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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 9, 2012

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 9, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Ms. Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Robert E. Brown; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Chairman and Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr. Vice Chairman. Dr. C. Dorn Smith III was absent.

Other Board members present were: Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. William W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; and Mr. Hubert F. Mobley.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Senior Vice Provost and Director of Strategic Planning Christine W. Curtis; Chair of the Faculty Senate Sandra J. Kelly; USC Aiken, Assistant Chancellor for Facilities Management, Michael F. Jara; USC Aiken, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, Ahmed Samaha; USC Beaufort, Vice Chancellor for Student Development and SGA Advisor, Doug Oblander; USC Lancaster, SGA Advisor Walter P. Collins, III; USC Salkahatchie, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and SGA Advisor, Sheila Smoak; USC Sumter, SGA Advisor, Daniel Kiernan; USC Union, SGA Advisor, John Crocker; USC Upstate, SGA Advisor, Laura D. Puckett-Boler; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, and Vera Stone.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: SGA President Douglas "Tripp" Warrick and Vice President Michelle Billie; USC Beaufort: SGA President Erica Moore and Treasurer Ian Stier; USC Columbia: SGA President Kenny Tracy, Vice President Chase Mizzell and Treasurer Coy Gibson; USC Lancaster: SGA President Lauren Beam and Vice President Khouri Hunter; USC Salkahatchie: SGA President Katelyn Willis and Vice President Daniel Hernandez (West Campus); USC Sumter: SGA President James Henry Ardis "JJ" III; Vice President Jared Buniel, and Secretary Dominique Mitchell; USC Union: SGA President Derrick Means and Vice President Brandi Ham; USC Upstate: SGA President

James Heenehan, Secretary Alex Dukes, Treasurer Moriah Johnson, Chief of Staff Greg Williams and Freshman Class President Sandy Vang.

Chair Moody called the meeting to order, welcomed and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Wes Hickman stated that there were no members of the media in attendance.

Chair 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.

I. Creating More Meaningful Student-Trustee Interactions: Chair Moody called on Dr. Dennis Pruitt, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice Provost for Academic Support and Dean of Students to facilitate the discussion among trustees and students on future meeting structure, other topics and issues.

Dr. Pruitt thanked the students for attending the meeting. He stated that the Board and Administration always looked forward to meeting with student representatives; and the University is always looking for ways to make our institution greater.

A. Dr. Pruitt gave an overview of the way the Student-Trustee Committee meetings have been done historically. Currently, the committee would like feedback on how student leaders would like meetings conducted in the future and have good contact with their trustee representative or other Board member.

Over the years, SGA Presidents and/or a representative from each campus make a presentation to the Board. This gives student-leaders a chance to brag about their respective campus as well as help develop student's public speaking skills. Periodically, trustees and administrators tour a campus and meet with students to get feedback from students on issues of importance to them or shade the spotlight on a particular topic that may be of interest to the entire University system. For example, financial aid, football tickets, alcohol and drug programs, sexual assault, health and wellness programs and a tobacco free campus.

Dr. Pruitt said each year the November meeting is reserved for "a social reception". This gives each campus the opportunity to bring other students, beyond the student leadership, to an informal setting so students can get to know board members, establish relationships, learn what works well and the happenings on each campus.

A question was asked if there is currently a system in place where there is a Board representative for each campus? Chair Moody responded that each member on the STL Committee represent the campus in or near their district. However, all Board members are in a district and are willing to come to any campus, if asked.

USC Columbia SGA President Kenny Tracy commented that he would like more of a social atmosphere so students can develop relationships; and he would like more leadership conferences.

Mr. Jones stated that a luncheon is held each year to meet with newly elected officers. This is a way to get to know the new leaders and hear their aspirations. He enjoys that time of fellowship and would like it to continue.

A student suggested that efforts should be made to establish relationships earlier in the semester rather than waiting until November. Perhaps, all SGA presidents could meet together and share ideas over a luncheon or via teleconferencing. In addition, the spring STL meetings are rather awkward because it is doing a transition period and some campuses have held their SGA elections yet other campuses are in the middle of their election cycle. He stated that the spring board meetings should be scheduled when all campuses have had their elections and new officers are in place. This would be the ideal starting point for new leaders to begin to establishing relationships and a President's Retreat held; this would be very effective. Also, he suggested the possibility of establishing a USC SGA Presidents Facebook group.

