

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY INTERIM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LOWMAN HALL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:01AM. Chairman Way 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 Steve Swanson gave the invocation.

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

Administrators & others present: *President*, Mr. James E. Clark; *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 for Institutional Advancement*, Mr. A.L. Fleming; *Executive Director for 1890 Programs and Extension*, Mr. Delbert Foster; *Athletics Director*, Mr. Paul Bryant; *Director of Public Relations*, Mrs. Elizabeth Mosely-Hawkins; *Special Assistant to the President for Executive Affairs*, Mrs. Shondra Abraham; *The Strategy Group*, Mrs. Heather Smith and *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

Media: *The Times and Democrat* Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Way asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 12th and August 15, 2016. Trustee Irvin moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustees Swanson. Vote: unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman Way congratulated the Athletic Department on their win against Florida A&M on Saturday, September 24th. He continued by stating that the University faced some very real challenges during the last legislative session, but in the end all promises made were kept. Everyone was reminded that a new legislative session will begin in January and the board would have dialogue with Ms. Heather Smith, Legislative Liaison, for the institution.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ATTACHMENT 2)

President Clark welcomed the students that were in attendance and asked the SGA President to introduce himself. He stated that student enrollment had increased for the fall 2016 semester. The freshmen students were significantly higher posing housing challenges. After making arrangements with University Village and Campus Corner, the decision was made to move the Athletic Department from Rowe Hall to Staley Hall to allow renovations for single occupancy rooms. Nix Hall would also be renovated for single room occupancy. The furniture for Hugine Suites had been delivered except for those on the last truck, which experienced mechanical problems in route to the campus.

Regarding the Wi-Fi on the campus, the students encounter three major issues: 1) access, 2) reliability and 3) speed. The infrastructure requires major investments to solve these problems. The equipment has not been upgraded during the last decade. As a result, the University is approaching a near catastrophic meltdown of the network system. The problem was also affecting the audit work. Mrs. Brewington stated the department loses 30-40 hours per week of work on the audit due to network problems.

During the tropical storms Hermine and Julia, the campus experienced flooding and water damage due to the following reasons: 1) significant drainage problems, 2) poorly designed roof and window flashings, and 3) accumulation of water due to construction flaws. Some of these issues can be remedied by the institution, but others will require outside help. For example, there is inadequate drainage from the campus to the city drainage system resulting in water backing up on campus. This will require assistance from city, county or state officials. It is a long term project. Concerning the window flashings and construction flaws, the University is looking at low cost solutions as well as contacting the building contractor for resolution.

Academic Affairs

President Clark shared that 12 students were selected by Thurgood Marshall College Fund Leadership Institute to participate in the conference scheduled in Washington, DC, November 18-22. One student will also be participating in the HBCU All-Stars Conference to be held in Arlington, VA, October 23-26, 2016.

The University continues to work on matters of compliance with DHEC. An Environment and Safety Committee was established. A hazardous waste management training for faculty and staff will be held on Thursday, October 13th. Mrs. Pequita Stukes-Bradley and Dr. Learie Luke are the project managers.

SACSCOC

Dr. Luke was appointed as the Interim SACSCOC Liaison for the University. He would be the official representative for SACSCOC and ensure that all reports are submitted in a timely fashion. Chairman Way mentioned his conversation with Dr. Belle Wheelan back in June and his plans are to invite her to attend a Board meeting. Trustee Helms asked would there be a national search for the position of Director of Institutional Effectiveness and whether this person would be assigned the SACSCOC Liaison responsibilities. The President answered in the affirmative, but stated that Dr. Luke would be the SACSCOC contact person until the director is hired.

Operations

For the University to be successful and continue to grow, Truth Hall will be necessary for additional student housing. SHM swimming Pool will soon be available for faculty, staff, students and the community. The University will also launch a Fitness Program "BeFIT" this fall. Plans are being considered to reopen the Museum/Planetarium. Creative ideas have been presented by the staff on this matter. There were concerns about leaking of the roof during Hurricane Matthew in the museum. Trustee Vinzani asked whether the water damage had been remedied. The President and Mr.

Davis confirmed this. Dr. Luke shared that additional repairs are being considered in the museum. The President mentioned the University plans to collaborate with USC and Clemson on the upcoming solar eclipse in 2017.

Athletics

Links of articles from the *New York Times* and the *Times and Democrat* concerning athletes were shared with the Board. There were discussions regarding the University's 101 Marching Band and their performance at Clemson University and FAMU. The President expressed the need for new band uniforms, which would cost approximately \$150K.

Partnerships & Collaborations

The agreement for a seamless accelerated pathway from OC-Tech's associate degrees to SC State's baccalaureate degrees was signed on September 7, 2016.

The president talked about the implementation of *The Scholarship System*, a model program that would help students obtain scholarship funds. The CEO is Ms. Jocelyn Panonita. The system would be made available in spring 2017 for all freshmen.

The President met with the Charleston Alumni Chapter. The meeting was held at the Boeing Welcome Facilities where he met SC State graduates; Dr. Garth Cook, Boeing Education Relations Liaison; and Mrs. Joan Robinson-Berry, VP and General Manager. He shared his vision for the institution and also stressed the importance of the University's future partnerships and collaboration with 1) academic institutions; 2) business entities and 3) the community. Follow-up meetings will take place to discuss additional opportunities for SC State students. Ongoing conversations regarding the SC State Coca Cola relationship in Orangeburg and Atlanta will continue to strengthen those partnerships.

Media/Brand Renewal

Trustee Helms inquired about the cost to get the University's infrastructure networking working up to standard? The President stated the minimum cost would be at least \$2.5M, and the full upgrade would cost \$10-\$12M. Almost a decade has passed without upgrades to the network. Problems this year have caused students to have difficulty in having access to the internet and maintaining connections. The problems not only affected students' ability to complete assignments but also set back the University's work on its 2015-16 audit. Implementation of a new firewall eased that somewhat, but it is only a temporary solution. Some special equipment was installed to allow Mrs. Brewington to continue working on the audit. A short video clip of "President Clark's 'Alpha Bulldog' to Lead Clemson Flight" was played.

Financials

The University is presently working to complete the following:

- HBCU Bond Refinancing proposal to result in a total saving of \$11M (2017-2035). Due on September 27, 2016.
- SC Accountability Report contains the mission, objectives and performances measures AY 2015-2016. Due on September 12, 2016.
- SC Governor's Decision Packet consisting of the University's budget priorities for FY17. Due on September 30, 2016.
- New departmental budget templates charts to be presented and reviewed at each cabinet meeting.

Audits

- Single Audit – Federal filing due March 31, 2017.
- Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Patriciate (FISAP).
- WSSB Audit filing due November 30, 2016

- Standard Financial Reports as of June 30, 2016 will consist of two documents, 1) financial audit statements submitted to BDO, and 2) a separate template submitted in draft form to the State Controller General's Office by September 30, 2016. The final audit is due in October.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Brewington whether the audit would be submitted on time. She replied that it would. In the past, the institution has gotten into trouble by going past the October deadline. This will be the quickest the University has submitted the financial statements in at least five years.

The Chairman stated that he did not want the University to miss any deadlines, in any shape or form, with reference to reports due to the State. Once this happens, the Board, Administration and the University will be in a position to say that all promises made to the State were kept. The institution should not miss any deadlines even by one day.

The President concluded his report by reviewing his First 30 Days and 60 Days accomplishments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Swanson made a motion for the Trustees to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, personnel and to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Trustee Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chairman requested that Ms. Heather Smith remain in the Boardroom for Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – President's Clark Handouts