CALL TO ORDER:

Acting Chairman John H. Corbitt presided and called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. The public notice was read. The agenda (Attachment 1) and supporting materials (Attachment 2) were previously circulated to the members. Trustee Joyner-Fleming provided the invocation. The roll was called.

Trustees present: Trustees: Acting Chairman/Vice Chairman John H. Corbitt, Secretary Robert M. Nance, Mrs. Linda Edwards-Duncan, Mr. Anthony T. Grant, General Walter F. Johnson, III, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia B. Lott, Mr. Jonathan N. Pinson (via phone), Mr. Matthew T. Richardson, Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Mr. Robert L. Waldrep, Jr. and Mr. Maurice G. Washington / Ex-Officios: Mr. Austin Floyd, Dr. Jesse Kinard, Mrs. Kay Snider and Dr. Larry Watson.

Trustees absent: 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, Athletics Director Mrs. Charlene Johnson, Vice President for Research, Economic Development and Public Service Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Interim Director of Student Affairs Dr. Valerie S. Fields, 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.

Media: The Times and Democrat Reporter Dale Linder-Altman and Photojournalist Mr. Larry Hardy.

OPEN SESSION:

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Corbitt called for corrections to the February 16, 2012 and the March 1-2, 2012 minutes. There were no corrections so Trustee Corbitt noted the minutes approved as written.

Adoption of Agenda

Trustee Lott made a motion, seconded by Trustee Edwards-Duncan, that the agenda be adopted. Vote: unanimously approved.

Board of Trustees Retreat

Trustee Corbitt announced that the Board’s Retreat would be held at SC State, June 12 – 15, 2012. Due to the number of topics that need to be discussed, Trustee Lott indicated that a session may be scheduled for the afternoon of June 12th. Trustee Corbitt agreed.
CLOSED SESSION:

Trustee Nance moved, seconded by Trustee Washington, to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Vote: unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Standing Ad Hoc Committee Reports - Action Items

Institutional Advancement and Public Relations Committee (Attachment 2, pgs. 1-10)

- Board of Visitors New Members

Mr. Anthony Holloman presented the following nominations for membership to the Board of Visitors: Beverly Perkins, Michael Phillips, Stephanie Price, Demar Roberts and Michael Smith. The candidates’ resumes are contained in the above referenced materials.

Trustee Richardson moved, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to accept the candidates for the Board of Visitors. Vote: unanimously approved.

Mr. Holloman presented Trustee Corbitt with a $225K check from the SC State Foundation which goes towards Institutional Advancement’s budget goal. This brings the total to $325K in addition to the $475K provided during the first semester. Mr. Holloman indicated that they would satisfy the remaining amount, about $100K, before June 30th. In addition, he reported that they expect to clear approximately $180K from the gala and announced that the 2nd phase of the Phon-a-thon would start in a next week.

Trustee Grant requested that Mr. Holloman provide Ms. Green with the source of the funds to help them understand so Ms. Green can provide it to the Trustees.

Athletics and Student Affairs Committee

- University Village Housing Increase Recommendation (Attachment 2)

Dr. Valerie Fields presented the recommendation to increase University Village fees by $250/semester. If approved, the increase would be effective for the fall 2012.

Trustee Grant indicated that he was scheduled to meet with Dr. Jesse Kinard later that afternoon and was expecting some documentation. He expressed that he needed to see the data before he could make an informed decision.

Dr. Jesse Kinard reported University Village’s occupancy data for the last two years with the Trustees noting that they never reach maximum occupancy (325-335). He indicated that the fee reduction and enrollment decline caused the gap in meeting the debt structure. Dr. Kinard recommended that they return the fee to what it was and hope that they meet the number of students that will balance the budget. He shared that Bank of America has 3 covenants that must be met and that the student revenue is the only revenue that the Real Estate Foundation have to operate in terms of operating the budget to meet those demands. Dr. Kinard stated that an agreement was made with the University that they provide janitorial, maintenance, security, landscaping services as support to the Foundation. He indicated that the Foundation has paid for those services themselves out of their operational budget. Dr. Kinard expressed that student occupancy is the key.
Trustee Grant suggested that the financial statements and audit be reviewed. If the University breached the lease agreement, he suggested that the Board address that.

Trustee Grant recommended that the Budget Committee work with Dr. Fields and Dr. Kinard to get the numbers and prepare the spread and projections. Trustee Nance, as Budget Committee Chair, agreed with Trustee Grant’s recommendation. Trustee Grant wants to see the three years statements spread (column-by-column), the income spread, the projected revenue and what impact the projected revenue will have. Then, they will have to peg a number to get a certain dollar amount in order to make the budget and satisfy the covenant agreement.

Trustees Washington and Richardson suggested going ahead with increasing the fee so students and parents could plan. Trustee Richardson expressed concern that a more in-depth study is needed on University Village because they have never complied with bank covenants, their budget and who collects the fees.

*Trustee Richardson moved, seconded by Trustee Washington, to adopt the recommendation with the idea that they do everything and more than Trustee Grant suggested.* Trustee Grant indicated that he would not vote for an increase when voting on it in the blind, without knowing the impact on the budget. Trustee Richardson agreed but indicated that there was a more prevailing reason to go ahead and vote which was in fairness to the students and parents. Trustee Grant stated that his vote was not against parents or student but was because the Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to know the financial impact. Trustee Joyner-Fleming was concerned if the amount could possibly go up. Trustee Grant explained that they did not know. Dr. Fields indicated that she vetted the numbers with Mr. Cathcart, Dr. Kinard and the Real Estate Foundation Board and it was determined that the $250 increase will place them in proximity to where they needed to be. *Vote: 11 to 1, Trustee Grant opposed. Motion carried.*

Trustee Corbitt asked Dr. Fields to provide Trustee Grant with the information he requested so he can bring it before the Board. Dr. Fields agreed she would.

*Presentation*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Corbitt thanked President Cooper for his service to SC State from July 8, 2008 through March 30, 2012 and for a smooth transition. He was presented with a plaque and small token of appreciation. Trustee Corbitt pointed out that under Dr. Cooper’s leadership, SC State’s accreditation was reaffirmed. First Lady Diane Cooper was also thanked for her service, graciousness and kindness; she was presented with a beautiful arrangement of flowers.

President Cooper thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as SC State’s 10th president. He indicated that he enjoyed working with the faculty, staff, students and the community of Orangeburg. He briefly thanked a number of persons for their hard work and support i.e., Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Austin Floyd, SGA, CAB, students, faculty, staff, Mrs. Kay Snider and Trustee Pat Lott. He thanked the Orangeburg community for partnering with the University i.e., Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the City of Orangeburg, Mayor Paul Miller, City Council, County Council. Mrs. Cooper was thankful for the friendships developed while here and for being brought back to this area because she was able to reconnect with her family in Kingstree. She stated that they would continue to pray for the Board and the University, and especially for the students. President Cooper indicated that they will always be “Bulldogs” and will continue to be ambassadors for the University.

Trustee Grant expressed gratitude to President Cooper and Mrs. Cooper for leading the institution stating that they have done a lot for SC State.
CLOSED SESSION:

*Trustee Richardson moved, seconded by Trustee Waldrep, to go into Executive Session after lunch. Vote: unanimously approved.*

OPEN SESSION RECONVENELED:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

*Trustee Nance moved, seconded by Trustee Lott, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimously approved.* The meeting adjourned at 3:22 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