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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 9, 2007

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 12:05 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mr. William W. Jones, Jr., Chairman; Mr. John W. Fields; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. M. Wayne Staton; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; Mr. Herbert C. Adams, Board Chairman; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Vice Chairman. Members absent were: Mr. William L. Bethea, Jr. and Mr. Othniel H. Wienges, Jr. Other Trustees present were: Mr. Arthur S. Bahmuller; Mr. James Bradley; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.

Others present were: President Andrew A. Sorensen; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Mark P. Becker; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard W. Kelly; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis Pruitt; Vice Provost for System Affairs and Executive Dean for System Affairs and Extended University Chris P. Plyler; Vice President for Advancement Brad Choate; Legal Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Vice Provost for Faculty Development Christine Curtis; Director of Governmental and Community Relations Shirley Mills; Associate Director of Governmental Affairs and Legislative Liaison Casey Martin; Coordinator of Government and Community Relations Tommy Preston; USC Lancaster Public Information Officer Shana Funderburk; Director of Student Life, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; USC Salkehatchie, SGA Advisor Jane Brewer; USC Sumter, SGA Advisor Shannon Mewborn; Director of Student Life, USC Upstate, Steve Hopkins; Director of University Communications, Division of University Advancement, Russ McKinney, Jr.; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone and Brand Pope.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Laney Wiggins and SGA Senator Rene Marshall; USC Columbia: President Nick Payne and Treasurer Alesha Brown; USC Lancaster: President Greg Laflame, Vice President Devin Waiters, Treasurer Tristen Blount, and Secretary Catherine Catalano; USC Salkehatchie: President Chris Hale, and Vice President Sean Pittman; USC Sumter: Vice President Toby Shuler; USC Union: President Angie Eubanks, Vice President Chastity LeMasterk, and Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Tollison; USC Upstate: President Xavier Pearson, Vice President Brenton Pringle, and Treasurer McKenzie Loudermilk.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held and students had the opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials at individual tables.

Following the luncheon, Chairman Jones called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He invited Board members, administrators, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. McKinney stated that no members of the media were in attendance.

Chairman Jones 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.

II. Presentation on Ticket Return: Chairman Jones called on SGA President Nick Payne who stated that the Ticket Return Program was an on-line ticket distribution system which was commonly referred to as a "lottery system." Mr. Payne stated that all full-time students were eligible for tickets and points were accrued based on loyalty (number of games attended) and seniority. Students had the ability to print tickets from any computer 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Mr. Payne stated that students could log onto [www.ticketreturn.com/sc](http://www.ticketreturn.com/sc) to request a ticket through a certain time period. At the end of the request period students would receive an email notifying them if they had received a ticket for the upcoming game. If ticket requests did not exceed the allotment, all students who requested tickets would receive one. Mr. Payne stated that if requests exceeded the allotted number of tickets, the system would automatically go to the loyalty based distribution system (the "lottery"). Students could claim tickets up until the start of the game. He stated that tickets were printed from the students' accounts and each had the student's name and a unique bar code displayed on it. Therefore, each ticket was student and event specific and could only be used once.

Mr. Payne explained the loyalty and seniority point system. He stated that students attending SEC games would receive one point (this included football and men and women basketball). Students attending non SEC games received two points. The seniority points were designed as follows: Seniors 8, Juniors 6, Sophomores 4, Freshmen 3, and graduate students 6.

Mr. Payne stated that 10 percent of a student's total points would roll over at the end of the academic year and would be applied to the next year. This student would be rewarded for past activity in the next academic year.

He said if a student was unable to attend a game, the ticket was returned to the pool. The University Ticket Office can track who attended games and for students who received tickets and did not attend the game, they would be docked in the loyalty point base system.

In addition, Mr. Payne noted that the Student Ticket Advisory Committee had been working hard and had developed policies and procedures for this system. The committee was comprised of representatives from student government, student organizations, and the student Gamecock Club with input from Athletics.

Mr. Payne stated that the system would be evaluated periodically and recommendations would be made for changes to the ticket return system as needed.

Mr. Payne pointed out that the committee had reviewed the ticket systems at other institutions such as West Virginia and Maryland and had based our system on the best practices which they saw on other campuses. The ticket distribution system would begin midnight, Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the men's and women's basketball games on January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> against the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Payne stated that the system was user friendly and he hoped everyone would learn the system quickly and apply it for next football season.

President Sorensen commended Mr. Payne and the Student Ticket Advisory Committee.

Chairman Jones stated that this report was received for information.

III. Proposal for Evening Bus Service: SGA President Nick Payne proposed a nighttime bus service system program for students. Cocky's Caravan is a nighttime bus service program which would give students the option to travel to popular areas of interest in Columbia, in the Vista, and in Five Points through utilization of their Carolina Card.

Mr. Payne stated that in the summer of 2007, parties from the city transportation system (CMRTA), retail merchants, and university personnel including the Director of Vehicle Management and Transportation, Derrick Huggins, as well as Chief of USC Police Ernie Ellis, met to discuss the inception of such a program. All parties agreed and were highly supportive of the initiative. Safety and student immersion in their surrounding community were very important. Recently, Dr. Sorensen gave Cocky's Caravan his blessing during a Student Leadership Luncheon.

