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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 16, 2011

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Ms. Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. W. Lee Bussell, Sr.; and Mr. Hubert F. Mobley. Members absent were Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Mr. Charles H. Williams; Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman; and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Vice Chairman.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Herbert C. Adams; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Dr. C. Dorn Smith, III; Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr.; and Mr. Thad H. Westbrook.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations Michelle Dodenhoff; Vice President for Communications Luanne M. Lawrence; Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Extended University Chris C. Plyler; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Senior Vice Provost and Director of Strategic Planning Christine W. Curtis; Interim Executive Director of the Carolina Alumni Association and Secretary-Elect Amy Stone; Director of the Department of Internal Audit Phil Iapalucci; Director of Director of Governmental and Community Relations and Legislative Liaison Shirley D. Mills; Associate Director of State Relations Trey Walker; Special Assistant to the President J. Cantey Heath, Jr.; Associate Vice President for Business and Finance and Medical Business Affairs Jeffrey L. Perkins; Director of the Office of Media Relations, Division of University Advancement, Margaret Lamb; Professor in the Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, and Chair of the Faculty Senate Sandra J. Kelly; Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, USC Beaufort, Kate Tornborg-Vermilyea; SGA Advisor, USC Columbia, David Hunter; SGA Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; SGA Advisor, USC Salkahatchie, Chrissy Holliday; SGA Advisor, USC Sumter, Dan Kiernan; SGA Advisor, USC Upstate Laura Puckett-Boler; wife of Board member Toney J. Lister, Cynthia Lister; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, and Karen Tweedy.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: Secretary/Treasurer Cori Echols and Representative William Blake Leaphart; USC Beaufort: SGA President Erica Moore and Secretary General Michael Alexander; USC Columbia: SGA President Joe Wright, Vice President Emily Saleeby, and Treasurer Emily Supil; USC Lancaster: SGA President Carrie Braswell, Vice President Ty Reeves, Chandler Baxley, and Jena Hallman; USC Salkehatchie:

SGA President Nichole Lewis, Vice President Allendale Dana Crews, and Alyssa Chambers;
USC Sumter: SGA President Chris Sumpster; and USC Upstate: SGA President Ana Osuna.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: A luncheon was held which gave students an opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials. Following the luncheon, Chair Moody called the meeting to order, welcomed and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Ms. Lamb introduced a member of the media in attendance.

Ms. Moody 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.

Ms. Moody thanked those who drove from system campuses for coming to the meeting and said that she hoped they had an opportunity to meet with the Board of Trustees members from their area.

II. Report from the Graduate Student Association (GSA): Chair Moody called on USC Columbia Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Andrew Dorsey who stated that he started his education at USC Lancaster, finished his undergraduate degree at USC Columbia and received his Masters in Public Administration in May 2011. He was currently working on a master's degree in the Darla Moore School of Business. He had been in the USC system for a while and had been impressed with the "positive energy and excitement" at the University.

Mr. Dorsey invited Mr. Wright to join him at the podium. Mr. Wright said that he was present to show the SGA's support for the GSA Resolution.

Mr. Dorsey reported that there were currently over eight thousand graduate and professional students, which represented just under 20 percent of the University student body population. He discussed the concerns of the graduate population and those concerns related to the support needs of these students.

The GSA was founded in the 1960's and is a hybrid student operated group for student advocacy, academic enrichment, and graduate student support. The GSA slogan is "Your Advocates At Carolina."

III. Resolution of the Board of Trustees to Adopt the Mission and Goals of the GSA:

Mr. Dorsey explained that the Resolution represented a formal recognition for the acknowledgement of the GSA mission, the governing body of graduate student organizations, and that the GSA Officers were the official representatives of the USC graduate student body.

Mr. Wright moved to submit the Resolution to the Committee for approval. Chair Moody called for a motion to approve the Resolution to adopt the mission and goal of the GSA as presented. Mr. Mobley so moved and Mr. Burroughs seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

IV. Campus Reports: Chair Moody called on each of the campuses to provide an update of their campus activities.

A. USC Columbia: SGA President Wright reported that the SGA had adopted and enacted four goals: to foster a more unified environment through communication with administration and students; to encourage engaged Carolina citizens in the community; to improve the quality of student life; and to promote an inclusive and a diverse culture.

The SGA and the GSA were currently involved on developing a program whereby local restaurants would offer student discounts. The restaurants would be identified by decals in their windows. Representatives from both Associations were working with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the City of Columbia Mayor's Office to help stimulate small economic development in the community.

Mr. Wright stated that he was working with Secretary Stepp on a process to help with the Honorary Degree selection by the formation of a committee within the SGA. This committee would ensure that students would have input in the selection process.

Mr. Wright discussed the SGA's successful efforts to promote the Carolina Creed.

The SGA, with the support of Athletics, hosted a pep rally on the horseshoe prior to the USC vs Navy game with President Pastides, Cocky, and Coach Spurrier. Mr. Wright said that he was working with other SEC schools on benchmarking student football ticket distribution programs.

SGA partnered with the Entrepreneurial Department of the DMSB on a business plan competition for students. The SGA was able to open the competition to all campuses. There were 25 entries the winner received \$1,500 to "jump start" their business idea.

Mr. Wright said that one of his favorite aspects of his job was working closely with the other USC Campuses. They were working with the College of Charleston and Clemson University to develop lobbying day at the Statehouse in Spring 2012; and they planned to attend the SEC conference at the University of Arkansas in January 2012.

The SGA was involved with government relations at the local, state, national, and international level. The SGA had a working relationship with Trey Walker the University's Associate Director of State Relations, to set up a grassroots campaign to communicate with State Legislators. On the national level, in addition to the SGA's phone conversation with President Obama in July 2011, SGA held phone meetings with the National Office of Public Engagement at the White House, every two weeks, to ensure that the University's voice is heard. On the international scene, the SGA signed on to support Global Zero to reduce nuclear arms around the world. Mr. Wright stated that Global Zero caught his attention when he learned from them that, "one thousand scholarships are equivalent to the cost to upkeep one old nuclear weapon. That means eight million students could have school paid for if we got ourselves from 9,000 to 1,000 weapons."

Additional SGA accomplishments included: the implementation of an in-house "student legal service" to assist student who may need legal advice; the development of a multi-cultural affairs council to ensure every part of the campus community is recognized; the passage of the SGA Finance Bill, with the help of the SGA Treasurer Emily

Supil, to allocate over \$100,000 for student organizations; and working to ensure that USC Connect was included in the University's Strategic Planning model.

B. USC Aiken: William Blake Leaphart, Student Leader Representative, reported that upon Chancellor Hallman's announcement of his retirement, a 17-member search committee was created to fill this position. He was pleased that the committee included student representation.

USC Aiken was ranked first among the top public regional colleges in the South in the year 2012 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* guide, "America's Best Colleges." This is the 4th consecutive year USC Aiken has been ranked first in the public regional colleges in the South category by *U.S. News & World Report*. It was also USC Aiken's 14th consecutive ranking among the top three in this category and its eighth time in first place.

During their Fall Break Mr. Leaphart along with several students traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild following the devastation of hurricane Katrina. It was his third visit.

USC Aiken Secretary/Treasurer Cori Echols stated that USC Aiken began celebrating its 50th anniversary on September 10th, the date in 1961 when the campus opened.

Ms. Echols reported on two SGA initiatives. The first was to provide late night dining services on campus. The campuses catering services currently close at 7:30 p.m. The second was the establishment of a Campus Beautification Committee to work with the Campuses operations department.

C. USC Beaufort: SGA President Erica Moore who stated that their motto "Your Voice" was the SGA's main focus. Their recycling program was scheduled to begin in January 2012. Plans were underway for a garden to provide students an additional outdoor space to study and relax. To enhance community ties they initiated the Sand Sharks Saver Program whereby students could get discounts in the local community.

The SGA was trying to embed in students' minds that the Beaufort and the Bluffton campuses were USC Beaufort, and not independent of each other. New construction at USC Beaufort included two new dorms and a library.

Ms. Moore reported that a marketing research study to consider the possibility of changing the name of USC Beaufort was being explored.

D. USC Lancaster: SGA President Carrie Braswell reported that the SGA had raised over \$5,000 for the "Relay for Life of Lancaster County" in May 2011. In August the SGA hosted a "Back to School Bash." In September they hosted a "9/11 Day of Remembrance" which included a tribute service with Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement and veterans. Also in September, the SGA held a "Safe Tailgating - Alcohol Awareness Event" whereby they used DUI goggles and a golf cart to simulate driving impaired.

