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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 22, 2013

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 22, 2013, at 1:35 p.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. Miles Loadholt; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Financial Officer Edward L. Walton; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Interim Vice President for Communications Wes Hickman; USC Beaufort Chancellor Jane Upshaw; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan A. Elkins; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Jerry T. Brewer; Director of Law Enforcement and Safety Chris Wuchenich; Chair of the Faculty Senate James H. Knapp; Special Assistant to the President J. Cantey Heath, Jr.; University Technology Services Production Manager, Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen, Terri Saxon, and Ina Wilson.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: SGA Vice President Christen Torres and Secretary/Treasurer Brittney May; USC Beaufort: SGA President Devin Mock, Vice President Michael Alexander, Secretary General Paris Bloomfield, and Senator Nathan Cooper; USC Columbia: SGA President Chase Mizzell, Vice President Ryan Bailey, Treasurer Haley Guyton, Graduate Student Association President Danielle Schoffman, Secretary of Governmental Affairs Austin McCullough, Senate Staff member Chris Sumpter; student Scott Smith; USC Lancaster: SGA President Tyler Reeves and Vice President Brandon Newton; USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Rosie Curiel and Vice President Walterboro Andrew Floresca; USC Sumter: SGA President Jared Buniel;

USC Union: SGA President Madacyn Jett; USC Upstate: SGA President Greg Williams, Vice President Alexander Duke, Treasurer Onika Miller, and Chief of Staff Drew White.

SGA advisors present were: USC Aiken, Ahmed Samaha; USC Beaufort, Kate T. Vermilyea; USC Columbia, David Hunter; USC Lancaster, Annette Horton; USC Salkehatchie, Shelia Smoak; USC Sumter, Dan Kiernan; USC Union, Brad Greer; and USC Upstate, Laura Puckett-Boler.

Chair Moody welcomed everyone and invited them to enjoy lunch and discuss their campuses with the Trustees at their tables.

I. Call to Order – Following lunch, Chair Moody called the meeting to order, again welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves.

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. Mr. Hickman introduced members of the media in attendance: Amanda Coyne and Sarah Ellis with *The Daily Gamecock*; and Andy Shain with *The State Newspaper*.

## II. Featured Campus Reports

Chair Moody stated that in an effort to allow each campus time to provide more substantive reports, the meeting format changed in April, to feature only two campuses at each meeting – a two-year campus and a four-year campus. She said that at this meeting USC Sumter and USC Beaufort would be the featured campuses.

### A. USC Sumter: SGA President Jared Buniel

Chair Moody called on Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, who reported that USC Sumter was in the process of selecting a new dean. Interim Dean Lynwood Watts was unable to attend the Student-Trustee meeting since a dean candidate was on the Sumter campus today. She thanked Dean Watts for his leadership. She noted that enrollment at USC Sumter had declined over the last five years. However, with the work of many and the leadership of Dean Watts, the Fall 2013 enrollment had increased.

Chancellor Elkins recognized USC Sumter's student advisor, Professor Dan Kiernan, and announced that he was USC Sumter's nominee for Governor's Professor of the Year.

Chancellor Elkins introduced SGA President Buniel and noted his many accomplishments. President Buniel stated that their SGA officers had been working hard to set an example of leadership for the student body and were quite willing to learn about their new positions and responsibilities. He said that they have enjoyed their opportunities for personal challenge and growth.

President Buniel stated that when the USC Sumter SGA representatives joined other USC System SGAs in Washington, D.C., they emphasized the benefits from working with Palmetto College, and the relationships that had been fostered with other parts of student life in attempts to increase retention, and thereby graduation rates. He reported that the congressmen's legislative assistants were quite pleased with the SGA's efforts.

President Buniel presented campus highlights. He began with Palmetto College's expansion of online classes which had appealed to many students. Faculty are doing their best to balance these classes with their own in-class offerings to ensure that students are aware of their options and can accommodate their own learning styles. Some concerns were raised about the amount of paperwork associated with the online program, which can intimidate some younger students, so campus advisers and administrators are working to guide them through the process.

