

The official minutes of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees are maintained by the Secretary of the Board. Certified copies of minutes may be requested by contacting the Board of Trustees' Office at trustees@sc.edu. Electronic or other copies of original minutes are not official Board of Trustees' documents.

University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Student-Trustee Liaison Committee

August 17, 2018

The Student-Trustee Liaison Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:35 a.m. on Friday, August 17, 2018, in the Alumni Center's C. Edward Floyd Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. Thomas C. Cofield, Chairman; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Chairman. Ms. Molly M. Spearman was absent.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. Mark W. Buyck Jr.; Mr. Robert F. Dozier Jr.; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; with Mr. Charles H. Williams joining by telephone.

Also present were Strategic Advisor David Seaton and USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chairman Marco Valtorta.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Provost Joan T. A. Gabel; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Chief Advancement Officer and Senior Advisor to the President Paula Harper Bethea; Vice President for Human Resources Caroline Agardy; Vice President for Information Technology Doug Foster; Vice President for Facilities and Transportation Derrick Huggins; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; President & Chief Executive Officer of University Foundations Jason Caskey; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; University Treasurer Pat Lardner; 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; USC Union Dean John Catalano; Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Cheryl L. Addy; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives Jack Claypoole; Director of State Government Relations Derrick Meggie; Director of Public Relations Jeff Stensland; Office of Equal Opportunity Programs Director Clifford Scott; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; USC Aiken Executive Vice Chancellor for

Finance and Administration Cam Reagin; Mrs. Cynthia Lister, wife of Trustee Lister; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Debra Allen and Terri Saxon.

Student Government Association (SGA) representatives present were: USC Aiken: Vice President Mason Spires, Secretary Q'ladrin Qourtes, and Treasurer Regis James Strauss; USC Beaufort: Secretary/Treasurer Emani Pressley; USC Columbia: President Taylor Wright, Student Senate Speaker Patrick Ellis, and Graduate Student Association Treasurer Billy Quinlan; USC Upstate: President James Parham, Secretary Howard Parham, Treasurer Sharan Ravishankar, Chief of Staff Hannah Kabir, and Senator at Large Christopher Curtis.

The SGA advisors present included: USC Aiken – Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Life and Services Ahmed Samaha; and USC Upstate – Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Laura Puckett-Boler.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cofield called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. Secretary Heath confirmed Trustee participation by telephone. Mr. Cofield said that the agenda had been posted, 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. Mr. Hickman introduced Lucas DuPrile with *The State* Newspaper.

Chairman Cofield noted an amendment to the University Board of Trustees Bylaws was on the full Board agenda later in the day, to change the name of the committee from Student-Trustee Liaison Committee to System and Student Affairs Committee and to expand its scope.

Trustee Fennell said since he believed the focus of the committee should be on students, he planned to recommend in the full Board meeting that the new name be Student and System Affairs Committee. Chairman Cofield thanked him for his recommendation to put students first.

II. Report of the Graduate Student Association

Chairman Cofield called on Dr. Cheryl Addy to introduce Graduate Student Association (GSA) Treasurer Billy Quinlan.

Dr. Addy reported GSA President Jennifer Mandelbaum, a doctoral student in the School of Public Health who was scheduled to speak, had a medical emergency. Therefore, Mr. Quinlan, a second year Master of Public Administration (MPA) student would present. Dr. Addy said prior to his Treasurer role, he served on the GSA's financial committee, which is responsible for allocation of student activities fees to

various graduate student organizations. Also, Mr. Quinlan currently serves as a graduate assistant for USC Connect, an undergraduate comprehensive initiative that promotes student opportunities beyond the classroom; as president of the MPA Student Association; and as a graduate student representative on the new student union steering committee. Dr. Addy said Mr. Quinlan earned his bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University, in Johnson City, Tennessee.

