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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

March 17, 2005

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in the Capstone House Campus Room.

Members present were: Ms. Rita M. McKinney, Chair; Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. Williams W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. M. Wayne Staton; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; Mr. Herbert C. Adams, Board Chairman; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Vice Chairman. Dr. C. Edward Floyd was absent. Other Trustees present were: Mr. James Bradley; Mr. Robert N. McLellan; Mr. Toney J. Lister; and Mr. John C. von Lehe.

Others present were: President Andrew A. Sorensen; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard W. Kelly; Vice President for University Advancement T.W. Hudson Akin; Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer William F. Hogue; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Regional Campuses and Continuing Education Chris P. Plyler; Director of the Department of Student Life, Division of Student Affairs, Jerry T. Brewer; and Director of University Communications, Division of University Advancement, Russ McKinney, Jr.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Mebane L. Youmans; USC Columbia: President Justin Williams, Vice President Ryan Holt, Treasurer Tommy Preston; USC Lancaster: President Clarissa Carelock, Vice President Andre Kennedy and Advisor Tracey Taylor; USC Salkehatchie: President Diane C. Hardy and SGA member Jackie C. Daniels; USC Union: President Ricky Farr, Vice President Tanya Breitenbach; USC Upstate: SGA member Tashambia Blunt and Advisor Laura Puckett-Boler.

Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held and students had the opportunity to talk with Trustees, University officials and President Sorensen at their individual tables.

Following the luncheon, Chair McKinney called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She invited Board members, the Administration and others in

attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. Russ McKinney stated that there were no members of the media in attendance. Chair McKinney stated that the agenda had been posted and 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.

I. USC Columbia - 2005 SGA Goals Presentation: Chair McKinney called on newly-elected SGA officers from USC Columbia: Justin Williams, Tommy Preston, and Ryan Holt. Mr. Williams stated that they would present an overview of the goals set for the Student Government Association this year. He called on Mr. Holt who stated that the University was a great place and that the students wanted to make it even better by cultivating relationships, amending the penalty for taking 16 credit hours and improving safety on and around campus.

Mr. Williams stated that the new SGA officers would continue to meet with individuals they had met during this transition period as well as others. He thanked the past president, Zachery Scott, for setting high standards to follow and for advising them on what was needed to continue to foster the relationships that had already been formed.

Mr. Williams explained that the Administration had implemented a policy that in-state students who enrolled in more than 16 credit hours per semester would be charged an additional \$80.00 per credit hour; out-of-state students would be charged an additional \$208.00 per credit hour. This policy had been established to deter students from registering for extra classes and then dropping them, which created problems for seniors and other students who needed the classes to graduate but were unable to enroll in them because there was no available space. Mr. Williams said this policy had created an extra expense and students felt that they were being penalized for attempting to graduate in a timely manner; some students needed to take 18 or more hours in order to graduate in four years. Mr. Williams hoped that the Administration could revise the system so that those individuals who needed to graduate within four years could take the extra hours without being penalized.

Safety was another issue of concern to students. The Student Government Association had made great strides regarding safety and had met with the City of Columbia, University Hills Association, and Five-Points Association to discuss safety issues surrounding the University.

Mr. Williams indicated that students appreciated the shuttle system at the University; however, they would like to see it expanded to provide travel to Five Points, the Vista and from one side of the campus to the other at night. In addition, students would like improvements in lighting on campus.

As SGA Vice President, Mr. Holt presided over the Legislative Branch and had the opportunity to name seven standing committee chairs. Currently, the Senate Finance Committee had representation from all of the academic colleges on campus. In 2004, student organizations on campus received \$250,000 from the Student Finance Committee. Some of the funding was used for retreats to educate members on different issues pertinent to them. In the past, a portion had been used for the GPS System (Global Positioning System) in conjunction with parking services. The GPS System was installed on buses so that students could track the vehicles from their dorm room via computer. In addition, funds had been used to finance the *USA Today* Readership Program for two semesters. The *USA Today* Readership Program offered students selected newspapers (i.e., *USA Today*, *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*). SGA will submit a proposal to the Board of Trustees to increase the student activity fee by \$2.00 in order to permanently establish the *USA Today* Readership Program.

Mr. Holt stated that another goal was the expansion of student involvement in athletic activities. This idea came from Louisiana State University during the SEC exchange annual conference held at the University of Tennessee. A delegation from LSU had shared information about their program; students paid approximately \$50.00 which covered the cost of transportation and the football ticket (over 300 students were bused to away games). SGA planned to implement this program at the University.

Finally, the Arts and Sciences delegation had set up a site on "Blackboard" which faculty used to send messages to their students. The site gave students e-mail capabilities so that SGA could contact every student in the Arts and Sciences delegation; eventually, this site would expand so that all the academic colleges and students could contact the student senators and bridge the divide of communication.

Mr. Preston, SGA Treasurer, thanked everyone again for allowing them to come and speak on behalf of students. He credited Dr. Sorensen for the idea of students lobbying their legislators for additional resources in higher education.

Last week as part of a six-person delegation of students from Carolina and Clemson University, he had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, in order to lobby Congress. Students met with their congressional delegation and the Assistant Secretary of Education. The Assistant Secretary spoke about a variety of issues ranging from financial aid to consolidation of loans and some of the cuts in budgets this year. Mr. Preston also visited the White House and met with President Bush's Domestic Affairs Advisor, Mr. Claude Allen and Mr. Andrew Card, President Bush's Chief of Staff. Mr. Card spoke to them about working with the S. C. State Student Association.

On April 6, the University would have a lobbying day at the statehouse; the theme was "A Bigger Piece of the Pie." Student representatives would wear aprons and host a pie social for the legislature; they would meet with the legislators and voice student concerns.

