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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 6, 2009

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 6, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mrs. Amy E. Stone, Chair; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Greg Gregory; Ms. Leah B. Moody; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman. Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William W. Jones, Jr.; and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Vice Chairman were absent. Mr. Toney J. Lister was also present.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Finance and Planning William T. Moore; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Michael D. Amiridis; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Michelle D. Dodenhoff; Vice Provost for System Affairs and Executive Dean for Extended University Chris P. Plyer; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Department of Student Life, Jerry T. Brewer; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Dean of USC Union Hugh C. Rowland; Chair of the Faculty Senate Patrick D. Nolan; Assistant to the President and Athletics Director John D. Gregory; Director of Campus Recreation Herbert Camp; Director of Student Life and Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; SGA Advisor, USC Salkehatchie, Jane Brewer; SGA Advisor and Admission Recruiter, USC Union, Brad Greer; Associate Director of Campus Recreation for Programs Kim Dozier; Rock Wall Manager, Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center (WFC), Walt Gerald; Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Manager and Office Manager, WFC, Ivey Kaiser; SGA Advisor, USC Sumter, Dan Kiernan; wife of Chairman Miles Loadholt, Ann Loadholt; wife of board member Toney Lister, Cynthia Lister; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone and Karen Tweedy.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Brad Hall and Secretary/Treasurer Travis Broome; USC Beaufort: President Rachel Sopp, Vice President Abby Moonen, Secretary Stephanie Montano, and Treasurer Colleen Erner; USC Columbia: President Meredith Ross, Vice President Alex Stroman, Treasurer Ebbie Yazdani; USC Lancaster: President Alyssa Soprano, Vice President Ethan Kramer, and Secretary/

Treasurer Lauren Adams; USC Salkehatchie: President Dustin Pannell; USC Sumter: President Jennifer Black, Vice President Richard Boone, and Chief of Staff to SGA President Justin Autry; USC Union: Students Ashley Brown and Kaitlyn Wade; USC Upstate: No student representatives were present. Secretary Stepp informed the committee that, due to a conflict, which resulted from the change in the initial meeting date, USC Upstate SGA representatives were unable to attend.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch:

A luncheon was held which gave students an opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials. Following the luncheon, Chair Stone called the meeting to order, welcomed and invited everyone to introduce themselves. There were no members of the media in attendance. She 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.

II. Report on Campus Outdoor Recreation:

Chair Stone called on Herbert Camp to give a brief overview of the Outdoor Recreation Program; students Walt Gerald and Ivey Kaiser also presented. Mr. Gerald reported that programs had increased substantially since the WFC opened in Spring 2003. By Fall 2008, programming had expanded to include equipment rental, climbing wall, adventure trips, Outdoor Leadership Training for student trip leaders, Backcountry Education Clinics, as well as other Climbing Wall events. In Fall 2009, the Bike Shop opened and Resource Library was expanded. The heart of the program was the skills clinics, which empowered students with the knowledge they needed to be on their own outdoors. Clinics were at no cost to students and included survival, navigation, backpacking, leave no trace ethics, and backcountry cooking.

Mr. Gerald and Ms. Kaiser gave a hands-on demonstration on the proper way to pack and wear a backpack, using President Pastides as their demonstration model.

Ms. Kaiser, Student President of SAGE (Students Advocating for a Greener Environment), stated that the Outdoor Recreation staff showed students how accessible the outdoors could be, and tried to empower them to push their comfort zones while having experienced guides to lead them. The advocacy side of the program included the service program and the Bike Shop. The service program, started in the Spring of 2009, included a recycling component wherein recycling bins were set up all around the WFC and student staff members collected the recycling daily and recorded the amounts recycled. This year, 1,778 gallons of recyclables were collected.

Outdoor Recreation adopted six miles of the Broad River area to clean up three times per year. The Sustainability clinics taught people care for the environment.

The Bike Shop offered mountain bikes, free bike tune-ups to all students and staff, hosted bike rides once a month, and taught safety skills. Their goal was to make USC Columbia a more bike friendly campus.

Adventure trips, such as the trip to the Smokey Mountains in November, were open to all students and staff, at a minimal cost to students. In Fall 2010, all adventure trips would be completely student led, and increased to approximately 12 trips per semester; the Challenge Course would open to all USC students, faculty and staff; and the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator position was expected to be filled.

The students thanked the Board for allowing them the opportunity to present, and they opened the floor for questions. Chair Stone asked whether the Bike Shop was limited only to bicycles leased by Outdoor Recreation, or could students bring in their own bicycles. Ms. Kaiser responded that students could bring in their own bikes and use the Bike Shop tools for free. On Mondays and Fridays the Bike Shop Manager assisted students in fixing their bikes if they did not understand how to use the tools themselves.

A question was raised as to whether this service was available to regional campuses. Mr. Camp responded that it was currently only open to the Columbia campus, but might be expanded in the future. However, the staff could assist other campuses in training their staff to develop their own programs.

Chairman Stone thanked the students for their excellent presentation, and stated that this report was received as information.

