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Government Affairs Committee, February 26, 2015

Coastal Carolina University

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Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees

Government Affairs Committee
HTC Center, Room 207
February 26, 2015

Committee Members Present: Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, Mr. Marion B. Lee, Mr. William L. Lyles Jr., Mr. Daniel W. R. Moore Sr., and Mr. George E. Mullen

Other Board Members Present: Mr. William S. Biggs, Mr. Fred F. DuBard III, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson, Mr. Marion B. Lee, Mr. Charles E. Lewis, Dr. Oran P. Smith, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey, Mr. H. Delan Stevens, Dr. Samuel W. Swad, Mr. Robert G. Templeton, and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Stacie A. Bowie, Dr. J. Ralph Byington, Ms. Meredith Canady, Dr. Debbie C. Conner, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Edgar L. Dyer, Ms. Martha S. Hunn, Ms. Beverly J. Landrum, Mr. Timothy E. Meacham, Mr. William M. Plate Jr., Ms. V. Chyrel Stalvey, and Ms. Kathy T. Watts

(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. Charles Perry of the Sun News was in attendance.)

Chairman Larry Lyles brought the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

Dan Moore made a motion to approve the October 23, 2014 committee minutes, and Marion Lee seconded. The motion carried.

President David DeCenzo reported that the Conway Innovation Center opened in January and has been well received. It will prove to be ultimately beneficial to the area.

DeCenzo read Mark Kelley's report:

In Washington, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough have been working in the following areas:

- Sending 29 grant opportunity notifications to Karen Fletcher
- Tracking comments a proposed new college rating system by the U.S. Department of Education. In the area of Marine and Wetlands, Studies they are continuing to work with the University's Dr. Gayes and Dr. Pietrafesa along with Dr. Carbone (UCAR) and Tom Fahy (Capital Meteorologies) on policy positions of the Weather Coalition pertaining to weather data collection initiatives.
- Tracking and coordinating with congress on Weather Forecasting Improvement Act

Government Affairs Committee
February 26, 2015

- Other bills being tracked that are of interest to Coastal Carolina University:
"Repay Act" dealing with an income based formula for repayment for students that will assist new borrowers of Federal Direct Loans and "Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency Act" which if passed would simplify the Federal Student Aid Programs.
- Issues being monitored and awaiting bill filing are those dealing with Campus Accountability and Safety Act of last session, Pres. Obama's campus sexual assault on campuses initiative, textbook to digital media initiative that was introduced last session in S. 1704/ H.R. 3538 the "Affordable College Textbook Act" that may have competitive grants included if passed
- Monitoring any changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs law that all colleges must offer in-state rates to all veterans or their dependents by July 1, 2015
- Assisting Tom Mullikin with speakers for the Natural Gas Symposium being held at Coastal Carolina in April
- Working to find internships for Graduate Students in Federal Departments

Columbia Report:

In the current session, the House is proceeding on the 2015-2016 budget bill. The bill has passed the Ways and Means Committee with a bond bill attached to it. If successful, Coastal Carolina will have \$10 million for the Science Building in the bill. The budget also has fully funded the insurance increase for State workers.

The bad news is that after major attempts by the President, Kelley, and even budget request signed by all the Horry, Georgetown, Dillon and Marion House members to increase our recurring fund, we were not given any increase. Kelley expressed his disappointment to the Chairman of Ways and Means, as this was our only ask. Plans are to keep up the good fight for what is right and fair for our students and this University. He will continue to work with our delegation to amend the budget bill in the House before it goes to the Senate. Senators Rankin and Cleary are working to convince Sen. Leatherman that an increase is needed and deserved.

New budget provisos as passed by Ways & Means:

- Report Lottery Funds expenditures by institutions.
- Students transferring from a two-year institution to a four year institution that have received an Associates Degree in Arts or Science must receive 60 credit hours by the receiving institution and all general education courses must be waived. Policies must be in place by May of 2016 and implementation in Fall of 2016.
- Allow Palmetto and Life Scholarship recipients to use a portion of their scholarships for summer classes.
- Quarterly reporting of Other Funds expenditures and penalties for spending over approved limit.
- Annually report graduation data in terms of true freshman cohort through graduation from same university.
- CHE to study and determine the feasibility of standardizing in-state tuition rates.
- CHE to work with institutions and Student Loan Corporation to establish the amount of student debt and default rate.
- Institutions when requesting other funded FTEs must ensure revenue exists for salary, fringe and the ability to handle future pay increases.

**Government Affairs Committee
February 26, 2015**

- Exempt institutions from pay increases for Other Funded employees when the State passes a pay raise for State employees.
- Institutions must report, based on standardized formula, the allocation of the 4% waivers by October 1. Waivers can only be used for students with 3.0 GPA and a minimum of 12 credit hours with a penalty for non-compliance.
- Calculation for and report of Abatements must be reported to CHE by October 1. Reports must include student geo-origin, class of student, other financial awards, if the student is an athlete, and how many semesters they received the waiver.
- Institutions must report to House and Senate by November 1 the total amount of outstanding debt, along with all pertinent information on the debt.
- Institutions must offer a freshman course regarding personal finance which must be a part of the freshman general core curriculum.
- CHE working with institutions to determine a uniform deadline for acceptance letters to be issued for incoming freshman.
- CHE is not allowed to issue a new program for any institution until that institution has had a comprehensive evaluation of all programs to determine essential need and value to the students and institution.
- Institutions must strive to attain a goal of increasing retention by 2% over the next two years and increase four-year graduation rate by 3% over four years.
- University presidents' supplements must be approved by Board of Trustees and reported to the Department of Administration (B&CB).
- University presidents not allowed to receive bonuses if their salary is over \$100,000.

Other bills being worked on:

- Force USC and Clemson to pay a stipend to their athletes. The language is such that any university with a gross income of \$50 million or more would be included. Kelley has talked to Senator Kimpson and been assured that was not his intent. After talking to staff, they have agreed and are working to amend the bill to apply to only institutions whose Gross Sporting Revenues exceed \$50 million. The bill is not expected to pass.
- Allow students to be represented by an attorney during a disciplinary hearing. This bill is in subcommittee this week and hope to have it defeated at this hearing. Coastal's Student Affairs personnel along with other universities are assisting to educate the subcommittee members on the consequences of passing this legislation.
- Allow veterans moving to South Carolina exemption from being assessed the out-of-state tuition rate for the first year. This bill has momentum in light of the new federal mandate and should pass.

Bills of interest that Kelley is tracking but is not expected to go far: requirement for all students to read the Constitution; establishing Board of Regents; equal pay for all government workers; \$10.10 minimum wage; no fees or fines by Administrative Action; concealed weapons on campus; higher education funding based on base student cost; higher education funding based on formula ; and, student religious organizations given same rights as other organizations on campus.

DeCenzo stated that the rumor in Columbia is that budget monies will go for roads this year.

Government Affairs Committee
February 26, 2015

Oran Smith attended President DeCenzo's 3.5 hour budget presentation for House Ways and Means. He did a great job and legislators asked him several questions.

DeCenzo said our South Carolina students are not receiving nearly as much from the state for education as other schools in the state. In spite of our appropriations, we have been successful. Our out-of-state students are taking up the slack for the state of S.C.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Charles E. Lewis
Secretary/Treasurer