Mr. Preston indicated that as Treasurer, one of his responsibilities was to ensure that the SGA assisted student organizations on campus. Currently, there were over 300 organizations ranging from athletics to special interests to political organizations. This year, student controllers would be financial advisors and would assist in meeting deadlines and budget preparation.

Another goal planned was the creation of a treasurer's workshop. This workshop would, in effect, bring student organization treasurers together so that they could discuss financial concerns and co-sponsorships; co-sponsorships could save money and add more resources to various projects.

Finally, other issues of concern to students were expensive textbooks and course packets. Mr. Preston stated that over forty-five percent of new additions to books consisted of only four pages of new information; and, half of the textbooks were "bundled," which meant that the prices were higher. Also, sixty-five percent of professors surveyed across the country indicated that they rarely used "bundled" textbooks. Currently, USC students were spending more than \$1,000 per year on books; the SGA will meet with the Administration and Faculty Senate to address these concerns.

In addition, course packets were an issue. Some of the professors required students to purchase supplementary materials which had created an extra expense. The SGA will specifically ask the deans to encourage their professors to use programs such as "Blackboard" and the website to post these materials on-line so that students would not have to purchase the packets.

Chair McKinney thanked the students and stated that not only were they SGA officers, but all three of them were also Pages in the State Senate. Chair McKinney stated that this report was received for information.

II. Carolina Day at the Statehouse (March 30): Mr. Williams reported that students planned to participate in the "Carolina Day at the Statehouse" on March 30. This event was sponsored by the Carolina Alumni Association. The Day would begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Capital City Club and at approximately 10:30 a.m. they would move on to the State House in order to talk with the legislators about student concerns in higher education. The day would conclude with a luncheon at the Capital City Club. He invited board members and others in attendance to join them for this event.

III. Brief Reports from Non-Columbia Campuses: Chair McKinney requested reports from representatives of each campus and asked them to discuss successes and challenges at their institution.

A. USC Aiken: Ms. Mebane Youmans reported that election of officers would be held on March 30 - 31, and fee allocations for over 60 organizations would begin in the next several weeks. Currently, they were waiting to hear from *USA Today* regarding the implementation of a *USA Today* Readership Program on campus.

B. USC Lancaster: Mr. Andre Kennedy reported that the month of February was dedicated to Black History month. SGA held a week long film festival and the black awareness group sponsored a youth explosion; over 400 people from the community and several radio stations from Charlotte, NC had attended. Also, there was an AIDS awareness day; students received a free AIDS test and information regarding AIDS and diabetes. Additionally, a "soul food" festival and a Valentine's Day luncheon were held. In March, a Career Day had been scheduled and several professionals talked with students about different career paths and what was needed to get there. In addition, SGA was planting a tree in memory of a former USC Lancaster soldier who was killed in Vietnam.

C. USC Salkehatchie: Ms. Diane Hardy reported that the "Relay for Life" was held in Walterboro and Allendale; Walterboro hosted a basketball tournament and all proceeds were donated to "Relay for Life". The 31st annual Feast Day would be held April 22 and SGA elections on March 30th. The students were very excited about the new Palmetto College and the new smart classrooms on the Allendale and Walterboro campuses.

Ms. Hardy thanked Dr. Sorensen for being the speaker at the Rotary Club in Summerville and for supporting their community.

USC Salkehatchie had a finalist in the Governor's Teaching Excellence Award - Dr. Roberto Refinetti, Associate Professor of Psychology. Also, SGA had helped with the recruitment of future students to USC by hosting eighth graders for tours, information and fun; on April 20 - 21, the campus would hold workshops, tours and games for the high school students.

D. USC Union: Mr. Ricky Farr stated that in January, USC Union hosted a welcome back social and hosted a Black History month program which was the highest attended event of the entire year. In March, SGA would host a "meet and greet the candidate" social and hosted a blood drive to benefit the "Blood Connection" based out of Greenville, SC. All of the blood donated would service the upstate of South Carolina. Finally, Awards Day would be held in April to recognize some of the professors and students on campus.

E. USC Upstate: Ms. Tashambia Blunt reported that USC Upstate had begun SGA officer elections on-line and had held their first on-line book sale and

exchange for students. A time capsule ceremony commemorating their first year as USC Upstate was held and the ground breaking for the Health Education complex was scheduled for April. Students had started a letter writing campaign to the legislature voicing their concerns about the increase of tuition costs and how it was affecting students. Because of the increase in tuition, students were working more instead of participating in leadership roles and campus life.

Ms. Blunt reported that funds from the annual Step Show and a Cinderella pageant were used to assist the Tsunami relief victims.

Intramural programs continued to grow with over 14 sports and 1,100 participants. Spring fest would be held on April 14th and at least 1,200 students were expected to attend. In April, senators would begin their monthly meetings at the University Center in Greenville.

Chair McKinney thanked all of the students for their wonderful reports and stated that the reports reflected that student leaders were doing a great job on their respective campuses and were making a real difference in their communities and state.

Chair McKinney stated that these reports were received as information.

IV. Other Matters: Chair McKinney called on Dr. Pruitt to give a brief report on student activity fees for the non-Columbia campuses. There had been discussion about whether students from USC campuses could attend events on the Columbia campus (specifically, football games). Dr. Pruitt explained that each of the campuses was given an opportunity to purchase tickets; generally, the chancellors or deans arranged in advance to buy a certain number of tickets for the upcoming season at the faculty/staff rate. Once season tickets were sold and complimentary tickets were given away, it was more difficult to purchase tickets; early requests were encouraged. Dr. Pruitt stated that the University wanted each campus to benefit from those events offered at the Columbia campus.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman McKinney declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary