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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

March 16, 2018

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:04 a.m. Friday, March 16, 2018, in the Alumni Center's C. Edward Floyd Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. Thomas C. Cofield, Chairman; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Ms. Molly M. Spearman; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Chairman. Dr. C. Edward Floyd and Mr. Tommy Preston Jr. were absent.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.

Also present were: USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chairman Marco Valtorta and Student Government President Ross Lordo.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli; USC Advancement Team Leader Paula Harper Bethea; Vice President for Human Resources Chris Byrd; Vice President for System Planning Mary Anne Fitzpatrick; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Upstate Chancellor Brendan Kelly; USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins; USC Salkehatchie Dean Ann C. Carmichael; USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag; Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Sandra J. Kelly; Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance and Medical Business Affairs Jeffrey L. Perkins III; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Director of Audit & Advisory Services Glenn Murray; USC Aiken Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jeff Priest; USC Columbia Student Government President-Elect Taylor Wright; Cynthia Lister, wife of Trustee Toney Lister; Ann Loadholt, wife of Trustee Miles Loadholt; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Terri Saxon and Ina Wilson.

Student representatives present were: USC Lancaster: Molly Melton; USC Salkehatchie: Paris Dubois; USC Sumter: Student Government Association (SGA) Secretary Elizabeth Orban; USC Union: SGA President Mary Scarborough; Palmetto College: online-students Christopher Floyd and Drill Sergeant Tarevea Baskettt.

The student advisors present included: USC Lancaster Director of Student Engagement and Success Laura Carnes; USC Sumter Senior Instructor of Biology Daniel Kiernan; USC Union Registrar Blake Wilson; and Palmetto College Fort Jackson Program Director Connie Vise.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cofield called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited those at the table to introduce themselves. He said 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. Mr. Hickman said no members of the media were present.

II. Panel Discussion: Student Leaders, Palmetto College Campuses

Chairman Cofield welcomed students from Palmetto College's two-year campuses and online program who had been invited to participate in a panel discussion led by Chancellor Elkins.

Chancellor Elkins said the six outstanding students selected to participate on the panel represent approximately 6,000 Palmetto College students. Before starting the panel discussion, Chancellor Elkins recognized the Palmetto College deans, advisors and online partners; and thanked the panelists for participating, especially since it was their spring break.

She asked each panelist to introduce themselves by stating their name, their Palmetto College campus, hometown, major, career goal, and something about themselves that most people might not know.

USC Union Student Government Association (SGA) President Mary Scarborough, a sophomore, said she will graduate in May with an Associate in Science degree, and plans to continue her nursing studies at USC Upstate. While earning her degree, she holds two work-study jobs, as a lab assistant and as a secretary in the Financial Aid Office, in addition to a waitress job. Recently, she was crowned Miss USC Union. Ms. Scarborough said living with her seven-year-old nephew who has heart issues inspired her to choose Nursing.

USC Sumter SGA Treasurer Elizabeth Orban, a sophomore, said she will receive her Associate in Science degree in May and hopes to pursue a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science at USC Columbia in the fall, toward her goal to become a physical therapist. She said she chose USC Sumter because of its

affordability and size. The smaller campus made her transition from high school to college easier. A fun fact, Ms. Orban said, was that she trained her cat “Solstice” to do dog tricks.

USC Salkehatchie sophomore, Paris Dubois, said he will graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies. As a single father of four who also works, Palmetto College allows him time to take care of his children, while earning his degree. Following graduation, he hopes to work with the youth in his community to encourage them to attend USC Salkehatchie. He shared the story of how he met Ms. Melissa Tomlinson-Hooks, Palmetto College Student Services Program Coordinator at USC Salkehatchie, while assisting her with a flat tire on the side of the road, and ended up working for her.

Ms. Molly Melton said she lives in Rock Hill and makes the 20-minute commute each day because the affordability and availability of scholarships allow her and her brother to attend USC Lancaster almost tuition free. She earned her Associate in Science degree, graduating with Leadership Distinction, and is currently enrolled in the USC Columbia Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Fortunately, she is able to continue attending classes on the USC Lancaster campus. Ms. Melton was grateful for the professor who encouraged her to become involved in the campus Research Club, which led her to become involved with nursing research and eventually, the Student Nurses Association. Her career goal is to become a flight nurse and eventually earn her physician assistant degree. She said most people don’t know what a hockey “geek” she is.

Drill Sergeant Tarevea Baskett, has served in the Army for 12 years and as a drill Sergeant for the past year and a half. She said she enrolled in Palmetto College’s Fort Jackson Program to stay competitive within the military ranks. She said Ms. Connie Vise had been a wonderful advisor who helped her graduate last December with her associate’s degree. She was so proud her Mom and her five-year old daughter saw her walk across the stage at the commencement ceremony. As one of four recipients of the Robert V. Phillips Palmetto College Military Endowed Scholarship Fund, she was able to afford college. Her current goal is to enroll in USC Beaufort’s Hilton Head Island Hospitality Management program so that when she retires from the Army in eight years, she may open a farm-to-table bed and breakfast establishment.

Christopher Floyd said he grew up in Sumter. In 1993, he was kidnapped and abused by his high school coach. Following a guilty verdict for his abductor, he dropped out of high school at age 16 and worked for 10 years. Later, his grandfather encouraged him to return to school, which he did, and he became one of Palmetto College’s early graduates in 2013, with a degree in Organizational Leadership. While a senior at USC Sumter, he was asked to speak on a discussion panel about his education. After the speech, he was hired on the spot by Becton Dickinson (BD), where today he serves as lead business unit

coordinator for BD Life Sciences - Preanalytical Systems. Palmetto College was his non-traditional path for a non-traditional problem, he said.

Chancellor Elkins asked the panel to discuss how Palmetto College had prepared them for the workforce.

Mr. Floyd said Palmetto College necessitated his learning to use communication technology, a knowledge that aides him in his job. Also, the elevated level of workmanship required of USC Sumter students helps him in his career. Since graduating, he was instrumental in establishing a paid internship program between USC Sumter and BD to help graduates find management positions.

Drill Sergeant Baskett said Palmetto College has helped her be competitive within the military ranks and, by earning her degree, she has become a role model for her daughter and others in her sphere of influence.

Ms. Melton said she gained invaluable experience for her nursing career from the USC Lancaster nursing simulation labs and her professors, who were health professionals.

Mr. DuBois said being able to work on campus, taught him how to listen to and help other students. Through his work with Associate Dean for Student Services Jane Brewer assisting international student-athletes, he learned about other cultures. Also, USC Salkehatchie has provided him networking opportunities. For example, he said, at his second Carolina Day, he met a state representative who suggested he enter politics.

Ms. Orban said networking at Carolina Day was a great opportunity. The guidance and support she received through the Opportunities Scholars Program led her to be designated as a USC Sumter peer coach. As a coach, she is able to help other students with problem solving and leadership which helped her become more confident.

Ms. Scarborough said working as a waitress since age 15 taught her about dealing with people, but her work-study experiences at USC Union as a biology/chemistry lab assistant and as a secretary provide skills such as scheduling, planning and filing.

Chancellor Elkins asked each panelist what they would say to convince a high school senior or an adult to enroll at their campus.

Mr. Dubois would encourage them to stay in the community and attend USC Salkehatchie, since in his opinion, most students who go away to college return to USC Salkehatchie anyway, after “they have wasted their parents’ money.”

Ms. Orban would tell them “now is the time to start looking at your future.” The transition from high school to college can be smoother at USC Sumter, since the smaller campus and class size provide students the opportunity to feel connected and to help build their confidence. Also important is the affordability and availability of scholarships, she said.

Ms. Scarborough said USC Union offers an affordable, quality education and the opportunities available to students are invaluable for workplace readiness.

Ms. Melton said smaller classes at USC Lancaster provide students opportunities to get to know the professors and fellow classmates, which creates a sense of community.

Drill Sergeant Baskett said she would tell her trainees, “the Army is giving you college money, the best thing you can do is use it.” Also, she would stress the need for a degree in order to pursue a career when your military service ends.

Mr. Floyd said he would use his grandfather’s words to him when he considered college: “just go.” He said he believes so much in the power of education that he and his parents established the Christopher Laird Floyd Endowed Scholarship Fund to "pass it forward" to the next generation of students.

Chancellor Elkins said Palmetto College will celebrate its five-year anniversary on April 18. In those five years, enrollment on the campuses has increased from 4,200 to just under 5,000; over 3,000 students have been served online; and over 1,000 students have earned bachelor’s degrees. She announced Palmetto College’s \$50,000 scholarship endowment goal, which she hopes to achieve on Give 4 Garnet Day on April 18.

She thanked the six panelists who proudly represented Palmetto College.

Chairman Cofield thanked the students for participating during their spring break and for sharing their amazing academic journeys. He called for any other matters to come before the committee.

III. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Cofield declared the meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.
Secretary