Government Affairs Committee, February 16, 2012

Coastal Carolina University

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Committee Members Present: Dr. Larry L. Biddle, Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, and Mr. Daniel W. R. Moore Sr.

Committee Not Present: Mr. William L. Lyles Jr.

Other Board Members Present: Mr. R. Duke Brown, Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson, Dr. Oran P. Smith, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey, and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Stacie A. Bowie, Mr. Josh Chesson, Dr. Debbie Connor, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Ms. Martha S. Hunn, Mr. Mark Kelley, Mr. Tim Meacham, Dr. Michael H. Roberts, Dr. Robert Sheehan, 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.)

Vice Chairman Sam Frink brought the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and stated that Mr. Lyles could not be in attendance.

Dr. Larry Biddle moved to approve the October 20, 2011, Government Affairs Committee minutes. Mr. Dan Moore seconded and the motion carried.

Dean Mike Roberts has met with Brad Lofton and Kelly Stuart of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp. (MBREDC) to discuss how Coastal Carolina University can work with them to obtain their goals to develop a call center, marine manufacturing and an aviation/aerospace center. MBREDC and the Northeast Strategic Alliance are committed to developing a stronger workforce in the area.

Coastal Carolina University can be helpful in the area of the data/call center with our computer science providing information and assist in off-shore wind facilities in marine science. We are currently developing a program with Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) to bring their Associate of Arts and Science students in information technology to continue their bachelor’s degree at CCU. This program is going through the S.C. Commission on Higher Education process.

There will be additional discussions with HGTC regarding engineering programs transitioning to CCU. One of the issues is that our engineering program is cooperative with Clemson which creates problems with place bound individuals. We are looking to the Citadel for an evening
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engineering program and developing a 2 + 2 program with HGTC. This would work well with the aviation initiatives.

Dr. DeCenzo added that NESA and MBREDC have brought in some outside site selection experts who have all reinforced that higher education must be involved in the economic decisions. When companies assess an area for a business/industry, they want to have the availability of higher education for management personnel or technical schools for skill training. We are committed to help bring more jobs to the area.

Ms. Hanna stated that the SCCHE is very mindful that an out-of-state on-line university can offer a Ph.D. whereas in-state universities cannot because of current legislation. The law needs to be changed and the University is working towards that goal.

Ms. Hanna moved to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters. Dr. Biddle seconded and the motion carried. Upon reconvening, it was noted that no action was taken.

There being no further business, Mr. Hanna moved to adjourn, and Mr. Moore seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for  
Larry L. Biddle  
Secretary/Treasurer