In October, the SGA hosted an Academic Reality Check to help students recognize signs that they may need to consider dropping classes that could negatively effect their grade point average and financial aid. The SGA also hosted "Think Pink" for breast

cancer, from which they raised over \$1,000 for a newly established USC cancer program. At Halloween, the SGA hosted a "Trick-or-Treat so Kids Can Eat" event in which they collected can good for needy.

The SGA was currently working with the USC Lancaster Facilities Management Department and the City of Lancaster to start a campus wide recycling initiative.

E. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Nicole Lewis reported that the number of new students for Fall 2011 had increased by twelve percent from the prior year.

The "Topper Exhibit" opened in the Fall on the Allendale Campus. Dr. Al Goodyear, USC archaeologist, and the USC Archaeology Department led the Topper expedition. Artifacts from the Topper site has shown evidence of humans in North America as much as 50,000 years ago, a significant discovery in archaeological circles.

The men and women's soccer teams qualified for regional post season play this year and both finished 4th. Five men and two women both received All-Region Honors. The Men's basketball team was currently 4 and 1 for the season.

The SGA hosted a haunted house, carnival and costume contest for Halloween; a pep rally for the Men's Basketball season opener; a "Pack the Stands" for soccer event; the annual Carolina/Clemson blood drive, in addition to many other activities for the campus community.

Other active student groups include the Education Club, the Nursing Club, the Cheer Team, and the International Students Organization. USC Salkehatchie sponsored intermural flag football, basketball, walk/run races, and pool tournaments.

Ms. Lewis stated that the students loved the new USC Salkehatchie webpage and logo.

F. USC Sumter: SGA President Chris Sumpter stated that they were currently celebrating USC Sumter's 45th anniversary. The SGA's mission and focus was to make sure that the student voice "is heard." The SGA meets twice a month. They hosted a Town Hall meeting the day before at which time students had the opportunity to ask the Dean questions involving the campus.

Upcoming SGA events included a week long canned food drive, with all donations going to the local Salvation Army; a campus "clean-up" day; and an SGA meeting, at which other campus will be invited to attend. The SGA was also scheduled to attend several leadership conferences.

Mr. Sumpter announced that plans were in place for USC Sumter's 6th annual "Big Wednesday" which occurs on the week of the Carolina/Clemson Game. It is an event for fans of both teams to meet and enjoy food and entertainment.

G. USC Union: The original date of the meeting had been changed, and representatives from USC Union were unable to attend.

H. USC Upstate: SGA President Ana Osuna said that the students had welcomed their new Chancellor, Tom Moore. The SGA, along with Student Life, sponsor a

monthly "Breakfast with the Chancellor" to provide students an opportunity to voice their concerns. The event has proven successful, with several issues already having been addressed.

The SGA just held a ribbon cutting for the Spartanburg Nutritional Assistance Campaign (SNAC); a food pantry on campus for students in need, without having to be identified among their peers.

This semester the SGA distributed over \$15,000 to various student organizations.

Ms. Osuna said that the USC Upstate Senior Vice Chancellor was retiring and that she was excited to have been invited to serve on the search committee for the new chancellor.

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

V. Student Football Ticket Update: Chair Moody recognized Dr. Pruitt who commended Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Wright for doing something "really unbelievable." He explained that for over 40 years there had been tension between the SGA and the GSA, and that they had brought the two associations together as a team.

Dr. Pruitt called on Mr. Brewer who reported that his office had conducted a student survey regarding athletic ticket distribution process. There were over 24,000 students on the Columbia campus that are eligible for athletic tickets. The survey revealed that students were not satisfied with the current athletic ticket system; did not want to pay for tickets; but did like the current "festival" seating at football games, where specific seats were not assigned, just a student section.

Several focus groups, which included students, had been formed and were working with Athletics to review the current system and consider recommendation for a new one. Student Life had scheduled a student ticket forum in the Russell House Ballroom at 5:30 p.m. on November 29th to provide an opportunity for student feedback. Mr. Brewer stated that USC and Vanderbilt were the only school in the SEC which does not charge its students for football tickets; and does not distribute football tickets on a season basis, but per game. USC is one of four SEC that does not assign student seating for football games. Once a proposal was developed Mr. Brewer explained that it would be presented to Dr. Pruitt, the President, and finally the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Brewer responded to questions from Board members and students regarding the current ticket distribution program, other SEC schools programs, and ticket options for the System Campuses.

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