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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

March 18, 2011

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, March 18, 2010, at 12:00 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.; Mr. Greg Gregory; Mr. Charles H. Williams; Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman; and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Vice Chairman.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Dr. C. Dorn Smith, III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; and Mr. Mack I Whittle, Jr.

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 for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer William F. Hogue; Vice Provost for System Affairs and Executive Dean for Extended Services Chris P. Plyler; Chancellor, USC Aiken, Thomas L. Hallman; Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Helen I. Doerpinghaus; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Chair of the Faculty Senate Patrick D. Nolan; Director of Governmental and Community Relations and Legislative Liaison Shirley D. Mills; Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, USC Aiken, Ahmed Samaha; Director of Student Life and SGA Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; Administrative Assistant, USC Salkehatchie, Shelia Smoak. SGA Advisor, USC Union, Brad Greer; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff members Barbara Salmons, Terri Saxon and Vera Stone.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: Vice President Roberto Aragon, Secretary/Treasurer Will Peters; USC Beaufort: SGA President Luke Kerr-Dineen, Vice President Taylor Mason, Treasurer Chris Moyer; USC Columbia: SGA President Joe Wright; USC Lancaster: Vice President Ty Reeves; Secretary Jamie Sellars and Representatives Ashley Lloyd and Jordyn Faile; USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Emily McAlhany and Vice President East Dylan Tippins; USC Union: SGA President Brad Greer, Vice President Justin Mundy, and Senator Michael Summer; USC Upstate: SGA President Allison Berrian.

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. No members of the media were in attendance. She 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.

II. Columbia Campus Student Government Association Goals: Chair Moody called on the newly elected USC Columbia SGA President, Joe Wright, who briefly stressed that the primary goal was to continue improving the quality of student life overall on campus.

III. SACS Reaccreditation QEP: USC Connect: Chair Moody called on Dr. Helen Doerpinghaus, Vice Provost, who gave a presentation regarding the new USC Connect program - integrating learning within and beyond the classroom. USC Connect included two key components: 1) increased student engagement in and beyond the classroom experiences (e.g., research, community engagement, leadership, international experience, and internships); 2) increased support for students to develop deep understanding of how their experiences within and beyond the classroom connect to one another and inform their learning. She stated that USC Connect grew from collaborative work on the Carolina Core, Focus Carolina, and program development (academic departments and the Division of Student Affairs).

USC Connect was USC's required Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Reaffirmation Process.

Chair Moody stated that the report was received for information.

IV. Reports from University System Campuses: Chair Moody called on each of the campuses to provide an update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: Chair Moody called on SGA Vice President Roberto Arago who reported that USC Aiken had once again ranked first among the top public regional colleges in the South in the 2011 edition of U.S. News & World Report's guide, "America's Best College". Also, this was the 13th consecutive year USC Aiken had been ranked in the top three, with number one rankings seven times. Among the many factors weighed in determining the rankings, the key measures of quality were: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.

Regarding Athletics: the women's basketball reached the 2nd round of the Division II National NACA Tournament; the Dance Team won the Peach Belt Athletic Conference title for the fourth year in a row and would be competing at Nationals; and currently, the baseball team, men's tennis team, and golf team were all ranked nationally.

USC Aiken was moving forward with its QEP which was designed to improve students' critical inquiry skills. As part of the plan, all first-year students at USC Aiken would take a one-credit hour course in Critical Inquiry based on the First-Year Reading that would be taught by faculty from across the disciplines.

The QEP's slogan asked students to "Think DEEP," a reminder for them to Discover, Experiment, Evaluate and Perform to put critical inquiry into practice, thereby increasing the students' learning. The QEP went hand in hand with their SACS accreditation coming up for reaffirmation. This was a critical process for all

institutions, as no federal financial aid could be offered unless an institution could demonstrate this regional affiliation.

To date, USC Aiken had a visit by a SACS Staff Liaison in the late summer. They had submitted their Compliance Certification Report in September and recently submitted the QEP Report and Focused Report. The SACS team on-site visit was scheduled for the next week.

B. USC Beaufort: SGA President Luke Kerr-Dineen reported that SGA hosted a "Rock the Vote" event last October; over 150 students registered to vote. Speakers at the event included Nikki Haley, Joe Wilson, and representatives for Vincent Sheheen.

USC Beaufort baseball started its third season at number 21 in the nation. Their golf team got their season underway in Daytona Beach, starting at number 1 in the preseason polls. The SGA hosted a Skype session with New York Times bestselling author of *Columbine* Dave Cullen, and were preparing for the visit of two more bestselling authors to campus - Sharyn McCrumb and Jeff Madrick. Also, the school was preparing to graduate its first ever class of nursing students.

