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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee

September 11, 2020

The Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 12:20 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020, in the Pastides Alumni Center Ballroom and by Microsoft Teams. Committee members present were Mr. C. Dan Adams, Chair; Mr. Alex English; Mr. Richard A. Jones; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mr. Eugene P. Warr; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; and Mr. Thad H. Westbrook. Committee members participating by Microsoft Teams were Ms. Molly Spearman and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr.

Other Board members present were Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Mr. Robin D. Roberts; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr. Other Board members participating by Microsoft Teams were Mr. Toney J. Lister; and Mr. Miles Loadholt.

Also present were USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Mark Cooper, USC Columbia Student Government President Ms. Issy Rushton, and the Board's Strategic Advisor Mr. David Seaton.

Others in attendance for the meeting were President Robert L. Caslen Jr.; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; Vice President of Human Resources Ms. Caroline Agardy; Assistant Vice President Health and Wellness and Executive Director of Student Health Services Dr. Deborah Beck; President's Chief of Staff Mr. Mark D. Bieger; Presidential Faculty Fellow Dr. Susan Bon; Dean Darla Moore School of Business Dr. Peter Brews; President and CEO University Foundations Mr. Jason Caskey; Chief Audit Executive Ms. Pamela Dunleavy; Chancellor Palmetto College Dr. Susan Elkins; Interim Chief Development Officer Mr. William Elliott; Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget Ms. Kelly Epting; Executive Director Dan Friedman; Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Lacy Ford; Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Mr. Doug Foster; Director Center

for Teaching Excellence Dr. August Grant; Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning Mr. Derek Gruner; Board of Trustees Governance Consultant Dr. Cameron Howell; Chief Executive Officer, USC Alumni Association Mr. Wes Hickman; Interim Director of Academic Programs Ms. Trena Houpp; Dean of Greenville School of Medicine Dr. Marjorie Jenkins; Professor College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Sandra Kelly; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Mr. Eddie King; Executive Director, Office of Economic Engagement Mr. Bill Kirkland; Associate Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer Ms. Venis Manigo; Executive Communications Director Ms. Sally McKay; Assistant Professor Arnold School of Public Health Dr. Melissa Nolan; General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs Mr. Terry Parham; Associate Dean for Operations and Accreditation Arnold School of Public Health Dr. Lee Pearson; Chief Operating Officer Mr. Jeffrey L. Perkins; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost Dr. Dennis Pruitt; Special Assistant to the President Mr. James Smith; Assistant Vice President of Administrative Operations and Chief of Staff Mr. Joe Sobieralski; Director of Public Relations Mr. Jeff Stensland; Director of Athletics Mr. Ray Tanner; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. William F. Tate IV; Vice President for Communications Mr. Larry Thomas; Executive Vice President and CFO Mr. Ed Walton; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mr. Julian R. Williams and Board of Trustees Staff. Others attending via Microsoft Teams were Director of Strategic Planning Mr. Jack Claypoole; Interim Chancellor USC Upstate Dr. J. Derham Cole Jr.; Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management and Academic Program Development Dr. Rob Dedmon; Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs School of Law Dr. Susan Kuo; Vice President for Research Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti; Chancellor USC Beaufort Dr. Al Panu; and Dean of the College of Education Dr. Jon Pedersen.

I. Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and asked everyone at the table to introduce themselves. Secretary Heath confirmed committee members Ms. Spearman and Mr. von Lehe were in attendance via Microsoft Teams video conference. Other Board members present via Microsoft Teams video conference were Mr. Lister and Mr. Loadholt.

Chair Adams called on Mr. Stensland to introduce members of the press in attendance.

Mr. Stensland introduced Jack Bingham with the *Daily Gamecock*, John Whittle with the Big Spur and Andy Shain with the *Post and Courier*.

Chair Adams stated that notice of the meeting had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been circulated; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

#### MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Adams stated there were personnel matters dealing with honorary academic titles and new hires with tenure appropriate for discussion in Executive Session. Mr. Warr moved to enter Executive Session and Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. The following were invited to remain: Trustees, President Caslen, Secretary Heath, the President's Executive Council, Dr. Cooper, Ms. Rushton, and Mr. Seaton.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

#### II. University 101 Report

Chair Adams called on Executive Director of University 101 Programs Dr. Dan Friedman to give a report on the University 101 Programs.

Dr. Friedman presented an overview of the University's 101 course history, which was established in 1972 and fulfills the role as an extended student orientation into the University. The University offers 247 sections of University 101 with the average class size of 19. The University of SC has been recognized by *U.S. News and World Reports* as the #1 public university in the nation for first-year student experience/University 101 course. In addition, the program has received the Gold Excellence Award by the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) for Faculty Development (2011) and the Peer Leader Program (2018). The Peer Leader Program includes undergraduate students who are selected and trained to co-teach University 101 with an instructor. Dr. Friedman reported there was a greater retention rate among students who complete the course. Other highlights from the presentation included the impact on Instructors with 96% reporting teaching University 101 positively impacted their satisfaction with the University, 96% reporting teaching the course helped them learn things they could apply to other professional responsibilities, 88% reporting teaching the course helped them improve teaching in other courses, 99% reporting teaching University 101

positively impacted their understanding of first-year students, and 87% reporting it increased their network of colleagues within the University.

