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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

April 24, 2015

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 24, 2015, in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell, Chairman; Mr. Chuck Allen; Ms. Paula Harper Bethea; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Board Chairman; and Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr., Board Vice Chairman.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. William W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Interim Provost Helen Doeringhaus; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli; Vice President for Information Technology William F. Hogue; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins; USC Salkehatchie Dean Ann C. Carmichael; USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag; USC Union Dean Alice Taylor-Colbert; Palmetto College Dean of Extended University and Associate Provost Chris Nesmith; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Lacy Ford; Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment Cameron Howell; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support, USC Columbia, Jerry Brewer; College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick; Executive Director of Audit & Advisory Services Pam Doran; Director of Facilities Planning and Programming and University Architect Derek S. Gruner; Chief of Staff, President's Office, J. Cantey Heath, Jr.; Chief Diversity Officer John H. Dozier; Trustee Emertus Herbert C. Adams; USC Columbia Student Government President Jonathan Kaufman; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen and Terri Saxon.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Lancaster: President Brandon Newton, Vice President Morgan Humphries, and Secretary/Treasurer Allison Hyman; USC Salkehatchie: President Bryce Mobley; USC Sumter: President Janelle Buniel, future President Kensey Stephens and future SGA Officer Alexis Martin; USC Union: President Candice Owens and President-Elect Alana Wright; Palmetto College: Online student Clark Dean.

The Student Government Association advisors present included: Associate Dean for Student Services, USC Salkehatchie, Jane T. Brewer; Biology Lab Instructor, USC Sumter, Daniel Kiernan; Enrollment Manager, USC Union, M. Brad Greer.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Fennell called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. He said 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.

Chairman Fennell called on Mr. Hickman, who introduced Benjamin Crawford, Hannah Jeffrey and Lauren Shirley with the *Daily Gamecock*; and Jamie Self with *The State*.

II. Panel Discussion: Student Government Leaders, Two-Year Campuses

Chairman Fennell stated that the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee began operating under a different format last year in hopes of continuing to provide an even more meaningful experience for student government leaders. Recognizing that topics of interest vary from campus to campus, meetings were scheduled to allow increased emphasis for both the two-year campuses and four-year campuses.

Chairman Fennell welcomed the four SGA presidents from the two-year campuses and a representative from Palmetto College to participate in a panel discussion related to topics of interest on their campuses. Chancellor Elkins led the panel discussion.

First, Chancellor Elkins thanked the student government representatives for their continued leadership. Then, she asked the campus advisors and deans to stand and be recognized for their outstanding leadership in working with students on a daily basis and for their dedication and commitment to serving students in their communities and across the State.

Chancellor Elkins said that the Palmetto College mission was to provide USC bachelor degrees that were accessible, affordable, and flexible for all South Carolinians.

She asked each panel participant to address the following topics.

- Where did you attend high school, why did you select your USC campus, then give your course major, and your plans for after you earn your undergraduate degree.

Each panelist began by thanking the committee for the invitation to be part of the discussion panel. Mr. Brandon Newton from Lancaster, South Carolina, said that although he was accepted at USC Columbia and other state institutions he chose USC Lancaster because of its affordability. He will be able to transition from USC Lancaster to Palmetto College in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) and a Bachelor of Organizational Leadership (BOL), with no student loan debt. As a USC Lancaster student he is able to live at home, which allows him the opportunity to be active in the community. In addition to numerous community endeavors, he was recently elected chairman of the Lancaster County Republican Party, making him the youngest chairman in the state.

Mr. Bryce Mobley from Walterboro, South Carolina, said that he loved USC Salkehatchie because of the accessibility to the faculty and staff; and the affordability. He said that his first two years as a computer science major would be paid through Palmetto College scholarships. With his degree, he hoped to become a web designer, and he had already had opportunities in that field through his campus experiences.

Ms. Janelle Buniel, from Sumter, South Carolina, said that although she did not originally plan to attend USC Sumter, she followed her parents' advice to take advantage of its affordability. However, once she began attending classes and became involved in campus life, she fell in love with USC Sumter. Therefore, she set out to change the stigma that two-year campuses were a "stepping stone, or a backup plan." She became involved in campus programs to encourage and support students, which led her to her leadership role in student government. Ms. Buniel said that she will be able to graduate from USC Sumter without student load debt and hopes to attend USC Columbia to further her education.

