

**Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina**

**MINUTES**

**of the Meeting of**

**THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Madren Center Board Room  
Clemson, South Carolina  
Thursday, June 12, 2003**

After notification as required by the Freedom of Information Act, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM with the following members present: Lawrence M. Gressette, Jr., presiding; Bill L. Amick, J. J. Britton, Thomas C. Lynch, Jr., Louis B. Lynn, Patricia H. McAbee (via teleconference), Leslie G. McCraw, E. Smyth McKissick, III, Thomas B. McTeer, Jr., Robert L. Peeler, William C. Smith, Jr., Joseph D. Swann, Harold D. Kingsmore, Allen P. Wood, and J. Thornton Kirby, Executive Secretary

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: President James F. Barker, Dori Helms, Almeda Jacks, Ben Anderson, Chris Przirembel, Scott Ludlow, Neill Cameron, Cathy Sams, Debbie Jackson, John Kelly, Lawrence Nichols, and Terry Don Phillips

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Denny, Brett Dalton, Kristin Claude, Janice Kleck, John Robinson, Larry Allen, Angie Leidinger, Alan Godfrey, Bruce Ransom, Tom Keinath, Dale Linvill, Robert Ricketts, John Newton, Anna Kellehan, Fletcher Anderson, Mason Ailstock, David Dickerson, and Stassen Thompson

MEDIA PRESENT: Anna Simon, *Greenville News*; Jon Solomon and Adam Beam, *Anderson Independent*; Kisha Foster, Kevin Moran, and Alex Caban, *WYFF-TV*; Chris Day, *Clemson-Seneca Daily Journal*; and Kris Mau, *WSPA-TV*

**Item 1. Introductions**

**Statement:** Chairman Gressette called on Robin Denny to introduce any guests from the media in attendance. Ms. Denny introduced Anna Simon of the *Greenville News*; Jon Solomon and Adam Beam of the *Anderson Independent*; Kisha Foster, Kevin Moran, and Alex Caban of *WYFF-TV*; and Chris Day of the *Clemson-Seneca Daily Journal*. Chairman Gressette welcomed the guests to the meeting.

**Item 2. Approval of Minutes**

**Statement:** The minutes of the April 25, 2003 meeting and the May 16, 2003 teleconference were submitted for approval.

**Action:** There being no changes, Chairman Gressette stated that the minutes would stand approved as submitted.

### Item 3. Budget and Finance Committee

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on J.J. Britton to convene the Budget and Finance Committee to consider three action items. Dr. Britton convened the Budget & Finance Committee at 10:07 AM. Following the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee, Chairman Gressette reconvened the meeting of the full Board at 11:07 AM and asked for Dr. Britton's report.

#### A. Tuition and Fee Schedule for 2003-04 Academic Year

Statement: Dr. Britton reported that President Barker had presented the following recommendation concerning tuition to the Budget and Finance Committee.

President Barker revisited the University's vision and goals (Attachment 1), which are driving every decision including this tuition recommendation. He also highlighted the University's Guiding Principles for managing during the budget crisis (Attachment 2). President Barker next reviewed a history of planning and budgeting to a plan (Attachment 3), noting particularly the significant operational strategies pursued as well as the seven state budget cuts since July 2001, totaling \$45.4 million. President Barker also shared benchmark data on state funding for peer institutions (Attachment 4) and a summary of permanent changes in revenues and allocations (Attachment 5). After discussing this background data, President Barker recommended a base tuition increase of \$550 per semester for resident students and a base tuition increase of \$800 per semester for non-resident students. With these increases, tuition for South Carolina students would be \$3,467 per semester and tuition for out-of-state students would be \$7,266 per semester. President Barker also recommended the approval of the Academic Fee Schedule enclosed with the presentation materials (Attachment 6).

President Barker asked Student Government leaders to react to the proposal on behalf of their fellow students. Student Body President Fletcher Anderson reported that a survey had been conducted of undergraduate students with the following results:

- 88% of undergraduate Clemson students agree or strongly agree with President Barker's vision to become a top 20 public university.
- 72% of undergraduate Clemson students would be opposed to a 30% increase in their class sizes to help prevent a substantial increase in tuition.
- 84% of undergraduate Clemson students are opposed to laying off faculty to help prevent a substantial tuition increase.
- 76% of undergraduate Clemson students agree or strongly agree that the quality of their education is more important than the cost of their tuition.

