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University of South Carolina

Board of Trustees

University System Committee Meeting

June 11, 2021

The University System Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021, in the Pastides Alumni Center Ballroom and by Microsoft Teams.

Committee members present were Ms. Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Mr. Robin D. Roberts; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III, Board Chair; and Mr. Thad H. Westbrook, Board Vice Chair. Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Toney J. Lister; and Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr., joined by Microsoft Teams.

Other Trustees present were Mr. C. Dan Adams; Mr. Alex English; Mr. Brian C. Harlan; Mr. Richard A. Jones, Jr.; Ms. Emma W. Morris; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams. Ms. Molly M. Spearman joined by Microsoft Teams.

Also present was USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Mark Cooper and USC Columbia Student Government President Mr. Alex Harrell. Board of Trustees Strategic Advisor David Seaton joined by Microsoft Teams.

Others present were Interim President Harris Pastides; Secretary Cameron Howell; Vice Provost Cheryl Addy; President's Chief of Staff Mark Bieger; Budget and Human Resource Manager Jean Brklich; College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management Academic Programs Associate Dean David Cardenas; University Foundations President and UnivSysComm - 061121

Chief Executive Officer Jason Caskey; USC Upstate Interim Chancellor J. Derham Cole Jr.; College of Pharmacy Dean Stephen Cutler; Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Monica Delisa; Chief Audit Executive Pam Dunleavy; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; Chief Executive Officer, Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget Kelly Epting; Provost Faculty Fellow Stacy Fritz; School of Music Dean Tayloe Harding; Alumni Association Chief Executive Officer Wes Hickman; Interim Director for Academic Programs and Director of the Office of Distributed Learning Trena Houp; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Executive Director of Economic Engagement Bill Kirkland; Director of Government Relations Derek Meggie; Senior Deputy Athletics Director Chance Miller; Senior Associate Provost for Social Innovation and eLearning Diana Hill Mitchell; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs Terry Parham; Chief Operating Officer Jeff Perkins; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis Pruitt; Interim Director of Executive Communications Amy Rogers; University Treasurer, Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff for Division of Administration and Finance Joe Sobieralski; Assistant Vice President for Media and External Relations Jeff Stensland; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Bill Tate; Vice President for Communications Larry Thomas; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Walton; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Julian Williams; Public Relations Strategist Dana Woodward, and Board of Trustees' support staff.

## **OPEN SESSION**

### I. Call to Order

Chair Moody called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and asked Trustees and Board appointees in the room to introduce themselves. Secretary Howell confirmed those joining by Microsoft Teams.

Chair Moody called on Mr. Stensland to introduce members of the media. Mr. Stensland introduced Lucas Daprile with the *State* and Andy Shain with the *Post and Courier* and stated Tyler Fedor with the *Daily Gamecock* was joining by phone.

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

## **MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Moody stated there was a need to enter Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to contractual matters regarding Major League Soccer, Palmetto College, and Carolina Online. Dr. Smith made the motion to enter Executive Session, and Mr. Loadholt seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Moody invited the following to remain: voting Trustees, Interim President Pastides, Secretary Howell, Mr. Seaton, Mr. Parham, Dr. Cutler, Interim Chancellor Cole, Chancellor Elkins, Chancellor Jordan, Chancellor Panu, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Tate, Mr. Walton, Mr. Verzyl, and Ms. Dunleavy.

Chair Moody stated no action will be taken in Executive Session and asked those not invited to remain to please step out.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

— Executive Session Removed

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

### II. Palmetto College

Chair Moody called on USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins to discuss Palmetto College's core mission and its inter-system agreements as a component of the Board's continuing education.

Dr. Elkins provided an overview of the creation and development of Palmetto College, which rose out of President Pastides' vision in 2011 to meet a need in the South Carolina community for a pathway to higher education that was affordable, accessible, and flexible. This systemwide collaboration involved the Columbia provost, Columbia city leaders, Chancellors of the comprehensive universities, Deans of the two-year institutions, as well as others, and was championed and approved by the USC Board of Trustees. In 2013 the Palmetto College structure in place was comprised of two components. The first component encompassed the two-year regional institutions — Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union, along with newly created Palmetto College Columbia; and the second component was the online degree-completion programs offered through the four-year institutions — Columbia, Aiken, Beaufort, and Upstate. Freshmen and sophomores can complete their first two years of coursework at the regional Palmetto College campuses and then, as juniors and seniors, can complete their four-year degrees through the online degree-completion programs offered by the four-year institutions. Chancellors of these institutions work with the Columbia Provost to ensure there is no duplication of services.

Dr. Elkins reported Palmetto College has far exceeded expectations based on the original projections presented by Huron Consulting in 2012. The initial evaluation of

expanding the University's online footprint reflected the Palmetto College campus degree completion programs would bring in \$33.7 million in tuition revenues and \$1.4 million in technology fees over the course of the first decade. The program in its eighth year is on track to double the forecasted tuition and fee revenues before the close of the first decade, having already collected \$60 million. The number of online programs has increased from seven to nineteen. First-year enrollment was projected at 250; however, 603 students were enrolled in 2013 and, as of the fall of 2020, 1,272 students were enrolled.

Chair Moody thanked Dr. Elkins and stated the Palmetto College report was received as information.

III. Strategic Plan Updates

Chair Moody stated she would have the new matrix posted to the Board portal, which reflects accomplishments and ongoing discussions.

IV. Other Matters

Chair Moody called for other matters to come before the Committee. There were none.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell  
Secretary