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University of South Carolina

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Called

March 12, 2021

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees convened in a Called meeting at 3:05 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021, in the Pastides Alumni Center Ballroom and via Microsoft Teams video conference.

Members present were Dr. C. Dorn Smith III, Board Chair; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook, Board Vice Chair; Mr. C. Dan Adams; 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; Ms. Rose Buyck Newton; Mr. Robin D. Roberts; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; and Mr. Charles H. Williams. Members participating by Microsoft Teams video conference were Ms. Molly M. Spearman and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr. Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs was absent.

Also present were USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Mark Cooper and USC Columbia Student Government President Ms. Issy Rushton. Board of Trustees Strategic Advisor Mr. David Seaton participated by Microsoft Teams video conference.

Others in attendance were President Robert L. Caslen Jr.; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; Assistant Secretary Cameron Howell; Vice President of Human Resources Caroline Agardy; President's Chief of Staff Mark Bieger; 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; Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan Amber Fallucca; Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Doug Foster; Chief Executive Officer USC Alumni Association Wes Hickman; Interim Director Academic Programs Trena Houp; Chancellor USC Aiken Sandra Jordan; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Darla Moore School of Business Professor Audrey Korsgaard; Senior Associate Provost for Social Innovation and eLearning Diana Hill-Mitchell; Chancellor USC Beaufort Al Panu; 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; University Treasurer and Assistant Vice President of Administrative Operations and Chief of Staff Joe Sobieralski; Assistant Vice President Media and External Engagement Jeff Stensland; Director of Athletics Ray Tanner; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Bill Tate; Vice President for Communications Larry Thomas; Executive Vice President for Administration Ed Walton; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Julian Williams; and Board of Trustees 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. Secretary Heath confirmed Trustees attending by Microsoft Teams video conference.

Chair Smith called on Mr. Jeff Stensland to introduce members of the media. Mr. Stensland announced Lucas Daprile with *The State* was attending in person and Eric Connors with *The Post and Courier* was on the conference call.

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.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Smith advised there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the appointment of a USC Upstate Chancellor. Mr. Warr made the motion to enter Executive Session and Mr. Mobley seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Smith invited the following to remain: Trustees, President Caslen, Secretary Heath, Assistant Secretary Howell, Dr. Cooper, Ms. Rushton, Mr. Seaton, members of the President's Executive Council, Chancellors, and Board of Trustees Staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Executive Session Removed

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

II. Approval of USC Upstate Chancellor

Chair Smith called on President Caslen to present the USC Upstate Chancellor for approval. President Caslen expressed his appreciation to Interim USC Upstate Chancellor Derham Cole for his incredible leadership as Interim Chancellor. President Caslen recommended Bennie L. Harris, Ph.D. for consideration as USC Upstate Chancellor. President Caslen advised a search firm assisted the search committee that worked diligently in putting together an outstanding slate of applicants. Dr. Bennie Harris received strong consensus from the search committee, the USC President's Cabinet, USC Deans, and the

Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education Board. Dr. Harris currently serves as Senior Vice President at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia and is responsible for institutional advancement, partnership expansion and external affairs. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from Mississippi State University, a Master of Business Administration in strategic marketing from Washington State University and a Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership and marketing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. President Caslen advised upon Board approval Dr. Harris will start July 1, 2021 with an annual salary of \$315,000.

Ms. Moody made a motion to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Bennie Harris as USC Upstate Chancellor with an annual salary of \$315,000 effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

III. SACSCOC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Overview

Chair Smith called on Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan Amber Fallucca to present an overview of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Quality Enhancement Plan. Dr. Fallucca presented an overview of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled *Experience by Design* which focuses on "beyond the classroom" engagement and reflection for all students. *Experience by Design* includes the Columbia campus and four regional Palmetto College campuses in Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union. Studies show student groups with lower graduation and retention rates than expected also have a lower rate of "beyond the classroom" engagement. *Experience by Design* focuses on those student populations. Dr. Fallucca presented areas of focus and goals of the program such as increased internships, undergraduate research with faculty, and community service which directly correlate with student engagement that leads to success in the classroom.

Chair Smith thanked Dr. Falluca and stated the report was received as information.

Chair Smith called on President Caslen for a special presentation. President Caslen stated when he first came into office as the University President there was one specific person whose help he especially appreciated. He expressed his deep gratitude to Secretary Cantey Heath for patiently walking him through the different issues and challenges with the grace and patience of a true gentleman he has grown to deeply respect and admire. President Caslen took this opportunity to present Secretary Heath a gift on the occasion of his last Board meeting as University Secretary pending his retirement. Secretary Heath thanked President Caslen and the Board.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Cantey Heath, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.
Secretary