

The official minutes of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees are maintained by the Secretary of the Board. Certified copies of minutes may be requested by contacting the Board of Trustees' Office at trustees@sc.edu. Electronic or other copies of original minutes are not official Board of Trustees' documents.

University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

April 21, 2017

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:20 a.m. Friday, April 21, 2017, in the Alumni Center's C. Edward Floyd Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell, Chairman; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mr. Tommy Preston Jr.; Ms. Molly M. Spearman; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Chairman.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Mark W. Buyck Jr.; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; 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 Information Technology Doug Foster; Vice President for System Planning Mary Anne Fitzpatrick; Vice President for Human Resources Chris Byrd; University Treasurer Pat Lardner; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Upstate Chancellor Brendan Kelly; USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins; USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag; Deputy Athletics Director Charles Waddell; Executive Director of Audit & Advisory Services Pam Doran; Executive Director of University Foundations Russell H. Meekins; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; USC's Office of Communications and Public Affairs, Jeff Stensland; Executive Director of My Carolina Alumni Association Jack W. Claypoole; USC Aiken Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Jeff Priest; Fluor Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer David T. Seaton who serves as a strategic advisor to the Board; USC Columbia Student Government President Ross Lordo; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen and Terri Saxon.

Student representatives present were: USC Lancaster: Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Brittney Staton and student Kristen Hammond; USC Salkehatchie: Troy Spires; USC Sumter: SGA President Steven Prebish and SGA President-elect Westley Simpson; USC Union: SGA President Lea Kershaw and SGA President-elect Mary Scarborough; Palmetto College: online-students D. J. Bron Jr. and Ryan West.

The student advisors present included: USC Salkehatchie Associate Dean for Student Services Jane T. Brewer, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Aaron Ard, and Nursing Academic Program Manager April Cone; USC Sumter Senior Instructor of Biology Daniel Kiernan; USC Union Enrollment Manager M. Brad Greer.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Fennell called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. He said 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.

Mr. Hickman introduced members of the media in attendance: Avery Wilks with *The State*, and Rodney Welch with the *Free Times*.

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

Chairman Fennell welcomed students from Palmetto College's two-year campuses and online program who had been invited to participate in a panel discussion led by Chancellor Elkins.

Chancellor Elkins said Palmetto College's mission is to provide USC associate and bachelor degrees that are accessible, affordable, and flexible for all South Carolinians. And, she said, the six outstanding students selected to participate on the panel were excellent examples of the over 5,500 students served by Palmetto College across the State, who are currently completing associate and bachelor degrees. Three panelists are working on their associate degrees and three have completed their bachelor degrees, she noted.

Chancellor Elkins reported Palmetto College is an innovative system effort built on collaboration of all eight campuses. She recognized the Palmetto College leadership team (Palmetto College deans, Comprehensive Campus chancellors, Provost Gable, and President Pastides) and thanked them for their support. Also, she asked the campus 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 six outstanding students had been selected to participate on the panel. She asked each panelist to introduce themselves by stating their name, their Palmetto College campus, hometown, major, career goal, and something about themselves that most people might not know.

USC Lancaster SGA Vice President Brittney Staton said she is a nursing student with a goal to become a pediatric registered nurse. Also, she is the first member on both sides of her family to attend college.

SGA President Lea Kershaw said she will receive her Associate in Arts Degree from USC Union on April 29, 2017. She has been accepted at USC Upstate, through Palmetto College, to pursue a Criminal Justice degree toward her goal to be a private investigator with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Ms. Kershaw noted she is the proud mother of a 2-year-old son.

Mr. D. J. Bron Jr., from Laurens County, said as of July he will have been with the South Carolina Highway Patrol for 19 years. Palmetto College afforded him the opportunity to complete his bachelor's degree in December 2016, while working fulltime. He said something many people did not know was he played one year in semi-pro football following high school.

Mr. Ryan West said he graduated from Palmetto College in December 2016, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership. His goals are to be a teacher, and coach baseball. His hobby is collecting vintage sneakers and in 19 years he has amassed over 250 pair.

USC Sumter SGA President Steven Prebish is pursuing his associate's degree in public relations. His goal is to become a representative for a large business, hopefully in Sumter, since he wants to remain close to home. In his free time, Mr. Prebish collects vinyl records.

Mr. Troy Spires said he was able to earn his bachelor's degree from USC Salkehatchie while working full time as a flight medic in his hometown of Walterboro. His goal is to pursue a nurse anesthetist degree from USC. Mr. Spires said both he and his daughter will graduate from USC in May.

Following the introductions, Chancellor Elkins asked the three SGA Officers (Brittney Staton, Steven Prebish and Lea Kershaw) to discuss what they learned about leadership through their SGA experience.

Ms. Kershaw read a prepared statement explaining seven key points she learned through her involvement with the SGA: to be decisive, inspirational, and authentic; to embrace change, control emotions, and seek advice; and most importantly to remember, "It's not about me."

Ms. Staton said in addition to serving as SGA Vice President, she is a USC Lancaster Peer Advisor (PAL). Through PAL training classes, she learned about emotional intelligence and conflict management which she plans to apply to her nursing career.

Mr. Prebish discussed three key insights he learned while at USC Sumter that will help him in his future career. He said to be an effective leader he learned he must continue to grow, to think critically, and to remain an individual. Most significantly, he learned that to lead, you have to be an example others want to follow.

