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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

March 20, 2009

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mrs. Amy E. Stone, Chair; Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Williams W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman; and Mr. Samuel R. Foster II, Vice Chairman. Dr. C. Edward Floyd was absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mr. Herbert C. Adams; Mr. James Bradley, Mr. Mark W. Buyck, Jr.; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr.; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; and Mr. Othniel H. Wienges, Jr.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and Vice President for Strategic Planning William T. Moore; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard W. Kelly; Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer William F. Hogue; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis Pruitt; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Department of Student Life, Jerry T. Brewer; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Chair of the Faculty Senate Robert G. Best; SGA Advisor, USC Aiken, Luke Masseur; Director, Academic and Student Support Services, Systems Affairs and Extended University, David Hunter; Director of Public Information, USC Lancaster, Shana Funderburk; Director of Student Life and Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor, USC Lancaster, Laura Humphrey; SGA Advisor and Associate Dean and Director, USC Salkehatchie, Jane Brewer; SGA Advisor and Laboratory Instructor of Biology, USC Sumter, Dan Keirnan; SGA Advisor and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, USC Sumter, Lynwood Watts; Past President of the Student Government Association, USC Columbia, Andrew T. Gaeckle; Horry County Councilman James R. Frazier; guest of Board member Chuck Allen, Josh Allen; Assistant to the President and Athletics Director John D. Gregory; University Technology Services Production Manager, Justin Johnson; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone, and Karen Tweedy.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: Vice President Logan Sharp; USC Beaufort: Vice President Abby Moonen and

student Rachel Sopp; USC Columbia: President Meredith Ross, Vice President Alex Stroman, Secretary/Treasurer Ebbie Yazdani; USC Lancaster: President Brittany Volker, Secretary Tristin Blount, and Senator Brittany Kramer; USC Salkehatchie: President Ashley Rohde and Vice President Elect Joseph Marketos; USC Sumter: Secretary/Treasurer Amber Piver, students Evelyn Batey and Hannan McLeod; USC Union: President Jessica Braxton, and Vice President Jordan Hagan and Student Tyler Shugart; USC Upstate: President Mark Wartenberger.

I. Small Group Discussions over Lunch: Prior to the meeting, a luncheon was held and students had the opportunity to talk with Trustees and University officials at individual tables.

Following the luncheon, Chair Stone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She invited Board members, administrators, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. There were no members of the media in attendance.

Chair Stone stated that the agenda had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda had been circulated to Committee members; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

II. Changing Campuses to Columbia - The System Student Experience: Chair Stone called on Dr. David B. Hunter, Director of Academic and Student Support Services, who gave an overview of the mission of the department. He also gave a detailed report of the System Student experience based on qualitative research conducted with a focus group regarding why they migrated to the Columbia campus and some advice they would give to other potential students. Additionally, he shared statistics on campus transfers.

Dr. Hunter stated that the "eight campus system" included the "Flagship Campus" - USC Columbia; three "Senior" campuses - Aiken, Beaufort and Upstate; and the four "Regional" campuses focused primarily on the first two years of college.

In fall 2008, total students in the USC System were 41,518. He provided the following breakdown:

USC Columbia: 19,765 undergraduate and 6,218 graduate students

USC Senior campus undergraduate enrollments:

Aiken	3,078
Beaufort	1,502
Upstate	4,999

USC Regional campus enrollments:

Lancaster	1,666
Salkehatchie	965
Sumter	1,235
Union	367

In Fall 2007, 380 students moved from the Regional and Senior campuses to Columbia. Overall, transfers to Columbia totaled 1,118; this figure did not include the 380 students.

This migration represented 58 percent of movement within the state by Regional and Senior campus students to all South Carolina Public baccalaureate institutions.

An additional 211 moved to the Columbia campus in Spring 2008; the total transfers were 621.

Dr. Hunter contributed the increase in students as a result of the efforts of the System Affairs Office which was directly responsible for providing transition services to these "change of campus" students. Dr. Hunter referred to the students as "system transfers" because they were from campuses outside of Columbia, and were not technically transferring to the University but migrating from campus to another of the same institution.

Also, he stated that the "system" students represented 25 percent of the population that was new to the Columbia campus.

Dr. Hunter reported that in the 2000 cohort, 334 Senior and Regional campus students migrated to USC Columbia. They left their respective campuses after having earned 66 hours. The first semester GPA at the Columbia campus was 2.57. The latest number from Enrollment Management was a 2.8 and by the time of graduation their GPA was 3.0.

He stated that a comparison graduation rate of students, four academic years later, reflected the following data:

	<u>Graduated</u>	<u>Still Enrolled</u>	<u>Left w/o Degree</u>
System Transfer	63%	6%	31%
All Transfers	54%	9%	37%

Dr. Hunter stated that research had been conducted on a focus group of 13 students, out of a potential pool of 444, changing campuses to Columbia in either spring 2006 or fall 2006. A profile of the students was as follows:

Gender/Race: 8 Females/ 4 African American  
5 Males/ 1 African American

Age: Five were 19, three were 20, two each were 21 and 22, and one was 49.

	<u>Fall 06</u>	
Campus represented:	Aiken - 5	67
	Beaufort - 1	41
	Lancaster - 4	76
	Salkehatchie - 1	26
	Sumter - 1	99
	Union - 0	4
	Upstate - 1	60

Dr. Hunter gave the following report based on research from the focus group:

- Reasons to attend system campus: Students wanted to establish a strong foundation in a local, small, economical environment.
- Reasons to change campus: Students needed to change to Columbia for their desired academic programs because they had, for the most part, exhausted course options locally.
- Expectations and actualities of USC Columbia: Not surprisingly, almost all referred to the significantly larger size of the Columbia campus, both overall and in terms of class size. Some reported being "concerned," "nervous," and "scared" about the impending change. Several thought Columbia classes would be harder. Among those who did, some reported that this was indeed the case, while others said they had been pleasantly surprised that they were well prepared for the courses at Columbia. Several students mentioned that they expected being on a larger campus would yield more social opportunities.
- Experiences - comparisons between previous campus and USC Columbia:
  - Positive - developing a different group of friends, more to do, more choices and variety, better advisement, further along with career plans, good professors, and the conclusion that a larger community was actually "small, but good."
  - Negative - lack of interaction with professors both in and out of the classroom; less interaction, more lecture in the classroom; and having a bad advisor.
  - Neutral - responses included one student commenting that professors at both campuses were interested in helping and another reporting that interaction with professors was about the same.
- Expectations & actuality of involvement: Many did get involved in tutoring, Transfer Mentor Program, academic major organization, football games, and informal social opportunities. Those who did not seemed to approach the Columbia campus in a "linear" strategy. In essence, they wanted to get their respective academics in good shape before pursuing new academic engagement.
- The process of changing campuses - Where did students get their information?: All forms of communication and opportunities were listed, such as email, attending orientation, website, telephone, "live" advisement, VIP, and "snail" mail. Several stated that they did not remember getting information from anyone. As to whether the information came from Columbia or their previous campus, students' responses seemed to indicate a "mixed bag" about evenly split but in some cases it was hard for them to recall or distinguish.

- Advice from these students to future change of campus students: Multiple answers were provided to this question. They range from the practical, "Figure out parking," to the expressive, "It's going to be different and you're probably going to be scared at first." In between these extremes were the following: figure out advisement, come to campus to get a feel for it, draw on friends already on the Columbia campus for help, figure out financial aid, make sure you are academically ready, don't transfer for social reasons, file change-of-campus/paperwork early, really focus on your living arrangements on or off-campus, and what it will mean to live away from parents.

Dr. Hunter distributed a handout of the student's advice and stated it would be helpful to students who might be considering transferring.

Dr. Hunter stated that other services provided to the students were: Welcome Letter, Transfer Mentoring, Gamecock Connection, Bridge Day, Campus Presentations, System Office advocacy/"legwork", and he was on Facebook.

Dr. Hunter distributed a second handout called "CAN DO" which could be used as a transition guide for students.

Dr. Hunter asked student leaders to help spread the word that, " if you are moving to another campus, think about it as a freshman because we are a "robust, sophisticated system with our own programs, and track yourself correctly as far as your program of study."

Also, Chair Stone encouraged SGA representatives to share this information with students at the respective campuses so they would be aware of services available to assist them in their transition.

Chair Stone stated that the report was received as information.

III. Report from University System Campuses: Chair Stone called on each of the campuses to provide a brief update of their campus activities.

A. USC Aiken: SGA Vice President Logan Sharp expressed sadness and that USC Aiken was mourning the death of fellow student/basketball player, Javonte Clanton. He requested prayer for his family, friends and the students.

Mr. Sharp reported that USC Aiken hosted a dance marathon and raised over \$4,000. Over 120 students participated. Also, twenty-one students participated in building Habitat for Humanity houses for the less fortunate in Florida as an alternative to spring break.

Mr. Sharp stated that USC Aiken was ranked #1 by *USC News and World Report* in their category. Both the men's and women's basketball teams played in championship tournaments. The men's golf team ranked #1 in the country; and the men's and women's tennis teams were also performing well.

Finally, discussions had taken place with senior administration regarding budget challenges for this year and possible solutions.

B. USC Beaufort: SGA Vice President Abbey Moonan reported that the Student Center would be completed by 2013. The Center consisted of a dining center, bookstore, student lounge, exercise room, and tennis, basketball and volleyball courts.

The baseball team was fifth in the League, and the golf team placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in tournaments.

Other events hosted were: Global Awareness Week, Research Day, and Spring Campus Day.

C. USC Columbia: SGA President Meredith Ross reported that there were several new initiatives for the upcoming year as well as several carry-over initiatives from the past year. Specifically, they would pilot the Farmer's Market and Cocky's Caravan, the student's bus service program.

Ms. Ross stated that she, Mr. Gaeckle, and members of the Congressional Advisory Board had traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby their delegation on issues such as textbook prices, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, and underage drinking. SGA also looked forward to participating in Carolina Day at the State House.

In addition, the Mutual Expectations Program would be piloted in April. This program would foster more dialogue between faculty and students on issues of concern to each of them.

SGA was involved in community service. Ms. Ross stated that Columbia had one of the highest homeless populations for a city of its size in the country. She stated that students had a responsibility to reach out to the homeless people and to devote their time and talent.

Finally, the "Second Servings" project would take leftover food from dining halls and give to Harvest Hope or other food banks.

D. USC Lancaster: Secretary Tristin Blount reported that USC Lancaster had added three more sports teams, such as men's and women's tennis and men's baseball.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Annual Honors Day was held and approximately 450 high school students attended from nearly 14 schools. In addition, USC Lancaster had awarded \$14,800 in scholarships to 28 students representing 10 schools.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, SGA in conjunction with TRIO, hosted Career Day for Upward Bound and USC Lancaster students. Over 15 vendors from the Lancaster and Charlotte area set up exhibits to provide more information about their professions.

USC Lancaster received a grant from the National Society of Leadership and Success to establish a leadership honor society on campus. The society would provide a yearlong speakers series, leadership training, and establish peer groups among the students that foster leadership development.

In closing, USC Lancaster and Lancaster County's Habitat for Humanity had formed a partnership; and SGA would be working with the newly "re-formed" executive board to raise money and build houses.

E. USC Salkehatchie: SGA President Ashley Rohde reported that the men's basketball team finished as co-champs in Region 10. Other campus activities included Souper Bowl and Black History Month events.

In April, students would participate in the "Great American Clean-up" and host the "Professor of the Year" event.

The Allendale campus received a new digital sign at the entrance to campus and Walterboro's student lounge had been renovated.

Finally, the commencement speaker for their campus would be Mr. Joe Winkelsas. He was a USC Salkehatchie alumnus who pitched in the major leagues for the Atlanta Braves and the Milwaukee Brewers.

F. USC Sumter: SGA Secretary/Treasurer Amber Piver reported that USC Sumter held a Food Drive, inauguration would be held in April, and SGA would host the "Teacher of the Year" event.

Ms. Piver stated that the campus had been impacted by the budget cuts; specially, reduced lighting on campus and reduction in library hours.

In closing, she stated that students were opposed to anything other than a "modest" tuition increase; and many were opposed to an increase in the technology fee.

G. USC Union: Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Shugart reported that enrollment at USC Union had increased 9.5 percent, and applications for next fall had increased 38 percent.

Recently, USC Union broke ground on the new Robotics Center which was a joint venture between USC Union and Spartanburg Community College. This initiative would provide an opportunity for people to receive workforce training in the technology of robotics. USC Union would offer general education courses and Spartanburg Community College would offer the technical courses. This initiative would help the community as it moved away from the textile industry into the field of robotic technology. Classes were scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009.

USC Union had begun an intramural sports program, and plans were underway to begin an Army ROTC program.

H. USC Upstate: SGA President Mark Wartenberger reported that USC Upstate recently held the dedication of the Health Education Complex; students were honored to have President Pastides as their special guest. The facility was 150,000 square feet and would house the School of Education, School of Nursing, the Bookstore, Admissions, and Enrollment Services. This facility included a 60,000 square foot Wellness Center, with an Olympic-size pool and indoor track and basketball courts.

USC Upstate was in the process of completing construction on the second campus dormitory, the Magnolia House.

In closing, USC Upstate was the first public university in South Carolina to receive a "Tree Campus USA" award. Also, the campus was now smoke-free.

Chair Stone thanked students for their informative reports, and stated that the reports were received as information.

There being no other matters to come before the Committee, Chair Stone declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp  
Secretary