

**Minutes
Coastal Carolina University
Board of Trustees**

**Government Affairs Committee
E. Craig Wall Jr. Board Room
February 16, 2018**

Committee Members Present: Mr. Samuel H. Frink, Ms. Natasha M. Hanna, Mr. William L Lyles Jr., Mr. George E. Mullen, and Dr. Samuel J. Swad

Committee Member Not Present: Mr. John H. Bartell Jr.

Other Board Present: Mr. William S. Biggs, Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson, Mr. Carlos C. Johnson, Mr. Charles E. Lewis, Dr. Oran P. Smith, Mr. Eugene C. Spivey, Mr. H. Delan Stevens, and Mr. William E. Turner III

Others Present: Ms. Sandra Baldrige-Adrian, Ms. Katherine Brooks, Dr. J. Ralph Byington, Ms. Nedy Campbell, Mr. Joshua M. Chesson, Dr. Debbie C. Conner, Dr. Melvin Davis, Dr. David A. DeCenzo, Mr. Stephen K. Harrison, Mr. Matthew L. Hogue, Dr. Sara N. Hottinger, Mr. Mark Kelley, Mr. Timothy E. Meacham, Mr. Travis E. Overton, Ms. Jennifer Packard, Mr. William M. Plate Jr., Dr. Barbara A. Ritter, Mr. Mark A. Roach, Dr. Michal H. Roberts, and Ms. V. Chyrel Stalvey

(In accordance with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, the news media were notified of the time, location, and agenda for the meeting.)

Chairman Natasha Hanna brought the Government Affairs committee to order at 9:00 a.m.

Larry Lyles moved to approve the October 26, 2017, Government Affairs Committee minutes. George Mullen seconded, and the motion passed.

Legislative Liaison Mark Kelley reported on government activity:

Washington lobbyists, Nelson Mullins Riley Scarborough LLP, continues to send monthly reports on information for grants that could be relevant to the University.

President David DeCenzo, Dr. Paul Gayes, and others met with our delegation staff in Washington to discuss the Mesoscale Storm Prediction Program. Follow-up will continue with both senators and congressman for National Science Foundation grants. The University is working with state and federal government for funding.

The State is working on the budget again. There is additional new money of \$90M to be divided between 83 agencies. Money will be real tight this year. This year we have received an

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additional funded 25 FTEs. We have also requested another 20 funded FTEs. We have also requested authorization to spend funds that are collected by the University through our budget.

There are about 58 bills in the House and Senate dealing with issues in higher education. One is freedom of speech on campus. The State is considering an equitable way to address the issue. Preferential treatment will be given to veterans and active military in scheduling classes. There are conversations to keep the same tuition rate when you enter school for four years. This probably won't get accepted. There is a bill moving now requiring that someone from student government have a full voting seat on the university's board of trustees. This is something to think about and keep an eye on.

Two years ago State Representative Michael Pitts (R-Laurens) introduced a bill that would exempt people with concealed carry permits from the state's gun restrictions on school property. He has resubmitted it. This would apply to a student, professor, or anybody on university campus. This bill is not expected to go anywhere.

Hanna inquired about SCCHE Commissioner Chairman Tim Hoffereth going around the state discussing the Commission's view of the problems with state universities. Mark Kelley suggested that Hoffereth was promoting the need for a state board of regents which he does not expect to happen.

President DeCenzo reported that the House of Representatives committee was very receptive to Coastal's proposed budget for next year. As the committee members, staff, and chairman were new, there were plenty of general questions.

Lyles moved to amend the agenda to go into executive to discuss a personnel issue and Turner seconded. As required, two-thirds of the committee agreed. Upon reconvening, it was noted that no action was taken.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey

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Recorder