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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 19, 2020

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2020, by telephone conference call due to statewide quarantine restrictions related to coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The conference call was hosted from Room 206-B of the Osborne Administration Building.

Members joining by telephone were Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Chairman; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley, Board Vice Chairman; Mr. C. Dan Adams; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Robert F. Dozier Jr.; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Richard A. Jones Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams.

Absent were Mr. A. King Dixon II; Mr. William C. Hubbard; and Ms. Molly Spearman.

Also joining by telephone were: Board of Trustees Strategic Advisor David Seaton, Board of Trustees Governance Consultant Cameron Howell; USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Mark Cooper, and USC Columbia Student Government President Issy Rushton.

Present in the room were: President Robert L. Caslen Jr.; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Presidential Faculty Fellow and Executive Assistant to the President Susan Bon; Director of Public Relations Jeff Stensland; Assistant Vice President of Administrative Operations Joe Sobieralski; Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives Jack Claypoole; and Board staff members Delphine Bigony and Terri Saxon.

Others joining by telephone were: Vice President for Human Resources Caroline Agardy; President's Chief of Staff Mark Bieger; Chief Audit Executive Pam Dunleavy; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; Interim Chief Development Officer Will Elliott; Interim Provost Tayloe Harding; Chief Executive Officer, Alumni Association Wes Hickman; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Executive Communications Director Sally McKay; Director of Government and Community Relations Derrick Meggie; Vice President for Research Prakash Nagarkatti; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Office of Equal Opportunities Director Clifford Scott; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Vice President for Communications Larry Thomas; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Julian R. Williams; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; USC Upstate Chancellor J. Derham Cole Jr.; Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Stacey Bradley; Federal Legislative Liaison Steve Beckham; Associate Vice President for Finance Kelly Epting; University Controller Mandy Kibler; Provost Elect William "Bill" F. Tate IV; University Architect Derek Gruner; and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) President Belle S. Wheelan.

I. Call to Order

Chairman von Lehe called the meeting to order and stated 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. He asked those in the room to introduce themselves. Secretary Heath confirmed a quorum by calling roll to identify Trustees and others joining by telephone.

Mr. Stensland introduced members of the news media who had joined the meeting by telephone: Erin Slowey with *The Daily Gamecock*; Emily Correll with WLTX-TV; Adam Benson with *The Post and Courier*; Lucas Daprile with *The State*; and Emily Wakeman with WIS-TV.

Chairman von Lehe invited Father Paul Sterne, representing St. Theodore's Anglican Chapel and the C.S. Lewis Student Center, to deliver the invocation.

Chairman von Lehe called on President Caslen to introduce the meeting's special guest, Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, who offered remarks on SACSCOC's expectations regarding its requested monitoring report related to the University's presidential search.

President Caslen said it was his distinct and great pleasure to introduce special guest Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). She is the first African American and the first woman to serve in that capacity. Her career spans over 40 years and includes the roles of a faculty member, chief student services officer, a campus provost, a college president, and Virginia Secretary of Education. In several of those roles, she was the first African American and/or the first woman to serve in those capacities.

Noting she has received numerous awards and recognition, including six honorary degrees, President Caslen said she was recognized in the *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the most 100 powerful women in Washington, D.C. in 2001. He said she attributes her success to hard work, endurance, tenacity, and being at the right place at the right time.

President Caslen said Dr. Wheelan "has been an incredible help to me personally. She is kind, she is approachable, and she is 'spot on' as to what needs to be done. She has been amazing in mentoring me in my time as president. She is simply an amazing leader."

Dr. Wheelan thanked President Caslen. She also thanked Chairman von Lehe and Trustees for all they do and for the invitation to speak with them. She regretted the need to meet by telephone, noting her initial encounter was through a letter expressing concern about the University's compliance with SACSCOC standards. "I assure you that our interest is to ensure the institution is complying with the standards that the members have identified as being important, recognizing the Board is a very important part of the success

of any institution.” She noted it was under the direction of USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan that SACSCOC standards were revised two years ago.

Among the changes two years ago, was the addition of two new standards, including one dealing with evaluation of an institution’s board. While many boards were already engaged in self-evaluation, she said, many were not and over time SACSCOC learned some boards are more engaged than others. “It is imperative for the success of an institution for the board to be engaged. Engagement is tough and means taking stands sometimes that are not favorable to faculty, staff, or other constituents.”

Dr. Wheelan said SACSCOC asked for a demonstration of compliance with Standard No. 4 dealing with the election and regular evaluation of the CEO because of unsolicited information it received about the University’s search process. “We never doubted the President was a qualified candidate. It was just the process raised issues.” Thus, the monitoring report is asking for a demonstration of how the institution is following our standards, she said.

While SACSCOC typically stays out of an institution’s business except for the fifth and tenth year of the accreditation cycle, there are times when SACSCOC will make inquiries. One being if someone files a formal complaint; one if the President were to self-report being out of compliance; and one is when the media identifies issues that may be of concern to SACSCOC, which is what happened in this case, she said.

All we are doing is asking you to tell us how you are indeed involved in selecting the President. If there were issues you identified that probably could have gone better, we are asking you to identify those and tell us how you changed. We hope you do not have to go through this process again anytime soon. But, if you were to, what would be the pieces that you might change in the process from the last time it happened to ensure the integrity of the process.

We also ask that you regularly evaluate the CEO. While your President is just getting there, we would like to know what the process is you are going to use by which to evaluate his success. Ideally when he was hired you gave him a list of goals you expected him to achieve and that you will use those by which to evaluate him, typically at the end of the first year. But it could be any

time during his tenure with the institution.

That is what the monitoring report is – just to bring us up on where you are with what happened and that everything is now back in compliance.

The other issue, Dr. Wheelan said, has to do with undue political influence or undue influence by external factors. She recognized the Governor is a member of the Board but said there was documentation indicating he had stepped down from that position and officially designated someone to represent him. Then it was reported he called Board members to talk about the process.

“Once he stepped off the Board and back in his role as Governor, then that is what raised the issue of the undue political influence. Had he stayed on the Board; it would not have been an issue because he would have been calling everybody in his role as a Board member. That is the kind of clarification we are asking for in the monitoring report.”

Once the monitoring report has been submitted, it will be reviewed and if SACSCOC is comfortable that everything is ok, it will respond by letter. If there is not enough information in the report for SACSCOC to feel comfortable, then Dr. Wheelan will take the issue to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees for action. Board options include requesting another monitoring report, placing the institution on warning or on probation, or dropping it from membership.

“Our Board does not enjoy dropping members from membership, so that is the last possible straw. If they did anything, I would bet – although I do not speak for the Board – that it would be a follow up report next year. After having spoken with the President, and I know he understands our expectations, I’m sure you will give us the information we need so we can end this.”

Chairman von Lehe thanked Dr. Wheelan and expressed appreciation for her remarks, noting the Board had been active in preparing a response to the SACSCOC inquiry. “We’ve formed a new governance committee that was discussed today at some length, which will be voted on shortly. We think we are moving in a direction you are going to feel comfortable with, and mainly that we will feel comfortable with, under

the guidance you've given us.”

### **Motion for Executive Session**

Chairman von Lehe called for a motion to enter Executive Session for personnel matters related to the appointment of honorary academic titles, appointments with tenure, transfer of tenure, tenure and promotion recommendations; election of members to the Board of Visitors; and for the receipt of legal advice regarding a matter protected by the attorney-client privilege. Mr. Adams so moved. Mr. Burroughs seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Chairman von Lehe invited President Caslen, Secretary Heath, Dr. Cooper, Ms. Rushton, the President's Executive Council, the University Chancellors, Mr. Seaton, and Dr. Tate to remain on the telephone for the Executive Session.

### **Executive Session Removed**

### **Return to Open Session**

#### II. Approval of Minutes

- A. Executive and Governance Committee, June 21, 2019
- B. Board of Trustees, June 21, 2019
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee, September 13, 2019
- D. Audit and Compliance Committee, October 11, 2019
- E. Executive and Governance Committee, October 11, 2019
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, October 11, 2019
- G. Buildings and Grounds Committee, November 15, 2019
- H. Health Affairs Committee, November 15, 2019
- I. Student and System Affairs Committee, November 15, 2019
- J. Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning, Called Meeting, November 15, 2019
- K. Board of Trustees, Called Meeting, December 10, 2019
- L. Executive and Governance Committee, December 17, 2019
- M. Board of Trustees, Called Meeting, February 14, 2020

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections, Chairman von Lehe said the 13 sets of minutes stood approved as provided for review on the Board Portal.

Trustee Moody questioned why there were so many 2019 minutes just coming forward for approval. Secretary Heath responded there were over 60 meetings in 2019 and the Board Office was catching up as quickly as possible.

### III. Committee Consent Agendas

#### A. Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee, June 5, 2020 (The Honorable Leah B. Moody, Chair)

Chairman von Lehe said the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee met on June 5 and recommended for approval all items listed on its consent agenda, all of which had received the appropriate academic and administrative approvals. There were no objections to a single vote to approve all consent agenda items, the vote was taken, and the following items were approved:

#### 1. Honorary Academic Titles

The requests below for honorary academic titles were posted on the Board Portal with supporting materials. On approval, the following individuals will be awarded the title(s) indicated, effective with his/her retirement:

For the title Professor Emeritus:

Stephen McNeill

For the title Clinical Professor Emeritus:

Patrick Hickey

For the title Dean Emerita USC Salkehatchie:

Ann Carmichael

#### 2. Appointments with Tenure

Dr. Timothy Brown – Appointment with tenure at the rank of associate professor in the School of Accounting, Darla Moore School of Business.

Dr. Todd Lekan – Appointment with tenure at the rank of professor and as Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at USC Lancaster.

Dr. Jean Neils-Strunjas – Appointment with tenure at the rank of professor

and as Department Chair in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMD), Arnold School of Public Health.

3. Transfer of Tenure

Dr. Christina Andrews – Transfer of tenure from the College of Social Work to the Arnold School of Public Health.

4. Tenure and Promotion Recommendations [Exhibit A]

5. USC Columbia

- New Program: MS in Business Analytics, Darla Moore School of Business
- New Certificate Program: Environmental Nanoscience Certificate, Arnold School of Public Health
- New Center: South Carolina Constitutional Law Center, School of Law
- Program Modification: DNP Nurse Anesthesia, School of Medicine Columbia
- Center Name Change: Center for Mega Event Research and Education change to Center for Advancement of Sport and Entertainment Management, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management

6. USC Palmetto College

a. Program Modifications – Addition of Delivery Sites

- i. Dreher High School
- ii. Lower Richland High School

b. Palmetto College Faculty Manual Update

7. USC Aiken

a. Program Change – Addition of 100 % Online Delivery Option

- i. BA Communications
- ii. BS Psychology
- iii. BS Applied Computer Science (Cybersecurity)

b. Program Name Change: Med Education Technology to Med



## Learning Design and Technologies

8. USC Beaufort
  - a. Program Change – Addition of 100% Online Delivery Option
    - i. BA Psychology
    - ii. BA Sociology
    - iii. BS Public Health
    - iv. BS Hospitality Management
    - v. BS Human Services
  - b. Program Modification – Addition of New Concentration:  
BS Biology

B. Audit and Compliance Committee, June 5, 2020  
(The Honorable Rose Buyck Newton, Chair)

Chairman von Lehe said the Audit and Compliance Committee met on June 5 and recommended for approval the single item listed on its consent agenda. The vote was taken, and the following item was approved:

- BTRU 1.06, Audit & Advisory Services: Updated to specify Audit & Advisory Services (AAS) “has a secondary reporting relationship to the University President who shall be authorized to request AAS conduct audits or perform other services he/she deems necessary to assist the administration in the effective discharge of its responsibilities.” Also updated to specify the Chief Audit Executive (CAE) is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees and whose salary is set by the Board.

C. Executive and Governance Committee, June 19, 2020  
(The Honorable John C. von Lehe Jr., Chair)

Chairman von Lehe said the Executive and Governance Committee met earlier in the day and recommended for approval all items listed on its consent agenda. There were no objections to a single motion to approve all consent agenda items, the vote was taken, and the following items were approved:

