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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 19, 2010

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 19, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. W. Lee Bussell, Sr.; Dr. C. Edward C. Floyd; Mr. Charles H. Williams; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman. Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs and Mr. Greg Gregory were absent.

Other Trustees present: Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. William W. Jones, Jr.; and Dr. C. Dorn Smith, III.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Michael D. Amiridis; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Department of Student Life, Jerry T. Brewer; Chair of the Faculty Senate Patrick D. Nolan; USC Aiken, Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor Ahmed Samaha; USC Columbia, SGA Advisor David Hunter; Director of Student Life and Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; USC Salkehatchie, SGA Advisor, Amanda Smith (West Campus); USC Sumter, SGA Advisor Dan Dieman; USC Union, SGA Advisor and Career Transfer Counselor John Crocker; USC Upstate, SGA Advisor and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Laura D. Puckett-Boler; Former Chair of the Board of Trustees, College of Charleston, Marie M. Land; Secretary to the Board of Trustees, College of Charleston, Elizabeth W. Kassebaum; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff members Terri Saxon and Vera Stone.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: SGA President Joshua Cline, Vice President Roberto Aragon, and Secretary/Treasurer Will Peters; USC Beaufort: SGA President Luke Kerr-Dineen, Vice President Taylor Mason, and Treasurer Chris Moyer; USC Columbia: SGA President Ebbie Yazdani, Vice President Taylor Cain, and Treasurer Peter Schaeffing; USC Lancaster: SGA President Dylan Knight, Secretary Stacey Stallard, Senator Tyler Martin, and Freshman Representative Carrie Braswell; USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Emily McAlhany, Vice President Dylan Tippins (East campus), and Vice President Greg Black (West Campus); USC Sumter: SGA President Richard Boone, Vice President Eric Sneider, and Secretary Ashley Holliday; USC Union: President Dona Mena Wright, Vice

President Justin Mundy, and Senator Dustin Clayton; and USC Upstate: SGA President Allison Berrian and Secretary Devon Bolf.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: A luncheon was held which gave students an opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials.

Chair Moody called the meeting to order and welcomed and invited everyone to introduce themselves. No members of the media were 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. Reports from University System Campuses: Chair Moody called on each of the campuses to provide an update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA President Josh Cline reported that USC Aiken was undertaking a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) because the university had its SACS Commission on Colleges accreditation coming up for reaffirmation. The QEP would be based on critical inquiry, focusing on improved learning outcomes for students. Once implemented, this plan would require every entering freshman to complete a one-hour course, grounded in the annual required freshman reading. Relative to the reaffirmation process, a SACS Staff Liaison visited USC Aiken in the late summer; and USC Aiken submitted a Compliance Certification Report in September and would turn in its QEP in February. Finally, a reaffirmation decision would be known by December 2011.

USC Aiken continued to rank high among the top public regional colleges in the South. Recently, they received another number one designation in the 2011 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* guide, "America's Best Colleges." This marked the 13th consecutive year USC Aiken had been ranked in the top three public regional colleges in the South category by *U.S. News & World Report*. USC Aiken had been ranked first seven times (2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011).

USC Aiken Associate Professor in Analytical Chemistry, Dr. Chad Leverette, was recently named the Governor's Professor of the Year for the State of South Carolina by a selection committee through the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Professor Leverette tied with one other professor in the four-year category – a professor from USC Beaufort. Dr. Leverette was a finalist in last year's award process, and his selection this year continued a tradition of excellence among USC Aiken's overall faculty, with six Pacers in the past nine years receiving the Carolina Trustee Professorship Award.

In closing, Mr. Cline stated that USC Aiken Men's basketball team was ranked 11th nationally in the 2010 Division II Bulletin Preseason Top 25 in men's basketball. The team is coached by Vince Alexander. The USC Aiken men's basketball program had won a school-record 72 games in the past three seasons.

