

5-3-2012

Government Affairs Committee, May 3, 2012

Coastal Carolina University

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Coastal Carolina University, "Government Affairs Committee, May 3, 2012" (2012). *Board of Trustees Committee Minutes*. 543.
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Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees

Government Affairs Committee
May 3, 2012

Committee Members Present: Dr. Larry L. Biddle, 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. William S. Biggs, Mr. Gary W. Brown, Mr. R. Duke Brown, Mr. J. Wayne George, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Stacie A. Bowie, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Ms. Martha S. Hunn, Dr. Keshav Jagannathan, 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. Heather Gale of The Horry Independent was in attendance.)

Chairman Larry Lyles brought the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Mr. Sam Frink moved to approve the February 16, 2012 Government Affairs Committee minutes and Dr. Larry Biddle seconded. The motion carried.

Dr. DeCenzo recognized Mr. Mark Kelley for help in moving forward the legislation for comprehensive universities in the state to offer selective PhDs. The legislation has left the House, been approved by the Senate Education Sub-committee, and next week will go before the Senate Education Committee.

Mr. Kelley does not foresee heavy opposition in the Senate for this legislation. Clemson has been very supportive. His concern is that budget talks will begin in a couple of weeks. If there is much discussion on the legislation, the voting will be delayed.

Dr. Sheehan stated that offering doctoral programs at a university is a sign of the institution coming of age. Faculty are very appreciative of the Board and Administration for bringing this to fruition.

Dr. Roberts reported that the timetable program summary for a new Marine Science doctoral program is ready to submit when the legislation is finalized.

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At this point Coastal Carolina's request to purchase a research vessel for \$1.25M is in the budget coming from the House and will now go to the Senate.

The Joint Bond Review Committee went very well last week. Chairman White of the House Ways and Means Committee and his wife came to campus last week for a tour. He was very supportive at the committee meeting and will also be in the meeting next week.

It has been very helpful for Dr. DeCenzo and Mr. Kelley to meet with the Governor's office and the comptroller general to review projects with them prior to Joint Bond Review Committee meetings. In these meetings, Dr. DeCenzo said that one of the very first questions always asked is, what was your tuition increase this year and how will it the impact your students. We need to keep a close relationship with them.

Governor Haley is pushing the accountability funding legislation and discussions are underway.

At the last meeting of the S.C. Commission on Higher Education, Ms. Hanna reported that \$1 billion in construction projects was approved. Here again, the question being asked is whether or not the new building will cause tuition increases. She cautioned to be mindful of the cost per square foot.

Mr. Kelley reported that lobbyists Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough have done as good as anyone can in Washington because of the political climate for earmarks. The money is going to agencies. The firm has been able to open doors for us to see key people within the agencies.

Mr. Lyles asked if he felt that the firm has our best interest in mind. Mr. Kelley feels they do.

Dr. Dyer stated that Coastal Carolina has a good relationship with the Horry County Council. We have received permission to build the tennis complex on the land previously deeded to the Horry County Higher Education Commission. Negotiations are underway with the City of Conway to put a water tower on part of the Elvington property in their next budget.

As there was no further business, Mr. Sam Frink moved to adjourn and Ms. Natasha Hanna seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey
for Larry L. Biddle
Secretary/Treasurer