Mrs. Candice Owens said that she was not a traditional student having been married for 22 years and the mother of two children. She said that after being in the workforce for a long time she wanted to better her life. She enrolled at USC Union because of its affordability and accessibility to allow her to pursue her education, while still being a wife and mother. Following her graduation in May 2015, with a BLS degree, she plans to work with children to encourage them in their future endeavors.

Mr. Clark Dean said that the pursuit of his education had been a journey. He enrolled as a freshman at USC Columbia in Fall 2010. However, numerous non-academic student life experiences found him unable to graduate after four years. His parents stopped funding his education and he was forced to work. A co-worker encouraged him to pursue Palmetto College to complete his degree. He said

that he was so blessed and thankful for the opportunities available to him through Palmetto College. He hopes to graduate in May 2016, with a BLS and a BOL degree.

Chairman Fennell took a moment to recognize Mr. Dean's grandfather, Trustee Emeritus Herbert Adams.

Based on their responses to the opening question Chancellor Elkins said that she was sure Trustees could see why she was so proud of the five students representing Palmetto College. She then called on the panel in reverse order for the second topic.

- Tell us a couple of the most exciting things happening on your individual campuses.

Mr. Dean said that as an online student he did not expect a human aspect to his studies. However, he was pleasantly surprised by the insight he had gained through online discussions with students from different backgrounds and by the group study opportunities.

Mrs. Owens said the new student lounge and bookstore located on Main Street in Union had improved accessibility for students and the community. She reported on plans that were underway for a fall celebration of USC Union's 50th Anniversary. Ms. Owens also discussed the positive impact of the ongoing campus beautification project.

Ms. Buniel said that the recent campus WiFi upgrade made online connection more accessible for students, especially those who use e-books. USC Sumter plans to add a tennis team starting in Fall 2015. She reported on campus beautification and renovation projects. The SGA had organized a program titled "Breakfast with the Dean" to improve communication between students, faculty and staff. Ms. Buniel said that it had been well received.

Mr. Mobley reported on recent events held in honor of USC Salkehatchie's 50th Anniversary. Just as exciting, he said, was the men's basketball team finishing 2nd in Region X, and Coach Corey Hendren being named "Coach of the Year" for the region. Coach Hendren is currently the youngest college basketball coach in the nation. Also, USC Salkehatchie Professor Eran Kilpatrick received the Palmetto College John. J. Duffy "Excellence in Teaching" award.

Mr. Newton said that Lancaster County's designation this year as the fastest growing county in South Carolina had positive effects on the campus. The Native American Studies Center on Main Street in Lancaster, one of only a few in the nation, continued to draw visitors from around the world. Efforts were underway to develop a Native American component in the BOL degree. Mr. Newton proudly noted that 25 of the 56 BLS and BOL degree candidates for May 2015, were from USC Lancaster; and that five of those students would graduate with Leadership Distinction.

He said that the addition of a girls' volleyball team in Fall 2015, would bring the total number of sports programs offered at USC Lancaster to five.

Mr. Newton said that as part of the travel study program, a biology class is scheduled to sail down the Outer Banks this summer. He added that he wished he was a biology major, so that he could participate. USC Lancaster will offer a four-year bridge program for a Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management degree, beginning in Fall 2015.

At this point in the meeting Chancellor Elkins displayed a map designating the location of all eight USC campuses.

- What advice would you give to freshman who are just starting their college experience at your campus?

Mr. Newton said he would tell freshmen to consider their post-graduation plans by first deciding on a career path; then work toward it through academic study and internships. Also, he would advise them to be aware of their student loan debt in relation to their earning potential, in order to repay the debt.

Mr. Mobley recommended freshmen take full advantage of faculty and staff expertise and guidance; especially those like him, who juggle their time between classes, study and a job. He would advise students to take it slow, so that in addition to their studies, they could enjoy their college experience.

