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Government Affairs Committee, April 4, 2008

Coastal Carolina University

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**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Government Affairs Committee Conference
Surf Golf and Beach Club in North Myrtle Beach
April 4, 2008**

Committee

Members Present: Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. Mark S. Kelley, and Dr. Oran P. Smith

**Committee Members
Not Present:** Chairman Liz Gilland, Mr. William L. Lyles Jr., and
Representative Thad Viers

Others Present: Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Tim Meacham, and
Ms. Nila Hutchinson

Mr. George reported that Mr. Lyles would not be in attendance and had asked him to conduct the meeting. The Government Affairs Committee meeting started at 8:45 a.m.

Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the committee minutes of February 14, 2008. Mr. George seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Kelley stated that the main focus this year has been on the budget. The House version has a \$630,000 across-the-board agency cut. Coastal was fortunate enough to have \$500,000 put in the budget of nonrecurring funds. The budget has now gone to the Senate Finance Committee and the budget was completed last night. However, the budget spreadsheets are not available yet. Most likely there will be a three percent pay increase. The budget will now go back to the House and then go to conference committee.

Everyone will be watching what the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) say over the next few months. The price of oil will be closely watched. There could be a \$50-100M revenue shortfall.

Discussions have been held with Coastal, Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Horry County Schools to put a 1¢ sales tax referendum on the ballot in the fall. A percentage of the money will go to higher education and K-12 for capital projects with a 15-year time limit. In order to have higher education on this referendum new legislation was required. Companion bills are now in the House and Senate. Senator Leatherman is in favor of the bill and is working to get the bill into the Senate. This could mean \$80-100M for capital projects for Coastal.

When the referendum legislation passes, the people in Horry County will then vote on it. If this referendum is not passed, the mills will be increased to 35. According to Mr. Garland, if the referendum passes, the millage will go down to eight. The selling point is that anybody who has personal property or a car in Horry County will benefit by the drop in millage. Of course, we will pay the extra penny on prepared foods. Tourists will pay for the schools. A penny will

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generate a lot of money that doesn't come out of the pockets of South Carolinians. Dr. DeCenzo plans to meet with the Gov. Sanford to discuss this issue.

Horry County Council has transferred 57+ acres worth about \$7.5M in the Atlantic Center to the Horry County Higher Education Commission. The University is leasing it from the Commission for \$1/year in order to maintain it.

Dr. Dyer reported that the Commission has paid off the bonds on the Prince Building. The Commission plans to borrow money to help finance \$5M in renovations for the Kimbel Library and \$2M to purchase a building in the Atlantic Center. Some administrative offices will be moved to that building. There is an additional \$2M from the estate of Rebecca Bryan for the library project. Current plans are to expand the library towards the open area between the Singleton Building and the Student Center with an atrium.

Because the county is the source of revenue for the Commission, Horry County Council will pass a resolution in favor of the Commission borrowing money from the bank.

The University is trying to acquire the fire tower property beside the Quail Creek Golf Course on Highway 544.

The University is working to extend University Boulevard into the Atlantic Center. Tommy Lee, Horry County Property Manager, suggested extending University Boulevard across Highway 501, over the railroad tracks, and onto the property behind the Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine & Wetland Studies for a cost of about half a million dollars. This will not cause additional traffic in the Atlantic Center and will be a safer route for the students.

Because the 14-acre Elvington tract is in the county, we will be allowed to gravel the area for a parking lot. It will need to be rezoned to commercial property. We would like to have the parking spaces available by the fall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy M. Stringer
Secretary/Treasurer