### III. Report on Student Community Service:

Chair Stone called on Ms. Ross, who distributed a 2008-2009 Community Service Annual Report. She stated that "Anne Frank once said "How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." The report submitted to you shows that the students, faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina agree whole-heartedly with that statement and are active believers in the power of progress through giving back to the community.

In the 2008-2009 school years, it was reported that 18,829 students, faculty and staff participated in volunteer service, donating 302,921 service hours to the community. Philanthropic donations to the community totaled at a reported \$1,427,661 for a total economic impact of \$5,851,988.

Community Service Programs, out of the Department of Student Life, run and facilitate a wide variety of ways for the Carolina Community to become active volunteers every year. Through programs such as Carolina Cares holiday drive, the MLK Day of Service and Service Saturdays, students are well aware that CSP is

prepared to help them engage in whatever sort of Community Service they are looking for.

Alternative Break Trips are another unique opportunity for students to use their time and talents in order to give back to the community. Rather than joining their friends or families in the mountains or at the beach, students participating in alternative break trips opt to spend portions of their fall, winter or spring breaks on various service trips.

Student Organizations have planned various Community Service Projects including a wide range of activities. These include all of the programs facilitated by Carolina Service Council, such as the "A Thousand Thanks Campaign," and the organization of National Volunteer Week. Students from Circle K created and distributed holiday cards for the elderly in the Columbia area and the Waverly Center students tutor children in the Waverly After School Program every week. Philanthropic projects by student organizations include the ever popular Carolina/Clemson Blood Drive, the Oxfam Hunger Banquet, Dance Marathon and Hoodies for the Homeless.

One of the core traditions of Greek Life at USC is a commitment to service and philanthropy. 2008-2009 was no exception to this tenet as the community gave an estimated 57,265 service hours and \$535,133 dollars to the community. In addition to each chapter's individual service projects, the community jointly sponsored two major projects including a Benefit Concert held in memory of the Ocean Isle victims the proceeds of which went to awarding scholarships in honor of the victims. Also, Trick or Treat with the Greeks allowed students from The Boys and Girls Club of Columbia to come to the Greek Village to play games and trick or treat from house to house.

USC has been recognized for the excellence of our living and learning communities in Residence Life and these groups are taking on this tradition of service as well. The Capstone Scholars are involved in a tutoring partnership with Richland One School District and in the Spring organized a Service Friday project once a month. Carolina's Global Community volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Green Learning Community organized various projects including a clean-up of the Saluda River, and a trip to Huntington Beach State Park to support seabird conservation efforts. Preston Residential College donated five hundred dollars garnered from a bake sale to Race for the Cure and also organized a new international service learning course which took one of those previously mentioned alternative break trips to Jamaica. Residence Hall Association and Facilities Services have also been doing their part. RHA organized the annual Hands for Hunger charity Poker Tournament and their various Recycling Initiatives.

Facilities Services held their "Give it Up" program which encouraged students to donate items such as clothing, food, household items, furniture and school supplies during the very hectic time of move out, rather than simply tossing such things.

Team Gamecocks, a philanthropic group comprised of Gamecock student-athletes, coaches and staff participated in projects such as reading to local elementary school children, food collections for Harvest Hope and various other programs. They participated in 77 different service events logging 1,984 service hours.

Some of our academic partnerships include the Service Learning Courses offered to the students for which students complete the academic work for the class and also a number of service hours incorporating the classes' general concept. Students from the USC School of Law have engaged in pro bono work and community service opportunities on top of all of the studying these students are doing. The School of Medicine has also recognized the importance of Community Service. During 2008-2009, fundraisers collected donations for various organizations including Walk for Life, Harvest Hope Food Bank and Medical Students for Burn Care International. These students donated an estimated 10,290 service hours during 17 sponsored projects including working at the Free Medical Clinic, the Good Samaritan Clinic and Project Heart and Health Fair. Carolina Dining sponsored events such as the "Cans Across America" canned food drive, the "Hunger Heart" program and the "Fresh on the Farm" program. Also, the United Way Campaign included 406 University faculty and staff donating a total of \$106,576 to the United Way of the Midlands.

The University of South Carolina has been recognized nationally for our efforts in Community Service including being named to the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is our third consecutive year of membership on the honor roll which was launched in 2006. We were also recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as one of the nation's leaders in providing programs that benefit and engage communities. We were one of the 68 public and 51 private institutions selected for the Carnegie Foundation's 2008 Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships classification.

As all of these things have shown you, the University of South Carolina is embracing service as an essential part of the life of the University."

Chair Stone thanked Ms. Ross and stated that the report was received as information.

#### IV. Reports from University System Campuses:

Chair Stone called on each of the campuses to provide an update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA President Brad Hall reported on renovations at USC Aiken including the Wellness Center, a residential complex community center, and new kitchens in the dining facilities. Enrollment was up three percent over the prior year. Basketball season was kicked off with a Midnight Madness, attended by over 1,300 people. SGA was considering revising the smoking policy and was surveying the campus community regarding it. USC Aiken was named Number One again by *US News and World Report* in the category of public comprehensive colleges in the Southeast.

