CALL TO ORDER / OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Charles S. Way, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Chairman Way noting that notice of the meeting had been posted, all comply with the Freedom of Information Act. The agenda (Attachment 1) had been circulated to the members. Trustee Donnie Shell extended the invocation. Chairman Way indicated that all Trustees were present.

**Trustees present:** Mr. Charles S. Way, Jr, Mr. James E. Clark, Dr. Doris Helms, Mr. Milton Irvin, Mr. Donnie Shell, Mr. Steve Swanson, and Mr. Jeff Vinzani. **Ex-Officio Members:** Mrs. Vernell Brown and Mr. Reginald Dupree.

**Administrators & others present:** Acting President, Dr. W. Franklin Evans; Vice President of Finance and Management, Mr. Edward Patrick; Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Public Relations, Ms. Sonja Bennett-Bellamy; Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tamara Hughes; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Mrs. Betty Boatwright; Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Rita Teal; Board’s Legal Counsel, Mr. Kenneth Childs and Mr. Vernie Williams; Board Consultant, Dr. Peter Mitchell; Executive Assistant, Mrs. Shondra Abraham and Administrative Coordinator and Recorder, Mrs. Eartha Mosley; and Budget and Control Board Staff, Mr. Morgan O’Donnell.

**Media:** The Times and Democrat Reporter, Mrs. Dale Linder-Altman; WIS-TV Reporter, Ms. Meaghan Norman; WLTX-Reporter, Ms. Colby Gallagher; and WACH Fox News Reporter, Ms. Shelli Adamczk.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*Chairman Way asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Trustee Irvin moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Helms. Vote: unanimously approved.*

Chairman Way touched on the recent events of Mother Emmanuel AME Church tragedy in Charleston, SC. He and Trustees Swanson and Vinzani spoke on the outpouring of love displayed by the City of Charleston and the Lowcountry communities. In addition, the professionalism demonstrated by the city and State’s leadership.

President Evans read and presented a resolution to the Trustees regarding the support for the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds. Chairman Way asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution. *Trustee Helms made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vinzani. Vote: unanimously approved.*

**PRESIDENT’S UPDATE (ATTACHMENTS 2-4)**

President Evans provided highlights on SC State “Open for Success” (See Attachment 2) and the “Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of SC State issued by SACSCOC (See Attachment 3). The dates for the SACSCOC Special Committee
Visit is April 14-16, 2016. The monitoring report will be due on March 11, 2016 to SACSCOC. The institution is required to go before the Commission again in June 2016.

The President indicated that Mr. Delbert Foster would give a presentation on the 1890 Program at SC State. Mr. Charles Artis, Extension Program Coordinator, and Dr. Louis Whitesides, Research Administrator assisted Mr. Foster with the presentation.

Mr. Artis began by giving a summary on the background overview of the “1890 Research & Extension Program” which included the history of Land Grants; history of the 1890 Land Grant; and the 1890 Morrill Act. Mr. Artis emphasized that there are two land-grant universities in the State of South Carolina, Clemson and SC State University. The University accomplishes its land-grant mission of improving the lives of South Carolinians through research, teaching and service. Clemson was established under the 1862 Land Grant. SC Agricultural and Mechanical Institute currently SC State was established in 1872 and was housed within the institution of Claflin College currently Claflin University. In 1896, the SC General Assembly passed a resolution establishing South Carolina State College severing it from Claflin College, creating South Carolina State College on the current property as a state supported institution. There was discussion regarding the Land Grant formula used for institutions receiving federal funds and the 100% match received from the State of SC. SC State University currently receives 100% of its non-federal match requirement of $4M from the State of SC.

Dr. Whitesides chimed in with the overview of the “Research Program” stating the program offers opportunities for students, faculty and staff to participate in organized agricultural and rural research projects, designed to improve the conditions for limited resource clients. Research is organized into four major areas: 1) Agriculture and Production Systems, 2) Youth and Family Development, 3) Rural Life and Rural Opportunities, and 4) Environment, Health and Human Nutrition.

Mr. Foster concluded with “How 1890 Strengthen the University and the State” and Future Plans in Taking the University to the People to complete its mission. 1890 Programs do not receive E&G or other University funds. The program is self-supported through Federal/State Appropriations and External Grants. 1890’s main office is on the SC State University campus. There are seven offices over the state to consist of Anderson, Bowman, Charleston, Greenwood, Hampton, Marlboro and Williamsburg. There is also Camp Harry E. Daniels which is a 267 acre educational and camping facility. 1890 Research and Extension in partnership with Clemson University prepares and submits to USDA/NIFA (National Institute of Food & Agriculture) for review and approval, a yearly statewide combined Plan of Work. Approval is required to receive yearly federal appropriations. As of 2014, SC State University’s and Clemson’s Combined Plan of Work has been approved for 15 consecutive years.

