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Government Affairs Committee, October 20, 2011

Coastal Carolina University

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Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees

Government Affairs Committee
October 20, 2011

Committee Members Present: Mr. William H. Alford, Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, and Mr. William L. Lyles Jr.

Committee Member Not Present: Mr. Daniel W. R. Moore Sr.

Other Board Members Present: Mr. Larry L. Biddle, Mr. Gary W. Brown, Mr. R. Duke Brown, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey, Dr. Samuel J. Swad, Mr. Robert G. Templeton, and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Stacie A. Bowie, Dr. Debbie Connor, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Lawson Holland, Ms. Martha S. Hunn, Mr. Mark Kelly, Dr. Judy W. Vogt, Ms. Jennifer Packard, 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.)

Chairman Larry Lyles brought the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and welcomed new members of the committee.

Mr. Billy Alford moved to approve the July 21, 2011 Government Affairs Committee minutes. Ms. Sam Frink seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Mark Kelly and Dr. DeCenzo expressed appreciation to Ms. Natasha Hanna for helping to move forward the restructuring of higher education and accountability-based funding in the state of South Carolina. She has had encouraging conversations with Governor Haley and members of her staff. Accountability-based funding is based on the Virginia model which has been very successful. During the next session of the General Assembly, Mr. Kelly believes that there will be movement in that direction. He cautioned that it will not be a quick process.

Coastal is moving forward to bring a marine science doctoral program to the University. At this time, no comprehensive university in the state is allowed to have a doctoral program. Dr. DeCenzo stated that we have not found this restriction in any other state. So far, Mr. Kelly has talked with legislative counsel to add verbiage in the law to change the 1996 legislation. Our planning document was not accepted by the Commission on Higher Education because it is against the 1996 law as it is currently written. By changing the law, this issue would be taken off the table.

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After Dr. DeCenzo met with other comprehensive university presidents, he found that they are in support of Coastal Carolina going forward and would lend support. They also have some unique opportunities that they would like to initiate. He believes that there is general support to get the law changed. If we had a research institution as an ally, it would help immensely. It is felt that the big challenge will be with the Commission on Higher Education and its staff. A lot of education will need to be done, but we will continue to push the envelope.

Ms. Hanna stated that it is ironic that an online university can come into the state and offer a doctoral program but an in-state school cannot get approval to offer a doctorate. The legislation must be changed.

Dr. DeCenzo stated that Coastal Carolina continues to be an important component with the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation in helping bring jobs to the area. We have one employee assigned to EDC and our Economic Research Center handles most of their research. This has been a tremendous partnership with the community business leaders, and it has enhanced our image.

Dr. DeCenzo added that he and Mr. Billy Alford are also involved with NESAs and partners with Francis Marion University in trying to move forward our region of the state.

Mr. Gary Brown stated that it is notable how often our research economist, Robert Salvino, is quoted. He is a very knowledgeable forecaster and accessible to the media.

Mr. Gene Spivey moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Mr. Frink seconded. Upon reconvening, it was noted that no action taken.

There being no further business, Mr. Hanna moved to adjourn, and Mr. Larry Biddle seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey
for Larry L. Biddle