

**MINUTES**  
**SC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**JUNE 29, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Chairman Way noted that proper notice was given regarding the meeting to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda (Attachment 1) had been circulated to the members. Chairman Way indicated that all Trustees were present. Trustee Vinzani gave the invocation.

**Trustees Present:** Mr. Charles S. Way, Jr, Dr. Doris Helms (via phone), Mr. Milton Irvin (via phone), Mr. Donnie Shell, Mr. Steve Swanson, and Mr. Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* Mrs. Vernell Brown (via phone).

**Administrators & Others Present:** *Interim President*, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; *Acting Provost*, Dr. Learie Luke; *Vice President of Finance and Management*, Mr. Edward Patrick; *Vice President for Enrollment Management*, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; *Vice President for Student Affairs*, Dr. Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement*, Mr. A.L. Fleming; *Executive Director for 1890 Programs and Extension*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness*, Dr. Rita Teal; *Director for Public Relations*, Mrs. Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins; *Special Assistant to the President for Executive Affairs*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

**Media:** *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman, WLTX Reporter, Ms. Janae Frazier and WIS Reporter, Ms. Billie Jean Shaw.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Chairman Way asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Swanson moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The Chair informed the Board that he received a letter of resignation from Trustee James Clark, Vice Chair SCSU Board of Trustees.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. *Trustee Vinzani made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.*

**OPEN SESSION**

The Chair asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Shell made the motion for the Trustees to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Chairman Way shared that the Board had received President Evans resignation and an agreement between the South Carolina State Board of Trustees and Dr. Evans, which was executed by both parties.

*Trustee Swanson motioned that the Board accepts Dr. W. Franklin Evans resignation as Interim President of South Carolina State University, effective immediately and as the terms discussed in Executive Session. He further stated that terms be placed in a written agreement with Dr. Evans to include that he is provided with a sabbatical from July 1 - December 31, 2016, and return January to a tenured faculty position at the University upon completion of sabbatical in January 2017. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vinzani. Vote: unanimously approved.*

*Trustee Irvin made a motion that the Board employ Mr. James E. Clark as President of the South Carolina State University effective immediately, and that the Board authorize legal counsel to prepare a written contract between Mr. Clark and the University. The written contract would employ him as President for a four-year term, upon terms mutually agreed upon between Mr. Clark and the Board, which will be formally approved at a subsequent meeting of the Board. Until such time the term is formally agreed to. The motion was seconded by Trustee Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The Chair asked Dr. Evans if he would like to make a statement. Dr. Evans shared that he was appreciative of all the support he received from students, alumni, community, faculty and staff, and his cabinet members. His service in the capacity of vice president, interim provost, as well as acting and interim president, has been a worthwhile experience. A great deal was accomplished under his leadership: removal from SACSCOC probation and sanction, fundraising increase, signature enrollment, maintained accreditation in specialty areas, and increased awareness of SC State. All the things that he was commissioned to do here at the institution, he accomplished.

Chairman Way gave comments on the action the Board had just taken. *See Attachment 2.*

Mr. James Clark was introduced to the audience as the 12<sup>th</sup> president of SC State University. The Chair asked if he would like to make a statement.

President Clark expressed that he was grateful and honored the Board asked him to take on this task of this historic institution. He thanked Dr. Evans for his calming influence and steady hand during the past tumultuous year at SC State. The President indicated that a lot more will be said later, but meanwhile remember that we here for the students, they are why we exist. He stressed that supporters should continue to come together to make this institution the best institution possible, it must be our first, second, third, fourth and fifth priority focusing on educating our youth. Over the coming days he will be spending time listening and assessing. He asked for continued prayers and support of everyone for the institution. This Board is committed and remains committed as so are the legislators. He will listen to any and all about ways to improve the institution. The doors will always be open to anyone and any questions. He is willing to hear and learn. He will always tell the truth even though it might not be what people want to hear.

The Chairman opened the floor for a few questions from the audience. Representative Jerry Govan expressed concerns about the process by which the Board elected a president. The Chairman shared that all issues regarding SACSCOC were not academic, but financial matters. The Board felt the University needed someone with more of a finance background to continue to move the institution forward.

A student, Ms. Jeleana DeFranzo, asked President Clark how he plans to handle the media attention the University will be receiving as a result of this decision and also reassure returning and new students. President Clark stated he plans to have extensive dialogue with students and other members of the campus in the coming weeks, and the media will cover whatever the University puts forth. He continued to give a fervent speech to the University supporters in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. *Trustee Vinzani so moved and Trustee Shell seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:53PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachment

1 – Agenda

2 – Chairman Way's Statement