1. Contracts Valued at \$750,000 and Above

- a. EBSCO: An agreement with EBSCO Information Services under which University Libraries will acquire access to approximately 13,950 electronic journal subscriptions and more than 50 databases at a total cost of approximately \$5,688,325. The term of the agreement is one year beginning July 1, 2020.
- b. CMRTA (The COMET): An agreement with the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority, operating as The COMET, under which transit services will be provided to the USC Columbia campus beginning September 1, 2020 for a three-year period. In exchange for such services, the University will pay The COMET approximately \$1.5 million in year one, \$74.23 per service hour in year two, and \$76.55 per service hour in year three. The University will be responsible for paying refurbishment costs for 12 buses in year one not to exceed \$505,000, and for paying 15% of the purchase price of 12 new buses. The term of the agreement may be extended for two additional one-year periods.
- c. COTIVITI, Inc.: An agreement with COTIVITI, Inc., f/k/a Verscend Technologies under which the College of Social Work's Institute for Families in Society will extend the term of its licenses to use HEDIS Quality Intelligence software and DxCG Intelligence software through June 30, 2025. The cost of the two license agreements is \$1,593,000 and \$750,000, respectively.
- d. Aramark (Columbia): An amendment to the USC Columbia Food Services Management Agreement with Aramark Educational Services, LLC to provide that due to the cessation of food services on the Columbia campus resulting from COVID-19, for the period of March 22 – July 22, 2020, Aramark will be relieved of its obligation to pay the University commissions and guaranteed commissions, and the University will pay Aramark special costs and fixed and variable costs as specified in the amendment.

IV. USC Upstate New Program: MS Exercise and Sport Science

Chairman von Lehe reminded Trustees the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee approved this new program at its June 5 meeting, provided USC Upstate could resolve concerns by the

Arnold School of Public Health regarding duplication of its program. The two campuses have come to an agreement and the revised new program information was provided in the agenda materials provided on the Board Portal.

On behalf of the Executive and Governance Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval of USC Upstate's new program MS Exercise and Sport Science as revised and presented on the Board Portal. The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

V. Approval of University of South Carolina Strategic Plan

On behalf of the Executive and Governance Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval of the University of South Carolina Strategic Plan as presented at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning earlier in the day. [Exhibit B]

VI. University's FY 2020-2021 Annual Operating Budget

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval of the proposed total current funds budget for the USC System for FY 2021, including the operating budgets, the tuition and fee schedules, the budgets for all auxiliary enterprises, and the designated funds budget. [Exhibit C]

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Board of Trustees Bylaws, Amendments

On behalf of the Executive and Governance Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval of the Board of Trustees Bylaws amendments as recommended by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Governance and provided on the Board Portal. [Exhibit D]

There being no discussion, he said this motion would lay on the table to be voted on at the next full Board meeting as required by Board Bylaws.

VIII. Board of Trustees Standing Committees' Charters

On behalf of the Executive and Governance Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval

of the Board of Trustees Standing Committees' Charters as recommended by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Governance and provided on the Board Portal and pending final approval of amendments to the Board of Trustees Bylaws. [Exhibit E]

The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IX. Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Governance – Consultant Scope of Work Agreement

On behalf of the Executive and Governance Committee, Chairman von Lehe moved approval of the Consultant Scope of Work Agreement as recommended by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Governance and provided on the Board Portal. [Exhibit F]

A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

X. Election of Trustee to the USC Business Partnership Foundation's Board of Trustees

In accordance with BTRU Policy 3.00, Chairman von Lehe said the Executive and Governance Committee recommended Trustee Rose Buyck Newton to the full Board for election to a four-year term on the University of South Carolina Business Partnership Foundation's Board of Trustees. Ms. Newton will be eligible for one additional four-year term for a total term of service of eight years.

There being no other nominations, Chairman von Lehe asked that Ms. Newton be elected by acclamation; and she was.

XI. Election of Members to the Board of Visitors

Chairman von Lehe said the following individuals were nominated to serve on the Board of Visitors. After reading the names and terms for which they were nominated, he asked for a motion to approve the nominees as presented. Mr. Allen so moved. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Nominated and elected for a three-year term (September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023)

- Keith W. Buckhouse of Florence, nominated by Trustee Floyd for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
- Brian Thomas Grier of Chester, nominated by Trustee Mobley for the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

- Michelle Kerscher of Myrtle Beach, nominated by Trustee Burroughs for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

Nominated and elected for a two-year term (September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023)

- Joel Stoudenmire of Greenville, nominated by Trustee Adams, the Governor’s Designee

Nominated and elected for a second, three-year term (September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023)

- Ann Kirven of Summerton, nominated by Trustee Smith for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit
- E. Warren Moïse of Charleston, nominated by Trustee von Lehe for the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
- Joe Huddleston of Washington, D.C., a Presidential Nominee

## XII. Report of the Board of Visitors

Chairman von Lehe said Board of Visitors Chair David Miller was unable to participate in the Board meeting and submitted a written report, which was shared with Trustees on the Board Portal and is included here:

### 2020 Board of Visitors (BoV) Report

This report is submitted by BoV Chair, David B. Miller. This meeting will mark the end of my term as Chairman and I welcome Carmen Thomas as our new Chair.

