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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

April 25, 2014

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:35 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2014, in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Ms. Leah B. Moody, Committee Chairman; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Robert E. Brown; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Chairman; and Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr., Vice Chairman. Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell was absent.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.; Mr. Charles H. Williams; and Dr. Mitchell M. Zais.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan A. Elkins; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; USC Union Dean Alice Taylor-Colbert; Chair of the Faculty Senate James H. Knapp; Chief of Staff, President's Office, J. Cantey Heath, Jr.; Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, USC Aiken, Jeff Priest; University Technology Services Production Manager, Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen and Terri Saxon.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Alexander Oliver, Secretary/Treasurer Brittney May, and out-going Vice President Christen Torres; USC Beaufort: President Raechel Blakeney and Vice President Nathaniel Cooper; USC Columbia: President Lindsay Richardson, Vice President Donnie Iorio, Treasurer Ryan Harmon, and Graduate Student Association President-Elect Brittany Walter; USC Lancaster: President Brandon Newton, Vice President Hunter Faile, and Secretary/Treasurer Brittney Wallace; USC Salkehatchie: President Rosie Curiel and Vice President Walterboro Andrew Floresca; USC Sumter: President Jared Buniel, Vice President Nominee Kyle King, Secretary Nominee Chance Miller, and USC Sumter student Janelle Buniel; USC Union: President Candice Owens and Vice President Rebekah Kayce Edwards; USC Upstate: President Alexander Dukes, Vice President Sandy Vang, Treasurer Jaquan Drayton, and Secretary Brittney Shannon.

SGA advisors present were: USC Aiken: Ahmed Samaha; USC Beaufort: Doug Oblander; USC Columbia: David Hunter; USC Lancaster: Laura Humphrey Carnes; USC Salkehatchie: Jane Brewer; USC Sumter: Dan Kiernan and Matthew Holley; and USC Union: Brad Greer.

Chair Moody welcomed everyone and invited them to enjoy lunch and discuss their campuses with the Trustees at their tables.

I. Call to Order

Following lunch, Chair Moody called the meeting to order, again welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves.

Chair Moody stated that the agenda had been posted, the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act, the agenda had been circulated to committee members and a quorum was present to conduct business. Mr. Hickman stated that there were no members of the media in attendance.

II. Featured Campus Reports

A. USC Lancaster

Chair Moody called on Chancellor Elkins to introduce USC Lancaster Student Government President Brandon Newton. Chancellor Elkins said that Mr. Newton, a sophomore majoring in organizational leadership through USC's Palmetto College and currently a student on the Lancaster campus, was on track to receive his Associate in Science degree in May. He planned to graduate with his Bachelor of Arts degree in 2016.

Chancellor Elkins stated that Mr. Newton previously served as Student Government Vice President. A founding member of the campus Republicans Club, he is active in local politics and serves as the first vice chair of the Lancaster County Republican Party, making him the youngest vice chair in the state of South Carolina. She noted Mr. Newton's passion about sharing his enthusiasm for USC Lancaster in his role as a peer advisor and Academic Success Center tutor. In addition to Mr. Newton's service to USC Lancaster, Chancellor Elkins said he was also a commissioner on the Lancaster County Historical Commission, and a board member on the Lancaster County Children's Council – a charity designed to provide resources and opportunities for Lancaster's youth.

Mr. Newton talked of his passion for USC Lancaster and touched on some student campus activities, including blood drives and community service projects. A group of theater students will participate in a travel study program in Italy this summer while a group of biology students will participate in a sailing trip off the coast of North Carolina next summer.

Mr. Newton said his agenda as SGA President included plans to visit local community groups, such as Rotary International, to talk about USC Lancaster and Palmetto College. And, on behalf of the entire student body, he said he planned to personally call and thank USC Lancaster donors for their support. In addition, he and Vice President Faile plan to visit local high schools to recruit students to USC Lancaster and Palmetto College.

Chair Moody thanked Mr. Newton for his informative report.

Mr. Mobley, who represents the Lancaster area on the Board of Trustees, said that Mr. Newton, through his ongoing recruiting efforts in the area, was a great asset to USC Lancaster and the Palmetto College.

A. USC Union

Chair Moody called on Chancellor Elkins to introduce USC Union Student Government President Candice Owens. Chancellor Elkins said that Ms. Owens, a non-traditional student since Fall 2011, was currently a junior in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program. She will receive her Associate in Science and Associate in Arts with Honors at the May graduation ceremony. In addition to her studies during the past two years, Ms. Owens worked in the admissions office and the Truluck Gym activity center.