Mr. Payne stated that Student Government believed that there were several reasons to implement Cocky's Caravan. The most important reason was student safety. Cocky's Caravan would take students off of the street and away from potentially dangerous drivers during certain hours of the night. Also, students would not have to walk through areas of concern: Maxcy Gregg Park, Greene Street, and other potentially unsafe areas around campus.

Mr. Payne stated that in order to finance such a project the cost of hiring a driver for 18 hours per week plus the cost of using buses from CMRTA would need to be considered. At the present time, CMRTA was asking for approximately \$13,000 for one bus per semester to run the routes. He estimated that they would need three buses. He cited the following as possible funding sources:

- RHA funds,
- Greek Housing Activity Fee Monies,
- Five Points Association,
- Vista Guild, and
- Individual Merchants

Mr. Payne stated that University of Tennessee had a similar service called "The T", which was run by the Knoxville Area Transit (KAT); this service provided on-campus service for free to students and faculty members. They also ran a program called "Late Line" trolley that operated from 6:00 p.m. until 3:30 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays taking students to and from campus and downtown Knoxville.

The University of Arkansas offered a "Safe Ride Program" that offered transportation from 11:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. taking students from point to point anywhere within the Fayetteville city limits including the University and downtown area.

IV. Brief Reports from Campuses:

Chairman Jones called on each of the campuses to provide a brief update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA President Laney Wiggins stated that they had a Safety Advisory Board at which students could voice their concerns about campus safety and their ideas for changes on campus. Efforts were underway to get students more involved with Athletics.

B. USC Lancaster: SGA Secretary Catherine Catalano stated that USC Lancaster had its largest orientation to date. To be more effective, SGA had divided into subcommittees such as Entertainment, Arts, News and

Views, Publicity, Web Design and Intramurals. The committees met once a week for one hour and SGA met once a week on Thursdays. A new outdoor recreation program had begun and students participated in two backpacking trips.

Ms. Catalano stated that a new fitness program had started which was called MOVE (Motivation Outcomes and Victory through Exercise). She stated that there were approximately 50 participants; students were rewarded for 30 minutes of exercise per day, five days a week and three days of strength training.

Ms. Catalano stated that a fundraiser was held, the proceeds of which benefited the Red Cross. SGA planned to have two student forums each semester with a panel of administrators so students could come and voice their opinions. The first forum would be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> to address parking issues.

C. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Chris Hale expressed sadness on behalf of the Ocean Island tragedy involving the USC students and a Clemson student.

Mr. Hale stated that enrollment at USC Salehatchie had increased by five percent. He stated that two new sports had been added, men's basketball and soccer. All other teams were doing well and this had been a great season for baseball.

He stated that a convocation was held on August 20<sup>th</sup> and Chairman Adams was the guest speaker.

In addition, President Sorensen had visited the campus and met with the Athletics teams. The students were all very appreciative.

D. USC Sumter: SGA Vice President Toby Shuler reported that USC Sumter had renewed their first NJCAA men's baseball and women's softball exhibition season. USC Sumter would also add men's and women's soccer teams in Fall 2008.

SGA was very involved in community service. The SGA President stated that the main challenge and project on campus now was to address the smoking policy because there were conflicts about where students could and could not smoke. The goal is to protect the rights of both non-smokers and smokers in the process.

E. USC Union: SGA President Angela Eubanks stated that USC Union had a new dean, Dr. Hugh Rowen, who had new ideas and direction for the upcoming year. Ms. Eubanks stated that SGA had a new database program and this should help improve communication between the students and administration.

Ms. Eubanks noted that USC Union had one of its largest enrollments this year, and was very excited about its new Nursing and Business Programs.

Ms. Eubanks stated that a "welcome back social" was held and was attended by 123 students. Eighty students attended the Halloween social. Also, a blood drive was held and students collected 31 pints of blood and planned to schedule two additional blood drives soon.

Ms. Eubanks stated that SGA held a food drive. Students were asked to attend a Thanksgiving dinner and to bring two canned goods or \$2.00 as their ticket for admittance; 171 people attended the event. The funds and food were donated to DSS and/or the Salvation Army to be distributed to families in need in the community.

F. USC Upstate: SGA President Xavier Pearson stated USC Upstate had gone to Division I status this year in Athletics. The Health Education complex was near completion and housed an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Also, the School of Business, pending Board approval, would be located in downtown Spartanburg.

Mr. Pearson stated that USC Upstate was working on a HUD grant with Dr. York Bradshaw, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the ReGenesis Clinic in downtown Spartanburg, to create opportunities for low income persons without medical care. He stated that students had assisted in building a Habitat house this year through the University 101 program and students had also raised \$60,000 for the project. He stated that USC Upstate was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year of service.

Mr. Pearson pointed out that USC Upstate would be smoke-free next year. The “Angel Tree” was a success and all of the “angels” from the Department of Social Services had been adopted.

Chairman Jones expressed his gratitude for the leadership at the University and how well they handled the recent tragedy involving our students. He asked everyone to take a moment of silence and reflect on how well our students and the student leaders handled this tragic event. He stated that there was poise and wisdom exhibited by all the student leaders and he and the Committee were very proud of everyone.

Chairman Jones thanked the SGA representatives for their informative reports and stated that they were received for information.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp  
Secretary