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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

March 15, 2019

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019, in the Alumni Center's C. Edward Floyd Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr., Chairman; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; Mr. Thad Westbrook; Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Chairman; and Mr. Hubert F. Mobley, Board Vice Chairman; with Mr. Charles H. Williams joining by telephone. Mr. Chuck Allen was absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mr. C. Dan Adams; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Richard A. Jones Jr.; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; and Ms. Molly M. Spearman; with Mr. Robert F. Dozier Jr. and Mr. A.C. "Bubba" Fennell III joining by telephone.

Also present were: President of USC Lettermen's Association Patrick Keegan; Columbia Faculty Senate Chairman Marco Valtorta; and Columbia Student Government President Taylor Wright.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Provost Joan Gabel; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President for Information Technology Doug Foster; Vice President for Research Prakash Nagarkatti; Vice President for Human Resources Caroline Agardy; Vice President for Facilities and Transportation Derrick Huggins; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Chief Audit Executive Pam Doran; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Upstate Chancellor Brendan Kelly; University Treasurer Pat Lardner; College of Arts and Sciences Dean Lacy Ford; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Chief Financial Officer, Athletics Department, Jeff Tallant; Executive Associate Athletics Director for Sport and Risk Management Judy Van Horn; Senior Associate Athletics Director for Academics and Student Development Maria Hickman; University Budget Director Joe Sobieralski; Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance and Medical Business Affairs Jeffrey L. Perkins III; Director of Public Relations Jeff Stensland; Director of State Government and Community Relations Derrick Meggie;

Associate Provost for Academic Programs Tena B. Crews; Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associate Provost for Inclusion, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, John H. Dozier; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Katie Sites, Office of the Provost; USC Columbia student Campbell Mims; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Terri Saxon and Ina Wilson.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Whittle called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. Secretary Heath confirmed those Trustees participating by telephone. Mr. Hickman introduced Hannah Dear with *The Daily Gamecock*; John Whittle with *The Big Spur*; and Chris Clark with *Gamecock Central*.

Chairman Whittle said notice of the meeting had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been provided to the committee; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

II. Athletics Director's Report

Chairman Whittle called on Mr. Tanner who introduced Lettermen's Association President Patrick Keegan, who was invited to join the Trustees at the table.

Mr. Tanner reported on the student-athletes' academic achievements. The Fall 2018 departmental Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.33 set a record for the highest semester GPA and made it the 24th consecutive semester with a departmental GPA of at least a 3.0. Achieving the highest GPA of 3.61 was beach volleyball; with men's swimming & diving, and football earning their highest GPAs in program history at 3.43 and 3.02 respectively.

Other academic highlights for the semester included: 17 of 18 teams recording a 3.0 or higher GPA; 79 student-athletes making the President's List (4.0 GPA); 239 student-athletes making the Dean's List (3.5 GPA or 3.25 GPA for freshman); 100 student-athletes making the SEC Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll (3.0 GPA), leading the SEC for the 11th time in 13 years; and 438 student-athletes making the Fall Athletics Director Honor Roll (3.0 GPA).

Mr. Tanner reported 142 student-athletes earned their degrees during the past 12 months, including 26 who graduated in December 2018. Gamecocks earned a 94% Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for all teams, placing 2nd in the SEC. Men's and women's basketball achieved 100% GSR; and football achieved a 93% GSR.

Mr. Tanner recognized and thanked Senior Associate Athletics Director Maria Hickman for her accomplishments as the person responsible for academic and student development at the Dodie Academic Enrichment Center.

Mr. Tanner cited statistics in support of the claim that Gamecock fans are the best. Women's basketball ranked 1st in the nation in average attendance followed by women's soccer at 2nd, men's soccer at 6th, and football at 17th.

A total of 19,258 students attended at least one sporting event this year, representing 63% of the undergraduate student body. Also, a total of 9,587 women's basketball; 7,755 men's basketball; 5,363 baseball; and 1,147 softball season tickets were sold.

Mr. Tanner reported on the following athletic achievements:

- Baseball earned a Palmetto point after taking two of three games from Clemson. Former Gamecocks Jackie Bradley Jr. and Steve Pearce helped the Boston Red Sox win the 2018 World Series Championship.
- Women's Basketball's 2019 signing class is ranked #1 in the nation by ESPNW.
- Women's Golf team member Ainhoa Olarra was invited to the first-ever Augusta National Women's Amateur at Augusta National Golf Club.
- Men's Tennis team member Paul Jubb, the highest-ranked singles player since 2001, moved into 4th place on the Oracle/ITA singles rankings.
- Women's Tennis is currently undefeated in the SEC at 4 and 0, and is ranked #7 in the nation in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Poll. Team members Mia Horvit and Ingrid Gamarra Martins claimed the #7 doubles position in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Poll; with Ms. Martins climbing to the #9 position for singles play.
- Track & Field won the women's 4x400m relay national championship at the 2019 NCAA Indoor Championships; and Quincy Hall captured the men's 400m title at the 2019 SEC Indoor Championships.
- Volleyball advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 16 years.

Mr. Tanner shared a video of Gamecock athletes in action in Fall 2018.

Mr. Tanner presented a brief facilities update including pictures of the completed Long Family Football Operations Center; the Indoor Track & Field facility, the men's basketball player locker room, the beach volleyball locker room; and an upgraded scoreboard at Founder's Park. He said the new Indoor

Track & Field facility is the third in the SEC to include a 200m bank-track, making Gamecocks eligible to host future SEC tournaments. A new score board similar to the one at Founder's Park is planned for the softball field.

Mr. Tanner concluded his presentation by showing a video of the Long Family Football Operations Center.

Chairman Whittle called for questions. Trustee Floyd asked about the annual operational cost for the new Football Operations Center and Mr. Tallant responded between \$700,000 and \$750,000.

Chairman Whittle noted that the operational cost would be offset by relocation of athletic offices to the new facility from other facilities.

Chairman Whittle said this report was received as information.

III. Southeastern Conference Update

Chairman Whittle called on President Pastides, who said he was honored to serve as SEC President, the greatest conference in the nation, which includes over 8,600 student-athletes.

President Pastides noted the SEC athletics highlights:

- Four men's basketball teams are ranked in the nation's top 25 this year and set a record with eight men's teams in the NCAA tournament last year;
- An SEC school has played in the NCAA women's basketball national title game in the past two years, with the Lady Gamecocks winning the 2017 title;
- Ten football teams appeared in bowl games last season with six teams playing on New Year's Day; additionally, SEC football teams played in the championship game four out of the past five games (no other conference comes close to that record);
- Nine softball teams are ranked in the top 25 and all 13 SEC teams were in the NCAA tournament for the past two years;
- SEC baseball teams set a record for all conferences with 11 teams in the top 25;
- The SEC led all conferences in the Learfield Directors' Cup with seven schools in the top 20 for the past two years.

Among the SEC academic highlights President Pastides reported that last year 57 SEC teams set a national record with APRs in the top 10% of their sport; student-athletes conducted 60,000 hours of community service; and more than 5,400 SEC student-athletes received financial support totaling more than \$173.9 million.

He also reported the SEC is #1 in fan attendance and television viewership.

President Pastides discussed topics covered in the SEC meeting he chaired the day before in Nashville, Tennessee. He said the SEC is moving toward upgrading security at all major athletic events. This will give each university the opportunity, working with their law enforcement and local law enforcement, to define where metal detectors will be placed at event facilities. Since new gambling legislation provides states the option to allow betting on college athletic events, the President said the SEC will monitor the situation. He noted that although South Carolina is not one of the states to allow gambling, the Gamecocks will play in states that do.

The SEC Executive Committee voted to support the four-team football playoffs, mainly due to player welfare; to study football scheduling with more rotations relative to interdivisional competition; and to recommend to the NCAA changing the football overtime rule to no more than four, then a two-point conversion, the President reported.

President Pastides said televised athletic events are a significant part of the SEC's revenue distribution. Except for viewers over 55 years of age, he said live television viewership is down eight percent in five years. Cable and satellite subscriptions are falling moderately causing worries for AT&T, Comcast, Charter, and DISH, who serve 75% of the nation. He noted "athletic viewership is not dying, just shifting to other digital providers like, HULU," who buy athletic programs. With growth through digital platforms, President Pastides said SEC revenue projections appear solid for the short-term future.

President Pastides said the best news of all is that the SEC is the most popular conference in the country as demonstrated by research showing the SEC has 31 million fans, with nearly half outside of the conference's defined region. Also, SEC fans are younger and more multicultural than most conferences.

At 11 years, President Pastides is tied with Vanderbilt University's president as the longest serving president in the SEC. Serving as the president of the SEC and as an NCAA board chair have been grand privileges, he said. He added that he was "unabashedly optimistic" about the University's future under Athletics Director Ray Tanner and because of the Trustees' amazing and strategic support of Gamecock athletics.

Chairman Whittle said this update was received as information.

III. Palmetto College Update: USC Sumter

Chairman Whittle called on Palmetto College Chancellor Elkins, who said USC Sumter is proposing the addition of men's golf and women's soccer beginning in the next academic year. She said the addition of these two sports will result in a full complement for both men and women's sports

including men and women's soccer, golf and tennis; men's baseball; and women's softball. Also, USC Sumter is a founding member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE); a very a popular new program, with over 130 member schools and 3,000 plus student-athletes. She said NACE's goal is to provide a competitive environment for students to participate in a variety of games by computer, across the intercollegiate landscape.

Chancellor Elkins said, as is usually the case, the addition of new sports over the past five years has had a significant impact on enrollment. Enrollment of athletes has grown significantly, and overall enrollment is at its highest headcount and FTE since 2011. From a financial perspective, the USC Sumter Athletics Department has ended each of the past four years with a positive fund balance as revenues have continued to increase while expenses have remained below revenue, for a net positive result, she said.

Chairman Whittle said this update was received as information.

Chairman Whittle called for a motion to enter Executive Session for proposed contractual matters related to athletics. Mr. von Lehe so moved and Mr. Lister seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

Chairman Whittle invited the following persons to remain: Trustees, President Pastides, Secretary Heath, members of the President's Executive Council, Mr. Tallant, Ms. Doran, Dr. Valtorta and Mr. Wright.

Executive Session

Return to Open Session

V. Other Matters

Chairman Whittle called for any other matters to come before the committee.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Whittle declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.
Secretary