TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013
CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Walter Tobin called the meeting to order at 9:52am. The public notice was read. The invocation was extended by the Chairman. The roll was called.

Members present: Dr. Walter Tobin, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Dr. Jackie Epps, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Dr. Dennis Nielsen and Mr. Maurice Washington.

Members absent: Mrs. Linda Edwards Duncan, Dr. John Corbitt, Ms. Patricia Lott, Mr. Robert Nance and Mr. Anthony Grant.

Administrator present: Administrative Assistant to the Board and Recorder Mrs. Eartha Mosley.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Tobin asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Washington so moved, seconded by Trustee Waldrep to adopt the agenda. Vote: unanimously approved.

The Chairman asked is there any business before going into Executive Session. Trustee Washington indicated there were some questions regarding the process outlined by the Presidential Search Committee. The process was outlined and approved subject to modifications. Trustee Washington motioned to 1) modify the original approved process to reflect the action of the search committee and to eliminate the designation of a semi-finalist as a part of the search process for the president of SC State University as an unnecessary step: 2) To accept the candidates as the finalist as recommended by the search committee, seconded by Trustee Waldrep. Discussion: Trustee Epps commented that we have the right to modify and make certain actions and steps are in order going forward and duly recognized so that the process becomes a deliberate, legal and permanent process. Trustee Waldrep stated the modification was also clarification because he never understood the stipulation Trustee Grant added and it was a highly sticky point that he never fully understood because it was his thinking that the intent would be to have three finalists. But Trustee Grant’s interpretation was that it had to be four semi-finalists. Trustee Washington expressed that the Board would come together collectively with the right to add additional candidates with majority approval. There was always room to allow potential candidates with the approval of the full Board. Unfortunately five members are not present and to be fair, as the Board moves forward, it is important to accept the three candidates as finalist for president. Vote: unanimously approved.

Trustee Washington shared the most important duty and responsibility of this Board, as it is with every other college or university board of trustees, is the selection and the appointment of a president. It is a duty as outlined in the by-laws
of the board to put aside differences and carry out responsibility with dignity and respect. He stated that he is proud of the members that came to fulfill their obligations. Trustee Waldrep shared that he finds it unusual that the Board’s past discussions were so passionate and intense that at today’s meeting, where any modification would take place, members are absent. If there was a legitimate reason to protest this process those members would be present. Trustee Epps stated he finds it interesting that it is a well concentrated effort; it is not by chance that all five are absent. Trustee Nielsen stated that whoever is responsible for this type of leadership is asking to throw their duty away and with no fore-warning or information that individuals would not make the meeting. He added it is just unbelievable and extremely disappointing for some board members to show this type of behavior.

Trustee Fleming indicated as Trustee Washington stated, this is your first and most important duty even if you do not agree with the candidate, come and put your questions on the table, there will be no other opportunity. If a president is selected this week, they have given up their opportunity to find out what this person is bringing to the table. Trustee Fleming stated that it was very interesting that recently the Board to came together so as not to disturb the “recruitment efforts” so what is this?

Trustee Washington asked the Chairman if any trustees contacted him to indicate their absence from the meeting. Chairman Tobin replied that Trustee Duncan stated she would be unavailable this week. Trustee Washington stated that as Trustees, do we have a duty and obligation to state to each candidate that with this obvious division among the Board, are they still committed to see the process thru?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Tobin asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Trustee Epps so moved, seconded by Trustee Joyner-Fleming. Vote: unanimously approved. The Chairman recessed the meeting at 11:45am.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 AT 9:30 AM

Members present: Dr. Walter Tobin, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Dr. John Corbitt, Dr. Jackie Epps, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia Lott, Mr. Robert Nance, Dr. Dennis Nielsen and Mr. Maurice Washington.

Member absent: Mr. Anthony Grant.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013 AT 9:30 AM

Members present: Dr. Walter Tobin, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Dr. John Corbitt, Dr. Jackie Epps, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia Lott, Mr. Robert Nance, Dr. Dennis Nielsen and Mr. Maurice Washington.

Member absent: Mr. Anthony Grant.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 AT 11:36AM

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED BY CONFERENCE CALL

Members present: Dr. Walter Tobin, Mr. Robert Waldrep, Mrs. Linda Edwards Duncan, Dr. John Corbitt, Dr. Jackie Epps, Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Ms. Patricia Lott, Mr. Robert Nance, Dr. Dennis Nielsen and Mr. Maurice Washington.

Member absent: Mr. Anthony Grant.
Chairman Tobin asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Trustee Epps so moved, seconded by Trustees Fleming and Nielsen.

Chairman Tobin stated no votes or actions were taken in Executive Session. He asked is there a motion. Trustee Waldrep moved that the Board move forward with the vote in a matter by which the finalists are designated by a letter instead of the candidate's name. This would allow the Board to move forward in negotiating a contract with the finalist that is selected. The finalists are Candidate W, Candidate X and Candidate J, seconded by Trustees Epps and Fleming. A roll call was taken as follows: Corbitt, not voting; Epps, Candidate J; Fleming, Candidate J; Nance, Abstain; Nielsen, Candidate J; Waldrep, Candidate J; Washington, Candidate J and Tobin, Candidate J. Candidate J received six votes, candidate W zero votes and candidate X zero votes. Motion passed 6 to 2. Trustees Duncan and Lott disconnected from the conference call prior to the voting.

Trustee Washington stated in order to assist the Chairman with the process going forward, he motioned that the Board reactivate their legal relationship with Boykin and Davis Law Firm and the Board Secretary be directed to submit the appropriate paperwork to the state, seconded by Epps. Trustee Corbitt asked was that necessary? Trustee Washington expressed it is necessary because the Chairman has directions to interact with candidate J regarding an employment contract. It would be prudent of the Board to ensure the chairman has legal, professional and knowledge representation for himself and the Board. Trustee Corbitt asked what is wrong with the present counsel. Trustee Washington stated there is nothing wrong with the current counsel; however the Law Firm of Boykin and Davis are experts in this particular area, they have guided and lead the board thru this type of process before. They deal with school districts and boards across the state as well as outside the state South Carolina. Trustee Corbitt asked if the Board is firing the present counsel. Trustee Washington stated “no” this has nothing to do with the employment of the present counsel. The law firm would assist the Chairman and the board. A roll call was taken on the motion as follows: Corbitt, not voting; Epps, yes; Fleming, yes; Nance, no; Nielsen, yes; Waldrep, yes; Washington, yes and Tobin, yes. Motion passed 6 to 2. Trustees Duncan and Lott disconnected from the conference call prior to the voting.

ADJOURMENT

Chairman Tobin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved by Trustee Waldrep and seconded by Trustees Nielsen and Fleming.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Edwards Duncan
Secretary

Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachment
Agenda

SC State Board of Trustee Meeting / April 9-12, 2013