Additionally, the students remained firmly opposed to a suggestion to change the name of USC Beaufort. Some students felt as if the faculty was already sold on the idea of the name change and that it was just a matter of time and the school's name would be changed. The students were given a survey to complete and the proposed naming did not make it in the top three. He said that staff attempted to dismiss this by saying that not enough students voted for it to matter. However, "when one looks at the timing and the manner of when the survey was sprung (during finals week, and the students weren't told that it would remain open through Christmas Break), one would soon understand why." He said, students were hopeful that the Board of Trustees would consider their voice in this matter.

Finally, the school's SGA managed to secure the services of an ATM on campus, and were in the final steps of implementing an on-campus recycling program for paper. They planned to host elections on March 30 and 31.

C. USC Columbia: SGA President Joe Wright reported that there were a lot of programs available to students on campus but many students were unaware of them. Therefore, efforts were underway to make students more aware of the programs so they could become more engaged. Also efforts were underway to continue empowering students through professional development and fostering leadership through communication.

D. USC Lancaster: Chair Moody called on Vice President Ty Reeves, who reported that some of activities hosted by SGA included several Black History month activities, a community service fair, quiz bowl, and a "soul food" cook-off. Financial Aid Literacy Day would be held on April 5th in an effort to explain the financial aid process and the various scholarships and loan opportunities. Other upcoming events included: The Lancaster area Literacy Cooperative 5-K "Run for Literacy", Native Americans Studies Week, and Relay for Life.

On February 28th, over 500 junior and senior honor students visited the school.

E. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Emily McAlhany reported that the school had set a record enrollment for Spring 2011, with over 1,150 students.

Further, she said that USC Salkehatchie enjoyed having President Pastides visit their campus during the sophomore appreciation night for basketball. She thanked Dr. Pastides for helping them congratulate sophomores and for staying to cheer the team on.

Some of the campus activities included the following: A tailgate prior to the basketball sophomore appreciation and painted faces for the game; "Pie day" with the math department - the math professors conducted trivia contests on both campuses at lunch time with dessert pie for prizes and SGA served pizza pie for all who attended. SGA sponsored "Salk's Got Talent", and hosted movie night with the movie "Radio" which was filmed in part on campus. In April, SGA elections would be held as well as their annual Wet and Wild Day.

Recently, they had been learning about USC Connect in anticipation of the SACS visit to their campus on March 28th. USC Connect helped students connect their in class learning to the out of classroom service learning experiences they have. He stated that USC Salkehatchie had always been very involved in out of classroom service learning. Examples included SGA, softball, baseball and soccer teams helping with the Allendale-Hampton Hospice Festival of Trees this past December; the softball team running in two 5K runs for breast cancer awareness; the athletic teams in Allendale competing to see which team could raise the most money to buy turkeys for needy families for Thanksgiving. Their efforts with Abbas Kitchen in Allendale which included a trip over Christmas to work with underprivileged children in Washington DC as well as local work with the nursing home; the basketball team adopted Black Street Early Childhood Center to read to the children and hosted the children on campus to play a little basketball and visit. The softball team worked with Salkehatchie Stew for their recent performances of their local play Livin', Lovin' and Dyin'. Individual students also volunteered with all kinds of community activities such as the Great American Clean-Up, Adopt a Highway, Relay for life, local community theater, county recreation departments, Colleton Historical Society, local fire departments, local public libraries, and so forth. Many of these activities were part of assignments for University 101 classes - environmental biology and history classes as well as others. She said the faculty sees the value in connecting what was taught in the classroom to their out of classroom experiences.

In closing, she stated USC Salkehatchie's commencement would be held May 2nd and they expected a record number of graduation applications.

F. USC Union: SGA Vice President Justin Mundy reported that USC Union had broken their record for student enrollment. Currently, there were 603 students, a 28 percent increase.

The SGA had provided Easter gifts to the elderly. A Blood Drive was held and 43 units of blood were received. A non credit French class was being offered and they were trying to encourage alumni growth on Facebook.

G. USC Upstate: SGA President Allison Berrain reported that USC Upstate's student enrollment had increased for Spring 2011. Currently, they were preparing for SGA elections. In addition, USC Upstate was completing their final year in transition to Division I athletics.

Finally, the school was preparing for a major transition in the culture of the University with the search for a 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.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary