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Government Affairs Committee, February 13, 2014

Coastal Carolina University

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Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees

Government Affairs Committee
E. Craig Wall Jr., Board Room
February 13, 2014

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

Other Board Members Present: Mr. William S. Biggs, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson,* Mr. Marion B. Lee, Mr. Charles E. Lewis,* Mr. George E. Mullen, Dr. Oran P. Smith, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey and Mr. William E. Turner III*

Others Present: Ms. Stacie A. Bowie, Dr. J. Ralph Byington, Dr. Debbie Conner, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Ms. Martha S. Hunn, Mr. Mark Kelley, Ms. B. J. Landrum, Dr. Steven J. Madden, Mr. Timothy E. Meacham, Ms. Jennifer Packard, Mr. William M. Plate Jr., Dr. Barbara A. Ritter, Mr. Mark A. Roach, Dr. Michael H. Roberts, Ms. V. Chyrel Stalvey, and Mr. Gregory W. Thornburg

(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.

Lyles moved to approve the October 10, 2013 committee minutes. Gene Spivey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Kelley reported that the General Assembly is in the process of putting a budget together. The higher education proviso study regarding parity has been dropped. The proviso called for an inventory of state mandated reporting requirements and that was all. Another proviso study will take place to ascertain if cost savings are taking place in all universities. Coastal Carolina University welcomes this as we are in better shape than most.

Last year a proviso was accepted allowing Frances Marion to offer the Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program. This year Chairman Brian White wants to change the language in order to allow other universities to also have the program.

There will be no additional funding for higher education this year. South Carolina continues to be one of the lowest states in the United States providing funding for higher education. If the state doesn't help us with the cost, then we have no other choice but to raise tuition. In a couple of weeks, David DeCenzo will remind the state of this when he presents before the budget hearing in Columbia. Larry Lyles suggested that Kelley talk with Senator Harrell.

*Denotes jointed by teleconference.

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Some in Columbia feel that we don't need additional funding because we have been able to hold down tuition and make cost savings. Bill Biggs and Lyles are working with Chairman White.

DeCenzo stated that we cannot set tuition at this meeting as we normally do because we don't have enough information from the state at this time.

Senator Ray Cleary, Representative Liston Barfield, and Representative Tracy Edge have been very helpful with the budget.

It was suggested that the Trustees should receive a list of the members of the House Ways and Means Committee so that they could work with those they are familiar with.

The Joint Bond Review Committee made up of house and senate members will stay the same. However, after July 1, 2015, the Budget and Control Board that we go before will become a five-member panel called the State Fiscal Accountability Authority which is made up of the Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman of Senate Finance Committee. Bond issues will be reviewed with this committee.

In the past we have gone before the Budget and Control Board Agency for bond issues. This agency will become part of the Department of Administration.

Presently, Representative Barfield is on the Joint Bond Review Committee which has been most helpful to Coastal. He is not going to run for re-election, and we need to get someone from our area on this committee.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP is working with Paul Gayes and Mike Roberts to set up meetings with NOAA, U.S. Department of Energy and Homeland Security to find partnering opportunities and apprise them of Coastal Carolina. We also need funding for our digital library. Nelson Mullins worked hard to inform Washington senators about the vessel prior to getting the funding approved. A christening of the research vessel will be held in March at Georgetown, and we hope to have representatives from these agencies attending.

Roberts stated that there has been a change in the tone of how people view CCU now that we have a doctoral degree. DeCenzo added that discussions with the Department of Energy would not have been possible without the Ph.D. program, and its news exposure.

As there was no further business, Lyles moved to adjourn and Dan Moore seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey
for Larry L. Biddle
Secretary/Treasurer