

MINUTES
SC STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
September 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Rodney Jenkins called the meeting to order at 2:03 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 Hamilton Grant gave the invocation.

Board Members Present Via Phone: Starlee Alexander, Hamilton Grant, Doward Harvin, Doris Helms, Rodney Jenkins, Milton Irvin, William Oden, and Wilbur Shuler, Monica Scott, Donnie Shell, Hubbard Smalls, Daniel Varat, and Jeff Vinzani. *Ex-Officio Members:* John Funny, Sharon Wade-Byrd, Jovanni Ayers, and David Staten.

Administrators & Others Via Phone: *President*, James E. Clark; *Provost*, Learie Luke, *Vice President of Finance*, Teare Brewington; *Chief of Staff*, Shondra Abraham; *Vice President Institutional Advancement & University Relations*, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; *IT Manager*, Curtis Bradley; *Special Assistant*, Betty Boatwright; *Social Media*, Benita Cooper, *Athletic Director*, Stacy Danley; *Executive Associate Athletic Director*, Melissa Dawson; *Facility Director*, Ken Davis; *1890 Administrator*, Delbert Foster; *Dean of Graduate Studies*, Fredrick Evans; *SACSCOC Liaison*, Valerie Goodwin; *Assistant Athletics Director of Development*, Kimberly Greene; *Senior Associate of Athletics*, Melvin Hines; *VP of Student Affairs*, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; *Operation Director*, Angelia Jackson; *Chief Information Officer*, Travis Johnson; *Public Relation Coordinator*, Chaundra Mikell; *Associate VP for Institutional Advancement*, Gwynth Nelson; *General Counsel*, Mercedes Pinckney; *Administrative Coordinator*, Chrystle Rogers; *Admission's Director*, Stacey Sowell; *Title IX Coordinator*, Alexander Sutler; *Executive Director for 1890 Research*, Louis Whitesides; *Administrative Coordinator and Recorder*, Eartha Mosley; *Orangeburg Alumni Chapter Members*, Vandy Gaffney, Margaret Robinson, and Evia Thomas.

Media: The Times and Democrat- Reporter Dionne Gleaton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jenkins asked for the adoption of the agenda. ***Trustee Doris Helms made the motion to approve the agenda with the amended changes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Donnie Shell. Vote: unanimously approved.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Attachment 2)

Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to approve minutes of the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved. (March 4th, June 10th, July 10th, July 16th, July 23rd, August 5th, and August 13, 2020)

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

On a personnel note, the Chairman shared his father's health as he has been placed in comfort care at the nursing home.

Thanked the President and his cabinet on the many works completed at the University and he challenged every department to tell our story through the public relations office. SC State University is "a way forward" for so many

students who may not have the opportunity to experience a great possibility. The University must continue to be a leader in SC by providing an opportunity to students, families, communities, state, country, and the world focusing on the possibility afforded to each student. When exercising a leader, the following words come to mind: accountability, transparency, intentional, deliberate, empower and working together. The University must exercise judgment and trust to each student through their matriculation. Judgment and truth are paramount for the success of SCSU and the Board of Trustees that those qualities are continually exerted by the administration.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Jenkins stated the board will proceed to hold its election for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. General Counsel Pinckney read Article V, Section 3 of the bylaws. The floor was open to nominations of Vice-Chair. *Trustee Monica Scott nominated Trustee Donnie Shell; it was seconded by Trustee Milton Irvin. With no other nominations from the floor, Trustee Jeff Vinzani motioned to elect Trustee Shell by accumulation as Vice-Chair; it was seconded by Trustee Varat. Vote: unanimous.*

Trustee Donnie Shell presided over the nomination for Chairman and preceded to open the floor for the nomination of Chairman. *Trustee Milton Irvin nominated Trustee Rodney Jenkins as Chairman of the Board; it was seconded by Trustee Grant. With no other nominations from the floor, Trustee Jeff Vinzani motion to elect Trustee Jenkins by accumulation as Chairman; it was seconded by Trustee Grant. Vote: unanimous.*

PRESIDENT'S UPDATES

HBCU Refinancing Loan

At the last meeting, the board approved to move forward with signatures by the Chairman, the President, and CFO as needed. Documents are coming in and are in the process of being signed.

Enrollment

The Freshman class increased by 30%. Graduate school enrollment increased by 4%. Students not returning due to COVID financial situation were down twice as much as the returning students. Overall, the total number of students may be down about 5%. Total enrollment is 2344 '20 compared to 2479 '19.

COVID-19

The President reported protocol is in place for returning students. Towards the end of September, certain students will be returning for Lab work and student-athletes. Upon arriving, COVID-19 testing will be administered and, adhering to CDC guidelines, random testing will occur throughout the year. Students will be housed in Hugine Suites. Quarantined students will be housed in Battiste Hall. Ninety-five percent of all signage is installed. The first target date to make an assessment of the COVID-19 is November 19th and then November 30th.

Fundraising

As of June 30, 2020 the total fund raised was \$1.8M vs last year's \$1.9M. There are collaborations underway with Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Dominion, and other federal agencies. Additional state-level funds may also be available due to COVID-19 after the recalculation of the state surplus.

SACSCOC

Ms. Valerie Goodwin reported the SASCCOC visit is next week September 8-10. The visit will take place virtually, including all interviews. The technology test with the on-site Chairman will run tomorrow, September 4th. Mock interviews have been conducted for the past week to ensure the University is prepared for the visit. The On-site committee

has requested a meeting with the Board of Trustees Chairman and a few other Trustees as well. The University will find out whether there are any recommendations on Thursday morning, September 10th.

TITLE IX POLICY (Attachment 3)

General Counsel provided a video and revised copy of the Title IX Policy to the Trustees. The new Title IX policy bridged a gap from the new federal mandate. A meeting with General Counsel, Mercedes Pinckney, Title IX Coordinator, Alexander Sutler, and Trustee Doward Harvin shows additional language that covers issues created when the definition was changed on the federal level. ***Trustee Doward made the motion to accept the policy with Section III Non-Title IX Sexual Harassment and Sexual Issues Grievance Procedures. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hamilton Grant. Vote: unanimously approved.***

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to address contracts and personnel issues. ***Trustee Wilbur Shuler made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Donnie Shell. Vote: unanimously approved. President Clark, Stacy Danley, and Mercedes Pinckney were asked to remain on stand-by for Executive Session. Vote: unanimously approved.***

OPEN SESSION

The Chairman asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. ***Trustee Doris Helms made a motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.***

The Chair stated that no actions were taken in Executive Session.

While in Executive Session, there were two items discussed that require approval from the Board. The Chairman revealed The President's Succession Plan from the Board and Athletics' Contracts that require approval from the Board of Trustee. ***Trustee Hamilton Grant made the motion to approve the President's Succession Plan developed by the Board Special Committee as a policy. The motion was seconded by Trustee Milton Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved. (Attachment 4)***

Trustee Shell made the motion to authorize the University to enter into the following football competition contracts, with the understanding that AD Danley, President Clark, and the General Counsel will continue to review the contract details: SCSU vs. Georgia Southern, September 2024, \$337,500; SCSU vs. Georgia Tech, September 2023, \$400,000; SCSU vs. New Mexico State, September 2021, \$360,000; SCSU vs. UNC Charlotte, September 2023, \$312,500; SCSU vs. University of South Carolina, October 2022, \$500,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Vote: unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Trustee Wilbur Shuler made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Hamilton Grant. Vote: unanimously approved.***

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 - Sexual Harassment and Sexual Issues Grievance Procedures
- 3 - President's Succession Plan