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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

April 3, 2007

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mr. William W. Jones, Jr., Chairman; Mr. William L. Bethea, Jr.; Mr. John W. Fields; Mr. M. Wayne Staton; Mr. Othniel H. Wienges, Jr.; Mr. Herbert C. Adams, Board Chairman; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Vice Chairman.

Members absent were: Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr. Other Trustees present were: Mr. James Bradley; Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr.

Others present were: President Andrew A. Sorensen; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Mark P. Becker; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard W. Kelly; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis Pruitt; Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Regional Campuses and Continuing Education Chris P. Plyler; Vice President for Advancement Brad Choate; Legal Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Vice Provost for Faculty Development Christine Curtis; Assistant to the Vice President, Division of Business and Finance, Ken Corbett; General Manager for USC Student Government TV John Cooper; Associate Director of Governmental Affairs and Legislative Liaison Casey Martin; Director of Student Life, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; SGA Advisor, USC Upstate, Laura Puckett-Boler; Director of University Communications, Division of University Advancement, Russ McKinney, Jr. and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone and Karen Tweedy.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Elect Laney Wiggins and President Brenn Hartley. USC Beaufort: President Jonathan Lucky and Treasurer Reginald Thompkins; USC Columbia: President Nick Payne, Vice President James Laura and Treasurer Alesha Brown; USC Lancaster: President Mandy McManus, Vice President Cesar Alvarez, Secretary Greg LaFlamme, Treasurer Deven Waiters; USC Salkehatchie: President Christopher Lambert and SGA Senator Tony Chubb; USC Union: President Christa Bowers and Vice President Richard Burgess; USC Upstate: President Michael Berry, President Elect Xavier Pearson, Vice President Elect Brenton Pringle and Secretary Marletha Booker.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch:

Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held and students had the opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials at individual tables.

Following the luncheon, Chairman Jones called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He invited Board members, administrators, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. McKinney stated that no members of the media were in attendance.

Chairman Jones stated that the agenda had been posted and 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 Collegiate Logo Clothing Manufacture: Chairman Jones called on Mr. Kelly who stated that working conditions around the world were unlike working conditions for employees in the United States. Although the United States may not be directly connected with labor in other countries, we were connected indirectly.

Mr. Kelly stated that students wanted to make sure that the University was sensitive toward this issue because through collegiate licensing, foreign labor was being used to manufacture garments that were sold by the University or had our logos on them. Mr. Kelly stated that the University earned in excess of one million dollars per year in trademark and licensing revenue, of which 80 percent was used for scholarships.

Mr. Kelly stated that there were two organizations that worked to establish better workers' rights in foreign countries, the Fair Labor Association (FLA) and the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC). Both of these organizations were associated with numerous universities around the country. They work with manufacturers and foreign countries. They conducted audits of the facilities and working conditions and brought back information to the United States and shared it with both buyers of the materials and suppliers.

Through the efforts of students and faculty representation, the administration asked both organizations to come to the University to give presentations. Each organization used different approaches; for example, the WRC worked directly with factories and the FLA worked more with the buyers from the United States.

Mr. Kelly stated that based on careful assessment, a recommendation was made to President Sorensen that the University should join both of these organizations to advance improvements in these efforts. Dr. Sorensen concurred with the recommendation and the University had joined both organizations.

Mr. Kelly stated that one percent of our revenues would be donated to each of these organizations. This would be approximately \$26,000 per year.

Mr. Kelly thanked the students for their support and for bringing the issue to the administration's attention. He stated that the University looked forward to making the world a better place in which to work.

Chairman Jones stated that the report was received as information.

III. Report from Incoming USC Columbia President Nick Payne: Chairman Jones called on President Payne who stated that a regional campus summit was held earlier this year. The summit was very successful and it was determined that SGA needed to be a more unified body so that all needs could be addressed and the SGA could be more effective.

He introduced SGA Treasurer Alesha Brown and Vice President James Laura and asked them to give presentations of their goals for this year.

Ms. Brown stated that she was very excited to serve as Treasurer and Ms. Brown distributed copies of her "Lucky Seven Plan" which listed her goals as follows:

A. SG Treasury Evaluation: Overall evaluation of the treasury and how it works with budgets and the Senate Finance Committee on issues dealing with the distribution of student fees to student organizations.

B. Treasurer's Workshop: Improve and provide more treasurers' workshops for student organizations. Ms. Brown stated that additional workshops would improve the knowledge of officers in filling out the necessary documents when applying for funds and would help the treasurers prepare their budgets.

C. Treasurer's Committee: This committee would meet once a month to discuss financial issues with one additional officer of each student organization.

D. Treasury Tracking System: A tracking system would make it a requirement for all student organizations to keep a record of attendance during special events. The tracking system would help prevent appropriating large amounts of funds to poorly attended events.

E. It's Your Money: A monthly news article would be printed in the Gamecock and would list all student organizations and show how student fees had been allocated.

F. SCSSA and U.S./S.C. Government: Ms. Brown stated that another goal was to continue working with the federal and state governments to ensure that higher education was more affordable. The Congressional Advisory Board and the SC State Student Association played an intricate role in USC's communication with government.

G. Outreach and Retention: Ms. Brown stated that Outreach and Retention were very significant to ensure that the University continued its efforts to diversify. Ms. Brown stated she had worked with the former SGA President and the Admissions Office to create the Minority Outreach Student Team (MOST). The team would visit schools at the end of this month or in September to show that Carolina cares and to encourage the kids to go to college. She extended an invitation to President, members and first lady Donna Sorensen to visit the schools with them.

