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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

April 22, 2016

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:40 a.m. Friday, April 22, 2016, in the Alumni Center Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell, Chairman; Mr. Chuck Allen; Ms. Paula Harper Bethea; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr., Board Chairman; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Vice Chairman. Ms. Leah B. Moody joined by telephone.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Mark W. Buyck Jr.; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. William W. Jones Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Provost Joan T. A. Gabel; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli; Vice President for Facilities and Transportation Derrick Huggins; Vice President for Human Resources Chris Byrd; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins; USC Salkehatchie Dean Ann C. Carmichael; USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support, USC Columbia, Jerry Brewer; Executive Director of Audit & Advisory Services Pam Doran; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Chief of Staff, President's Office, J. Cantey Heath Jr.; Chairman of the Faculty Senate August E. "Augie" Grant; Assistant Director of Native American Studies, USC Lancaster, Christopher Judge; Trustee Emeritus M. Wayne Staton; Bobby E. Bailey, attending with USC Lancaster; USC Columbia Student Government President Michael Parks, Vice President Ross Lordo and Treasurer Stinson Rogers; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen and Terri Saxon.

Student representatives present were: USC Lancaster: Keeonn Wilson; USC Salkehatchie: Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Keshawn Johnson; USC Sumter: SGA President Kensey

Stephens and SGA Secretary Tyler Taylor; USC Union: SGA President Abigail Vlock and SGA Senator Satardra Hall; Palmetto College: Online-student Beckee Garris.

The student advisors present included: Associate Dean for Student Services, USC Salkehatchie, Jane T. Brewer; Biology Lab Instructor, USC Sumter, Daniel Kiernan; Enrollment Manager, USC Union, M. Brad Greer.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Fennell called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. He said 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. No members of the media were present.

II. Panel Discussion: Student Government Leaders, Two-Year Campuses

Chairman Fennell welcomed the students from the two-year campuses and a representative from Palmetto College who had been invited to participate in a panel discussion related to topics of interest on their campuses. Chairman Fennell called on Chancellor Elkins to lead the panel discussion.

First, Chancellor Elkins thanked Chairman Fennell for his leadership in changing the format of the committee meetings to allow for a more meaningful experience for both the students and the Trustees. She said Palmetto College's mission is to provide USC associate and bachelor degrees that are accessible, affordable, and flexible for all South Carolinians. Currently Palmetto College's enrollment is over 5,000 students.

Chancellor Elkins asked the campus advisors and deans to stand and be recognized for their outstanding leadership in working with students on a daily basis and for their dedication and commitment to serving students in their communities and across the State.

Chancellor Elkins said that five outstanding students had been selected to participate on the panel. She asked each participant to address the following topics.

- Where did you attend high school, why did you select your USC campus, then give your course major, and your plans for after you earn your undergraduate degree

Ms. Kensey Stephens, a sophomore from USC Sumter, said she will graduate in May with Leadership Distinction. Following graduation, she plans to pursue her four-year degree in Early Childhood Education at USC Upstate. Ms. Stephens, SGA President, also is a member of the USC Sumter's first women's tennis team, a University Ambassador, and a peer leader. She said she has been very happy at USC Sumter and feels her experience there has prepared her to be a good leader and citizen.

Ms. Satardra Hall, a USC Union freshman Criminal Justice major, said that following graduation she plans to transfer to USC Upstate and join ROTC in preparation to become a military police officer in the Army. In addition to being a student, Ms. Hall also is a full-time manager at Bojangles. She noted that attending USC Union was a wonderful experience.

Mr. Keeonn Wilson, a senior at USC Lancaster, said he will graduate on April 30 with a four-year degree in Organizational Leadership. He was hired, following a student internship, at the 6th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. Mr. Wilson is the first member of his family to earn a college degree and he hopes to attend USC Law School. He moved from Yonkers, New York, to Lancaster, South Carolina, in 2009, and was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Bailey. He said that without their guidance and that of Dean Collins, his college dream would not have happened.

Trustee Mobley said he knew and admired Mr. Wilson's adopted parents. Mrs. Bailey, who recently passed away, had been the director of the Opportunity Scholars Program at USC Lancaster. He said that Mr. Wilson's success was a great example of the importance of the system campuses in providing educational opportunities throughout the State.

Trustee Mobley recognized Ms. Garris, who he said worked at the Native American Studies Center in Lancaster. He said that Ms. Garris, a potter, had made the pipes that Trustees had recently received.

Mrs. Beckee Garris began by giving "kudos" to Dean Collins for his leadership. Ms. Garris said that in addition to being an online student, a mother, and a grandmother; she works with the local Native American tribe. She is working toward her four-year degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Native American Studies.

Mr. Keshawn Johnson, from USC Salkehatchie, graduated from Allendale Fairfax High School in the top 10% of his class. While in high school he was selected to participate in Palmetto Boys State. From day one, he said, his experience at USC Salkehatchie had been amazing. He said it felt like home and the dean, professors and staff felt like family. In addition to being a student ambassador, Mr. Johnson was recently elected SGA Vice President.

Chancellor Elkins noted that Trustee Bethea was a USC Salkehatchie alumna and that Trustee Loadholt was an Allendale Fairfax High School alumnus. She then called on the panel to respond to the second topic.

- How have you been involved in community service/engagement and what benefits have you seen from that involvement

Mr. Wilson said he truly believes in community service. He is a member of the USC Lancaster Rotaract, a worldwide service organization affiliated with Rotary International, and Omega Scholars, which provides mentoring, academic support and higher educational opportunities for all males enrolled at USC Lancaster. Through his community service, he has been involved in canned food and winter coat drives for those in need. He said there is no better feeling than to give to those who cannot give back. An example of which, he said, is the love and support of his adopted family.

Mrs. Garris, a storyteller and potter, said she is involved in community service within her Catawba tribe as well as her church and feels there is a link between spirituality and Christianity. Mrs. Garris said that she believes in education and that she works to bridge the gap between the past and the future generations.

Mr. Johnson said through his involvement with SGA, his church, and as a student ambassador, he works to improve the lives of the people in his community. Some efforts have included doing work for the elderly and teaching children to read.

Ms. Stephens quoted Dr. Seuss, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” She said this quote summed up the need for community service. The benefit of which is that it helps two people, the person receiving the service and the person giving the service. Ms. Stephens commended the USC Sumter baseball team for being recently recognized by the city for providing the most community service hours. Ms. Stephens participated in a YMCA food drive, and through the SGA provided assistance to a flood victim.

Ms. Hall said that as a member of ROTC she has had the opportunity to provide community service to veterans in her hometown. She said it was extremely rewarding to give to veterans, who give of themselves for others.

- How to conduct joint leadership training with student leaders

Mr. Johnson said that leadership training makes individuals stronger. He discussed various leadership programs on his campus and suggested that USC Salkehatchie host a system-wide leadership training session in the Fall 2016 semester.

Mrs. Garris said that as an older student she had the chance to experience different types of leadership and she found that sometimes being a leader meant sitting back and leading by example, instead of “in your face.” She said she thought Mr. Johnson’s idea of a system-wide leadership training session was a good one.

Mr. Wilson said that leadership is vital. He recommended that SGA officers and other student organization leaders participate in a joint training session in the Spring and the Fall semesters to exchange ideas about their individual campuses. He said the session could be televised for those who could not attend in person.

Ms. Hall said that from ROTC she learned the definition of leadership is the ability to influence others to accomplish a mission. She recommended that the Columbia Campus host a three-day weekend training session for system-wide campus leaders to learn different leadership strategies.

Ms. Stephens said that communication and knowledge were vital to provide good leadership. Participating on the panel with her peers provided an excellent opportunity to learn from each other. At Carolina Day in the Spring, she met and established on-going communication with USC Upstate SGA members. Ms. Stephens suggested that SGA leadership training sessions be held every couple of months. The location of the session should be rotated among the eight campuses.

- Effective mentor programs

Ms. Hall said she thought mentoring programs provided an excellent chance for students to learn about their field of interest. In the pursuit of her Criminal Justice degree, she said she would love to have the opportunity to visit and intern with various law enforcement professionals.

Ms. Stephens said USC Sumter did an excellent job of providing mentorship by connecting students with faculty in their field of study. She said her student-teaching experience had allowed her an opportunity to learn from renowned teachers.

Mr. Johnson said he was thankful faculty and staff at USC Salkehatchie served as mentors to all students. The mentoring opportunities provide students with a wonderful educational environment on which to build a future.

Mrs. Garris said that mentoring is very important regardless of one's age. One of the most important aspects of mentoring is teaching people to be respectful of individuals from campus janitors to campus deans.

Mr. Wilson said that mentoring and an opportunity to shadow mentors is very important to a student's college experience. The mentor guidance he received in his course selections was invaluable.

- What has been your best experience as a student on your campus

Mrs. Garris responded that her best experience had not yet happened. She said it is important to embrace each day.

Mr. Wilson said access to the dean and professors is invaluable to him in his educational journey. However, his most cherished memories are of his conversations with his mother in her campus office.

Ms. Hall said that although USC Union was not her first choice, once on campus she fell in love with it immediately. She is very grateful for Dean Catalano's guidance and the education she has received in preparation for her career in the military.

Ms. Stephens said of all of her wonderful experiences at USC Sumter, her greatest will be graduating with Leadership Distinction.

Mr. Johnson said that upon graduating high school he envisioned college as a job. He thought he would go to class, do the work, then go home. However, it was not that way for him at all. He said Dean Carmichael created a "home" atmosphere on campus that changed his perspective and made his college experience great.

Chancellor Elkins thanked the panelists for an excellent job representing the over 5,000 students in Palmetto College. She also thanked the Trustees for their continued leadership and support.

Chairman Fennell thanked Chancellor Elkins for her effort in organizing the panel; the students for their insightful discussion; and the campus deans for their leadership.

III. Other Matters

Chairman Fennell called for any other matters to come before the committee.

Trustee Floyd said that for years USC system campuses dealt with funding cuts from the state legislature. He thought it would be wonderful if the student leaders on the panel could appear before the legislative education committee to tell their stories of the life changing benefit of a good education.

Secretary Stone thanked everyone for their participation in the panel discussion. She said a luncheon would follow the meeting and she suggested that the students, advisors and campus deans spread out at different tables to visit with Trustees from around the State.

Trustee Bethea said she was sorry she would not be able to join the students at the luncheon. She would be participating in a luncheon to honor and celebrate Carolina Centurions and noted that Trustee Loadholt was among those being honored.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Fennell declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy E. Stone
Secretary