

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES HYBRID MEETING**  
**ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER/OPEN SESSION:**

Chairman Douglas Gantt called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He noted that proper notice was given regarding the meeting to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda was circulated to the members (Attachment 1). Trustee Jameel Allen gave the invocation.

**Board Members Present:** Jameel Allen, Louveta Dicks, Ronald Friday, Douglas Gantt, Rodney Jenkins, Monica Scott, Wilbur Shuler, Macie Smith, Daniel Varat, Starlee Alexander, Darrell Johnson, William Oden, and Robert Reese. *Ex-Officio Members:* Hank Allen, Lauren Fraiser, Franklin Pressley, Alexander Thierry.

**Administrators & Others:** *President, Alexander Conyers; Provost, Frederick Evans; CEO of Finance, Gerald Hubbard Smalls; Chief of Staff, Shondra Abraham; Outside General Counsel, Pete Balthazor; Board's Outside General Counsel, Nashiba Boyd; Vice President for Athletics, Dr. Nathan Cochran; 1890 Research Administrator Delbert Foster; Vice President for Student Affairs, Tamara Jeffries-Jackson; Vice President Institutional Advancement & University Relations, Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; Facilities Director, Ken Davis; VP Enrollment Management, Dr. Manicia Finch (via Zoom); SACSCOC Liaison, Valerie Goodwin; Chief Information Officer, Mr. Eric Ham; Associate Provost Dr. David Staten; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Dr. John Lee; Executive Director of 1890 Research and Extension, Louis Whitesides; Administrative Coordinator, Chrystal Rogers; and Administrative Coordinator and Recorder, Eartha Mosley; many other participants who were in attendance via Zoom.*

**Media Present:** *The T&D Reporter, Dionne Gleaton via Zoom.*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gantt asked for a motion to approve the agenda. ***Trustee Macie Smith made the motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Monica Scott seconded the motion. Motion approved.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *Attachment 2*

Chairman Gantt asked for the approval of the minutes from March 1, 2024. ***Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Trustee Rodney Jenkins. Motion approved.***

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chair commended the Charleston Alumni Chapter for hosting an amazing National Alumni Convention in July in Charleston, SC. It was very well attended with the young alumni in great numbers. He thanked his team for keeping the University first when engaging with the supporters as he has received many positive comments regarding the institution as he travels. He encouraged the trustees to continue to work together; what's important is the legacy of the University and keeping the students first that the trustees will find themselves very successful.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Gantt stated the board will proceed to hold its election for Chairman and Vice-Chair with Outside General Counsel conducting the election. Pete Balthazor read Article V. Section 3 of the bylaws and shared the procedures for the election. He continued by stating the floor was open for nominations from the floor for Chairman. Trustee Monica Scott nominated Douglas Gantt; it was seconded by Trustee Jameel Allen. With no other nominations, the vote was unanimous. The floor was then open for nominations for Vice-Chair. Trustee Jameel Allen nominated Macie Smith as Vice-Chair; it was seconded by Trustee Monica Scott. With no other nominations, the vote was unanimous. Chairman Gantt thanked the board for another opportunity to serve the University. He noted that it was with great pride and honor that he held the position.

### **PRESIDENT'S UPDATES** *Attachment 3*

President Conyers began his presentation by distributing a booklet with 101 points of pride from the Division of Academic Affairs under Dr. Frederick Evans's leadership. He recognized and thanked Ms. Stacey Gregg, our Director of Procurement; she serves on the National Board for Procurement, which publishes its magazine for more than 3,000 colleges and universities. She was instrumental in getting SC State's Sojourner Truth Hall to be the first HBCU featured on the magazine cover.

President Conyers shared highlights on the following events: Investiture Ceremony for Columbia College President John Dozier (1<sup>st</sup> African American and SC State Alumnus); Pizza with President – First Year Male Students; Faculty and Staff Appreciation Movie on Goff Street at Claflin University Theater; and his trip to The Gambia.

He welcomed his newest cabinet member, Attorney Nashiba Boyd, who has over 20 years of years of experience as a legal professional. Received her bachelor's degree from Clemson University and JD from Howard University. Has experience in providing advice and counsel regarding contracts and employment matters and negotiating contracts. In addition, she will oversee the Human Resources Department. Mr. Balthazor thanked the University for the opportunity to serve.

General Assembly Record Funding: Truth Hall Renovation \$15M; Student Center Renovation and Expansion \$25M; Turner Hall Replacement \$54M; Library Replacement \$30M. With the influx of State funding, the Capital Campaign can focus on items the State will not pay for, such as Oliver C. Dawson Stadium. Also, with \$30M for the library replacement, a wing could be dedicated to the Honors College. New Funding of \$4.2M for Academic Scholarships (FY24-25) and 1890 FY 24-25 Funding of \$13M, most in school history.