Ms. Rushton stated she took University 101 her freshman year and honestly did not know if she would be sitting here today as Student Body President without this class. She stated she made incredible connections in the class and still stays in contact with her professor from the class who wrote her a recommendation for law school.

Chair Adams thanked Dr. Friedman and stated this update was received as information.

### III. Fall Semester Planning Process

Chair Adams called on Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Dr. Sandra J. Kelly to present an overview of the Fall Academic Planning Process.

Dr. Kelly referred to the “Spring Pivot” which included the efforts faculty and staff made in March to go online within one week due to the pandemic. Equally impressive was the fall transformation. Dr. Kelly stated in May, led by guidance from the University public health team, it was determined to require face coverings in classrooms, have socially distanced classrooms which would never allow more than 100 students together, allow faculty to choose the modality of their courses according to risk, and allow students to be completely online if that was their wish. At the time these fall guidelines were established in May, the current state of classes and scheduling included: 1) over 7,000 courses scheduled in over 480 classrooms; 2) teaching labs with no social distancing; 3) most classes in a face-to-face format; 4) continuing students already registered for classes; and 5) incoming students beginning to register. Recognizing the myriad of challenges for the Fall semester, a concerted planning effort was mobilized by the Future Planning Group 3, which focused on Academics and Research. However, it was a collaborative effort among many units across the University working together to make the fall semester happen. The goal was to continue to offer first class academics while making sure the whole community, faculty, staff, and students were as safe as possible. The first step began with the modification of courses and the modality of teaching. The University Advising Center geared up for intensive advising not only for freshman but also students that might want to change courses because of modality changes. The public health group made recommendations to mitigate risk by eliminating fall break and sending the students home at Thanksgiving but not have them return to campus after, which

shortened the semester. Public health was guiding the academics in all aspects. Fall academic teams came up with different scenarios discussed in the broader Future Planning Group that eventually led to a fall academic calendar approved by President Caslen. The Division of IT upfitted over 480 classrooms to be ready for fall semester. Recognizing faculty were being asked to teach in different ways, the Center for Teaching Excellence, Division of IT, and Office of Distributed Learning collaborated to prepare and train faculty. Anticipating student technology needs from the “Spring Pivot” such as students without access to computers or wi-fi, a computer loan program was developed between Libraries and the Division of IT. Modifications to student support were accomplished virtually as well as face-to-face. In summary, the fall transformation was a tremendous amount of effort completed in three short months. The University is a different place right now, 42% of our undergraduate courses are 100% online, and 14% of our graduate programs are 100% online. Dr. Kelly stated they will continue adapting to the pandemic guided by our public health experts to offer a first-class education to our students.

Chair Adams thanked Dr. Kelly, President Caslen and many others in the room for their hard work. He stated the report was received as information.

#### IV. Center for Teaching Excellence Report

Chair Adams called on the Director Center for Teaching Excellence Dr. Augie Grant to present the Teaching Excellence Report.

Dr. Grant stated the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) was in its 12th year and experienced significant growth in recent years. The mission of the CTE is to inspire excellence and innovation in teaching. Excellence is always ascribed but innovation has become even more critical in adapting to change. The CTE’s largest catalyst for growth occurred March 16 as soon as Spring break was extended because of the pandemic. The CTE realized there would be a high demand for services and changed many things to provide additional services. Since March 16, the CTE has tracked 3,848 requests. Of note, the CTE has served 1,405 unique faculty members since March 16 out of approximately 2,100 faculty. This is a sea change in academia where in the past, teaching was a skill where today teaching is also an art. The CTE communicates several ways, starting out with new Faculty programs. Every faculty member has an opportunity for orientation to teaching including a new Faculty Academy that is a year-

long process, comparable to University 101 for students. CTE has a new faculty guide and website. In addition, CTE offers instructional design services, workshops, symposia, and one-on-one coaching services. Certificates of completion encourage faculty to complete courses in specific areas. CTE also offers programs for the Graduate School, including a year-long Grad Center 101. The CTE uses social networking tools available to communicate services to faculty and attributes its success to an accomplished staff of dedicated individuals and effective collaboration with the other University departments including the Department of IT, Distributed Learning, Diversity and Inclusion, On You Time, Student Disability Resource Center, and colleges and departments.

Chair Adams thanked Dr. Grant for his presentation and stated the report was received as information.

V. Annual Review of New Programs

Chair Adams called on Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Bill Tate IV to provide an annual review of new academic programs.

