CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman John H. Corbitt presided and called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment 1) and supporting materials (Attachment 2) were previously circulated to the members. Trustee Tobin gave the invocation and the roll was called.

Trustees present: Chairman Jonathan N. Pinson (via phone), Vice Chairman John H. Corbitt, Secretary Robert M. Nance, Mrs. Linda Edwards-Duncan, Mr. Anthony T. Grant, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia B. Lott, Mr. Matthew T. Richardson, Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Mr. Robert L. Waldrep, Jr. and Mr. Maurice G. Washington / Ex-Officios: Mr. Jameel Allen, Mr. Austin Floyd, Rev. Samuel Goodwin for Mr. Nathaniel Howard, Mrs. Kay Snider and Dr. Larry Watson.

Trustees absent: General Walter F. Johnson, III (excused) and Mr. Lancelot D. Wright.

Administrators present: President Dr. George E. Cooper, Executive Director to the Board Ms. Joyce Green, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Rita J. Teal, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mr. Anthony Holloman, Vice President for Research, Economic Development and Public Service Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Athletics Director Mrs. Charlene Johnson, Director of Public Relations Mrs. Erica Taylor, Executive Assistant to the President Mrs. Shondra Abraham, Administrative Assistant to the Board Ms. Eartha Mosley and Recorder Mrs. Chrystel Rogers.


OPEN SESSION:

Adoption of Agenda

Trustee Nance made a motion, seconded by Trustee Edwards-Duncan, to accept the agenda as presented. Vote: unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Corbitt called for corrections to the November 28, 2011 Executive Committee minutes, the December 1, 2011 and December 12, 2011 Board minutes. Since there were no corrections to any of the minutes, Trustee Corbitt approved the minutes as printed.

As follow up to the minutes, President Cooper reported that one clerical person had been reassigned to the Internal Auditor Office’s. Ms. Evelyn Anderson indicated that two resumes had been received for the two Auditor positions available; she is waiting on others to come in. Human Resources will do some additional advertising and hopefully speed up the process.

Additionally, President Cooper indicated that Ms. Anderson was working with Procurement to implement the process of hiring the External Auditing team since the last contract had expired.
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Nance moved, seconded by Trustee Lott, to go into to Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal advice. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED:

Trustee Corbitt indicated that no votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

President’s Report (Attachment 3)

The President’s Report was distributed to the Trustees (Attachment 3). President Cooper quickly discussed the updates as contained therein highlighting important issues as well as some of his recent accomplishments.

Trustees Corbitt and Lott were interested in knowing how much of the $550K Texas A&M game guarantee will be realized after expenses. Mrs. Charlene Johnson will provide the details.

President Cooper will provide a list of the buildings and locations of the classrooms receiving the new Technology across campus.

President Cooper discussed SC State’s Transportation Research program and explained that the Transit Research Center (Center) is currently a viable operating Center. However, in order to complete the Center in its original configuration, he stated that SC State needs to raise $80M and discussed some of the things they are looking at to do just that i.e., endowed chair, partnerships. President Cooper also talked about the Center’s vision and goal and referred the Trustees to the Transportation Center’s concept paper contained in the packet of follow-up materials from the December 1st Board meeting (Attachment 4). Also, he confirmed that the Center is able to meet its day-to-day responsibilities.

There was a discussion on the possibility of limiting the number of sports offered at SC State. President Cooper briefly discussed the recent NCAA rule changes that could negatively impact minority institutions. Mrs. Johnson explained that the key of Title IX is the number of opportunities for participation.

President Cooper explained that SC State’s Transit Research Center primarily deals with logistics and transportation, the movement of goods across the United States. He briefly discussed the Transit Hub proposal for Orangeburg, the study of the flow of transportation from Charleston to other points in the United Stated and the study concerning the population growth expected to take place in this region over the next 20 years.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Rita Teal discussed the contents of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2016 and stated that it had been vetted campus-wide. President Cooper recommended that the Board approve the entire Strategic Plan. He explained that Board approval was necessary for SC State to be in compliance with SACS.

Trustee Tobin moved, seconded by Trustee Lott, to adopt the plan. Vote: unanimously approved.

Standing Ad Hoc Committee Reports - Updates

Academic Affairs and Faculty-Liaison Committee

Trustee Lott indicated that there were some concerns from the last meeting that needed to be addressed so she asked Dr. Teal to go through those.
NCATE (Attachment 2, pgs. 1 – 3 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Dr. Teal reported that the NCATE pre-visit was held on February 7th and that the results of that meeting were contained in the above-referenced materials. She indicated that they requested an extension to submit the Institutional Report and it had been granted. Dr. Teal stated that they were on track.

Trustee Lott expressed concern that if they were on track as was reported in Committee, everything should have been ready.

Dr. Teal referred the Trustees back to the Committee report, page 12, which identified the areas they are working on. Dr. Teal stated that she has not received the result of the SPA reports submitted in September 2011 yet which were expected the first week of February.

Trustee Lott recommended that they all (Dr. Teal and staff?) be invited to future meetings so they can get a full report.

Felton Laboratory School (Attachment 2, pg. 4 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Dr. Teal indicated that responses to the Trustees’ questions from the last Committee meeting were all addressed in the above-referenced materials, except for question #1. Dr. Teal stated that she had to delay the response to that because they found there is a lot more work that needs to be done i.e., they need to really determine how the state money is incorporated with the University’s funds and how it goes to Felton to see how much the University is actually contributing to Felton as well as looking at the money for breakfast and lunch since it was not all fitting together. They will work with someone from Finance to make sure what they are doing is correct. Dr. Teal indicated that Dr. Gloria Winkler recently provided her with a document compiled by some of the parents on the Future Felton Planning Committee. She will provide copies to the Trustees.

