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## Government Affairs Committee, February 14, 2008

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#### Minutes Coastal Carolina University Board of Trustees

### Government Affairs Committee Conference Call Wall Board Room February 14, 2008

Committee Mr. J. Wayne George, Chairman Liz Gilland, Mr. Mark S. Kelley,

**Members Present:** Mr. William L. Lyles Jr., and Dr. Oran P. Smith

**Committee Members** 

**Not Present:** Representative Thad Viers

Other Board Mr. Joseph L. Carter, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey, and Mr. Tommy M.

**Members Present:** Stringer

**Others Present:** Dr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Wilbur L. Garland, Ms. Alison L. Hawk, Dr.

Holley E. Tankersley, Ms. Sandy Williams, and Ms. Chyrel Stalvey

Mr. Lyles called the Government Affairs Committee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Faculty Senate representative, Dr. Tankersley, was welcomed.

Mr. George made a motion to approve the committee minutes of December 13, 2007. Dr. Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Garland reported that the 5-year plan for the Capital Permanent Improvement Plan list of projects will be submitted to the state tomorrow. Most likely this will change if the Board approves a budget reallocation for debt service tomorrow. The list consists of the student recreation center, science building, an information commons at Kimbel Library, parking, renovation of Atheneum Hall, renovation at Kingston Hall, and the fieldhouse will be the top priorities. The current thoughts are that the Kimbel gymnasium facility will be renovated and expanded into the student recreation facility.

Mr. George asked what the plans are for additional parking. Mr. Garland reported that the campus Traffic and Parking Committee had submitted a report of their parking recommendations. Two suggestions did not add any additional parking spaces and were costly. The final recommendation was to make a parking area for approximately 300 spaces off University Boulevard on the bed of the old road. This cost would be minimal.

Dr. Dyer reported that the legislative reception in Columbia was well attended. The legislators look forward to the event every year and inviting the House and Senate staff was a good idea. Mr. Lyles felt that the event was well done.

Mr. Spivey reported that after the members of student affairs had taken a campus tour, it became apparent that Coastal needed more student activities facilities on campus to keep up with its competition. The Student Affairs Committee will ask the Board tomorrow to approve a budget reallocation for debt service of \$525 per student per semester, commencing with the Fall semester of 2007, to be dedicated to retire bonds to be issued by the institution on the pledge of

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this budget reallocation, for the purpose of financing the construction, renovation and furnishing of infrastructure and permanent structures that will advance the interests of our academic programs, our student affairs programs, our athletic programs, and our alumni. Dr. DeCenzo and the administrative staff will be directed to bring a plan of action for the issuance of such bonds, including an estimated amount of funds that might be realized and a recommended prioritization of construction and renovation projects for the Board's consideration. If approved, some progress should be visible on campus by fall semester—whether actual buildings or available artist renderings. The committee was in agreement with this suggestion.

Dr. Dyer stated that talking points have been prepared for Chairman Alford and Dr. DeCenzo regarding the reallocation of the debt service. Mr. Kelley advised that as soon as the Board has made a decision, the Horry County Legislation Delegation members should have the information as quickly as possible.

Dr. Dyer reported that discussions have been held with Horry Georgetown Technical College and Horry County Schools regarding a 1¢ sales tax to be voted on in November. Preliminary reaction from the state and their legislative counsel is that Coastal and Tech cannot participate because of home rule and wording of the current legislation. Legislative counsel is trying to determine if new legislation with different wording would put Coastal and Tech in a position to participate in such a referendum and use the resulting monies. Mr. Kelley added that the sales tax will have to be approved by the General Assembly and will require a two-thirds favorable vote. More information on this will be available at April's board meeting. He also cautioned that the state government can also put a cap on what and how the money is used.

Mr. Kelley presented an update on the legislative agenda:

- At this point, nothing has been brought forward to put a cap or a proviso regarding limiting tuition for next year.
- The university has asked for state funding for an additional 79 ¾ FTE faculty positions. It looks hopeful that twenty new slots may be allocated, although it will be very tough this year to get state funding for the slots. The budget process is just starting for next year's budget.
- A bond bill is not expected in the next couple of years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy M. Stringer Secretary/Treasurer