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Government Affairs Committee, November 27, 2007

Coastal Carolina University

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Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees

Government Affairs Committee Conference Call
Singleton Building, Dawsey Conference Room
Tuesday, November 27, 2007

Members of the Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. William L. Lyles Jr. and
Committee Present: Dr. Oran P. Smith

Others Present: Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Mark S. Kelley,
Ms. Kathy Watts

Mr. Lyles called the Government Affairs Committee conference call meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and noted that Dr. Dyer was ill and could not be in attendance.

Legislative Report (Mark Kelley)

Mr. Mark Kelley talked briefly about the General Assembly. We are keeping a close eye on the economic situation in the nation and South Carolina to see how that will impact the budget forecast from the Board of Economic advisors. He is keeping in contact with House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Cooper and Senator Hugh Leatherman. He suggested increasing our operating budget request from the state. Our top priority should be to request at least 3.2 million recurring dollars. Non-recurring dollars for capital improvement expenditures needs to be determined regarding on-going and new maintenance projects.

Chairman Cooper is pleased and honored to be included this year as an honorary degree recipient.

Dr. DeCenzo reported that in the past CCU had not requested FTE positions but we will request them for future positions. We have been one of the only universities that have not requested funding for the FTE positions. A letter has been sent to Senator Leatherman asking the state to fund roughly seventy-nine (79) new positions. Dr. DeCenzo has an upcoming meeting with Senator Leatherman to discuss his letter and to clarify our needs. Mr. Kelley stated that it would be helpful if we knew what other universities have requested over the past ten years when we ask for state funding for these positions. He will request this information from the Ways and Means Committee.

Dr. DeCenzo wanted to know if anyone had details about a federal bill working its way through Congress which is designed to penalize any university that has a tuition increase greater than the rate of inflation. If you fail to comply, there will be penalties assessed in terms of: 1) if you are getting a federal grant you may not be eligible or 2) your students may not be fully eligible for their student loans from the federal government. CHE is also looking at legislation that would impose penalties respective to what is happening at the federal level.

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Mr. Kelley feels that if this happens all universities will be putting a cap on tuition and this is never a good thing.

Atlantic Center (Dave DeCenzo)

Tonight there is a Horry County Council meeting where the third reading regarding the Atlantic Center land transfer of about 50 acres from the county to the Horry County Higher Education Commission will be held. CCU will not ask for a millage increase next year if the Atlantic Center is approved. The Commission will lease it to CCU for a dollar per year.

NESA Initiatives (Dave DeCenzo)

One focus is to look at the tourism aspect of helping the entire region by establishing a tourism council. This initiative continues to be discussed and CCU could focus on the tourism aspect to benefit the region.

I-73 Fly-In /Washington (Mark Kelley)

The Myrtle Beach Chamber has been pushing this initiative to the point of hiring a Washington lobbyist. The House put in \$5 million this year but the Senate did not put it in the budget. It was hoped to start an I-73 bank that could be built upon year after year and used for debt service. We are awaiting Senator Leatherman's I-73 plan. There is discussion regarding placing a toll on I-95 and the state and federal DOT have approved this. A study is being conducted to see what this will generate. Mr. Kelley believes the state will need to come up with some recurring dollars for debt service for I-73.

Review of List of Board Members (Larry Lyles)

Mr. Kelley needs to know when we have openings on the Board of Trustees so that he can ask Senate and General Assembly members if they know of anyone that might be interested. If we have someone in mind, we should distribute a list to the Senate for recommendations. Mr. Kelley concurred that this is a great idea and it will help build relationships.

Other Business (Debbie Conner)

We have had very positive feedback from those invited to be ex-officio members of the committees of the Board. Chairman Liz Gilland and Representative Thad Viers have confirmed their appointment as ex-officio members on the Government Affairs Committee and are excited to participate. They will join us at our December meeting. We have not received confirmation as of today from Georgetown County Council. Also, Mr. Charles Hucks of the Horry County School Board has agreed to join the Academic Affairs Committee as an ex-officio member.

Drs. Dyer and Conner will discuss dates for future committee meeting and present them at the December meeting.

Trustees were invited to Coastal's faculty/staff Holiday Party at Ripley's Aquarium on Thursday evening, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Wayne George stated that he was having lunch with Conway's City Administrator, Bill Graham, and was there anything that he should mention concerning Coastal Carolina.

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Mr. Lyles asked him to express appreciation to Mr. Graham for his continual support of Coastal Carolina. Dr. DeCenzo gave information to Mr. George regarding extending University Boulevard over the railroad tracks.

Mr. Wayne asked Dr. DeCenzo about any developments on the arena situation. Dr. DeCenzo reported that we have nothing concrete to report at this time.

Mr. Larry Lyles motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Mr. Oran Smith seconded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy T. Watts for
Tommy M. Stringer
Secretary/Treasurer