Trustee Lott expressed concern and suggested that they work on the collaboration between the University and Felton because being a laboratory school there are so many benefits for the University.

Trustee Richardson requested details of the $250K increase in Felton’s budget personnel line item.

Trustee Tobin mentioned the possibility of Felton becoming a charter school. Trustee Joyner-Fleming indicated that one reason they never went with the charter school concept was because it required that the school close for two years and reassign the students which caused them concern as to whether they could get the students back at Felton after that time period. Trustee Lott indicated that there were some on-going changes and that she hoped they would have the accurate information at the next Committee meeting.

Trustee Lott reminded President Cooper that he was asked to put the Orangeburg School District 5 initiative in his report. President Cooper reported that he met with the Superintendent and presented several options. Since it has not been concluded, there was no recommendation to the Board at this time.

Trustee Lott expressed concern that the paper keeps reporting that it is going to be housed here and that decision has not been made yet.

Eliminated Programs (Attachment 2, pg. 5 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Dr. Teal highlighted the status as provided in the above-referenced materials.

Trustee Corbitt requested a report at the next Academic Affairs Committee meeting; Dr. Teal indicated that it should be completed then.
Trustee Waldrep suggested that SC State do what it does best and expressed concern that SC State may have too many things on the menu that we cannot handle it.

There was a discussion on CHE’s and SACS’ review process for eliminating programs. Trustee Lott asked the Trustees to hold any new questions for Dr. Teal until the next Committee meeting. Trustee Tobin suggested that they look at this in detail and take the time to do it.

- **Engineering Program/Bioengineering Science Program** (Attachment 2, pg. 6 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Dr. Teal reported that Dr. Stanley Ihekweazu assured her that there is no problem that they are in the 2nd year of the 5-year grant and the program has not been implemented yet. She estimated that it might be implemented by 2013. Dr. Teal explained CHE’s and SACS review process.

Trustee Grant requested that Dr. Teal establish a timetable to make sure we are much far ahead of the curve and that we are being very proactive and aggressive about the program.

- **Academic Needs/Status of Academic Affairs** (Attachment 2, pgs. 7-10 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Dr. Teal indicated that based on the two months she has been in Academic Affairs they are in decent shape overall. She indicated that it would take time to determine what they truly needed.

Trustee Grant requested an academic audit because he believes it is incumbent upon them to start looking at the budget and being aggressive and proactive, not reactive. He suggested that they may need a third party assessment to give a high-level view of student/faculty ratios. Dr. Teal indicated that CHE has a formula for student/faculty ratios and explained that Mrs. Betty Boatwright just completed an analysis of the student FTE as well as faculty FTE by program. Once she reviews it, they will know which areas are in line with where they should be. Just scanning through it, some of SC State’s programs are where they should be. Dr. Teal indicated that they also have the two reports that were previously done. Trustee Grant recommended that Finance be involved too because he is not convinced that those numbers are where they need to be.

- **Nursing – Action Item** (Attachment 2, pg. 11 of the Academic Affairs portion of the materials)

Trustee Lott indicated that Nursing is asking to be a separate department and stated that there was no objection to the request in Committee. She explained that the request was made because the Nursing Board was concerned with the number of persons in the current reporting line which they thought could have an impact on the performance of students, designation of resources, etc. President Cooper expressed his support and indicated there would be no disadvantages or fiscal impact on the budget.

*Trustee Lott moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards-Duncan, that the Board approve the request of the Nursing program to become a department in the College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences. Vote: unanimously approved.*

**Budget, Facilities and Grounds Committee**

- **Amended Budget Modification Plan** (Attachment 2)

Trustee Nance indicated that the Committee met a couple weeks before and stated that they had one item to share with the Board for information. Trustee Grant briefly discussed the President’s final Amended Budget Modification Plan. He explained that the Administration presented this as information to the Board demonstrating their effort to address the shortfall. Trustee Grant indicated that SC State will end this fiscal year in the black with a variance of
$319,627 in addition to the $2.5M surplus. He concluded that they anticipate ending the fiscal year with a positive variance, favorable position, barring any unforeseen circumstances. The Trustees discussed sinking funds as well as the purpose of some of the changes made to the plan i.e., the $500K Recovery of USDOT grant funds. Trustee Grant explained that the Chair of the Budget Committee, the Administration and Finance will work together to get a head start on next year’s budget.

Dr. Watson expressed concern about the implications of the vacant positions. President Cooper pointed out that the savings of the vacant position are primary vacant Administrative positions. He stated that in the budget process, they will look at needs of the University and put them in priority order and all of the things needed to support the academy will be the highest priority in the budget process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Lott moved, seconded by Trustee Richardson, to go into Executive Session. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED:

Trustee Corbitt indicated that no votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

Trustee Lott reported that there were three Academic Affairs personnel issues discussed during Executive Session. On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Trustee Lott recommended that the Board accept the written responses by the attorney regarding those matters. Trustee Nance moved, seconded by Trustees Joyner-Fleming and Edwards-Duncan, to approve the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee. Vote: unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Nance moved, seconded by Trustees Joyner-Fleming and Edwards-Duncan, to adjourn. Vote: unanimously approved. Trustee Corbitt declared the meeting adjourned at 3:47 P.M.

All referenced attachments are made a permanent part of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Nance
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Chrystel Rogers
Recorder

Attachments:
1 - Agenda
2 - Supporting Materials
3 - President’s Report dated February 16, 2012