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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

November 7, 2008

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 12:25 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mrs. Amy E. Stone, Chair; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Williams W. Jones, Jr.; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman. Mr. Samuel R. Foster II, Vice Chairman was absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mr. Herbert C. Adams; Mr. Arthur S. Bahnmuller; Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; Mr. Othniel H. Wienges, Jr.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer William F. Hogue; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis Pruitt; Vice President for Strategic Planning William T. Moore; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Department of Student Life, Jerry T. Brewer; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Chair of the Faculty Senate Robert G. Best; Director of Governmental Affairs and Legislative Liaison, Division of University Advancement, Casey Martin; USC Beaufort, Director of Student Life and Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor Kate Torborg-Shuman; Director, Academic and Student Support Services, Systems Affairs and Extended University, David Hunter; Director of the Office of Parents Programs Melissa Gentry; Director of Student Life and SGA Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; SGA Advisor, USC Salkehatchie, Mitch Smith; SGA Advisor and Accounting Technician, Business Office, USC Sumter, Wendell Prescott; Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs and Dean of Students, USC Upstate, Laura D. Puckett-Boler; President of Carolina Productions (Student Entertainment Board) Ashley Wood; Vice President of Sorority Council and OMSA Leader Natasha Hopkins; Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Reed Curtis; Student Assistant, Office of Parents Programs, Claire Hughes; Graduate Assistant for Parents Programs Kaitlin Oyler; Assistant to the President and Athletics Director John D. Gregory; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone and Karen Tweedy.

SGA representatives present were: USC Aiken: President Adam Shults and Senators Cassy Cameron and Daniya Sharis; USC Beaufort: President Lindsey Simmons, Secretary Rachel Soop, and Treasurer Abby Moonen; USC Columbia: President Andrew Gaeckle, Vice

President Meredith Ross, Treasurer Jonathan Antonio; USC Lancaster: President Jeremy Johnson and Senator Brittany Kramer; USC Salkehatchie: President Pamela Moultrie-Overton and Vice President Cea Knox; USC Sumter: President Wallace Black and Vice President Jennifer Black; USC Union: President Jessica Braxton and Secretary/Treasurer Elizabeth Hollis-Fowlere; USC Upstate: President Mark Wartenberger and Vice President McKenzie Loudermilk.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held and students had the opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials at individual tables.

Following the luncheon, Chair Stone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She invited Board members, administrators, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. There were no members of the media in attendance.

Chair Stone stated that the agenda had been posted and 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. Report on Parents' Programs: Chair Stone called on Ms. Gentry, Director of Parents Programs who stated that she had been in the position for approximately one year. She was a graduate of USC with a B.A. degree in Public Relations and a Masters in Mass Communications and Intergrated Communications. She had previous experience in communications and event planning at the Carolina Alumni Association and the United States Olympic Committee.

Ms. Gentry stated that both members of her staff were present and would assist with her presentation. She asked them to introduce themselves.

Ms. Oyler, a graduate assistant for Parents Programs and a second-year graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program, received her B.A. degree in Film Studies and Spanish from UNC-Wilmington.

Ms. Hughes, a student assistant and working in the department, was a senior majoring in International Studies and Spanish and would graduate in May.

Ms. Gentry gave a brief history and overview of the Office of Parents Programs which began in the mid 1980's as Parents Weekend and evolved into the Office of Parents Programs in 2005.

Ms. Gentry stated that the role of the Office of Parents Programs was to foster positive relationships with parents while their students were at Carolina, and to serve as a centralized resource for parents, providing communication, advice and support to help shape their involvement as the student-parent relationship progressed. Additionally, they provide parents the resources they needed to help their students succeed; educate families about the University; and provide useful, quick and timely information for parents/families. Also, they collaborated with other campus offices for Parents Weekend, the Parents Calendar and Handbook, and newsletters.

Ms. Gentry stated that the Department focused on the following four areas: communication, events, partnership and development.

Communication: Ms. Gentry stated that there were several sources of communication which included the Parents Calendar and Handbook; *Carolina Ties*, the parent's newsletter; the *Talking Points* newsletter; and monthly emails.

Ms. Gentry distributed copies of the Parents Calendar and Handbook, a comprehensive resource for parents with monthly tips and talking points on various topics. It was published every spring, distributed at Orientation, and was available at events throughout the year.

The parents' newsletter, *Carolina Ties*, printed each fall and spring, was a "theme" newsletter that addressed current issues. The fall 2008 issue was based on environmental and community responsibility and past issues were related to safety, academic success and academic integrity.

Monthly e-newsletters were sent regarding important University updates and reminders that parents may need to know. Alerts or notifications were sent over a listserve called Parents Association. There was a cost to join the Association.

Daily forms of communication were offered such as the Parents Assistance line which was available 8:30 - 5:00, Monday through Friday. The office also operates an e-mail address to which parents can send questions.

When students were admitted, parents were sent a welcome package which included a welcome letter with information on how to sign up for the Parents Association and Parents Weekend.

The *Talking Points* newsletter was published in conjunction with the Office of Substance Abuse, Prevention and Education and was a guide on how to discuss important topics concerning alcohol, drugs and safety.

Finally, the Office of Parents Programs organized parents' panels and participated in the Scholars Day and Open House events.

Events: Ms. Gentry stated that Parents Weekend was the largest event and was held every fall. There were 4,400 parents and family members who attended this community-wide celebration this year. The Department hosted a "President's reception" at the President's house, a beach bash and a Tailgate party before the football game.

Other events included campus tours, educational sessions, and college/department drop-ins and receptions.

On move in day, there was a parent's tent and staff provided information about programs offered. This was a great opportunity to make face to face contact with parents and promote their availability to help parents.

In addition, they participated in freshmen send-offs which were coordinated by the Carolina Alumni Association and the local Alumni clubs. This was a way for parents and students to get to know each other and to know that there was a support system.

Finally, Student Recruitment Receptions were held, and two parents had hosted such receptions in Hilton Head.

Partnerships: Ms. Hughes reported that there were two main groups that they used to partner with parents. First, over 8,000 parents were part of the Parents Association. There was no cost to join and parents could sign up online. Also, they were working with student orientation groups to increase the number of parents.

Second, there was the Parents Advisory Council. This invited group was composed of 35 members, both in-state and out-of-state. Members were asked to make a donation to the parent's annual fund; and meetings were held twice a year. This group assisted the department in recruitment efforts as well.

Development: Ms. Oyler explained that donations to the parent's annual fund were used for initiatives such as dinner dialogues, and community service activities, and to purchase a new sound system for Rutledge Chapel.

In closing, Parents Weekend would be held October 2-4, 2009, which coincided with USC's football game versus the Citadel.

Dr. Floyd made an inquiry as to how much money was raised last year. Ms. Gentry responded that pledges were approximately \$280,000.

President Pastides inquired as to whether they supported parent activities at any of the regional campuses and Ms. Gentry responded no.

Dr. Pastides stated that he would like to discuss this issue with her further.

Ms. Gentry thanked the Board for the opportunity to make this presentation.

III. Invitation to Investiture Events: Chair Stone called on President Gaeckle who reported on several initiatives that SGA Columbia had been working on.

"Pastides Palooza" would be held on November 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Greene Street and in the Russell House. This inaugural event was sponsored by the students to honor Harris Pastides as the 28th President of the University of South Carolina. He stated that this would be an historical and monumental occasion with food and concerts. Mr. Gaeckle invited everyone to attend.

Chair Stone stated that Investiture for Dr. Pastides would be held on November 21, 2008 at 3:30 p.m., in the Koger Center. She extended an invitation to everyone.

IV. Activities Fee Rewrite. Mr. Gaeckle reported on financial reforms in the Division of Student Life. Nearly one year ago, a law suit was brought against some of the financial codes that the student organizations represented, specifically the way funds were being allocated to student organizations.

In the past, funds were not allocated to politically or religiously affiliated organizations, or to fraternity or philanthropic organizations. As a result of a law suit, a decision was made to revise their financial codes, and permit funds to be allocated to those organizations. Mr. Gaeckle stated that this had been a year-long

process in working with the legal department and that the revised budget allocations would be available after the beginning of the new year.

V. Farmers Market Update: Mr. Gaeckle reported that a Farmers Market on the USC Columbia campus was a collaborative effort between the Department of Agriculture, the Student Government Association, and Healthy Carolina. He stated that two Farmer markets had already been held and a third would be held on November 13th. The Farmers Market was located on Greene Street and vendors from across the state participated. Currently, they were in the process of extending the Farmers Market to offer it at least twice a month beginning spring 2009. Local producers provided meats, fish, vegetables and other novelty items.

Mr. Gaeckle extended an invitation to everyone to support this initiative by attending.

VI. Reports from University System Campuses:

Chair Stone called on each of the campuses to provide a brief update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA President Adams Shults reported that USC Aiken opened a new residence hall called the Pacer Crossings in August. He was one of the speakers for the event and cut the ribbon.

The Student Activity Center was recently renovated with a new office for the Student Government Association. Also, their men's basketball team was ranked #1 nationally and the school was ranked #1 in the US News and World Report for schools of their size.

Recently, a voter registration drive and a presidential debate were held, and a "Top Chef" cooking competition and dance marathon would be held next semester.

B. USC Beaufort: Chair Stone stated that she and President Pastides had visited the Bluffton and Beaufort campuses on Monday and were very impressed and pleased to meet the Student Government President.

Chair Stone called on SGA President Lindsey Simmons who thanked Chairman Stone and Dr. Pastides for their recent visit. The students were very excited to meet the President and appreciated her staying to answer questions.

Ms. Simmons thanked the Board of Trustees for their overwhelming support for their Student Center. It would not only enhance student life on campus, but from an administrative standpoint; it would help to attract and maintain students at USC Beaufort.

Academically, there were many new majors and minors from which students could choose; in the past, they had only twelve majors available.

This year was the first time that on-campus housing had been filled to capacity, and there was a waiting list of 60 students.

Ms. Simmons reported that their voter registration drive was very successful. During Constitution Day on campus, representatives from the Democratic and Republican campaigns talked with students and a member from the Off Shore Lifelong Learning Institute gave a speech about the importance of this election.

In the spring, USC Beaufort would initiate their first full recycling plan which would be implemented on both campuses.

C. USC Lancaster: SGA President Jeremy Johnson reported that enrollment had increased this year. Several new student organizations were implemented such as a theater group, a chemistry club, and an outdoor recreation club.

The baseball and tennis teams had a great season this year and students were looking forward to the spring semester. Also, they had begun student organization roundtables to meet with leaders to discuss various issues.

Finally, a College Transfer Day was held and over 20 schools participated, displaying information about their schools, should students wish to transfer.

D. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Pamela Moultrie-Overton thanked President Pastides and his wife for visiting their campus. The students were very excited and appreciative.

USC Salkehatchie had held Halloween carnivals on each campus and all proceeds were donated to the Athletics Department to help cover travel expenses.

She stated that a very informative leadership conference was held and that they had received information on effective ways to recruit members and how to keep SGA exciting.

Ms. Moultrie-Overton stated that enrollment in the Nursing program was very high. USC Salkehatchie currently had four 4-year degree programs.

E. USC Sumter: SGA President Wallace Black thanked the Board for this opportunity to make a presentation.

Students were excited about the new addition of the men's and women's soccer teams on campus. These teams had a magnificent influence due to the accumulation of new athletes including those from foreign countries. There was much more diversity as enrollment had increased substantially.

On November 10th, they would begin a holiday food drive which they hoped to turn into a mini food bank for students in need. On Wednesday, their second Town hall meeting would be held and they would share ideas or discuss grievances with the Dean. The primary topic for this Town hall meeting was their budget.

F. USC Union: SGA President Jessica Braxton reported that SGA purchased a 47-inch flat screen TV for the student lounge. Events held on campus were two forums, a welcome back social, and a Halloween social.

SGA, with the assistance of the African-American Association and Women on a Mission, was coordinating fundraisers to purchase an ice machine and other items that would benefit all students.

Ms. Braxton thanked President Pastides and his wife for visiting their campus.

G. USC Upstate: SGA President Mark Wartenberger thanked President Pastides for visiting their campus to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics. The event was well attended from people in the community.

In addition, there was a new dormitory on campus called the Magnolia House; this facility would house 350 students. He reported that the Health Education Complex would be opened in January of 2009. Currently, the facility housed the School of Nursing and the School of Education. When completed, the facility would have an eight lane Olympic size pool, two basketball courts, racquetball courts, and recreational facilities for the students. The building would also include a new bookstore and the Office of Admissions and Records. The relocation of the bookstore to the Health Education Complex would open up more space for student organization meetings and offices.

He stated that USC Upstate broke the 5,000 student barrier in the fall semester.

Finally, the SGA training retreat was held this month and SGA met last month with the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Academic Counsel to discuss relevant academic issues.

Chair Stone thanked the SGA representatives for their informative reports and for the leadership they provided on their respective campuses. The reports were received as information.

Chair Stone called on President Pastides who stated that communication had been sent to families relative to the budget crisis. A copy of the correspondence was distributed to those in attendance.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chair Stone declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary