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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee

October 14, 2010

The Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Thursday, October 14, 2010, in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room at 4:00 p.m.

Members present were: Mr. William W. Jones, Jr., Chairman; Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. Greg Gregory; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Dr. C. Dorn Smith, III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Charles H. Williams; Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman; and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Vice Chairman. Mr. W. Lee Bussell, Sr. was absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Ms. Leah B. Moody; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Michael D. Amiridis; Vice President for Finance and Planning William T. Moore; Special Assistant to the President J. Cantey Heath, Jr.; Senior Vice Provost Christine W. Curtis; Director of Governmental Affairs and Legislative Liaison Casey Martin; Director of the Office of Media Relations, Division of University Advancement, Margaret Lamb; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff member Karen Tweedy.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order and invited those Board members present to introduce themselves. Mrs. Lamb indicated that no members of the press were in attendance.

Chairman Jones stated that notice of the meeting had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been distributed to the Committee; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

I. Discussion of Blue Ribbon Panel Report: Chairman Jones called on Provost Amiridis who explained that the Blue Ribbon Panel had identified and prioritized four specific categories of concern and areas for improvement: governance; leadership with an established sense of a vision, strategy and goals toward which the school was progressing; the building; and resources.

Dr. Amiridis commented that the faculty clearly recognized that there were problems. They agreed that the bylaws and internal governance needed to be addressed; in fact, they were in the process of benchmarking other law school bylaws in order to align Carolina's with what was currently expected in legal education.

The faculty also agreed that the strategic planning process to develop a clear and compelling mission, vision and strategy was needed. They had asked the Provost to hire an external facilitator to help with this process. In addition, the faculty recognized that a strategic plan should offer flexibility in order to attract a new dean.

Regarding the building, the faculty requested further information in order to make an informed recommendation. They had also agreed to look at the possibility of creating new resources such as degree programs.

It was noted that a resolution had been passed by the Student Bar Association which echoed and strengthened the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel. Provost Amiridis remarked that the panel recognized student quality as the Law School's top asset.

Chairman Jones proposed that Provost Amiridis and Secretary Stepp coordinate another meeting so that everyone would have the opportunity to carefully analyze this report, particularly since the Student Bar Association had recently submitted its formal statement.

Chairman Jones also indicated that he would like to ask all of the lawyers on the Board to be a member of an ad hoc advisory committee to discuss these issues and to come back before the full Board.

He asked that members of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee, the Ad Hoc Lawyers Advisory Committee as well as any other interested Board members meet with the Law School dean search committee. "I think it would be valuable to let the search committee know what characteristics the Board was looking for in the new dean."

Mr. Buyck suggested that committee members submit to Chairman Jones a list of those issues they wished to discuss before the next meeting. He also requested involvement of the National Advocacy Center leadership in this process.

Dr. Moore briefly summarized projected costs for renovating the current Law School building vs. constructing a new facility.

II. Adjournment: Since there were no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary