

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Milton Irvin called the meeting to order at 9:08 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 John J. Funny asked everyone for a moment of silence in recognition of September 11th followed by the invocation.

Board Members Present: Trustees: Milton Irvin, Rodney Jenkins, Starlee Alexander, Hamilton Grant, Doward Harvin, Doris Helms, Monica Scott, Donnie Shell, Wilbur Shuler, Hubbard Smalls, and Daniel Varat. *Ex-Officio Members:* John Funny, Julie Saniyo, Kenita Pitts Howard, and David Staten.

Board Member Absent: Jeff Vinzani

Administrators & Others Present: *Provost, Learie Luke; Vice President of Finance, Teare Brewington; Chief of Staff, Shondra Abraham, Vice President Institutional Advancement & University Relations, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; Special Assistant to the President, Betty Boatwright; Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension, Delbert Foster; SACSCOC Liaison, Valerie Goodwin; Vice President for Student Affairs, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; General Counsel, Mercedes Pinckney; and Administrative Coordinator and Recorder, Eartha Mosley.*

Media: The Times and Democrat-Reporter *Dionne Gleaton*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Irvin asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. *Trustee Rodney Jenkins made the motion to approve the agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Daniel Varat. Vote: unanimously approved.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Attachment 2)

Trustee Daniel Varat made the motion to approve the April 10th, April 30th, July 9th and August 1, 2019 minutes of the board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

Chairman Irvin read a statement of his resignation as Chairman of the Board of Trustees; he indicated that he would remain on the board until his term ends. The Vice-Chairman, Rodney Jenkins will serve as Interim Chairman until an election at the next regularly scheduled meeting as stated by the bylaws. Interim Chairman Jenkins pointed out Mr. Irvin's commitment to the University. Accolades were extended to the former chairman from Trustee John Funny on behalf of the National Alumni Association and Trustee Donnie Shell. The Interim Chairman proceeded with the meeting.

UNIVERSITY UPDATES

In the absence of President Clark, Dr. Luke gave highlights on the following: 1) Stacey Sowell was appointed the Director of Admissions; 2) Dr. Louis Whitesides was appointed the new Executive Director of 1890 Research and

Extension; 3) SACSCOC Recertification documents were submitted last week to the Off-Site Committee for review; 4) March 24-26, 2020 are the dates that the On-Site Review Committee will visit the campus. The QEP and the Focused Report will be submitted by February 11, 2020.

Trustee Helms commended the President, faculty, staff, and students on a job well done regarding the SACSCOC Report.

BDO UPDATES (Attachment 3)

Mr. Stathis Poulos shared the following highlights regarding the 2019 Audit Plan Recap and Status of Engagements, Year ended June 30, 2019.

- The University is currently in the middle of executing the 2019 financial statement audit. An anticipated draft of the financial statement is expected by the end of September with the audit being completed by the end of October.
- The deadline for the Single Audit (Federal Compliance Audit) of the University is March 31, 2020.
- Financial Statement Audit of WSSB Radio Station deadline is November 30, 2019, with two extensions being available at the discretion of the University.
- The NCAA Financial Audit deadline is due January 15, 2020.
- Concerning the Key Areas of Risk, the focus will be mainly on the financial health of the University and compliance with federal awards.

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS

Academic Affairs and 1890 Research Extension Committee – Chairperson Helms asked Dr. Luke to provide a recap of the committee meeting. He shared the following highlights: 1) he introduced the newly appointed Acting Associate Provost of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Whitaker; 2) an update on SACSCOC was given by Valerie Goodwin; 3) Dr. Whitesides presented an update on the 1890 facilities and the groundbreaking in Charleston; 4) an ad hoc committee was formed to review the University reestablishing its December graduation ceremonies; 5) there were changes on the Academic Affairs organizational chart that may have been overlooked on August 1st. Most of the changes are titles of units – offices, colleges, and departments. There was one new department formed from the Department of Health Sciences: the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. A resolution was provided by the committee to ratify those changes. Trustee David Staten reported the Faculty Senate is focusing on mentoring new faculty, establishing a scholarship in the English Department in memory of Professor Carlana Kohn-Davis, and administering the Satisfaction Survey in January. The Staff Senate is also partnering with the Faculty Senate on the Satisfaction Survey. ***The resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.***

Audit/Risk Management and Legal Committee - Chairperson Starlee Alexander shared that Mr. Stathis Poulos of BDO discussed the 2019 Audit Plan Recap and Status of Engagements. The committee decided the bylaws would be discussed at the next committee meeting to allow the members more time to review the bylaws.

General Counsel Mercedes Pinckney reported on the following: 1) Denise Simmons vs SC State case was a win for the University; and 2) the Insurance Brokerage RFP was published on August 7, 2019, and the projected award date is September 30, 2019.

