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Government Affairs Committee, February 19, 2009

Coastal Carolina University

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**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Government Affairs Committee
E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration Building, Board Room
February 19, 2009**

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. Charles J. Hodge, Mr. Daniel W. R. Moore Sr., Dr. Oran P. Smith, and Dr. Samuel J. Swad

Others Present: Ms. Stacie Bowie, , Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Dr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Will Garland, Dr. Timothy E. Meacham, Mr. Scott Royce, Dr. Rob Sheehan, 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.)

Mr. Lyles brought the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Mr. Spivey moved to approve the Government Affairs Committee minutes of November 20, 2008. Mr. Carter seconded and the motion carried.

Mark Kelley reported that the House Ways and Means Committee is working on the budget for next year. At this point, Coastal has a little over \$15M allocated if stimulus dollars are used. He cautioned that after two years the state will have a huge annualization problem, and it would be prudent to put as much as possible in reserve.

The state is still \$122M short to balance this year's budget. If stimulus money is used, all of education--K12 and higher education—will be held harmless. Also, K12 and higher education budgets have to be at 2005-2006 budget levels otherwise stimulus monies cannot be used. Various options to balance the budget are being reviewed. If stimulus dollars are not used, there will be across-the-board cuts, including K12 and higher education.

In a meeting with the Commission on Higher Education, it was noted that Congress is encouraging the stimulus dollars to be one-time investments that would have a long-term impact. The Pascal library system may be at risk and could be cut across the board for everyone. Light rail, a computer high speed and security system linking higher education institutions for research and study, is being considered for all universities in the state and at some point into the K12 arena.

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There is a regulatory relief bill in the House subcommittee. Briefing meetings will be held with Senators Courson and Leatherman to introduce a bill in the Senate.

Chairman Alford expressed appreciation to Mr. Kelley for helping to get the legislation passed for the penny sales tax.

The Northeast Strategic Alliance's big push is for the I-73 highway. It is hoped to get additional "regionally and nationally significant highway" grant dollars from stimulus dollars.

Yesterday at the Joint Bond Review Committee, Dr. DeCenzo reported that Coastal had two items on the agenda—moving forward the sprinkler system in the dorms and transfer of the land for the fire tower. Time ran out for the meeting, and the items were going to be deferred until June. Representative Chip Limehouse noted that it was a time sensitive safety issue. Senator Hugh Leatherman moved for an immediate vote, and it passed. The fire tower land was also put on the Budget and Control Board's agenda for next week. Dr. DeCenzo will write a letter to Senator Leatherman and Representative Limehouse thanking them for their support.

Dr. Dyer reported that the University is planning to step up presence in Washington to combine grants, public/private initiatives, federal relations, vision 2054 and bringing more money back to campus in the form of grants. He went to Duke University, who is second in the nation for bringing home federal dollars, to spend time with their office of federal relations and undergraduate support group. They have eleven full-time staff just for undergraduate support for faculty. There should be more federal money with the stimulus money, especially for the sciences. A list of Washington contacts and agencies is being compiled. Dr. DeCenzo will be changing around personnel shortly to have someone in Washington. A formal recommendation for the Washington initiative will be made to Dr. DeCenzo shortly.

Drs. Dyer and DeCenzo are planning a trip to Washington shortly.

Mr. Kelley feels that it is important for the university to have fulltime presence in Washington.

Dr. Dyer went to Washington for the I-73 fly-in with the Chamber of Commerce and met with Senator Graham's and Representative Brown's staff. They recommended waiting until after the stimulus plan comes out to talk to them any further.

Mr. Spivey moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal issue and Mr. George seconded. The motion carried. Upon reconvening, it was noted that no action was taken.

There being no further business, Mr. George made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Spivey seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Secretary/Treasurer