Trustees Irvin and Clark inquired of the funds from the Federal government and how could the University receive more than the $4M. Mr. Foster replied there is the 1862 Land Grant Law with regulations, which Clemson University is under and the 1890 Land Grant Law with regulations, which SC State is under. The formula for states receiving appropriations is determined by the State’s population. (See Attachment 4). Trustee Helms requested a list of the current extension agents, their locations and a list of the primary and major areas of research of the faculty of SC State. Trustee Clark suggested looking at benchmarks to see how SC State measures up against other 1890’s such as FAMU.

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL UPDATE (ATTACHMENT 5)

Mr. Edward Patrick conveyed some updates since the last Board meeting stating the remaining $1.5M of the $6M was approved by the Blue Ribbon Committee “Working Group”. The $3M received on June 17th has been distributed to vendors. In addition, Elliott Davis Accounting Firm will provide assistance in cleaning up sub-ledger accounts such as the student accounts receivables, grants accounting, and fixed assets. The firm will also provide insight on how to improve our financial closing process. A scope of work is being developed.
Mr. Patrick introduced Ms. Donna Hanton, *Interim Budget Director*, and shared that she would expound on the Proposed 2016 Balanced Budget. Ms. Hanton began by articulating that the Education and General (E&G) Funds had a revenue increase of $4.6M from Special Appropriations for prior periods payable. The budget would include the 12 days furlough, a savings of $1M. Adjustments were made with Contracts Services (DTZ) in renegotiations to save $2.5M. Scholarships were reduced by $2M to allow funded scholarship as the University move forward. The Earmarked Funds is the primary student activity account. The students, in collaboration with Dr. Tamara Hughes, will determine how to use its $339K. The Auxiliary Budget, Sales and Services (UV Housing) was reduced by $1.2M. In contract renegotiations with Sodexo, Mr. Patrick was able to save $3.7M. Under the Athletics Budget, the biggest change was with scholarships, a $1.1M decrease in scholarships. Trustee Swanson stated it appears that Athletics took more of a percentage in the scholarships cuts than E&G and Auxiliary Budgets. Mr. Bryant specified that he did not cut $2.5 in scholarships but opted to cut $1.2M in staff and operation and the remaining $1.3M in scholarships.

Ms. Vernell Brown shared that she had received complaints from parents of not understanding the student fees and asked could a communication be sent out explaining the student fees simpler to parents. President Evans said it will be worked on.

The Chair asked Mr. Patrick if the $4M from the Blue Ribbon Committee designated for FY16 will be used to pay vendors. He indicated that it would be. Ms. Brewington stated that when the University received the $3M on June 17th, vendors with an aging accounts receivable of 90 to 120 days were paid and all the paperwork was in place. Half of the $3M was paid to major vendors. Once the institution receives the remaining $1.5M of the $6M from FY15, it will be used to cover major vendors. As of Monday, June 29th the balance for non-major vendors was under $500K. Chairman Way expressed that was “good news.”

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

_Trustee Clark made a motion for the Trustees to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual, legal and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Irvin. Vote: unanimously approved._

**OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Way asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. _Trustee Vinzani so moved and Trustee Swanson seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved._ The Chair stated there were no motions taken while in Executive Session. Contractual and personnel matters were discussed.

_Trustee Vinzani made a motion to adopt the Balanced Budget for FY16 for South Carolina State University. The motion was seconded by Trustee Clark. Vote: unanimously approved._

Chairman Way expressed to the media that the University has a balanced budget and Dr. Evans will speak on the positive aspects going on at the University. The Trustees feel confident that they are getting their arms around the situation. The institution has a wonderful future.

The next Board meeting is Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 10:00AM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. _Trustee Irvin so moved and Trustee Helms seconded the motion. Vote: unanimously approved._

The meeting adjourned at 3:53PM.
Submitted by,

Eartha Mosley
Recorder

Attachments
1 – Agenda
2 – Open for Success Handout
3 – SCASCOC Handout
4 – 1890 Research and Extension Power Point Presentation
5 – University’s Financial Update - Financial Handout