When Egerton asked me to serve on the Board six years ago, he asked that I try to create heightened involvement of the BoV in University affairs. It is my hope that lasting progress has been made. Thank you, Egerton, for appointing me. I now know that serving on the BoV is all about lasting relationships.

This past year turned out to be our year with Arts and Sciences. Dean Lacy Ford has welcomed us on two occasions. He fully invested his and his departments’ time and resources. We delved into the cutting-edge work being done for Autism. We were treated to a private showing at the Theatre. We planned a retreat at Hobcaw second to none. Though the pandemic postponed our Hobcaw Retreat, we hope to reschedule as soon as possible. We may even invite the Trustees to join us.

I recently spoke with Dean Haj-Hariri of our College of Engineering and Computing. BoV member Johnny Bruce had suggested we include our Engineering College in our ongoing Achievement Tower project. The Tower currently consists of lighting Capstone to denote major accomplishments at the University, through both academics and athletics. We plan to add a skylight feature which will broadcast the Gamecock logo and will be seen for miles. The Dean is very excited about this opportunity and will be dedicating

students to explore the project through both light and laser. I encourage the Trustees to get behind this as it has the potential to become a nationally recognized symbol of our University.

Lastly, we have just added a new item to our regular quarterly meetings called “A Message from the President”. We are asking President Caslen to present a short report of current “goings on” at the University. The idea is to increase involvement through interaction. The BoV membership offers diverse perspectives and tremendous insights. Increased inclusion can only make our University better.

Forever to Thee, David.

### XIII. Report of USC Columbia Student Government President

Chairman von Lehe called on Ms. Rushton who said the year 2020 would forever be remembered in the history books, noting she was thankful to lead a student body defined by its resilience, character, and passion for the University. She focused her remarks on two “pivotal movements that are defining the future of our campus.”

First, she addressed 2020 Revision, an action plan based on a five-year-old student-developed action plan called 2020 Vision. The original plan demanded systematic changes to campus related to diversity and inclusion efforts to create a more inclusive, representative, and diverse Carolina. While great strides have been made toward the goals of that student vision, she said, marginalized students are still not safe from hate. Thus, a collaborative group of student leaders developed 2020 Revision to protect marginalized communities and to achieve the common goal of a greater Carolinian experience for all.

Access is more than the ability to enter a classroom, she said. It encompasses the feeling of being welcomed in that room. Students need to be certain they are safe from harm in all forms. She said it is everyone’s responsibility to take a stand against racism, which has caused irreparable harm.

Ms. Rushton underscored several ways in which 2020 Revision and the University’s Strategic Plan can work together, including implementing mandatory course requirements that focus on topics of diversity. Another way, she said, is the renaming of all buildings on campus that stem from individuals with racist

backgrounds such as the J. Marion Sims residence hall, Storm Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, and the Thomas Cooper Library.

The second “movement” she addressed was the “I Pledge Columbia” campaign, which was formed to address concerns about negative consequences on the community caused by students returning to campus during the pandemic. The student-driven awareness campaign centers around social responsibility and the following of public health guidelines to safeguard the community. Students, faculty, staff, and City of Columbia community members will have the opportunity to sign a pledge and commit to their role in the fight against COVID-19. The pledge focuses on the connection between being an accountable member of both the Gamecock and Columbia communities and asks students to take an intentional role in their responsibility to be good citizens. The campaign, which is a collaboration among the University, the City of Columbia, and other institutions in the community, has a launch date of June 30.

Chairman von Lehe thanked Ms. Rushton and apologized for the level of telephone background noise during her report. Following the conclusion of the meeting, he said an improved method of meeting remotely would be identified and implemented.

Addressing Ms. Rushton’s report, Faculty Senate Chair Cooper said the Revision 2020 document was among the most impressive work he had ever seen from student leaders. “The student leaders should be commended for their work and I really look forward to working with Issy Rushton and other student leaders to advance the goals expressed in that document.”

#### XIV. Report of the Alumni Association

Due to the length of the meeting, Chairman von Lehe thanked Mr. Dozier for deferring the Alumni Association report until a future meeting.

#### XV. Presidential Commission on University History – Resolution

Chairman von Lehe moved approval of the Presidential Commission on University History

Resolution dated June 15, 2020 and to respectfully request the General Assembly authorize the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees to remove the name of J. Marion Sims from the women's residence hall on the Columbia campus and to rename the facility as subsequently determined by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Mobley seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the resolution was unanimously approved as follows:

**Presidential Commission on University History Resolution**

Whereas, President Robert Caslen authorized the creation of the Presidential Commission on University History, in order to study and better understand the history of the university, including histories of the people whose names are on its buildings, some of whom ardently supported the institution of slavery, owned enslaved persons, and/or held or expressed deeply racist views,

Whereas, a women's residence hall is named for J. Marion Sims, an alumnus who obtained the title of the "father of modern gynecology" by performing unethical medical practices on enslaved women from 1845 to 1849. His perfection of a cure for vesicovaginal fistula, which closed dangerous openings between the bladder and vagina, a condition often caused by giving birth, was practiced on enslaved women purposely without the use of ether anesthesia (developed in 1846). Anarcha, an enslaved woman, was just 17 years old when Sims began the first of 30 surgical experiments that he would ultimately perform on her body. Records provide knowledge of his use of at least 11 other enslaved women for medical experimentation, including two individuals named "Lucy" and "Betsey." Records also show that some doctors who assisted Sims after being made aware of the inhumane treatment refused to continue working with him. Sims then used enslaved persons to hold down women during surgeries.

Whereas, members of the University's communities have made known that they strongly oppose the use of Sims' name on the women's residence hall, due to the long history of medical racism in the United States, including the work of Sims and others during the antebellum period, the Tuskegee Experiment (1932-1972), and "The Mississippi Appendectomy," a name given to a practice of sterilizing African American women without consent from 1933 to 1973. This history provides evidence of institutional racism at the core of



injustices on Black bodies. The argument that African Americans do not feel pain originating during slavery and persists in some medical practice today. Research shows that African Americans with the same health insurance and access to medical care receive less care and are less likely to be believed when they describe pain. A 2018 Centers for Disease Control report revealed that the maternal death rate for African American mothers is double that of white women. Medical experiments on African American people's bodies throughout history have resulted in abuse of a minority population while advancing medical treatments for, and the stature within the profession of, others.

Whereas the South Carolina Heritage Act requires a 2/3 vote of the South Carolina General Assembly to remove the name of a historical figure from a university building,

Be it resolved; the President's Commission on University History recommends to President Caslen that the University should request permission of the General Assembly to remove the name of J. Marion Sims from the women's residence hall.

#### XVI. Report of the President

Chairman von Lehe called on President Caslen who commended Trustees for their cooperation in working through the budget, the strategic plan, and approval of the Presidential Commission on University History Resolution.

Before updating the Board on reopening plans for campus, he recognized the significance of June 19, known as Juneteenth – an important date in history widely known as a day of celebration to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. “We are reminded every day that it is not enough to confront racism, we have to take action and make sure our campus communities promote equity, access, and inclusion. We must make decisions to take actions that demonstrate our commitment to inclusion and diversity and to living the values expressed in our Carolinian Creed.”

President Caslen then offered the following COVID-19 statistics: 180 cases of COVID-19, including 167 confirmed and 13 presumptive pending test results; 168 of these cases are students, six on campus and

162 off campus, while six are faculty and six are staff, all off campus; across the system there are a total of six cases, which are included in the totals cited.

From a medical standpoint, he said, many individuals are reporting mild symptoms. However, this represents a problem because statistics indicate college-aged men and women are about 1.5% asymptomatic, meaning they are positive but are not demonstrating symptoms. With 30,000 students returning in August, 1.5% represents 450 students who could inflict the virus without knowing they are doing it, he said.

President Caslen said the University was conducting contact tracing, along with providing isolation and quarantine in place. There is an increase in the number of positive cases among off-campus students in Columbia. Primarily these have appeared in clusters of friends living together, as well as other common exposures such as a dating partner, co-workers, attendance at house and pool parties, and at bars.

The University has conducted over 800 tests, yielding 44 positive cases. MUSC has assisted the University with testing, reporting 40 positives out of 960 tests. Future testing will be important, he said, adding that the plan is to test 40,000 students, faculty, and staff within a 10-day period of their return to campus. Saliva tests will be used, with the College of Pharmacy analyzing the tests and providing results within hours. President Caslen said Nephron Pharmaceuticals assisted with robotics and other needs to make this possible. The ability to test 100% on return with results available within hours for an asymptomatic population will allow the University to provide medical care right away, he said.

As for the reopening of campus, President Caslen said the biggest issue is how to balance the risk of the virus with the associated costs. While one cost is the \$126 million budget deficit, the real cost is the interruption to the students' education by changing the delivery of education in a way the student does not desire. Their reaction to this is to forgo higher education and they question the value proposition of higher education, he said. Across the nation, enrollments and enrollment deposits are down 15% to 20%. The University is down now by about 7.4%, but anticipates a total enrollment decrease of 10%, which is what

the budget has been built upon.

President Caslen noted in-state enrollment has increased – last year it was 51% and this year in-state enrollment is 57%. African American enrollment is up 28%. These increases are attributable to a nationwide trend of parents wanting their children to attend college closer to home. The disadvantage is a decrease in out-of-state revenue.

How to identify an acceptable level of risk starts with knowing what an unacceptable level of risk is. President Caslen defined an unacceptable level of risk as an uncontrollable breakout that spreads into the local community or large numbers on campus that the health clinic is unable to handle. To deal with this he said the University's risk mitigation measures include: 100% testing on return allows immediate identification and treatment of those who test positive even if asymptomatic; tracing and tracking that results in quarantine in an entire student residence building dedicated to this purpose; and implementation of social and physical distancing and other protective measures such as mandatory face coverings.

President Caslen stressed the importance of the students' peer-to-peer "I Pledge Columbia" campaign to educate and train University students on the risks to them and the risk they present to the rest of the community. Because of the issues off-campus, he said, work is underway with Mayor Steve Benjamin and other community leaders to identify ways to make Five Points and other popular off-campus gathering places as safe as possible.

The University's opening plan has three phases, with Phase 1 underway now. President Caslen said Phase 1 was a transitional, gradual increase that started the first of June and allows some students, staff, and faculty on campus. This allows the University to pilot its initiatives and build confidence. On August 20, there will be a 100% return but the key to that phase is students and faculty can return if they choose. The University recognizes there will be concern, so education will be delivered through in-person classes and online classes.

“I’m confident we will be safe and healthy and prepared for August,” President Caslen said, noting additional mitigation efforts include schedule changes to the academic calendar. Finally, if an unacceptable risk situation arises, he said the University is prepared to return to 100% online classes.

President Caslen said he would forward a 50-page risk mitigation plan for a return to the fall semester, prepared by the Futures Planning Group, to Trustees over the weekend. This detailed document also will be made available to the entire campus community and provided online.

On another front, President Caslen offered a legislative update, concluding there is a pathway to receive some reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 expenses established at \$65 plus million. This week, he said the Senate Finance Committee set aside what it called Phase 1 funding of \$320 million COVID-19 state relief funds to pay for eligible higher education and state agency expenses being incurred through the end of June – a substantial increase over recommendations from the previous week, which limited reimbursements through May. It is anticipated this appropriation will be adopted by the Senate on June 23 and passed by the House of Representatives on June 24 or June 25.

Chairman von Lehe said the return to campus plan was “well thought out. We do not know what is ahead. Trying to be ready to react to it is all you can do and that is exactly what has been done. Your preparation for reopening the University is commendable.”

## XVII. Other Matters

### A. Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

Chairman von Lehe said since all evaluations have not yet been received, results could not be compiled for discussion. Therefore, he deferred this agenda item until the Board’s August 14 meeting and encouraged all Trustees who have not already done so, to please submit their self-evaluation forms.

### B. Faculty Senate Chair Mark Cooper

Chairman von Lehe called on Dr. Cooper who presented a resolution from the Council of Faculty Senate Leaders which met in mid-May: “The Council of Faculty Senate Leaders intends to lead the creation of a formal mechanism for system level representation of faculty.”

C. Other Matters

Chairman von Lehe announced this was the last Board meeting for Trustee Robert Dozier, outgoing president of the alumni association, thanking him for his service to the University and for his service to the Board of Trustees. “It has been extraordinary and greatly appreciated. We are going to miss you,” he said, noting additional recognition would take place at a future meeting.

XVIII. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairman von Lehe declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Cantey Heath, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.  
Secretary