The GSA is dedicated to the advancement and development of nearly 7,000 graduate and professional students at USC, Mr. Quinlan said. He discussed the GSA's 2018-19 initiatives: professional development, social events, health & wellness, graduate student funding, and advocacy.

Mr. Quinlan noted some professional development offerings such as the #GRADProfDev, which references the students' partnership with the graduate school to provide growth and guidance educational opportunities. In addition, the Graduate Student Appreciation Week, held in April, includes free professional development offerings; and Carolina Leadership Week in February highlights top graduate student leaders and offers tips for developing leadership skills, he said.

The GSA hosts social events to provide students opportunities to connect, including welcome back gatherings at the start of each semester and a feedback forum to provide the GSA an assessment of whether they are meeting students' needs.

Mr. Quinlan said, of most importance, is the GSA's focus on proactively addressing students' physical and mental well-being. A GSA priority is to streamline the student organizations' funding application, since it is responsible for allocation of student activities fees.

Mr. Quinlan noted the GSA was grateful the President and Board of Trustees approved the 2018-19 health insurance subsidy increase to 50% of the premium.

Mr. Quinlan noted several GSA advocacy efforts including the creation of a new cabinet position of Secretary of Legislative Affairs. This position will work to ensure the GSA is informed of local, state and national policies affecting current and future graduate students.

Chairman Cofield thanked Mr. Quinlan for his informative report.

III. Panel Discussion: Student Government Leaders

Chairman Cofield introduced the Student Government Associations (SGA) representatives who had been invited to participate in a panel discussion related to topics of interest on their campuses: USC Aiken Vice President Mason Spires; USC Beaufort Secretary/Treasurer Emani Pressley; USC Columbia President Taylor Wright; and USC Upstate President James Parham. He called on Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis Pruitt to lead the panel discussion.

Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist to introduce themselves and to share the following information: the campus they represent, their hometown, major, and the news source they use. Mr. Taylor, a senior public health major from Goose Creek, South Carolina, said he gets the majority of his news from President Pastides' tweets. In addition, he watches news every morning, reads a national higher education newsletter, and reads *The State* newspaper. Mr. Spires, a political science major also from Goose Creek, South Carolina, said he watches one news channel each evening, but gets most of his news from social media. Ms. Pressley, a public health major with a concentration in nursing and a minor in psychology is from Anderson, South Carolina. She said she watches local news and CNN. Mr. Parham, a political science and criminal justice major from York, South Carolina, gets his news from international sources such as BBC World News, in addition to USC social media and *The State* newspaper.

Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist to share why they ran for student government office. Mr. Spires responded that he ran for vice president due to his interest in politics. Ms. Pressley, USC Beaufort's SGA Secretary-Treasurer and a veteran, said she ran to see change. Mr. Parham said it was his love of USC and the need for change that urged him to run for president. In addition to having grown up a Gamecock fan, Mr. Wright said he ran for president to influence change.

Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist what they had learned about themselves in their SGA role. Mr. Parham said he learned how to say no to things not beneficial to him. Mr. Wright learned to never let anyone tell him he can't do something. Mr. Spires said he learned he didn't have to be in the head position to be effective. Ms. Pressley responded that in addition to learning to say no when necessary, she also learned to be open-minded and appreciate the cooperation of others.

With obligations as a SGA officer, a student, and personal life responsibilities, Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist what they do to take care of themselves. Mr. Parham responded he makes sure to get enough sleep. Mr. Wright said he remembers why he ran, which is to help those who can't help themselves. Mr. Spires said he learned to delegate. Ms. Pressley said she focuses on the knowledge that there are no limits to what she can do and that she is capable of change.

Dr. Pruitt said according to a recent survey, approximately 40% of students can't wait to get to college to protest. He asked each panelist what the hot button issues are on their campuses or across the country. Mr. Wright responded sexual assault on campuses and diversity, inclusion and equity. Mr. Spires said although he agreed with Mr. Wright's response of diversity and inclusion, he felt students are not as polarized as people think, since he finds them more willing to talk through differing opinions. The cost of

college is the top issue at USC Beaufort, Ms. Pressley said. Mr. Parham responded the laws on immigration, diversity and inclusion that affect one's opportunity to attend USC Upstate.