On behalf of graduate students, Mason Ailstock thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to participate in the most significant decisions affecting the University. He noted that graduate students are a diverse group, 25% of whom are international students. They are cost-minded, but they are more concerned about quality than cost when it comes to their education. They support the University's commitment to quality, and they stand united with the undergraduate students, the faculty, and the Administration to support whatever action the Board of Trustees deems to be in the best interest of the University.

Action: On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Dr. Britton made a motion to increase resident tuition by \$550 per semester, to increase non-resident tuition by \$800 per semester, and to approve the Academic Fee Schedule for FY 2003-2004. In light of the fact that all Trustees had the opportunity to participate in the Committee's discussion of tuition, there was no further discussion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

#### B. Authorization of Athletic Department Admissions Fees

Statement: Dr. Britton reported that John Newton had presented a request to increase the admissions fees charged by the Athletic Department as part of its ticket prices for certain sports (Attachment 7). Mr. Newton noted the increased admissions fees would be dedicated to debt service in support of construction projects financed by athletic revenue bonds. Admissions fees are currently charged only on football tickets (\$2 per ticket). The proposed action would increase the admissions fee on football tickets from \$2 to \$4 per ticket, and it would authorize the Athletic Department to institute admissions fees on Men's Basketball (\$2 per ticket), as well as Baseball, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, and Women's Basketball (\$1 per ticket). Mr. Newton stressed that the action requested of the Board was the authorization of admissions fees, and that such action would not result in increased ticket prices to consumers. Athletic ticket prices are controlled by the Athletic Department, and this action is necessary only because state statutes and Board policies require Board approval before ticket revenues may be directed to debt service.

Action: On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Dr. Britton made a motion to authorize the admissions fees as requested. There was no discussion, and the action was approved by majority vote with one Trustee, Bob Peeler, dissenting.

#### C. Lease Agreement with USDA for Ravenel Building

Statement: Dr. Britton reported that Clemson has an agreement with USDA Cotton Quality Research to lease to USDA approximately eighty percent (29,000 square feet) of the Ravenel Building and an 8,400 square foot storage barn. The agreement has been in effect since 1978 and is essentially open-ended. Having USDA's Cotton Quality Research Lab near campus is of benefit to Clemson and to the textile, cotton and other natural fiber industries in South Carolina. The lab and joint research projects with Clemson are funded in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000 annually. Their \$4,000,000 processing and instrumentation equipment is used as a hands-on laboratory by our textile faculty and students. In addition, USDA leases to Clemson three buildings and 10 acres of land on Cherry Road. The buildings are occupied by the Agriculture Support Department. The agreement with USDA needs to be revisited, however. For example, the current agreement requires Clemson to pay all costs for repairing the roof, an expense that is estimated at five hundred thousand dollars. Finally, a term for the lease should be established.

On behalf of the Administration, Dr. Stassen Thompson recommended the issuance of a new lease agreement to USDA Cotton Quality on approximately 29,000 square feet of the Ravenel Building and the 8,400 square foot storage barn with the following general terms and conditions.

- USDA shall be responsible for all maintenance expenses of the storage barn.
- With respect to the Ravenel Building
  - 1) USDA shall be responsible for all costs of repairing the roof subject to Clemson's approval of design and materials;
  - 2) USDA shall be responsible for all utilities associated with its operation;
  - 3) All other expenses shall be shared between USDA and Clemson on a pro rata basis;
  - 4) Clemson shall have the use of the USDA buildings on Cherry Road as agreed to under the current USDA permit; and
  - 5) The term of the lease shall be for a period of five years with one option to renew for an additional five years.

Action: On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Dr. Britton made a motion to approve the new lease terms as proposed by Dr. Thompson. There was no discussion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Item 4. Executive Session

Statement: The Chairman stated that the Board of Trustees needed to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

Action: Dr. Lynn made a motion to go in to executive session, Mr. Amick seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous. The Chairman noted that no decisions would be made and no votes would be taken while the Board was in executive session, and he invited guests to wait outside the room. The Board went into executive session at 11:10 AM.

Item 5. Open Session

Statement: Mr. McKissick made a motion to go out of executive session, Mr. Smith seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous. The meeting was reconvened in open session at 12:15 PM. Chairman Gressette reported that no decisions were made and no votes were taken while the Board was in executive session.

Item 6. Adjourn

Statement: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and properly seconded. The meeting was concluded at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Thornton Kirby  
Executive Secretary to the  
Board of Trustees