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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 9, 2021

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 1:10 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021 in the Pastides Alumni Center Ballroom and by Microsoft Teams video conference.

Members present were Dr. C. Dorn Smith III, Board Chair; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook, Board Vice Chair; Mr. Alex English; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Brian C. Harlan; Mr. Richard A. Jones Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Ms. Emma W. Morris; Mr. Robin D. Roberts; Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr.; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams. Members participating by Microsoft Teams video conference were Mr. C. Dan Adams, Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs, Ms. Rose Buyck Newton, and Ms. Molly M. Spearman.

Also present were USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Mark Cooper and USC Columbia Student Government President Mr. Alex Harrell.

Others in attendance were President Robert L. Caslen Jr.; Acting Secretary Cameron Howell; Vice President of Human Resources Caroline Agardy; Associate Vice President for Health and Well-Being and Chief Health Officer Deborah Beck; President's Chief of Staff Mark Bieger; Presidential Faculty Fellow Susan Bon; Executive Director of Strategic Planning Jack Claypoole; Interim Chancellor USC Upstate Derham Cole; Vice President of Development Monica Delisa; Chief Audit Executive Pamela Dunleavy; Chancellor Palmetto College Susan Elkins; Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget Kelly Epting;

Associate Director of Integrated Communications Michael Ettlemyer; Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Doug Foster; Arnold School of Public Health Professor of Exercise Science Stacy Fritz; University Architect and Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Derek Gruner; Chancellor USC Aiken Sandra Jordan; University Controller Mandy Kibler; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Executive Director Office of Economic Engagement Bill Kirkland; Director of Revenue Contract Management and Support, Carolina Card Sandra Lee; Associate Vice President & Chief Procurement Officer Venis Manigo; Senior Director of Strategic Partnership for Military and Government Programs Todd McCaffrey; Senior Deputy Athletics Director Chance Miller; Senior Associate Provost for Social Innovation and eLearning Diana Mitchell; General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs Terry Parham; Chief Operating Officer Jeff Perkins; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost Dennis Pruitt; Interim Executive Communications Director Amy Rogers; College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Joel Samuels; Special Assistant to the President James Smith; University Treasurer and Assistant Vice President of Administrative Operations and Chief of Staff Joe Sobieralski; Assistant Vice President Media and External Engagement Jeff Stensland; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Bill Tate; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Julian Williams; Associate Vice President and Chief of Police Chris Wuchenich; and Board of Trustees' support staff.

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair Smith called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked Trustees in the room to introduce themselves. Acting Secretary Howell confirmed Trustees attending by Microsoft Teams video conference.

Chair Smith called on Mr. Jeff Stensland to introduce members of the media. Mr. Stensland announced David Cloninger and Andy Shain with the *Post and Courier*, Lucas Daprile and Michael Lananna with the *State*; Tyler Fedor with the *Daily Gamecock*, Collyn Taylor with Gamecock Central, Joe Gorchow with WIS-TV, and Logan Jenness with *Carolina News and Reporter* were in attendance.

Chair Smith stated notice of the meeting and agenda had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been circulated to the Board; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

Chair Smith asked everyone in attendance to join him in a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Ms. Lorraine Moore, mother of Darla Moore, Trustee Emerita, with whom many have served.

Chair Smith welcomed USC Columbia Student Government President Alex Harrell to his first meeting of the Board and congratulated Alex on his election. He congratulated Provost Bill Tate who was selected as the Distinguished Scholar Award recipient for the year. Chair Smith called on Dr. Floyd to make a brief statement regarding the passing of Dr. James Holderman. Dr. Floyd shared a few remarks in memory of past USC President James Holderman.

II. Invocation

Chair Smith invited the Reverend Doctor Tom Wall of the University Methodist Student Network to deliver the invocation.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Smith stated there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to Honorary Degree Nominations and recommended appointments. Dr. Floyd made the motion to enter Executive Session, and Mr. English seconded the motion. A

vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Smith invited the following to remain: Trustees, President Caslen, Acting Secretary Howell, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Harrell, members of the President's Executive Council, Chancellors, and Board of Trustees' support staff.