B. USC Beaufort: Vice President Abby Moonen reported that USC Beaufort had held their first Homecoming and Convocation, enrollment was up 22 percent, and the Fall 2009 freshman class was their largest ever. She thanked the Board for their support for their new campus center, which opened Fall 2009, and included a dining facility, fitness center, bookstore, and student spaces. The ribbon cutting for the center as scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. This year, USC Beaufort would celebrate 50 years of higher education in the low country with its Golden Jubilee celebration.

USC Beaufort had an AmeriCorps VISTA on campus who was working to increase community service on campus. They started "Sand Sharks for Service," a community service organization, and were working on an alternative spring break trip.

C. USC Columbia: SGA President Meredith Ross reported that they were in the middle of the SGA Blitz Week, where students wrote suggestions on how to better the university. SGA Vice President Alex Stroman presided over the Student Senate, which was comprised of 45 members and was on its 39<sup>th</sup> piece of legislation. SGA Treasurer Ebbie Yazdani was working to ensure students understood what funding options were available, and had created a fundraising handbook to help guide them on how to do their own fundraising.

The Farmers Market continued to be very successful. In conjunction with the Farmers Market, a "USC Can Beat Hunger" event was scheduled where students could donate canned goods for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Cocky's Reading Express continued to grow. An effort to make it University wide would be led by an Advisory Council of student organization representatives.

The SGA hosted the first gubernatorial showcase at Capstone, at which four candidates for Governor of South Carolina presented their platforms.

D. USC Lancaster: SGA President Alyssa Soprano reported events at USC Lancaster including the Back to School Blast, a talent show, International Food Festival, intramural sports and College Transfer Day. The SGA was involved in the

National Society of Leadership and Success, a great resource for students which consisted of people on campus who were selected by professors for outstanding skills both in and out of the classroom. The Society provided students access to top speakers, hands-on leadership training, and placement on success networking teams. A study abroad trip was planned for China. The SGA would provide three student scholarships for half of the trip's cost.

E. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Dustin Pannell stated that their biggest highlight was that dorms were being built on campus. In addition to students in the first two years of their USC majors, USC Salkehatchie had students in their four year Elementary Education program with USC Aiken, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Liberal Studies, and Bachelor of Organizational Leadership programs with USC Columbia.

USC Salkehatchie student, Rebecca Schleffler, was awarded the Magellen Research Scholarship to study wildlife in their local area. She was USC Salkehatchie's first recipient of this scholarship.

The men's and women's soccer teams finished 4<sup>th</sup> place in the region, and made the semi-finals in the tournament. The men's basketball season had begun; they were last year's regular season region champs. The baseball and softball teams would begin playing in spring 2010.

Students in Allendale were working to raise money to feed families on Thanksgiving. Students in Waltherboro and Allendale had adopted local elementary schools and were serving as mentors to the students.

F. USC Sumter: SGA President Jennifer Black stated that student involvement was key, for SGA to solve problems on campus effectively. They were working on ways to get students more involved and to improve student communication. SGA planned to participate in the Operation Christmas Child, collecting gifts for children in need this Christmas season.

G. USC Union: SGA student Ashley Brown reported that USC Union broke their student involvement records with a 39 percent increase over fall 2008, the largest increase on any of the USC campuses. Also, USC Union broke the 400 student level for the first time, with 509 students. There was enormous amount of interest in the two new four year degrees offered by the USC regional campus system; and students were excited about the opportunity to stay at their campus for their Bachelor's degree. The first annual USC regional basketball tournament would be between USC Lancaster, USC Sumter and USC Union.

This fall, they would open a Robotics Center in Union, a partnership between USC Union and Spartanburg Community College. USC Union would offer general college courses at the Center, and Spartanburg Community College would offer robotics courses.

H. USC Upstate: Chair Stone stated that when this meeting's date was changed it conflicted with the USC Upstate SGA's Retreat, therefore they were unable to attend. However, SGA President Leon Ralph Fernandes sent a written campus report, which she read. The Magnolia House, a 352-bed residential facility exclusively for freshmen had opened; and renovation of the 36-year old Hodge Center, was made possible thanks to a \$4 million gift from Ms. Dodie Anderson, a USC Upstate Alumna. The renovation would transform the gymnasium into a top-of-the-line venue for Division 1 Basketball and Volleyball programs.

The George Dean Johnson Jr. School of Business and Economics was scheduled to open by summer 2010, and would house classrooms, computer labs, offices, and incubator spaces in the heart of downtown Spartanburg.

USC Upstate's enrollment had surpassed initial expectations of 5,000, to 5,403, a six percent student population increase. The SGA partnered with the Environmental Advisory Committee to address a broad range of topics for this academic year including recycling, a loaner bicycle program, and energy saving measures for the campus.

Chair Stone thanked all SGA representatives for their informative reports, and for their leadership. She stated that all the reports were received as information.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chair Stone declared the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp  
Secretary