Another student remarked that USC Columbia SGA President had visited all of the campuses. He met with student leaders and administrators so he could get a feel for each campus; this was very effective. Further, he said unless board members have visited a campus, it may be difficult for them to conceptualize what is happening relative to growth and other matters on campuses. Students really appreciate visits and maybe this is something Dr. Pruitt can help facilitate.

A board member suggested sending a list of SGA officers to the Board so if members were near a campus and wanted to meet with student leaders they would know who to contact. Also, it may be a good idea to have one or two trustees assigned to each campus so if there is a concern student representatives would have a contact person.

Vice President Jared Buniel, USC Sumter, said he liked the idea of an informal reception to familiarize students with the meeting process and discuss networking opportunities. He stated, there is a high turnover rate with students at USC Sumter. With the exception of the new Palmetto Program, the majority of programs are completed in two years. Then, many students transfer to USC Columbia. Therefore, many students have little interest in clubs or SGA. Perhaps a reception will help students see the opportunities that are available to them. Hopefully, this will motivate them to get involved and prepare them for meetings.

Another suggestion is to use Blackboard as a way for students to find out what is happening on the various campuses. Chair Moody made inquiry as to what is Blackboard? Dr. Pruitt responded that
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Blackboard is an online course management system used primarily by professors to share information relative to courses; and Blackboard is similar to Facebook. Dr. Pruitt stated that the majority of students have Facebook, however, Blackboard could be used as well.

SGA President James Heenehan, USC Upstate, supported the idea of a forum where all of the campuses could communicate and work on issues beyond their individual campuses.

Mr. Kenny reported that the Columbia SGA established a Congressional Advisory Board and several students went to Washington. The goal is to visit legislators on a regular basis to develop relationships rather than meet once a year during the Carolina Day at the State House.

The next Carolina Day at the State House will be February 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In closing, another student raised an issue relative to social networking and suggested that everyone should revisit the Carolina Creed. Their campus is getting ready to begin their own campaign on cyber bullying. He suggested that each campus address this issue because not only are students talking inappropriately to students but students are talking inappropriately to faculty and staff.

Dr. Pruitt said this is a wonderful suggestion and the University is required to address cyber bullying.

Chair Moody thanked the students for their ideas and suggestions.

II. Campus Reports: Chair Moody called on the Student Government Officers to make a brief presentation of exciting activities on their campus.

1. USC Aiken: SGA President Tripp Warrick reported that Chancellor Sandra Jordan began working on July 1. Prior to joining USC Aiken, she served as Provost of Georgia College and State University. Dr. Jordan received her Doctorate and Master of Arts degree in the History of Art from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art (with teaching certification) from the University of Alabama.

In August, Chancellor Jordan launched a “visioning process” for USC Aiken called “USC Aiken: Forward Together.” In developing this visioning process, Dr. Jordan sought input from students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders. Approximately, 750 people participated in focus groups or an online survey to provide their thoughts on the future of USC Aiken. She will discuss the results of the visioning process on November 12 during her State of the University Address.

Again, USC Aiken is ranked the #1 Public Regional College in the South by US News and World Report. This is the ninth time USC Aiken has been ranked number one. Out of the 15 years this ranking has existed, USC Aiken has been ranked in the top three.

The men's soccer team reached the finals of the Peach Bowl Conference soccer championships. The women's basketball team is ranked #5 in the national preseason polls and golf is ranked #3 nationally.

In closing, SGA is reviewing the current pet policy at outdoor events, working with ARAMARK to improve late night dining options, and sponsoring a Passport Registration Drive with the International Programs Office.

2. USC Columbia: SGA President Kenny Tracy said in an effort to better represent their constituents, promote ideas, and receive feedback, SGA created delegation councils and a Department of Organizational Outreach.

Homecoming is this weekend and everyone is looking forward to the Carolina versus Arkansas football game. Approximately 700 students gathered together on election night to watch the election results.

3. USC Lancaster: SGA Vice President Khouri Hunter reported that the new Native American Studies Center has opened and is located on Main Street in downtown Lancaster. The Center is home to the largest collection of Catawba Indian pottery in existence and is South Carolina's only university archive devoted to the state's native cultures. The Center also hosts special events which are open to community members and students devoted to the study and celebration of Native American culture; he invited everyone to visit.

The Student Government Association is once again distributing scholarships for students interested in engaging in domestic and international experiences. Several students will travel to see various civil war battle sites during Maymester and a group of students will travel during Spring break to Italy for a Shakespeare's course.

To assist in the demand of the growing trend towards Palmetto Programs, USC Lancaster hired an Administrative Assistant to help students in making the decision to become Palmetto Programs students and to ensure they complete the degree requirements.

The campus is hosting the second annual Carolina Emerging Scholars Conference on May 18. This conference is open to all undergraduate students. Students are encouraged to submit a paper; and this is a perfect USC Connect opportunity for all.

SGA is using the allotment of USC football tickets to help persuade students to participate in more events on campus. Some of the events included Students Fight Back (an interactive self-defense presentation), a voter registration drive, Back to School Blast, and the American Red Cross blood drive.

Near the end of the semester, SGA will host a food, toy, and coat drive to help those in need. In addition, SGA will partner with the American Red Cross to participate in the Holiday for Heroes Mail Program whereas students will exchange holiday cards with USA Military.

Finally, he expressed sadness that this would be John Catalano's last semester as Dean of USC Lancaster. He had been instrumental in the growth and development of the campus. Mr. Hunter stated he is very grateful for Dean Catalano's progressive contributions and it will be a difficult task to fill his shoes.

4. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Katelyn Willis reported that USC Salkehatchie consists of two campuses, Allendale and Walterboro. USC Salkehatchie's enrollment has increased 1.56 percent (the three highest of all USC campuses) and there is a 4.88% increase in FTEs (Full-time equivalent students).

Relative to athletics, the men's soccer team finished 3rd and women's team finished 4th. Currently, the basketball team is undefeated. They will host the Region tournament in March and everyone is invited to attend. Baseball and softball will begin in February.

Other events included "Pink Out Week" for Breast Cancer Awareness and SGA/Administrator's Forum and an Angel Tree is planned for December. An east/west (Allendale versus Walterboro campus) basketball tournament will be held on November 29 in the gym in Walterboro. Next week, the campus will host their annual international festival. Presentations will be conducted daily by faculty members who are from other countries and a panel of international students will discuss their personal experiences at USC Salkehatchie. The annual dove shoot will be held November 20 and members were invited to come enjoy hunting in the Lowcountry.

Renovations are underway at the back of the science building in Walterboro to create more offices and additional classrooms. In Allendale, work is underway for a new parking lot. Also, they will renovate the old movie theater in Allendale which will become the Carolina Theater - a place for plays, movie festivals and concerts. Several USC Columbia art students are assisting the campus with some of the artwork and designs for the building.

Students are very involved in USC Connect and are gaining invaluable out of classroom experiences with the Salkehatchie Stew Arts series which includes the Mystery Stroll in Walterboro and the writing and performing of the annual Salkehatchie Stew play in the spring, the Historical Society plantation tour, the Colleton Museum tours and a special partnership between USC Salkehatchie's basketball team and the Black Street Early Childhood Center.

In closing, she expressed gratitude to Trustee Eddie Brown and Mr. Jack Claypoole, Executive Director of My Carolina Association, for visiting their campus to discuss how USC Alumni could connect with students. Also, she thanked Luanne Lawrence, Vice President for Communications, and her team who visited the campus to discuss the “No Limits” concept.

5. USC Sumter: SGA President James Ardis reported that under the leadership of Interim Dean Lynwood Watts, they are working to make their campus completely tobacco free; and they are converting the old SGA room in the Student Union Building into a study room. Recently, the Library reduced its operating hours and plans are underway to add more computers. The English faculty is assisting students who are having difficulty in writing by facilitating what is called “peer tutoring”. Students who are excelling in English classes are also used to assist students who are struggling. SGA is working with the local Sheriff’s Office on holding a safety seminar during this holiday season; and assisting the Opportunities Scholars Program with the Big Wednesday Tailgate fundraiser.

6. USC Upstate: SGA President James Heenehan reported that the Food Pantry has expanded to include items other than food. Because of the tough economy times, USC Upstate have a large number of students who are in need of some help. The program is called SNAC (Spartan Nutritional Assistance Campaign). It is important to address these kinds of issues, therefore, SGA works closely with Student Life to help identify student’s specific needs.

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

Chair Moody invited student leaders to enjoy a pizza luncheon sponsored by Student Affairs. This would allow them the opportunity to socialize with each another but unfortunately the board members would be unable to join them because they had to attend a Capital Campaign luncheon.

III. Other Matters: Secretary Amy Stone thanked Chair Moody for her strong leadership and passion for the student’s school experience. Further, she informed the members that a bus was waiting in front of 1600 Hampton to take them to the Capital Campaign luncheon at Capstone.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy E. Stone
Secretary