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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

March 16, 2006

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 12:30 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Ms. Rita M. McKinney, Chair; Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. Williams W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. M. Wayne Staton; Mr. Herbert C. Adams, Board Chairman; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Vice Chairman. Dr. C. Edward Floyd and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr. were absent. Other Trustees present were: Mr. Arthur S. Bahnmuller; Mr. John W. Fields; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr.; and Mr. Othniel H. Wienges, 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 Research and Health Sciences Harris Pastides; Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer William F. Hogue; Vice President for University Advancement Brad Choate; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Regional Campuses and Continuing Education Chris P. Plyler; Chancellor of USC Aiken Thomas L. Hallman; Legal Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Department of Athletics Director Eric C. Hyman; Associate Provost for Institutional Outreach and Dean of The Graduate School Christine Ebert; Director of Academics and Student Support Services, Division of Regional Campuses and Continuing Education, David Hunter; Director of the Department of Student Life, Division of Student Affairs, Jerry T. Brewer; and Associate Professor, USC Lancaster, Noni Bohonak; Director of Student Activities, USC Aiken, Ahmed Samaha; Director of Student Life, USC Lancaster, Tracey Taylor; Director of Student Services, USC Salkehatchie, Kathy West; and Director of Student Life, USC Sumter, Shannon Mewborn; Director of University Communications, Division of University Advancement, Russ McKinney, Jr.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Brenn Hartley; USC Columbia: President Tommy Preston, Vice President Ryan Holt, Treasurer Jennifer Guest; USC Beaufort: President Johnathan Lucky; USC Lancaster: President Andre Kennedy; USC Salkehatchie: President Sloan Sauls, Treasurer Slaton Glover, and Senator Parks Goble; USC Union: President Lavarian Walkins, Vice President Brandi Spencer, and Treasurer Relicia Baxter; and USC Upstate: President Robert Gideon.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: 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, administrators, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. McKinney stated that no members of the media were 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 Aiken Presentation of 2005-2006 Activities: Chair McKinney called on USC Aiken SGA President Brenn Hartley who presented a report on campus Leadership Programs. He explained that USC Aiken believed that part of a college education should include learning how to be a good citizen and leader. Therefore, an "Emerging Leaders" and "Citizen Leadership" class was offered for academic credit, in which faculty, staff, and Aiken community leaders were invited to present and share their expertise on various topics. He added that in the Citizen Leadership class each student must develop an individualized 20-hour a week community service project and carry through with it.

Mr. Hartley stated that the "Senior Year Experience," also an academic credit course, provided students the opportunity to develop interview skills and to learn how to market themselves in the job market.

Mr. Hartley discussed the various Minority Leadership Opportunities:

- Minority Achievement Program (MAP) - A peer mentoring program designed to aid in the retention of minority students by pairing upper classmen with entering minority freshmen and transfer students to promote academic success, cultural awareness, personal development, and campus involvement. The program also provided upper classmen the opportunity to gain leadership skills.
- Compass Leadership Program - A smaller group of minority students who were encouraged to participate in student activities and were required to complete one service learning project per semester.
- Live-to-Lead - Students were assigned a staff member to shadow in order to help them develop their leadership skills and to help them decide what they wanted to do once they graduated.
- Student Leadership Retreat - The retreat was held at the beginning of the fall semesters for all student organization presidents and vice presidents. Motivational speakers were brought in and attendees worked on team building and communication skills. Most importantly, he added, the retreat provided the opportunity for student leaders to meet and converse.
- Leadership Library - Provided students the opportunity to check out reference material on leadership.

- Student Officer and Advisory Training - Training was offered to the approximately 65 student organizations' officers and advisors.

Board members asked questions about the programs. Provost Becker asked Mr. Hartley the single most important detail he had learned about leadership. Mr. Hartley responded "communication" and being open to the suggestions of others.

Chair McKinney thanked him for his report and said that it would be received as information.

I. Report on Cocky's Reading Express: Chair McKinney called on the new USC Columbia Student Government President, Tommy Preston, who commented that one of the best experiences in which they had participated this past year was "Cocky's Reading Express," which provided them the opportunity to travel across the state and interact with young South Carolinians.

