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Government Affairs Committee, November 20, 2008

Coastal Carolina University

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**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Government Affairs Committee
Thomas W. & Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Room 164
November 20, 2008**

Committee Members Present: Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. Mark S. Kelley, Mr. William L. Lyles Jr. and Mr. Eugene C. Spivey

Committee Members Not Present: Chairman Liz Gilland and Senator Dick Elliott

Other Board Members Present: Mr. William H. Alford, Mr. Joseph P. Carter, Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Mr. Robert L. Rabon, and Dr. Samuel J. Swad

Others Present: Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Dr. Edgar L. Dyer, Ms. Mary E. Eaddy, Ms. Alison L. Hawk, Dr. Timothy E. Meacham, Ms. Anne T. Monk, Mr. Scott Royce, Dr. Rob Sheehan, Dr. Holley E. Tankersley, Dr. Judy W. Vogt, Ms. Nila Hutchinson, and Ms. Chyrel Stalvey

(In accordance with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, the news media were notified of the time, location, and agenda for the meeting. Ms. Claudia Lauer of The Sun News was in attendance.)

Mr. Lyles brought the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. George moved to approve the Government Affairs Committee minutes of June 12, 2008. Mr. Spivey seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Dyer reported that as a result of a law passed in the spring, boards of trustees of institutions where non-citizens/aliens are in attendance were required to develop a process to certify that students were lawfully present in the United States. The following resolution has been developed for Coastal Carolina University:

A Resolution from the Coastal Carolina University Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, Section 17, Chapter 101, Title 59 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws was amended requiring trustees of public institutions of higher learning to institute a process by which lawful presence in the United States is verified; and,

WHEREAS, such verification of an alien's status shall be completed pursuant to Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1373; and,

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WHEREAS, it is the intent of the trustees to fully comply with the requirements of the legislation prohibiting unlawfully present aliens from receiving scholarships, financial aid, grants or resident tuition; and now,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the following policy, and as incorporated by reference, is hereby adopted by this Board.

Done this Twenty-first day of November, Two Thousand and Eight.

Process for the Determination and Verification of Lawful Presence of Coastal Carolina University Students

- 1. Each student will be strongly encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The institution will be notified through the Central Processing System (CPS) download if the student is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. No further action will be required for citizenship verification or processing of financial aid for those students who are cleared as U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens through the CPS database matches.*
- 2. South Carolina students who are not verified in step 1 will be verified through the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicle Driver's License database (if issued after 2002) or by documentary evidence of identity and citizenship, such as copy of their birth certificate, non-limited U.S. passport (current or expired), certificate of citizenship, certificate of naturalization, or proof of eligible non-citizen status. Students who are University employees may also be verified through E-Verify (online employee verification system operated jointly by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration).*
- 3. Non-South Carolina U.S. citizen and eligible non-citizen students who are not verified in step 1 will be required to present documentary evidence of identity and citizenship, such as a copy of their birth certificate, non-limited U.S. passport (current or expired), certificate of citizenship, certificate of naturalization or proof of eligible non-citizen status. Students who are University employees may also be verified through E-Verify.*
- 4. All aliens will be reviewed for lawful presence through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) or the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE).*

Aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States are not eligible to attend Coastal Carolina University.

Mr. Spivey made a motion to accept this resolution instituting a process by which the lawful presence of student aliens in the United States is verified to comply with the General Assembly's requirement for illegal aliens. Mr. Lyles seconded and the motion passed.

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Mr. Kelley asked the Board and the administration for more information in order to develop a strategy to garner additional resources from Washington, D.C. Mr. Alford feels that we need to be proactive in promoting the University, proactive in the development office, and proactive in garnering resources in Washington. Dr. Dyer said he would begin developing a plan of action over the holidays and would present it at the next Board meeting.

We are finally in a position with the state funding where it is more favorable to Coastal. Because we are underfunded, the budget cuts are not as severe to us as they are at our sister institutions. Mr. Kelley does not see things improving in the near future and expects an additional 2-4% budget cut early next year. The state expects another shortfall in tax receipts next year.

Sallie Mae, the nation's largest provider of student loans, has confirmed to us that student loans will be honored in the spring and money will be available.

Dr. Vogt reported that about 220 students who had loans for fall don't have loans for spring. We are waiting to see what happens after Thanksgiving break when students return. A half million dollars will be put into emergency scholarship monies and more student jobs will be available on campus.

Dr. DeCenzo stated that only 9.3 - 9.5% of Coastal's total budget comes from the state. We are so dependent upon tuition, that we cannot overlook marketing.

Mr. Alford expressed appreciation to Robert Rabon and Mary Eaddy for in their success in selling the Penny Sales Tax Referendum to the citizens of Horry County. The community had to first be educated about Coastal Carolina University. Also, students have to be looked at as customers.

Mr. Lyles wanted to know when we would start receiving money from the referendum. Mr. Rabon responded that we would begin collecting money March 1st and every month thereafter.

The Horry County Planning Commission is concerned about student off-campus housing and has appointed an ad-hoc committee to determine what the landlords, the students, and the university can do to improve the situation and be good neighbors. Ms. Haven Hart and Dr. Dyer serve on this committee.

In an effort to increase retention, we are looking at requiring sophomores to live on campus.

The Student Government Association has requested additional lighting from campus on Highway 544 to Jackson Road where University Place is located. More students are walking and bicycling to and from campus. Horry Electric estimated that it would cost \$2,800/year to light this area. Dr. DeCenzo has approved this expenditure and students will be more secure.

Mr. Kelley was instrumental in helping with the purchase of five acres on Highway 544 where a fire tower is located. We are moving forward with the purchase and an environmental impact study is currently being conducted. Senator Leatherman was very much in support of this sale

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when it was presented to the Budget and Control Board. Chairman Alford and Dr. DeCenzo were asked to write a letter to Senator Leatherman thanking him for his support.

We are talking with the City of Conway to bring closure to the relocation of University Boulevard repayment.

Mr. George suggested that Messrs Alford and Lyles write a letter of appreciation to the Horry Delegation expressing appreciation for their help in the passage of the Penny Sales Tax Referendum.

There being no further business, made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Chyrel Stalvey for
Secretary/Treasurer