Mr. Payne called on Vice President James Laura who stated that the main responsibility of the Vice President was to be the head of the legislature (the Student Senate). One of his goals was legislative efficiency. This goal would be accomplished by getting active and focused committees that define, pursue, and achieve objectives within and outside of the walls of the Senate Chambers.

Second, he would introduce effective legislation that would have a noticeable and positive impact on constituents. Often times, people focused on small programs that had immediate effects for one or two years. His goal was to focus on long-term programs that would have a positive impact on the University as well as South Carolina and the University for 25 to 30 years.

Mr. Laura stated that one area for improvement was the agricultural industry. He wanted to bring a Farmers Market to the campus of USC. He stated that it would bring fresh produce to our students, increase revenue for our state industry and build the next generation of state leaders to have a brand loyalty to South Carolina products.

**SGA President Nick Payne** gave a brief presentation on several of his goals.

The first and primary goal is to focus on academics through ensuring the stability of current programs and the introduction of new programs.

Mr. Payne stated that a Student Success and Involvement Executive Cabinet position had been created. The primary responsibility of the position was to look at the student success center and see what students were lacking in academics and work with administrators and faculty to come up with new ideas and ways to get students involved and utilize these resources that were readily available for student's resources.

To improve Student-Dean relationships was another goal. Mr. Payne stated that senators would hold "town hall" meetings in their respective colleges to hear student concerns and then meet with deans weekly or bi-weekly to discuss concerns.

Finally, Mr. Payne stated that the Student Government Association had discussed establishing a Student-Dining Services Idea Engagement Committee. The purpose of this committee would be to explore the possibilities of expanding the

use of the Carolina Card to off campus locations and continue the work to improve current on-campus dining.

Chairman Jones thanked the students for their leadership and stated that the reports were received for information.

IV. Student Government TV: Chairman Jones called on Mr. John Cooper who stated that he was the General Manager for Student Government TV, a student television station on the Columbia Campus, campus cable channel 4. The station broadcast on weekends and from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. during the week.

Mr. Cooper stated that the purpose was to give students a chance to work in their industry/field while still in college and to provide them with informative and entertaining programming. The students gained experience and training in video production, recording and distribution.

He gave a brief history of the creation of the student television station and showed an Informercial.

Mr. Cooper stated that there were plans to expand next semester by installing a new system which would allow them to broadcast 24x7.

Chairman Jones stated that the report was received for information.

V. Brief Reports from Campuses:

Chairman Jones called on each of the campuses to provide a brief update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA President Laney Wiggins reported that the new Convocation Center opening and dedication ceremony would be held on April 26. He stated that groundbreaking had begun on 30 housing units.

B. USC Beaufort: SGA President Lucky reported that their organization had released their first newsletter and it was well received. The school was also undergoing reaccreditation; a press conference was held to announce their official interest in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and SGA elections were held.

Mr. Lucky stated that he had served as President for the past two years and this would be his last meeting. He briefly discussed the organization's accomplishments under his leadership.

C. USC Lancaster: SGA Vice President Cesar Alvarez reported that a Blood Drive would be held on April 17 and their goal was to collect 30 pints. Native American Week would be observed April 9-18 and plans were underway to visit high school in the Lancaster area to encourage students to go to college. Mr.

Alvarez stated that "Spring Fling" would be held on April 11 and the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award would be given to one full time faculty member.

D. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Christopher Lambert stated that the School had teams for Women's Volleyball, Softball, Soccer and Baseball. Two additional athletics programs were added this year, men's basketball and soccer. This would create a total of six athletics programs. Students were very excited and looking forward to the new coaches and for a great season.

Dr. Sorensen stated that the commencement speaker for USC Salkehatchie would be USC board member James (Jim) H. Rex, who was also the State Superintendent of Education and that Dean Carmichael and the administration were very excited.

E. USC Sumter: Chairman Jones noted that there were no student government officers in attendance.

F. USC Union: SGA President Christa Bowers introduced Vice President Richard Burgess and stated that the Union campus was small and limited in the amount of things that could be done. The school had a new Dean, Hugh Rowland. Dean Rowland had been working with the SGA in strategic planning to help organizations to be more accountable and effective. Ms. Bowers stated that SGA elections would be held next week and campaigns were underway and fierce. A "Spring Fling" would be held tomorrow and a Blood Drive was scheduled for April 5; the goal was 50 pints.

G. USC Upstate: President Michael Berry thanked the Board for involving students in these meetings. He stated that during April 9-12, USC Upstate would host "One World, One Upstate" which focused on diversity. The events included "Field of Flags" on Monday; on Tuesday, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. These veterans would talk about their experiences throughout the war. On Wednesday, the "Tunnel of Depression"; on Thursday "Watch your Words" and conclude on Friday with a commencement program.

He stated that two weeks ago, SGA was involved in a community service project as an alternative to spring break. The organization took 17 children to Charleston, S. C., to do community service. They worked with the Boys and Girls Club and the "Keep Charleston Beautiful" Organization and the group went to Patriots Point.

Mr. Berry stated that they had a very exciting lecture series over the past semester. The following speakers were hosted: Ms. Essie Mae Washington Williams, daughter of the late Senator Strom Thurmond, Senator Kweisi Mfume, past NAACP President and current US Senator; Rebecca Armstrong, a former playmate for Playboy and who was infected with HIV/Aids and was now an Activist for that disease and,

Mr. T.J. Leydenon, a former Neo-Nazi who spoke out against hate groups. The lectures were well attended.

Mr. Berry stated that other events planned for the year were the President's Ball, the annual Student Diversity Affairs Award Banquet on April 17 and Student Government Elections were held on March 26.

Chairman Jones thanked the SGA representatives for their informative reports and stated that the reports were received for information.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp  
Secretary