With a national movement to register young people to vote, Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist if this was a topic they would address and if they thought their campuses were interested in local, state and national elections. Mr. Parham said USC Upstate has been noted as one of the most politically and voting active campuses in the system. Ms. Pressley and Mr. Spires discussed campus organizations that work to encourage student voter registration. In 2016, USC Columbia's "Lead the Way" was the second largest national student organization focusing on student voter registration, Mr. Wright said. He added although campus efforts continue to encourage student voter registration, he did not feel students were as interested in mid-term elections.

Dr. Pruitt asked the panelists to share how their college education prepares students for entering the workforce upon graduation. Mr. Spires said USC Aiken's Leadership Certificate Program teaches "soft skills" for becoming workplace ready and the Career Services Office provides external internship guidance. Personally, Mr. Spires said, the practical experience he gained from his involvement with student government has been most beneficial. Mr. Wright responded he has had amazing experiences at USC Columbia to help him become workplace ready and he shares those when addressing student orientation groups. Ms. Pressley said working on campus and in student government has provided her experiences for her post-graduate employment. USC Upstate and its local alumni provide students excellent guidance to become workplace ready, Mr. Parham said.

Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist to comment on how students feel about campus diversity. The USC Beaufort campus is very diverse and welcoming to all, so students feel like they are part of a large family, Ms. Pressley said. Mr. Parham said he is very proud of USC Upstate's respect of diversity among the large non-traditional student body including a large veteran population. Mr. Wright said although the majority of students feel comfortable on the USC Columbia campus, there is always room for improvement. He thanked President Pastides and Dr. Dozier for their efforts to improve campus diversity; and he especially thanked Trustee Moody who he said "pushes" every day to increase diversity. Mr. Spires said USC Aiken does an excellent job making diversity a top priority.

Since popular media portrays the college age generation as "fragile" when engaging in conversations that make them uncomfortable, Dr. Pruitt asked the panelist how they would defend their generation. Mr. Spires said he thinks the description of his generation as "fragile" is false and he feels they are more understanding than others across all generations. Mr. Parham said as a member of the USC Upstate' SGA

he has witnessed cooperation and respect among the multi-generational membership, feels any negative perceptions of his generation come from life experiences, is grateful for previous generations' contributions, and feels students should be judged by how they address issues. Ms. Pressley said her generation is understanding, diverse and non-judgmental, and negative perceptions provide a motivation to prove naysayers wrong. Mr. Wright said his generation feels powerful in that their voices are now heard, mostly through social media.

Dr. Pruitt asked each panelist what they would say, as an admissions counselor or ambassador, to convince a high school senior to enroll at their campus. Mr. Wright responded he would elaborate on the full range of leadership opportunities and learning experiences. Mr. Spires said of utmost importance are the small class sizes at USC Aiken, which allow students to know and interact with their teachers enhancing their learning experience. Ms. Pressley said the USC Beaufort family-friendly environment along with the amazing faculty and staff support are of most significance. Mr. Parham said he would share USC Upstate's amazing potential for students.

Dr. Pruitt thanked the panel for its insightful discussion and the Trustees gave them a round of applause.

Chairman Cofield thanked the panel for its excellent participation. He also thanked Dr. Pruitt for moderating the discussion.

IV. Other Matters

Chairman Cofield called for any other matters to come before the committee. President Pastides called on Mr. Wright, who announced USC and Clemson are scheduled to cohost the second annual statewide student government presidents' summit focusing on higher education state legislation and activism.

In the students' best interest, Trustee Floyd urged greater communication and enforcement of the University's Hazing policy STAF 3.05.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Cofield declared the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.
Secretary