Dr. Tate stated the Office of Academic Affairs collects data annually on how well new academic programs are meeting projections; programs are followed for three years. He advised a color-coded summary sheet indicating program performance was posted on the Board portal. Green is a healthy, Yellow is moving into a healthy status, and Red indicates unhealthy programs. Dr. Tate stated though there were no unhealthy programs at this time, he would address some programs recommended for closing later in the meeting. This year, the Columbia campus had three program closures for the Fall 2020 that the Board approved.

Mr. Whittle asked for the definition of a healthy program? Dr. Tate stated enrollment is the definition. Each new program has projected enrollments when it is submitted. Each program is analyzed to see if it is meeting those projections. Dr. Tate stated financial analysis is also included in the evaluation.

Chair Adams thanked Dr. Tate for his presentation and stated the report was received as information.

VI. Intercollegiate Athletics Update

Chair Adams called on Director of Athletics Mr. Ray Tanner to give the Intercollegiate Athletics Update.

Mr. Tanner began with an academic report from the Spring semester. Mr. Tanner stated the academic streak continues at 27 consecutive semesters with a departmental GPA of at least 3.0. In addition, 120 student-athletes were named to the 2020 Spring SEC Academic Honor Roll, 140 earned President's List (4.0 GPA), 164 were on the Dean's List (3.5 GPA or 3.25 for Freshman); and 502 were on the Fall Athletics Director Honor Roll (3.0 GPA). A 3.70 semester departmental GPA was achieved which was the highest on record. All eighteen teams earned a 3.0 GPA or better. The Beach Volleyball team earned the highest GPA with a 3.94. Of all eighteen teams, seventeen earned their highest GPAs in program history.

Mr. Tanner shared competition schedules for the Fall considering the pandemic and indicated all teams participating would use the same COVID testing protocols as the football team. The Cross-Country schedule includes three events before a Cross Country Championship in October. Men's Soccer currently includes five events and the addition of another home event is anticipated. This team participates in Conference USA and that championship has now been moved to the Spring. The Fall competitions will prepare the team for participating in the Spring. The Women's Soccer NCAA Championship has been moved to the Spring. The SEC decided to play a Fall schedule of conference teams only before the SEC Conference Championship in November. The team anticipates six to eight weeks spring competition as well. The Volleyball NCAA Championship has been moved to the Spring. The SEC decided to play a conference only Fall Schedule. The Volleyball team currently has four events scheduled which are double headers and will be played on back-to-back days. The team also anticipates a seven to eight-week spring competition before the NCAA Championship, for which the dates have not yet been announced. Men and Women's Golf will play three tournaments each. The Women's Golf tournament scheduled at East Lake is 100% financed by the tournament. One Men's Golf tournament and two Women's Golf tournaments are scheduled to be televised on the Golf Channel. Men and Women's Tennis will compete in three events in the Fall to take place no earlier than October 1<sup>st</sup> that are limited to SEC members or non-conference teams from the school's geographic region.

Mr. Tanner recognized Executive Associate Athletic Director Maria Hickman who built the Academic Enrichment Program with the help of faculty which has been a model for success.

Chair Adams thanked Mr. Tanner and stated the report was received as information.

## VII. USC Columbia

Chair Adams stated there was one new program and several program terminations posted in the Board portal for review prior to today's committee meeting requiring action. Dr. Tate was available for questions.

### A. New Program

#### 1. BS Cyber Intelligence

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend approval by the full Board to establish the new BS in Cyber Intelligence degree program in the College of Arts and Sciences, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr made the motion and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### B. Program Terminations

#### 1. Children's Law Certificate

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the Children's Law Certificate program, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr made the motion and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### 2. IMA in Art Education

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the IMA in Art Education program, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Jones made the motion and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### 3. MPH General Public Health

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the termination of the MPH General Public Health program, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr made the motion and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### 4. MPH General Public Health/Pharm D. Pharmacy

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the

MPH General Public Health/Pharm D. Pharmacy program, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Spearman made the motion and Mr. Mobley seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. MPH General Public Health/MD Medicine

Mr. Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the MPH General Public Health/MD Medicine program, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Westbrook made the motion and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Public Health Certificate

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend termination by the full Board of the Public Health Certificate programs, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Spearman made the motion and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Degree Programs – 100% Online

1. MEd Educational Psychology and Research

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend approval by the full Board of the MEd Educational Psychology and Research program 100% online, as presented and posted in the materials on the Board Portal for this meeting. The motion for approval was made by Ms. Moody and seconded by Ms. Spearman. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. USC Columbia Faculty Manual Revisions

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend approval by the full Board of the USC Columbia Faculty Manual revision, as presented. Chair Adams called on Dr. Tate for further explanation. Dr. Tate stated the motion was to create a University Committee on Professional Track Faculty to review policies for those Faculty who are not on the Tenure track and replace the terms “non-tenure track faculty and non-tenure track” with “profession track faculty and profession track” respectively throughout all documentation at the University. The motion for approval was made by Ms. Spearman and seconded by Mr. Westbrook. A vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other matters on the agenda, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.  
Secretary