2025 Major Appropriations Requests are as follows: Academic Community Convocation Center \$65M; Health and Wellness Academic Training and Learning Center \$40M; Capital Renovation and Sustainability Plan \$33M; Nance Hall Renovation \$15M; and Enhancing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) \$3M. The first meeting will be held on October 17, 2024, with the Governor's staff.

Recent Grants Approved: SC Department of Public Health \$1.7M, Chairman Gantt expressed that Pfizer has voiced interest in helping; National Institute of Health – Prostate Cancer Research \$715K awarded to Dr. Courtney Thomas; Research Partnership Workforce Training Programs-Battelle Savannah River Alliance \$8M, Mr. Malone was involved; Expansion of Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure in South Carolina (SCUFP) \$5M, Dr. Whitesides and his team was instrumental; SC State Metaversity Project \$2.8M, Dr. Whitesides and his team were thanked and Counseling Children & Adolescents with Disabilities (C-CAD) \$1.2M, awarded to Dr. Bridget Hollis Staten.

President Conyers concluded with high points on Customer Service Training; SC Enrollment; 2024 White House Scholars, Alexis Day and Aaron Smith; the creation of Mental Health Pods/Zen Dens across the campus; current priorities: Transition to New Facilities Contract, Donor Solicitation for Capital Campaign; Student Success; Housing Solution; New Construction and Safety.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Academic Affairs Committee**

The Committee Chair, Dr. Lovetta Dicks gave a summary from their committee meeting. Afterward, she shared resolutions from the committee for approval; she asked Dr. Fredrick Evans to present the resolutions. ***Dr. Evans presented the four resolutions below to the Board of Trustees for approval.***

1. *General Education Curriculum (GEC)*
2. *Middle-Level Education Program Revision*
3. *New PB Certificate Program in Project Management*
4. *New Courses: Project Procurement Contract Management; Project Risk Analysis and Quality Management; Project Planning, Scheduling, and Cost Control; Leadership, Communication, and Ethics in Project Management; Introduction to Project Management*

*The resolutions above were approved by the Board of Trustees.*

Trustee Alexander Theirry gave a brief report from the Faculty Senate.

**Finance and Administration/Operations Committee**

The Committee Chair, Monica Scott, deferred to Dr. Smalls, who provided a summary from the committee and *presented the two resolutions below to the Board of Trustees for approval.*

1. *2024-2025 Budget*
2. *New Facilities Management Contract*

*The resolutions above were approved by the Board of Trustees.*

Trustee Franklin Pressley also provided a short report from the Staff Senate.

**Public Relations/Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee**

The Committee Chair, Jameel Allen deferred to Dr. John Lee, and Mrs. Sonja Bellamy for a review from the committee, and Dr. Lee *presented the two resolutions below to the Board of Trustees for approval.*

1. *Capital Campaign Start Date*
2. *SC State University & SC State University Foundation MOU*

*The resolutions above were approved by the Board of Trustees.*

**Public Service and Agriculture Committee**

The Committee Chair, Starlee Alexander deferred to Dr. Louis Whitesides for an overview from the committee.

**Sponsored Research and Information Technology Committee**

The Committee Chair, Ronald Friday enlightened the board with a review from the committee.

**Student Affairs and Athletics Committee**

The Committee Chair, Hank Allen, provided a short summation from the committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair Macie Smith mentioned that concessions were made during COVID regarding public comments which allowed persons to email their questions or comments in; however, the board would be reverting to the bylaws, which states that persons need to be present at the board meeting to express any concerns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Gantt asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. *Trustee Monica Scott made the motion to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Trustee Jameel Allen. Motion approved. The following were asked to join the Executive Session: President Conyers, Dr. Nathan Cochran, Mr. Hank Allen, Attorney Pete Balthrazo, and Attorney Nashiba Boyd.*

**OPEN SESSION RECONVENED**

Chairman Gantt asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. *Trustee Rodney Jenkins made the motion to go into an Open Session. It was seconded by Trustee Jameel Allen. Motion approved. There were no votes or actions taken while in Executive Session, per the Chairman.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other matters to discuss, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. *Trustee Jameel Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Wilbur Shuler. Motion Approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Submitted by,



Eartha Mosley  
Recorder

Attachments

- 1 – Agenda
- 2 – Minutes
- 3 – President’s Update
- 4 - Academic Affairs Resolutions -4
- 5 – Finance -2
- 6 – Institutional Advancement - 2