USC Sumter set a goal of implementing the new tobacco-free campus policy on January 1, 2014. To address effective enforcement of the policy, the campus will emphasize attitude changes. Students will be issued reminder cards detailing the tobacco-free policy, as well as facts about the danger of tobacco use. President Buniel said that they hoped to encourage positive peer pressure, through the friendly reminder of "getting carded."

This past Wednesday, USC Sumter celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Big Wednesday tradition. This upscale tailgate party is popular among both students and the local community, and has become an anticipated yearly tradition for the campus. A preceding golf tournament, door prizes, appearances from mascots and cheerleaders, and excellent catering allow Sumter residents to join the campus in celebrating the rivalry between USC and Clemson in a friendly, families-welcome environment.

In the same spirit of community and with contributions from various individuals and clubs on campus, a Thanksgiving lunch was held on November 21. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to attend the free meal, where they gave thanks for the semester and the upcoming break.

Members of the student body and faculty recently voiced the need for an upgrade to the school's complimentary wireless internet. While there is consensus on the presence of a problem, the specifics seem unclear. Therefore, to truly address the issue, the SGA is currently drafting a survey for the entire campus to gauge the scale of the problem and the specific complaints. President Buniel said that if there is enough interest, then SGA would be able to justify the use of school funds to procure an upgrade.

President Buniel reported that the SGA has shown support to various fundraisers on campus this semester, including the Protecting Animals With Shelter club's bake sale and the Samaritan's Feet charity

effort. They also supported fledgling or re-organizing clubs as they attempt to cater to the student body's changing needs.

In conclusion, President Buniel said that the SGA was seeking to build a legacy of dedication and service on which it can look back with pride. The students have relished the challenges of organization and recruitment, and are continuing to toil for the betterment of both their school and community.

B. USC Beaufort: SGA President Devin Mock

Chair Moody called on USC Beaufort Chancellor Jane Upshaw to introduce SGA President Devin Mock. Chancellor Upshaw thanked the four SGA Officers for their attendance and their dedication to enhancing campus life. She also thanked Kate Vermilyea, USC Beaufort Director of Student Life, for her work with the SGA to help mold the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Chancellor Upshaw introduced President Mock and noted her many achievements thus far in her student career. President Mock reported that there were many new and exciting things happening at USC Beaufort, the first of which is the growth in facilities on the campus. November began with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new indoor recreation facility. The 20,000 square foot facility is a gift from the Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission and is fully paid for; therefore, there will be no debt caused by the construction. It will house two full-sized basketball courts and will be the new home for the athletic department staff and fitness center. It also will provide additional outdoor facilities, including more tennis and volleyball courts and a recreation field. An indoor recreation space and additional outdoor fields had been some of the most popular requests from students on the Hilton Head Gateway Campus, she said. The new facility will not only provide space for the intramural sports to practice and compete, but will also relieve some of the stress on the NAIA women's soccer field. The name of the new facility will be chosen by the students.

On the same day that the campus broke ground on the recreation facility, work also began on an eighth dorm building. USC Beaufort housing has been at 100 percent capacity, with a waiting list for the past few years.

President Mock reported that campus growth was not the only exciting aspect of USC Beaufort. The athletics teams had a fantastic Fall season. Both men's and women's golf finished nationally ranked and well positioned for conference competition and the national championships in the Spring. The men's and women's cross country hosted the Sun Conference championships, setting record attendance. But the real star this Fall, according to President Mock, was the women's soccer team. In just its third year of existence, the team had its best season yet. Although the season ended in an unfortunate loss, it was

monumental because the team made it through a tough schedule to the quarterfinals and hosted the opening round against rival Savannah College of Art and Design. Incidentally, she said, President Pastides was able to attend the game because it was held on the groundbreaking day.

President Mock said that since USC Beaufort is located on two campuses approximately 30 miles apart, it is often difficult to bring students together. Therefore, the SGA is working to include all students in a meaningful way with events on both the Hilton Head Gateway Campus and the Historic Beaufort Campus insuring students benefit from the resources offered at each location.

President Mock said that she had been lucky enough to attend the trip to Washington, D.C. that President Buniel discussed in his report. She thanked all those involved in the trip for the opportunity to be part of it and to tell Washington that the University of South Carolina is the university for South Carolina.

President Mock concluded by saying that the SGA recently became aware of a new admission process at USC Columbia, which was met with mixed emotions by the students. Many students expressed a love for USC Beaufort and a concern that this process could undermine that sentiment in prospective students. She said that they looked forward to working with USC Beaufort and USC Columbia to develop a plan for these prospective students so that USC Beaufort will “not seem like a consolation prize, but rather a solid choice to fit individual students’ needs.”

Chair Moody thanked Presidents Buniel and Mock for their informative presentations.

### III. Student Government Leaders Meet with Federal Officials

Chair Moody called on USC Columbia SGA President Chase Mizzell, who stated that earlier in the year the SGA pondered ideas to bring the campuses throughout the system together. Following the April 2013 Student-Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting, students met to discuss how to engage all USC campuses. A SGA summit was held this past summer at which agreement was reached to increase both local and national advocacy. From those discussions, a trip was organized for SGA officers from throughout the system to travel to Washington, D.C. over the 2013 Fall Break.

President Mizzell invited Austin McCullough, USC Columbia SGA Secretary of Governmental Affairs to discuss the trip. Mr. McCullough said that his main focus was to foster civic engagement within the student body with all levels of government. The SGA trip to Washington, D.C. was a result of this focus. SGA officers from five of the eight system campuses participated. They met with Congressman Mark Sanford, South Carolina congressional delegation staff members, and representatives

of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to talk specifically about the impact of the university on the state.

Mr. McCullough reported that the most memorable part of the trip was meeting Vice President Joseph Biden in the White House West Wing. That meeting was arranged by local Gamecock Alumnus Fran Person.

President Mizzell said that the SGA will focus next on the State level to advocate for the University of South Carolina.

Chair Moody thanked President Mizzell and Secretary McCullough for the exciting report. She said that she always felt renewed after hearing from the SGA officers and was in awe of their accomplishments.

#### IV. Other Matters

Chair Moody called on President Pastides who stated that USC student Martha Childress continued to be a phenomenal inspiration to him. He said it had been a month since her injury and she was continuing on her road to recovery and rehabilitation, while remaining a loyal Gamecock.

President Pastides said that “safety” was job number one, not only on campus but also in the Five Points area of Columbia and on all USC campuses. He updated the committee on safety improvements made in the last month. There was an increase in the number of USC sworn officers and additional lighting and call boxes installed on campus. As to transportation, administrators are currently looking at increasing the number of available taxis from the Five Points area to campus, and have implemented a free roundtrip USC shuttle service.

President Pastides said that he would continue to push for an earlier bar closing of 2:00 a.m. and a “pedestrian-only” Five Points on Thursday through Saturday nights. In addition, the university is exploring alternate nighttime activities on campus for students.

On a different note, President Pastides announced that he expected to be successful this year in calling a “Tuition Timeout” with the state. He said that the state had to have a greater vested interest in funding the university. He clarified that he was not asking for full restoration of funding back to 2007 levels, but for the amount of funding that would allow the University of South Carolina on all of its campuses to not have to raise tuition next year. He said that he was relying on the student leaders to be part of this initiative.

Chair Moody thanked President Pastides for his update.

Chair Moody announced that the contact information for SGA representatives on all University campuses had been updated in the Resource Center on the Board Portal. She also noted that following a 15-minute break, Columbia SGA President Mizzell had invited SGA officers and advisors from all campuses to meet briefly to exchange ideas. Following that meeting, representatives from the two-year campuses were asked to remain for a USC Connect meeting.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy E. Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Amy E. Stone  
Secretary