Chancellor Elkins asked Mr. Spires to talk about how the USC Salkehatchie/USC Columbia joint nursing program helped support him in pursuit of his bachelor's degree, especially as a mature student. Mr. Spires thanked Chancellor Elkins and others responsible for establishing the joint program. He said without it, he would have had to travel at least an hour to attend his associate's degree classes, then he would have had to search for an online bachelor's program to reach his goal. He was grateful the program allowed him to remain in his hometown and provide for his family, while earning his degree. Mr. Spire said the reach of the Palmetto College was a blessing to those in rural communities.

Chancellor Elkins asked Mr. Bron, a recent graduate, to share his experience with Palmetto College. Mr. Bron said he is proud to serve as a highway patrolman, although he works long hours with varying shifts. During the 2016 hurricane season he was deployed to the coast three times. Without the online flexibility of Palmetto College and the support and encouragement of his professors, he said his goal to obtain a degree would not have been possible.

Chancellor Elkins proudly noted Mr. Bron was the initial Palmetto College spokesperson when the program was launched.

Chancellor Elkins asked Mr. West, as one of Palmetto Colleges' first military students, to share his experience earning his degree. He said, as a member of the National Guard, the accessibility and flexibility of Palmetto College allowed him to earn his degree even when deployed. He said he was proud to have graduated cum laude and that Congressman John Lewis and President Pastides speaking at his graduation ceremony brought tears to his eyes. Mr. West credited his son for motivating him to finish his degree.

A goal of Palmetto College, Chancellor Elkins said, is to ensure military and working adult students a friendly experience. She asked Mr. West, Mr. Bron, and Mr. Spires to offer thoughts to better serve these populations.

Mr. West said he learned about Palmetto College through Fort Jackson and recommended information about the college be made available at other military installations. With the G.I. Bill and other

financial aid, tuition is basically free, and he applauded USC for its military tuition rate. He shared a story about how, while trying to apply to Palmetto College, he asked for and was connected with Chancellor Elkins. He said she helped him navigate the military student enrollment process and from that initial conversation they remained in contact through his educational journey. Chancellor Elkins said she encouraged the connection to receive first-hand feedback on the Palmetto College experience and possible areas for improvement. Maintaining contact with graduates helps in the recruitment of new students, Chancellor Elkins noted.

Mr. Bron said it was helpful that his professors and advisors understood his scheduling challenges. He encouraged more Palmetto College advertisement and efforts to communicate in rural communities, since many working adults like him may want to continue their education.

Chancellor Elkins said Mr. Spires was one the first USC Salkehatchie students to graduate with Leadership Distinction. In May, he will graduate with Leadership Distinction for the second time, when he receives his bachelor's degree in nursing. Mr. Spires discussed his community service, including being a scout leader and working in a hospice agency, that led to his Leadership Distinction designations.

Chancellor Elkins asked the three SGA Officers students, if their campus SGA was given \$1 million, what they would do with the money. Ms. Staton said she would use the money to hire additional tutors to accommodate the number of students who needed academic help. Also, she would provide funds for additional student life activities.

Ms. Kershaw listed numerous uses for the funds including providing campus transportation, meal plans and additional lab equipment. Mr. Prebish said he would renovate the science building and update lab equipment to enhance the student experience.

Chancellor Elkins asked the students about their plans for next year. In Fall 2017, Mr. Prebish will attend USC Columbia and Ms. Kershaw will attend USC Upstate to pursue Bachelor Degrees. Ms. Staton will continue pursuit of her nursing degree.

Chancellor Elkins asked Mr. Bron to share his educational journey. He said he started at USC Salkehatchie in 1998, while assigned to Allendale with the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Shortly thereafter he was transferred to Laurens, his hometown, where shift conflicts and work demands caused him to halt his education for the next eight years. He then began taking classes at USC Union including the Laurens campus, but once again work commitments kept him from being able to attend classes. Finally, he was able to complete his degree at USC Upstate through Palmetto College.

Chancellor Elkins said the panel represented students from across the system. Chairman Fennell asked the Trustees if they had any questions or comments.

Trustee Spearman applauded the student panelists for the dedication to complete their education and for being an inspiration to others. She said she was so proud of them, especially the adults who achieved their education goals while maintaining full-time jobs. And, just as importantly, she was proud of the University for raising the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

With a teacher shortage in the state, especially in rural areas, Trustee Spearman said she was encouraged to hear that Mr. West's goal was to become a teacher. Chancellor Elkins noted that a Bachelor of Elementary Education was offered at USC Columbia, through Palmetto College.

Trustee Preston said through his position at Boeing, he spends a great deal of time around the state especially in rural areas. There is no better program in South Carolina than Palmetto College. He said the student panelists serve as a testament of the success of Palmetto College. He asked Chancellor Elkins to let the Board know what it can do as a group on the state level or as individual community leaders, to advance and support Palmetto College.

President Pastides thanked Trustee Spearman for her leadership as State Superintendent of Education. He said the General Assembly would love to hear this presentation, especially from today's student panel. He noted another group which benefits from Palmetto College is student-athletes. Recently drafted Allisha Gray and Kaela Davis thought they would have to wait until their playing days in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) were over to complete their degrees, and were excited to learn about the option to do so through Palmetto College, while competing in the WNBA. President Pastides led a round of applause for the student panel.

Chairman Fennell thanked the panelists for an excellent job representing the University of South Carolina and Palmetto College.

III. Other Matters

Chairman Fennell called on USC Columbia Student Government President Ross Lordo, who said it was an honor to be elected. He said he was excited to work with the University's administration to advocate for the over 32,000-student population and advance the student experience. He briefly noted some student government efforts underway.

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

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Fennell declared the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.
Secretary