Ms. Buniel said that she would stress the importance of setting a good grade point average (GPA) from the start. She said it was easier to maintain a high GPA, than to bring up a GPA in a junior or senior year in preparation for graduate school. Ms. Buniel recommended that students, in addition to their academic studies, get involved in campus life through clubs, programs and activities for a full college experience.

Ms. Buniel said she was scheduled to graduate in May with Leadership Distinction, the first graduate from USC Sumter to do so. However, as part of this honor, she had to leave the meeting to give a presentation at Discovery Day, which was being held elsewhere on the Columbia campus. She thanked the committee for the opportunity to participate in the panel.

Mrs. Owens had several recommendations. First she said, she would advise freshmen to find their passion, then, work toward it by getting involved in classes and campus life. Secondly, she would stress the importance of utilizing the guidance and support of the faculty and staff.

Mr. Dean said he would tell freshmen to "find a balance" between academics and campus life and to stay focused on achieving their degree.

- If you were Dr. Pastides and a donor gave you an extremely large gift to use as you determined, how would you spend it? Would you build or renovate academic buildings? Would you upgrade your library or technology services? Would you provide more merit scholarships or more financial aid for needy students? How would you spend the money?

Mr. Clark said that based on his positive experiences with Palmetto College, he would put the money toward additional scholarships for in-state students to obtain a four-year degree.

Mrs. Owen agreed with Mr. Clark. She added that the opportunity to earn an affordable four-year degree through Palmetto College, while remaining at home in a small community, had been life changing for her. At 46, she will be the first member of her family to graduate from college; and she herself will do so with three degrees.

USC Sumter's future SGA President, Kensey Stephens, having joined the panel upon Ms. Buniel's departure, recommended the money be used to renovate the science building on her campus. Ms. Stephens said that USC Sumter had excellent professors; however, the facility and equipment were in much need of an update. Providing a state-of-the-art facility, she said, would enhance the "hands-on" experience for science students.

Mr. Mobley recommended the money be used to update USC Salkehatchie technology centers, renovate buildings, and add more four-year degree options. He said that building renovations would provide additional classroom space to accommodate new degree programs. Mr. Mobley noted that as the first member of his family to graduate from college and having had a positive experience through Palmetto College, he was encouraging his father to apply, since he could earn a degree while still working full time.

Mr. Newton said he felt sure Trustee Mobley and Dean Collins would want him to recommend the money be used for a new roof on Hubbard Hall. Luckily, that project is included in a bond bill to be considered by the South Carolina Senate. He encouraged Trustees to contact their senators in support of the bill. Should the bond bill be approved, he would use the money to create a new entrance to USC Lancaster, off Highway 521.

Chancellor Elkins thanked the five panelists for an excellent job representing the over 5,000 students in Palmetto College; and for their continued leadership and support.

Chairman Fennell thanked the students for their insightful discussion.

III. Focusing on the Student Experience

Chairman Fennell called on Dr. Pruitt, who shared his insights about President Pastides' Focus Group on the Student Experience. He explained that President Pastides commissioned the focus

group under Dr. Pruitt's leadership to examine issues related to student life with the goal of producing a document to help create a more positive student experience. The focus group's mission is to address topics such as hazing, alcohol and drug abuse, campus sexual assault, diversity and inclusion, harassment and discrimination. Dr. Pruitt noted, however, that in response to state and national hazing incidents, the Board of Trustees had proactively passed a resolution at its February 20, 2015, meeting that condemned hazing.

Dr. Pruitt said, in summary, the goal of this effort was to "better educate students about their responsibility to comply with the law and campus standards and to clearly state to each student their shared responsibility to prevent harm to themselves and to others as well." He said he would provide an update on the Focus Group efforts at a later Board meeting.

Dr. Pruitt concluded his presentation by applauding the student panel for its positive leadership as representatives of the University.

IV. Other Matters

Chairman Fennell called for any other matters to come before the committee. Mr. Buyck asked if Palmetto College's enrollment of over 5,000 was included in the system enrollment. He then asked the number of students enrolled in the system; Dr. Pruitt responded over 47,000.

Ms. Bethea commended the students for a remarkable job participating in the panel discussion. She also stressed the importance of Palmetto College. She said that not only does the University have campuses in communities; but, "in many instances our campuses are those communities."

V. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Fennell declared the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy E. Stone
Secretary