Perry, Criminal Justice major.

The MEAC named SC State as the 2019-20 Graduation Success Rate Winner with 83% as the highest among all MEAC institutions. A \$25K check was awarded to SCSU.

Enrollment Data as of June 7<sup>th</sup> reveals applications are 92% of the prior year, admitted at 133% of the prior year, newly registered at 162% of the prior year, and total fall registered at 108% of the prior year. More focus was placed on application and efficiency in operations. The Admissions and Enrollment Staff remain committed to calling new and continuing students, virtual orientation for new students in Freshmen Program, hosting online chats with new freshmen, and lastly hosting virtual registration meetings for new and continuing students.

2020-2021 Budget Development is almost complete. Each unit is required to consider scenarios that may include cuts. The University must maintain a positive UNAEP for SACSCOC.

The Virtual Grand Opening of the 1890 Campus Administration Building was held. Camp Daniels Facilities 1890 Research and Extension Conference Center Grand Opening is forthcoming. The Charleston 1890 Research and Extension Center is underway. Renovations to the Pitt and Washington Dining Hall are moving forward.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS (ATTACHMENT 3)**

#### ***Academic Affairs & 1890 Research Extension Committee***

Trustee Helms reported the committee met and highlights are Dr. Luke shared an end of the Spring letter he written to the faculty commended them on their hard work as they transition to online teaching. The SACSCOC visit is scheduled for September 8-10. A few resolutions will require Board approval.

***The Biology and Physical Sciences Department, Resolution for a Concentration in Applied Oncology Honors Sciences Concentration was approved unanimously pending approval of the Faculty Senate.***

***A Department of Human Services Resolution for an online graduate certificate in addiction and trauma was approved unanimously pending approval by the Graduate Studies Council and the Faculty Senate.***

Dr. Louis Whitesides shared 1890 received \$2.25M from the federal government for Agri Innovation Scholarships. Four have been awarded for four years in the amount of \$10K and twenty are being processed. The 1890 Charleston Building is expected to be completed in October. Online Homes series have been launched. One resolution requires Board approval. 1890 helped an Assisted Living Facility in the Pee Dee area obtain an \$80K Loan which prevented the facility from closing its doors to eighteen clients. 1890 agents are working to making the loan a forgiveness loan from PPE.

***1890 Resolution to Replace the HVAC system in the John Matthews Extension Center Building, authorizing President Clark to sign the contract for \$304,409. The resolution was approved unanimously.***

Faculty Senate Vice President Dr. Alexander shared faculty completed their survey, working on white paper, and hope to meet with the President and Dr. Luke very soon regarding hiring and appointing of academic positions per the Faculty Handbook policies and procedures. Faculty Senate was asked to review the evaluation process.

#### ***Audit/Risk Management and Legal Committee***

Trustee Alexander reported the committee met yesterday. Highlights are as follows: General Counsel reported that two legal cases are pending. The Bylaws Article III Section 7 the Duties and Responsibilities of the Board would continue to be reviewed. Trustee Monica Scott was asked to take the lead on the review of the bylaws. In addition, Mr. Stathis Poulos of BDO shared June & July are the months for preliminary and core planning procedures. The 2020 Audit procedures will be executed in August and September. The Audit Opinions will also be issued in September by Mr. Poulos.

#### ***Finance and Operations Committee (ATTACHMENT 4)***

Trustee Shuler reported the committee met yesterday. Highlights are on the Budget vs Actual – Revenue, the University approved a budget \$71M as of April 30<sup>th</sup> the actual is \$63M which is good. The projection for June 30<sup>th</sup> is that the University should be in good shape. The Budget vs Actual – Expenses show an approved budget of \$71M and the actual is \$51M which is good but to be aware that COVID-19 could cause changes. Trustee Shuler stated that the second

document “Department Details” to be used as the format for certain requests and to be uploaded to the system and can be print out at will. **Trustee Shuler shared the Finance Committee is recommending for the Board to approve a continuation budget for '21 pending the appropriations for next year.** Mrs. Brewington shared the second document “Department Details” is a classification by IPEDS functional category at the department level. This is not a standard system or financial report. The report was generated at his request but is not easily generated from the system as the President may re-allocate dollars. **The continuation budget would be \$71.6M. The budget was approved unanimously.** The Chairman thanked Mrs. Brewington for generating the report. He understood that it may not be the standard report but for an old financial person, it was very simple to understand.

#### ***Public Relations/Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee***

Trustee Funny shared the committee met on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highlights are as follow: the search will be reopened to hire a Public Relations Consultant; bids to develop a new University website should be awarded to a vendor by mid-year 2020; Fundraising Capital Campaign Consultant and the Feasibility Study will be advertised by June 15<sup>th</sup>; the goals for the University is to have the Capital Campaign Consultant Feasibility Study retain and hired by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The BOV resolution to re-establish the BOV was approved; seventeen incumbent members are interested in continuing to serve on the BOV; as of today, the committee has received four recommendations from the Board of Trustee. Mrs. Bellamy and her team are developing a University Comprehensive Communication and Marketing Plan.

Institutional Advancement staff created a COVID-19 Student Relief Fund which raised \$15K. Also, the Alumni raised \$2K and will be placed with the Student Relief Fund. Each of the twelve international students living on campus will be awarded \$1K since they are not eligible for the CARES Act.

#### ***Student Affairs and Athletic Committee*** (ATTACHMENT 5)

Trustee Shell reported the committee met on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A summary was given on Student Affairs, SGA, and Staff Senate.

Mr. Danley presented a proposal at the request of Trustee Daniel Varat. Mr. Danley shared his proposition title *Game Changers*, which would add \$1M into athletics to keep the program relevant, sustainable, and viable as the landscape is rapidly changing. This would be a continued investment in athletics that will help to leverage the momentum that was created. The \$1M in additional funding would be invested in scholarships, assistant coaches, facility upgrades, and administrative positions. The proposal ties in with the University’s Strategic Plan. He cited athletics value to the University, as proven by the 62,000 fans who came to see the Bulldogs play in 2019-2020, homecoming average 15,000 people, the R.I.S.E Campaign generated \$2.2M in private gifts. About 150 student-athletes benefited from scholarships funded by the R.I.S.E campaign. His report was received as information.

#### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

The Chairman indicated the board would move into Executive Session. Trustee Scott made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Irvin. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

#### ***OPEN SESSION***

Trustee Irvin made a motion for the board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Harvin. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

Trustee Smalls motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Harvin. ***Vote: unanimously approved.***

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Submitted by,

*Eartha Mosley*

Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – President’s Update PowerPoint
- 3 – Academic Affairs Resolutions
- 4 – Finance and Operations Handout
- 5 – Student Affairs & Athletics Presentation