B. USC Beaufort: SGA President Luke Kerr-Dineen reported that USC Beaufort held two successful fundraisers and had raised \$37,000 to assist local charities.

USC Beaufort was in the process of uplifting the 2nd floor of the Library; and discussions were underway to propose a name change of the school to "USC - Sea Islands."

Upcoming events included a Video Conference with author Dave Cullen and Military Appreciation Day. USC Beaufort had made a deal with the student newspaper, *The Daily Gamecock*, and would begin syndication and publish some of their news articles in the Beaufort newspapers.

Finally, the Golf team was ranked number one in the Nation in the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics); and five cross-country runners (4 men and 1 woman) were going to the NAIA national championships.

C. USC Columbia: SGA President Ebbie Yazdani reported that the State of the Student Body Address was held last week. Several initiatives from the Address included implementing a student sustainability fund; implementing a Student Legal Services initiative to provide students who live off campus with legal counsel as it related to rent disputes; exploration of ways the Carolina Card could be used off campus; and amending the Cocky Caravan night shuttle to be more efficient and convenient for students.

Finally, he stated students needed to be more proactive in lobbying legislators on behalf of higher education, because state funding had drastically decreased over the years. He stated that the College of Charleston was expanding the student lobbying network at the statehouse because some state lawmakers did not prioritize higher education enough. The USC SGA planned to coordinate this initiative with other regional campuses.

D. USC Lancaster: SGA President Dylan Knight reported that "Relay for Life" was held during the spring semester and students raised \$1,500. The SGA also partnered with Wachovia to conduct a financial awareness program to teach students how to manage their money.

Other SGA activities included an Oktoberfest and an alcohol awareness event. The "Rock the Vote" voter education and campaign forum was held in September; thirty students registered to vote. The college Democrats Student Organization leadership training weekend was held in October. The SGA was planning a leadership conference in honor of Dr. Peter Barry, a former faculty member who died earlier in the Fall. This conference, to be held in the next school year, would be geared toward high school students. A total of \$1,000 in scholarship funds had been raised in his memory.

He concluded by stating that the SGA would award four study abroad scholarships at the end of the semester to Dublin and London.

E. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Emily McAlhany reported that USC Salkehatchie had the highest student enrollment in the school's history, 1,150 students. Improvements had been made to the student parking lot; new heating and air conditioning units were added to each classroom; and other recreation activities were added on campus.

The women's soccer team advanced to the final four in the region playoffs before losing in double overtime. Recently, the softball and baseball teams completed their fall

scrimmage season. The basketball team would begin the season with the first home game on November 10th; and the USC Salkehatchie Holiday Classic would be held on December 3-4.

Other events hosted this year included: Faculty PowWow, Fall Festival, Movie Night, Haunted Hayride and Carnival, SGA Forum with the administration, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Angel Tree for needy children for Christmas, Pack the Stands for soccer, Tailgate pre-game party for basketball, and the USC Salkehatchie Movie under the stars night.

Two new organizations were added to the campus: the Cheer Team, and the USC Salkehatchie Choir. The choir held their first performance at the Commencement and would continue to perform on campus and in the community.

Finally, USC Salkehatchie had reformed their education club; and the nursing club was very involved in community efforts.

F. USC Sumter: SGA President Richard Boone reported that USC Sumter continued to strive to create a campus that was appealing and lively to guests and potential students in their community and region.

USC Sumter Student Life and Opportunity Scholars Program (OSP) held a Leadership Retreat, where the SGA officers and OSP members spent a weekend in the Rock Hill area learning the importance of teamwork, and positive leadership. This retreat concluded with a trip to ScarOwinds.

USC Sumter SGA officers along with other universities' SGA officers, attended a Multicultural Diversity conference in Charlotte, North Carolina; where they were taught the importance of accepting other people's differences while serving in the workforce or in leadership.

At a recent town hall meeting, the SGA was able to influence the choice of the next intercollegiate sport for USC Sumter. With much excitement, Mr. Boone announced that USC Sumter would have Men's and Women's Basketball as the new intercollegiate sport for Fall of 2011. This would be in addition to the men's and women's soccer, Men's baseball and women's softball.

USC Sumter campus was still experiencing effects of the economic crisis. Therefore, some of the plans and initiatives that the SGA intended to implement this academic year had to be tabled. The SGA had a strong desire to update their Student Union Building, by providing it with LCD television sets, and new gaming systems such as the Wii, and Xbox.

G. USC Union: SGA President Dona Wright reported that for the second consecutive year, USC Union enrollment had increased. Because of the enrollment increase, the administration created two additional faculty positions, which were recently filled.

The Founder's House had been completed and the facility would be used for continuing education purposes. USC Union had purchased property on Main Street with plans to move their bookstore, in an effort to reach out more to the public as well as to serve students. Plans were underway for additional parking. The school continued to concentrate on promoting physical fitness and promoting "being green." A pedestrian cross-walk had been

erected from the central building to the Gazebo for. Recently, the Walking Club was founded and each member received a pedometer.

The Information Technology (IT) department completed several projects which included hard wiring the central building to enable a higher speed and broader band with connection. Surveillance cameras were installed in the parking lot and inside the building. Also, several rooms were equipped with audio-video capability.

The Literacy Club had been very active since it was founded in 2009. Members had reached out to the Student Body on various occasions and were working on their first literary festival to be held two days during spring break. Twenty authors would read from their work, discussions would be held, followed by a book signing. This event would be open to students as well as the public.

A new club was organized, USC Union Cares, to give back to the community, the University, and the less fortunate. This club would also focus on educating students, faculty and staff, on environmental issues and ways to live a greener life.

This year, the SGA service project was "March for Babies." The SGA participated in the Buffalo Town Festival; raised over \$500.00; and collected canned goods to donate to the less fortunate for the upcoming holidays. Next month, students would participate in the Christmas parade on Main Street in Union.

H. USC Upstate: SGA President Allison Berrian reported that USC was very thankful to Ms. Dodie Anderson, an Upstate alumna, for her recent gift. USC Upstate would open up the Hodge Arena and the dedication game would be held December 5th.

Because of recent student deaths, students wanted to create a remembrance system for deceased students. There were tree dedications for each of the families of the deceased students. The SGA was currently working to create an "unfinished U statue" that would serve as an ongoing memory for those students.

USC Upstate accomplishments included the opening of a new 24-hour library on campus, an extension of the main library; and the opening of the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics downtown facility. USC Upstate was in the final year of a transition to Division One status; and was also preparing for the SACS accreditation and recently completed the NCAA Review.

Recently, the school became a tobacco-free campus; and they opened the Roel Garden Pavilion which gave students an opportunity to have an outdoor classroom. This year, USC Upstate would begin the Direct Connect Partnership with three of the two-year technical institutions – Greenville Tech, Spartanburg Methodist College, and Spartanburg Community College. After students completed their two year degrees, they could attend USC Upstate and all their credits would be accepted. This initiative would help increase higher education in Spartanburg and the State of South Carolina.

The SGA had formed a partnership with the financial aid department to help students get through the difficult process of financial aid and student loans because of the new direct lending policies. Several student financial aid seminars were held.

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

Chair Moody called on Ms. Marie M. Land, former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the College of Charleston, who remarked that one of her favorite committees that she had chaired there was Student Affairs. She stated the reason she came to the board meetings today was for the purpose of observing the USC Board to see how they conducted their business. She commented that she had learned a lot. Ms. Land thanked the Board and President Pastides for allowing her to attend the committee meetings.

In closing, she stated that everyone was excited about the upcoming USC football games. Therefore, she presented President Pastides with a T-shirt which read: "The College of Charleston Football - Still Undefeated."

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp

Secretary