Finance and Operation Committee – Committee Chairperson Wilbur Shuler reported that the Finance Committee had one item on its agenda, the FY '19-'20 Proposed Budget. He asked Mrs. Brewington to give an update on the discussion. Mrs. Brewington gave highlights on the following: the University is proposing a budget of \$44.6M, which is down by \$3.5M from last year, largely due to low enrollment. The State provided 7.5M towards certain projects. The \$7.5M funds are not allowed to be used for operational support. There will be a reduction of \$3M, which has not been identified. The president will be meeting with prospective cabinet members concerning the reductions. After some strong, passionate remarks concerning the plans for the admissions issues, planning for a possible recession, and more

focus on corporate dollars, **the FY '19-'29 Proposed Budget was approved by the Board. The vote was nine "ayes" and two "nays."** *Trustee Hamilton Grant and Hubbard Smalls. The motion carried.*

Trustee Grant expressed his disappointment in the President's absence from the meeting in light of the pressing issues with the University. Trustee Shell echoed the President was in Washington, DC attending official business for the University.

Public Relations/IA and Alumni Relations Committee – Committee Chairperson, John Funny asked Mrs. Bellamy to report on Institutional Advancement. She conveyed the strategy for the University's Brand. She presented the PESO model (paid, earned, shared and owned media), which was illustrated with several news releases, television, and print. Social Media has a new employee, Benita Cooper, to assist with the high volume. There were numerous requests from presidential candidates to visit the campus. She continued to discuss major gifts from alumni, corporate gifts, anonymous gifts, employee giving, and fundraising to start the feasibility study for the Capital Campaign; she concluded with stating the Board of Visitors would be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Committee Chair John Funny, President of the South Carolina State University National Alumni Association, highlighted the following activities:

- The Association has 31 chapters across the USA. Seven more are showing interest in creating a chapter in their city.
- Bulldog Roundup continues to identify nonactive alumni.
- \$80K was donated towards Band uniforms.
- "Your Membership" technology was implemented that would reach a larger group of alumni.
- Seventy-two alumni assisted with Admissions in recruiting students.
- Three trustees became lifetime members of the association: Trustees Donnie Shell, Milton Irvin, and Jeff Vinzani. Trustee Shell's wife, Paulette Shell, also joined as a lifetime member.
- During the May commencement, \$1.2M was raised by stakeholders of the University.
- There is an MOU with "Charlemagne Tha God," who will be attending homecoming.

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee - Chairman Donnie Shell shared highlights of the following activities:

- *Student Affairs* shared highlights on enhancements made to some of the residential dorms and the Kirkland Student Center. Alumni donated funds to purchase bowling balls and shoes for the Bowling Alley. Students were actively involved with summer research, Student Summit, and community outreach with local churches, Town Hall Meetings with presidential hopefuls, Student Leadership Retreat, and Move-In Day.
- *Campus Security* has additional surveillance cameras that have been installed. Extensive training on active shooters and grants received for body cameras and bulletproof vests were obtained. The Summer Bike Patrol was also implemented.
- *The Athletics Department* is currently seeking to fill positions for softball, and strength and conditioning coaches. Jerod Winms from Mercer University is the new Men & Women's Cross Country/Track & Field coach.
- The graduation rate for SC State student-athletes is 83% while the general student body is 34%. This margin of success has qualified the athletics department to receive additional funding for financial support from the NCAA for the current academic year.
- Samelia Abney was hired as a Compliance/Academic Advisor, Cecilia Brandon was hired as a Compliance/Academic Advisor, and Dr. Monique Carroll was hired as the Deputy Athletics Director for Internal Operations/SWA. Athletics raised \$1.803M of their R.I.S.E. major gift initiative goal of \$1.7M set and is now embarking toward a new goal of \$2M.

- *Enrollment*—Ms. Stacey Sowell expressed she is focusing on the Fall '20 Enrollment. Meanwhile, she is working on the following: 1) improving the staff level in the office; 2) two positions are posting as openings and two more have been requested; 3) alumni training will continue; 4) she will be attending the *Slate Training Program* the first week in October; 5) she is meeting with consultants to improve enrollment; 6) she is working with PR to establish marketing materials; and 7) eliminating the paper application by Fall 2020.

The current enrollment headcount is 2,501 as of September 6, 2019 and the FTE number is 2,309.

- There was a dialogue with the students present concerning campus issues. Trustee Harvin suggested adding public comments to the Board's agenda to allow persons an opportunity to bring forth any concerns or recommendations. Concerning campus issues with the students, Trustee Smalls and Irvin suggested creating an Ad-Hoc Committee of Trustees, the Administration, and Students to hash out any campus matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smalls. Vote: unanimously approved. Trustee Funny and General Counsel were asked to remain for Executive Session

OPEN SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Shuler moved the motion, and Trustee Helms seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chair shared that no actions or votes were taken in Executive Session.*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Submitted by,



Recorder

Attachments

1 – Agenda

2 – Minutes

3 – BDO Handout