Mr. Preston stated that the School of Library Sciences created a program called, "Children, Libraries, and Literacy," to raise literacy levels across the state. He said that Student Government leaders hoped to reinforce the importance of that concept by visiting schools and reading to the children; from that idea "Cocky's Reading Express" began. He explained that student leaders traveled around the state, gave students a copy of "Hello Cocky," and read to them. He thanked President Sorensen for his help in obtaining the funding and for his support of the program. Mr. Preston showed a video presentation of the program and stated that they had distributed more than 3,000 copies of the book.

II. USC Columbia 2006-2007 Plans: Mr. Preston stated that one of the responsibilities of Student Government was to be an advocate for students; therefore, he and other student government members had met with Governor Sanford regarding the Governor's proposal to cap tuition. They explained to the Governor that they felt his proposal would hinder the quality of their education. He noted that the next step for the proposal will be consideration by the Senate; they will continue to express their opposition to it.

Ms. Guest, SGA Treasurer, reported that she was working to expand CarolinaCard options to include off-campus locations. She had talked with Sid Kenyon at CarolinaCard, who had expressed his concern that expanding options would cause the Card Office to be considered a "financial institution," which would alter the manner in which the program was administered. She had also talked to Mike Dosol, who represented a company that works with universities on this process; he will share with her how other institutions worked through the financial institution issue.

Mr. Holt, SGA Vice President, said that they wanted to give back to the University. He reported that their passion this year was safety for the students, and with that in mind, they had financed the purchase of cameras for law enforcement to install in one of the University's older parking garages.

Mr. Preston asked Chair McKinney to step forward and stated that she had been a true advocate for the students. On behalf of all of the students at Carolina, he presented her a framed picture of the Horseshoe.

Chair McKinney thanked him and noted that their reports would be received as information. She noted that the "Cocky Reading Express" not only gave USC great public relations, but more importantly, sent a wonderful message to the children of the state.

III. Brief Reports from Campuses:

Chair McKinney requested reports from representatives of each campus and asked them to discuss successes and challenges at their institution.

A. USC Beaufort: Ms. McKinney called on Johnathan Lucky who reported that USC Beaufort student government elections were scheduled for next week; that they were in the process of amending their constitution; and that they were developing an electronic message board system to enhance communication between their two campuses.

B. USC Lancaster: Chair McKinney called on Andre Kennedy who noted that their elections were held yesterday. Mr. Kennedy announced that their annual semi-formal event was scheduled for Saturday, March 18th, and he invited everyone to attend. Their Blood Drive was scheduled for April 4th, and their Spring Fling for April 12th, at which deserving faculty and staff will be presented awards.

C. USC Salkehatchie: Chair McKinney called on Sloan Sauls who reported that the baseball team had been restored which she felt had helped with student enrollment and involvement. She added that due to the success of the baseball team, women's fast pitch softball, volleyball, and soccer will be offered next year.

D. USC Sumter: Chair McKinney noted that there were no student government officers in attendance; she introduced Shannon Mewborn, the Director of Student Life at USC Sumter.

E. USC Union: Chair McKinney called on Lavarian Walkins who reported on their recent luau, their blood drive, at which they collected double the units from the previous year and their planned parties in the near future.

E. USC Upstate: Chair McKinney called on Robert Gideon who remarked that they were very excited about their athletic program moving from Division II to Division I-AAA. He reported that student government elections were coming up, and he wanted to thank the Information Technology Department for making on-line voting possible. They were also in the process of planning a retreat for the new officers.

Mr. Gideon reported on various goals for this year:

- Working with the School Administration to lower summer school costs because they realized it affected their enrollment and retention.
- Working with Disability Services to help equip the campus to accommodate students from the SC School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg who wanted to attend USC Upstate.
- Working with Dining Services to lower their costs.
- Working with Law Enforcement to ensure that students' needs were met.

Chair McKinney thanked Mr. Gideon and stated that all of the reports were received as information. She congratulated the outgoing student government officers and the newly elected officers.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman McKinney declared the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary