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Government Affairs Committee, May 7, 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
May 7, 2009**

Committee Members Present: Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. Mark S. Kelley, and 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. Larry L. Biddle, Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson and Mr. Daniel Moore St. W.R.

Others Present: Dr. James L. Adams, Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Rod Gragg, Ms. Allison Hawk, Ms. Martha Hunn, Ms. Rose Marie Hussey, Mr. Timothy E. Meacham, Ms. Anne T. Monk, Mr. Scott Royce, Dr. Judy 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.)

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

Mr. Spivey moved to approve the Government Affairs Committee minutes of February 19, 2009. Mr. George seconded and the motion carried.

Mark Kelley reported that the 40-page regulatory relief legislation has passed through the House of Representatives and has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Leatherman has assigned it to the Higher Education Subcommittee which is chaired by Senator Courson. The other three members of the committee are in favor of the bill and in favor of moving it forward; however, Senator Courson feels that it is too important a bill to move it though too quickly and wants to study the legislation during the summer and fall. It is hoped to have the legislation passed the first of next year.

There are only two weeks left in the legislative session.

There is conversation between leadership in the House and Senate not to have a conference committee for the budget and adopt an amendment to the budget on the House side. The Senate leadership will sign off on the budget and send it to the governor. Mr. Kelley is hoping this will not happen because the House is running a deficit this year. When the bill came out of the House without the stabilization funds, the budget was \$12.9M and with the stabilization funds it was

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\$15.6M. The Senate cut the budget three percent, making it \$12.64M and added back 2.2% or a total of \$14.8M with the stabilization funds.

The lottery funds for state technology are \$9.2M, almost the same as last year's \$10M.

Dr. Dyer said that we are bracing for mid-year cuts and anticipating the worst case scenario.

Ms. Anne Monk, Associate Vice President for Governmental Grants, will facilitate the application of institutional grants for brick and mortar and larger projects. She explained that the uses for the stimulus funds are very specific. For example, of the \$43B energy funds, our allocation through the state energy office will be \$433,000. Our Facilities Department is trying to see what projects could come out of that fund. We are asking for funds from the NIH through the Department of Health and Human Services, which is construction money that could be used for the Swain Science Hall Annex. The Department of Justice has funds allocated for police equipment. We have asked for \$570,000 for equipment, police cars, notification system, video cameras and recording equipment to bolster our police operations. New information on the allocation of funds will be posted on recovery.gov as it becomes available.

Mr. George suggested reviewing the following Web site of a California-based grants research company: ecivis.com. There is an annual fee for the use of the site and about 75 cities in the state have signed on with this company which has researched all of the state, federal, and foundation grants. Contact information for Mr. Scott Provencher, southeastern regional director, was provided.

Rod Gragg, adjunct professor of history and author of 25 books on military history, was introduced. On the last five Veteran's Days, there have been overflow crowds in Wheelwright Auditorium for documentaries produced by Mr. Gragg and Coastal Carolina's media staff and in conjunction with Goldfinch Funeral Home regarding veterans. A profile for a prospective Center for Military and Veterans Studies was distributed and previewed. He stated that the center would help to preserve memories and records and to engage the community in the education and appreciation of veterans. The center's projects would also be of benefit to the veterans. An advisory board has been established, and we are currently investigation naming rights and yearly funding for the center.

Mr. Kelley suggested looking for statewide funding. Messrs. Kelley and Adams have some ideas for funding.

The County Transportation Committee (CTC) was asked for an appropriation of funds for the extension of University Boulevard into the Atlantic Center. The engineering for the project has been completed. On May 12, additional information prepared by Ms. Rose Marie Hussey will be presented to CTC. The cost of the project will be about \$1M. The Horry County Higher Education Commission has funded \$125,000 for this project. Coastal Carolina agreed to complete the extension of University Boulevard when B&C consented to move the location of a strip mall they were going to build on Highway 501 to accommodate the road extension.

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Ms. Hussey has a master's degree in public administration and has professional experience as an administrator in municipal government and has been assigned to implement the strategic plan.

Mses. Hussey and Monk have been working on a meeting which will include forty strategic planners, grants officers, engineers, and marketing and communications personnel from Horry and Georgetown Counties, school districts, Grand Strand Water and Sewer, Horry Electric Coop, HTC, and Santee Cooper to meet, to share plans and to coordinate projects. The various entities have expressed enthusiasm for this meeting and for the mutual sharing of information. It is hoped to continue meeting bi-monthly.

Dr. Dyer is hopeful that the meetings will improve governmental relations.

Mr. Kelley remarked that we have talked for years about improving relationships with the Washington, D.C. delegation, and a giant step towards this goal has been made. Dr. Dyer reported that a group consisting of Drs. DeCenzo and Dyer, Messrs. Kelley and Rabon, and Ms. Monk converged on Washington yesterday and visited with Senators Brown, Graham, Barrett, and DeMint and Congressman Clyburn. The group presented the University's needs and asked how they could help us with the needs. They were well received. Mr. Kelley cautioned that follow-up is important. The grants program is critical to grow federal dollars.

Dr. Dyer announced that Associate Vice President Debbie Conner will have increased responsibility in planning and grants and will supervise Mses. Hussey and Monk and will also serve as his chief of staff. Dr. Conner will also chair a committee studying housing needs for the next 15 years.

As of July 1, Mr. Tim Meacham will become University Counsel. He was the first Coastal Carolina student to attend law school and had a very successful law career.

Chairman Alford was complimentary of Mr. Kelley and how well respected he is in Columbia. He has performed a yeoman's job for us.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Secretary/Treasurer