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Athletics Committee, May 9, 2013

Coastal Carolina University

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**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Athletics Committee Meeting
Wall Board Room
May 9, 2013**

**Members of the
Committee Present:** Dr. Larry L. Biddle, Mr. William S. Biggs Mr. Carlos C. Johnson
and Mr. Eugene C. Spivey

**Committee Members
Not Present:** Mr. R. Duke Brown

**Other Trustees
Present:** Mr. Samuel J. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, Mr. D. Wyatt
Henderson, Dr. Oran P. Smith and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Caroline Bender, Ms. Courtney Bowie, Ms. Stacie Bowie,
Ms. Lori Church, Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. David A. DeCenzo,
Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Mr. Matt Hogue, Ms. Martha S. Hunn,
Dr. Keshav Jagannathan, Ms. Rose Marie Johnson, Mr. Mark
Kelley, Mr. Tim Meacham, Ms. Jennifer Packard, Mr. William M.
Plate Jr., Mr. Mark A. Roach, Dr. Rob Sheehan, Ms. Sharon Sluys,
Dr. Kenneth W. Small, Ms. Chyrel Stalvey, Dr. Sharon Thompson,
Mr. Greg Thornburg, Mr. Desmond Wallace, Mr. John Vrooman,
Ms. Sandy Williams, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Mr. Hunter Yurachek,
Coaches and Athletes

(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. Ms. Heather Gale of The Horry Independent and Ms. Lauren Hinnant of WBTW were in attendance.)

Chairman Gene Spivey brought the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

Spivey thanked everyone for attending the Athletics Committee meeting. He said, *We are all here because we love this institution and want to see our University succeed. This Board and the administration have had to make many tough decisions over the last few years due to the challenging economic climate we are operating in. These decisions are strictly business in nature and are solely designed to make Coastal Carolina University a stronger institution.*

At our last meeting in February, the Board asked the administration to identify \$1M in savings from the budget for the upcoming fiscal year - \$250,000 from Administration, \$250,000 from academics, \$250,000 from Centers and \$250,000 from Athletics. To achieve these cost savings,

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we are making decisions that are difficult for us—but you can be assured they are being made with the best intentions for the entire university. Over the last 4 years, we have cut \$7M out of the budget and athletics until this point has been left untouched.

We welcome our visitors in attendance today, but I need to remind everyone that this is a committee meeting. It's not a public hearing. Because time is limited, I ask groups in attendance to please choose a single spokesperson to address the committee. Time will be provided at the end of our committee meeting for comments.

And for members of the media, after the committee meeting, Martha will work with you to provide some one-on-one interviews in the ante room, so that we can stay on schedule.

Larry Biddle moved to approve the Athletic Committee minutes of February 21, 2013. Biggs seconded and the motion carried.

Hunter Yurachek reported that the Big South Basketball Championship was held March 5-10 and televised live on ESPN1. An impact study determined that the tournament had the highest average attendance for any Big South Championship to date. Visitor spending was \$1.4M and media exposure was \$1.46M.

Dave DeCenzo stated that the Big South Conference felt it was the best attended tournament ever. Coastal Carolina University has a three-year contract to host the tournament.

In a spring athletic update, Yurachek stated that women's golf will play in the NCAA Tournament and Coastal Carolina has the opportunity to win the Sasser Cup. The University is ranked 74 out of 346 NCAA schools and is the seventh ranked FCS school in the country. Thirty-five student-athletes will graduate this weekend and a special ceremony was held for baseball seniors who have games this weekend. Their parents were very appreciative of this.

In a facilities update, the following was noted:

- Baseball and softball stadium projects –Chancel Builders have started and completion date for softball is December 2013 and baseball by mid-March 2014
- Tennis complex – will go out for bids in July 2013 with completion by mid-April 2014
- Brooks stadium TurfField project – in the process of working with potential donor and hope to have ready for lacrosse by December/January

Mark Roach gave further update on the baseball/softball project by stating that there is an MOU for bleacher/seats and an MOU with Musco Lighting. A loan has been secured for the \$4.2M to pay back to the University. Altogether, the in-kind gifts for the berm and lighting are \$6M.

Spivey opened the meeting for public comments from about 15 coaches, athletes and alumni who came to speak in support of keeping men's track and field and cross country. During the lengthy discussions, it was noted that the team has a good record, its importance to South Carolina minority students and the value added to their education.

Natasha Hanna stated that the Board of Trustees did not make the decision to delete the program.

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Yurachek noted that after the December Board meeting, athletics was asked to eliminate \$250,000 from the athletic program. Various options were presented to DeCenzo and Edgar Dyer, which included taking money from athletic scholarships or across-the-board monies from each of our programs. It was felt that this would weaken all of athletics. The decision was thoroughly vetted.

Dyer informed everyone that Yurachek was an advocate for the men's track and field and cross country program. The team is part of the University family, but the decision to cut the program was an option we felt that we had to make. Track was the least visible program. Because of Title IX, women's track and field and cross country is untouchable in our movement towards parity. In addition to athletics, academic centers and administration also received cuts.

DeCenzo added that nobody likes to make these tough decisions. In the past seven years, we have made \$7M in cuts. Tuition can't be increased. We have to be realistic to what will affect 10,000 students. After the decision was made, it was felt that students should be informed before they left campus at the end of finals week and ensure the athletes that we will continue track for one additional year. Student scholarships will be honored throughout their time here on campus.

As there was no further business, Biggs moved to adjourn and Carlos Johnson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Larry. L. Biddle
Secretary/Treasurer