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Athletics Committee, December 13, 2007

Coastal Carolina University

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**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Athletics Committee Meeting
Wall Board Room
December 13, 2007**

Members of the Committee Present: Mr. William S. Biggs, Mr. R. Duke Brown, Mr. Charles J. Hodge, Ms. Jill Nyhof, Mr. Mark Kiskunas, Mr. Clark B. Parker, Mr. Mike Pruitt (via teleconference) and Mr. Eugene C. Spivey

Others Present: Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Dr. Debbie Conner, Ms. Linda P. Lyerly, Mr. Patrick C. Ransdell, Dr. Rob Sheehan, Mr. Mark Roach, Ms. Melissa Todd, Dr. Lynn Willett, Ms. Nila Hutchinson, and Ms. Chyrel Stalvey

Mr. Biggs called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Warren Koegel was attending NCAA meetings in Chattanooga and was not in attendance. New ex-officio committee members were welcomed: Ms. Nyhof, Mr. Kiskunas and Mr. Pruitt.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the October 11 and November 19, 2007 committee minutes. Mr. Hodge seconded and the motion passed.

Major gifts officer Patrick Ransdell was introduced. Long-term plans and fundraising needs will be presented at the Athletic Committee Retreat. After the first of the year, he will be visiting the members of the committee to get their perspective of where they see us going and discuss any fundraising avenues that they may.

In order to move forward with the fieldhouse project, \$6.2M is needed. We have raised \$4.2M in private money and need an additional \$2M before we can go back to Columbia. Additional proposals are on the table. Mr. Pruitt expressed concern because we have been about four years into the project. It is easier to raise money when progress is seen. Mr. Biggs added that we are losing recruits because of facilities. If we are going to be champions, we need to look the part.

Mr. Roach reported that the student-athlete graduation success rate is 95% and reviewed a handout. Mr. Biggs asked to see how our graduation success rates compare to other teams in our conference and similar institutions. Dr. DeCenzo was complimentary of the student-athletes academic achievements.

Mr. Roach presented an update on the fall sports, noting that Coastal is currently ranked number two in the Big South Conference.

Mr. Pruitt shared that Coach Gilmore believes the baseball team this year has the best recruiting class ever. Improvements are currently being made to the locker rooms, hitting facilities, and adding more pavers around the field. Dr. DeCenzo reported that through a trade lease agreement with the Cal Ripken Experience to use \$132,000 worth of baseball field time, they have agreed to install AstroTurf on several areas of the field. We have agreed to trade 50 dates a year in the summer when the Cal

Athletics Committee
December 13, 2007

Ripken Experience can use the fields. In return, they're going to give Coastal some turf they have left over from one of their projects. The turf will be used to upgrade the agility areas where the teams stretch and warm up, the field foul territories, and to cover the batting cage area. This will be a great recruiting tool when baseball clubs from around the nation visit campus!

However, we are running into roadblocks at the state procurement level over the installer. This is very frustrating because the turf will basically not cost us anything. Ms. Lyerly added that regulations state that if you have a donation over \$100,000 for construction, it has to be established as a project. This is an example of the complicated challenges of public/private partnerships.

Mr. Roach gave an update on the following athletes:

- Former golfer Dustin Johnson received his PGA qualifying card. He was the only college applicant to receive his card.
- Football player Jerome Simpson has been selected to play in the Hula Bowl and the East-West Shrine Bowl. He has chosen an agent and will spend January in a speed camp.
- On the same day, former football players Quinton Teal had five tackles in a game for the Carolina Panthers and Tyler Thigpen played in a game for the Kansas City Chiefs.
- Diane Jepchirchir has been named All-American in cross country.
- Ashleigh Gunning has been named Second Academic All-American with ESPN Magazine in women's soccer.
- Former baseball player Mike Costanza has been traded from Houston to the Orioles.
- Amber Campbell continues to train for the Olympics.

Plans are underway for the Athletic Committee Retreat to be held on January 17-18, 2008 in Brooks Hospitality Suite. Ms. Lyerly said all the coaches will be interviewed to develop a 5-year plan that will be presented at the retreat. Big South Conference mandates and gender equity will be included in the plan.

Current Athletic Department openings include an academic position (tutor), assistant strength coach, and women's golf coach. Two strong candidates will be brought in next week for the women's golf coach position.

Mr. Hodge made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter and Mr. Brown seconded. No action was taken during Executive Session.

As there was no further business, Mr. Brown moved to adjourn and Mr. Hodge seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Tommy M. Stringer
Secretary Treasurer