Chancellor Elkins said that Vice President Rebekah Kayce Edwards would also present. Ms. Edwards, a freshman who was very involved in campus activities and worked in the Student Affairs office, was also first runner-up in the 2014 Miss USC Union pageant. Ms. Edwards graduated from Union High School where she played goalie for the women's soccer team.

Ms. Owens began by thanking the committee for the opportunity to talk about USC Union and the SGA program that allowed students to embrace the "beyond the classroom" experience. She explained that she was a non-traditional student in that she was a wife and mother of two sons who had decided to further her education after many years in the work force. She said that when she enrolled at USC Union she was a bit apprehensive because she was not the typical age student and was afraid she would feel extrinsic. To her relief, she found a welcoming, thoughtful and caring student body. In her freshman year Ms. Owens became an SGA Senator, which provided her the opportunity to serve her fellow students and become involved in community activities. She said that she was excited to be part of the SGA which she found was compelled to not only act to help empower and support the student body, but the community as well. She listed numerous SGA activities, including but not limited to, the Fall and Spring welcome back socials and the Women's History Month celebration.

Four SGA members participated in the 2014 Miss USC Union Pageant; one member was crowned and Vice President Edwards was the runner-up. Ms. Owens said that proceeds from the pageant went to support the Alzheimer's Association.

Ms. Owens reported that students were very excited to have had First Lady Patricia Moore-Pastides talk about her Greek cookbook at the annual Literary Festival in March. She concluded her remarks by extending an invitation to everyone to attend the USC Union Players' performance of *Our Town*, April 26 and 27.

Ms. Edwards said she was proud to report that the USC Union Bantams Baseball Team were back-to-back District III West Division Champions and were currently ranked 3rd in the nation. She said that going into the conference playoffs, the team's record was 11 wins and only one loss.

Chair Moody thanked Ms. Owens and Ms. Edwards for their great presentations.

C. USC Aiken

Chair Moody called on Chancellor Jordan to introduce SGA President Alexander Oliver. Chancellor Jordan said that Mr. Oliver, a Business Administration major and sophomore at USC Aiken, was from Lexington, South Carolina, where he was an outstanding student. She noted that from the moment he arrived on campus he became highly engaged and moved into leadership roles and is recognized and acknowledged as a leader by his peers and the faculty, staff, and administration. During his two years on campus, Mr. Oliver has worked as a Pacesetter, an intramural referee, and a Chancellor's Ambassador. As an Ambassador, he is one of the student "faces" of the University and represents the University at functions and special occasions.

Chancellor Jordan said that when asked what he likes most about USC Aiken, Mr. Oliver quickly responds "the fact that it is a close-knit community where staff knows your name, and where faculty and students are encouraged to work closely together." Chancellor Jordan said a saying in the campus community "there can be no deep learning without deep relationships" made USC Aiken a place where students make deep and lasting relationships. She concluded her introduction by noting that Mr. Oliver was making his mark on campus and that she looked forward to witnessing his accomplishments as the SGA President.

Mr. Oliver began by thanking the committee for the opportunity to speak about USC Aiken. He said there were many reasons he was excited to be the SGA President, but in the interest of time, he would highlight only a few key accomplishments achieved this academic school year.

The first was USC Aiken's enrollment growth. This year the campus experienced a 2 percent growth in overall enrollment. He said that they were proud that 88 percent of students were from South Carolina as well as 36 percent from traditionally underrepresented groups. In addition, USC Aiken had admitted 10 percent more students for the current academic year. He noted that while USC Aiken did not have a deposit requirement which would allow the tracking of committed students, all indications showed the incoming class would be one of the largest in its history.

Mr. Oliver said that the next highlight had personally impacted him. He explained that the Office of Career Services and the Office of Student Life had created the USC Aiken Leadership Certificate Program in response to business and industries' desire for graduates who were leaders and ready for the work place. This unique program combines leadership classes, career exploration opportunities, and immersive learning. Some highlights include a leadership exchange program with Suffolk University located in the heart of Boston, Massachusetts; a senior mentoring program with professionals in the students' career field; and the Disney Leadership Experience.

Mr. Oliver also talked about the annual campus "Research Day," which was held on April 11 to honor and recognize undergraduate research at USC Aiken. He explained that undergraduate research was the hallmark of the institution and that its 15:1 student faculty ratio allowed for more student engagement through emphasis on critical thinking. He said that students believed there is "no deep learning, without deep relationships" among students and faculty. This was the second largest "Research Day" with a total of 32 students giving oral or poster presentations in disciplines ranging from english, history, and sociology to chemistry, biology, and exercise sports science. He said that student and faculty were very fortunate to have this event fully sponsored by USC Aiken alumna Ms. Celeste Suggs.

USC Aiken also experienced some growth to its curriculum. Last year, Chancellor Jordan began a strategic planning process titled "Forward Together." Mr. Oliver reported that over 85 people participated in the development of this plan, which will be implemented over the next three years. New academic program proposals emerged out of the process. The first of which, the Liberal Arts/STEM Masters in Business Administration (MBA), will allow students who are not traditional business majors the ability to obtain an MBA. He said students were very excited that the program received Board approval and would be implemented at the beginning of the next school year.

The second proposal was the Engineering Completion Degree. He expressed gratitude for the outstanding support from the community industrial partners during the creation of this program; especially Bridgestone, the original Kimberly Clark, and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Noting that the Board

was scheduled to vote on this degree later in the day he said students were looking forward to the possibility of having a four-year engineering degree at USC Aiken.

The third degree being developed is a Bachelor of Science in the Clinical Laboratory Science Program. This degree was designed for students interested in both the health field and in the laboratory area. Mr. Oliver said that students in this program will enroll in a year-long internship in a hospital laboratory, and they were very appreciative of the help from Aiken Regional Medical Center in creating this degree.

Mr. Oliver reported that USC Aiken was consistently recognized by *US News and World Report* as one of the finest universities in the South, having been ranked in the Top 3 in the category of Public Regional Colleges in the South for the last 15 years.

As to USC Aiken athletics, Mr. Oliver said he was proud to announce that the golf team was ranked No. 2 in the country going into the regionals, where he anticipated the team would capture its fourth national championship in the last 10 years. This year the men's basketball team won the Peachbelt Championship, as well as the NCAA Division 2 regionals. The team advanced to the Final Four for the first time in school history, but fell short of winning in a close game. However the team had much to be proud of in that in the process. It set over 30 school records during this historic season.

Mr. Oliver concluded his presentation by saying that he was an extremely proud member of the Pacer family, which he strongly believed was "one campus, one community."

Chair Moody thanked Mr. Oliver for his informative report.

D. USC Columbia

Chair Moody called on Dr. Pruitt to introduce SG President Lindsay Richardson. Dr. Pruitt said that Ms. Richardson really needed no introduction as a person, since her considerable "qualities, skills and character are well known to all." He said that her election as SG President by one of the largest margins in modern history proved that her student peers revered her.

Dr. Pruitt said that Ms. Richardson, as a student leader, will represent all students from across the system on the Board of Trustees. She is bright, motivated, and assertive; and is not intimidated by authority or position, but rather establishes relationships of mutual respect in order to express her leadership. He concluded by saying that Mrs. Richardson is the exact kind of person "we all want in the important role she will play in her leadership position." She is assertive, respectful, and effective.

Ms. Richardson began by welcoming her peers to the Columbia campus. She talked about the growth of the campus and said she looked forward to working closely together with student government leaders throughout the University System.

Ms. Richardson listed and discussed in detail her goals as SG President. In summary her four goals are: to perpetuate pride and spirit in the University; to advocate on behalf of all students; to promote diversity and inclusion; and to encourage engagement in all forms of leadership.

Columbia SG Vice President Donnie Iorio, introduced by Ms. Richardson, discussed the purpose of the Student Senate. He explained how the senators worked directly with students to better represent their interest and worked with University departments on student initiatives.

Ms. Richardson introduced SG Treasurer Ryan Harman, who explained that he oversees the SG budget and works to strategically plan proposals for more student funding. In addition, he helps student organizations plan and manage their events and to be effective in their spending.

Ms. Richardson concluded her remarks by thanking all in attendance for their interest and participation in making the University the best it can be and encouraging everyone to work together, because "collaboration and team work" were integral to the University's success.

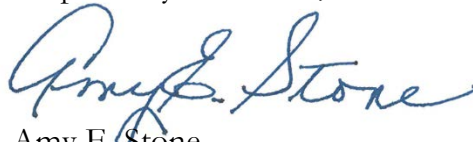
Chair Moody thanked the officers for their informative presentations.

III. Other Matters:

Chair Moody announced that the contact information for SGA representatives on all University campuses had been updated in the Resource Center on the Board Portal.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy E. Stone
Secretary