Chair Smith stated no action would take place in Executive Session and asked everyone not invited to stay to please step out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

– **Executive Session Removed** –

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Smith advised eleven sets of minutes were listed on the agenda and posted on the Board portal. There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes they were approved as distributed.

IV. Approval of Consent Agendas

Chair Smith advised two Committees submitted consent agendas that were listed on the Board agenda and posted on the Board portal. Each Committee recommended full Board approval of items listed on the respective agendas. Chair Smith made a single motion to approve the two Committees' respective consent agendas as posted on the Board portal without objection. The Committees' consent agendas were approved, and the detail reports follow.

Finance and Infrastructure Committee

(The Honorable Mack I. Whittle Jr., Chair)

Written Report for Full Board Consent Agenda

April 9, 2021

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee met Friday, March 12, 2021 and recommends full Board approval of all items in this report and as posted to the Board portal.

- I. Gift Naming Opportunities
 - Kevin O’Connell Bench – Department of Athletics

This concludes the written consent agenda report of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee.

Governance Committee

(The Honorable Thad H. Westbrook, Chair)

Written Report for Full Board Consent Agenda

April 9, 2021

The Governance Committee met Friday, April 9, 2021 and recommends full Board approval of the following items in this report and as posted to the Board portal.

- I. Contract Approvals
 - A. Bookstore Contract with Barnes and Noble College Bookseller
 - B. EBSCO Information Services Agreement with USC Libraries
 - C. Springer Nature License Agreement
 - D. SC Department of Transportation and City of Columbia Maintenance Agreement
 - E. Head Men’s Basketball Coach Employment Agreement

This concludes the written consent agenda report of the Governance Committee.

V. Approval of Honorary Degree Nominations

Chair Smith stated the Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees, the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee, and President Caslen approved two Honorary Degree nominations which were posted on the Board portal and presented in Executive Session without objection.

Ms. Moody made a motion to approve the Honorary Degree nominations as presented and posted on the Board portal. Mr. Mobley seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried. Chair Smith stated the two Honorary Degree nominations were approved and will “lay on the table.”

VI. Approval of USC Aiken Chancellor

Chair Smith called on President Caslen to present a recommendation for the USC Aiken Chancellor position. President Caslen stated Academic Search executive search firm was engaged by the University to assist in the selection process for the USC Aiken Chancellor. He recommended Dr. Daniel Heimmermann as the new USC Aiken Chancellor. Dr. Heimmermann currently serves as the Provost at the University of Texas Permian Basin. He holds a BS in history and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin, and a MA and PhD in early-modern European history from Marquette University.

Chair Smith called for a motion to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Dan Heimmermann as the USC Aiken Chancellor effective July 1, 2021 with total compensation of \$320,000 as presented and posted on the Board portal. Mr. Harlan so moved, and Ms. Morris seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

VII. Approval of USC Vice President for System Affairs

Chair Smith called on President Caslen to present a recommendation for the Vice President for System Affairs position. President Caslen stated the search committee for the

Vice President for System Affairs consisted of representation across the system. He recommended Mr. Derham Cole as the Vice President for System Affairs. Mr. Cole currently serves as Interim Chancellor for USC Upstate. He earned a BS in business economics, Juris Doctor degree, and a Master of International Business Studies from USC.

Chair Smith called for a motion to recommend full Board approval of Mr. Derham Cole as USC Vice President for System Affairs as presented and posted on the Board portal. Mr. von Lehe so moved, and Mr. Loadholt seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

VIII. Approval of USC Vice President for Enrollment Management

Chair Smith called on Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost Dennis Pruitt for a position title change recommendation. Dr. Pruitt recommended Mr. Scott Verzyl's title as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Undergraduate Admission be changed to Vice President for Enrollment Management. He advised this title change brings the position in line with other senior administrators.

Chair Smith called for a motion to recommend full Board approval of Mr. Scott Verzyl's position title change to USC Vice President for Enrollment Management as presented and posted on the Board portal. Mr. Warr so moved, and Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

IX. Approval of Vice President for Health and Well-being and Chief Health Officer

Chair Smith called on Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Walton, who recommended elevating Dr. Deborah Beck as Chief Health Officer and Associate Vice President for Health and Well-being to Vice President for Health and Well-being and Chief Health Officer. The change was recommended to provide the institutional stature to lead

critical functions and align the position to coordinate the University's response to pandemics and future public health emergencies.

Chair Smith called for a motion to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Deborah Beck as USC Vice President for Health and Well-being and Chief Health Officer as presented and posted on the Board portal. Ms. Moody so moved, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Smith stated if there were no objections, he would advance the order of business to take up agenda item XII. Hearing none, he advised agenda item X and XI would be postponed until further notice.

X. Second Approval of Edits to Bylaws and Policies

XI. Continuing Education for Trustees: Employee Standards of Ethical Conduct

XII. Issy Rushton Certificate of Appreciation

Chair Smith asked Ms. Issy Rushton and President Caslen to join him at the lectern. Secretary Howell read the following statement: "The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees presents this certificate of appreciation to Ms. Issy Rushton in great appreciation for her outstanding contributions and service as USC Columbia Student Government President."

Chair Smith presented Ms. Rushton with a framed certificate of appreciation and called for approval by acclamation. All members signified in favor. Ms. Rushton expressed her thanks to the Board and stated it had been an honor to serve the University.

XIII. Commencement Planning Update

Chair Smith stated that given COVID-19 protocols, commencement exercises must be planned and executed differently than in the past. He asked Trustees to notify the Office of the Board of Trustees regarding their desires to attend commencement exercises across

the USC System. He asked for Trustees' patience as the Board Office attempts to honor all requests.

XV. President's Report

Chair Smith called on President Caslen for the President's report.

President Caslen thanked the Board for its leadership and guidance over the past year and began his report with an update on COVID-19. He stated currently there were 97 students, eight employees, and zero faculty cases. A total of 100,298 tests have been administered on campus to-date with a positive rate of 1.47%, which is lower than the State's positive rate of 4.4%. The University has 29 cases of re-infections. Currently 5,115 students and 1,994 staff have been vaccinated. He stated a number of faculty have been vaccinated off campus which makes it difficult to track but estimated approximately 80-90% have been vaccinated. He stated it was not time to be complacent but was encouraged by the statistics.

President Caslen stated Governor McMaster awarded \$6 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the University of South Carolina, which, in partnership with Benedict College, will establish eight Apple computer labs statewide. The labs will be strategically located for use by local school districts, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the South Carolina Technical College System, and citizens in the community. The collaboration will build a new network of learning labs that will feature Apple products and curricula. The network will include hubs in Columbia's Bull Street District and at Benedict College, along with satellite labs at six of the University's Palmetto College and regional campuses. President Caslen stated, as the state's flagship institution, the University is committed to enhancing statewide economic and workforce development initiatives.

President Caslen provided an update on the University's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) re-accreditation process. He advised the process included an on-site review and an off-site review. The on-site review was recently completed virtually because of COVID-19 precautions. He reported the review included assessment of over 60 SACSCOC's standards. The results were favorable; however, the University remained non-compliant on two standards. The first, SACSCOC's standard 13.5 (control of sponsored research/external funds), requires an external audit. He stated the University's external audit is on-going. University Administration is working aggressively to complete the external audit by August when the University's response is due to SACSCOC. The second non-compliant standard, SACSCOC standard 6.2.a (faculty qualifications), focuses on faculty credentialing. Dr. Cooper asked to speak and advised the Board the issue relates to adjunct and temporary hires, rather than full-time faculty. He advised the Provost, President, and Faculty Senate were working toward documenting and articulating the process for both credentialing and alternate credentialing by August when the response is due to SACSCOC.

President Caslen provided an update on Title IX cases. He advised that he had formed an interpersonal violence working group prior to the recent article in the *State* newspaper. The working group meets once a month focusing on training, prevention, reporting, investigation, and advocacy. He advised an official Title IX task force has been established and is currently evaluating external consultants to assist in the effort.

President Caslen concluded by applauding the University for freezing tuition for three consecutive years and advising that applications for the Fall 2021 semester have increased 21%.

Chair Smith thanked President Caslen and stated the report was received as information.

XIII. Other Matters

Chair Smith called for any other matters to come before the Board.

XIV. Adjournment

Hearing none, Chair Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell
Acting Secretary