

**Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina**

**MINUTES**

**of the meeting of**

**THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Madren Center  
Clemson, South Carolina  
Friday, October 9, 1998**

After notification as required by the Freedom of Information Act, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with the following members present: Lawrence M. Gressette, Jr., presiding; Bill L. Amick, J.J. Britton, Bill Hendrix, Harold D. Kingsmore, Louis Lynn, Patricia McAbee, Leslie McCraw, Smyth McKissick, Thomas McTeer, William C. Smith, Jr., Joe Swann, Allen Wood, Louis P. Batson, Jr., W.G. DesChamps, Jr., Paul Quattlebaum, D. Leslie Tindal, and Thornton Kirby, Executive Secretary

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: President Curris, Steffen Rogers, Almeda Jacks, Ben Anderson, Scott Ludlow, John Kelly, Neill Cameron, and David Stalnaker

**Item 1. Introductions**

Statement: The Chairman called on Cathy Sams to introduce any guests from the media. Ms. Sams introduced Dave Breitenstein of the Anderson Independent and Kimberly Davis of the Greenville News.

The Chairman also recognized Cathy Bell, President of the University's Classified Staff Commission. Ms. Bell thanked the Chairman for the introduction and stated that she looked forward to working with the Board.

The Chairman concluded his introductions by recognizing Fran McGuire, newly elected Faculty Representative to the Board. Dr. McGuire thanked the Chairman and the entire Board for their willingness to work in partnership with the University Faculty.

**Item 2. Resolutions for Mickel and Self Families**

Statement: Chairman Gressette reminded all present of the recent loss of two Trustees, Buck Mickel and Jim Self. He stated that he had asked the Executive Secretary to prepare resolutions for the Mickel and Self families, both of whom were invited to be present at the meeting but were unable to attend. Chairman Gressette relayed to the Board the gratitude expressed by both families in

response to the Board's gesture. The Chairman asked that a motion be made to formally adopt the resolutions prepared by the Executive Secretary (Attachment 1).

Action: Mr. McTeer made a motion to approve the resolutions, Dr. Britton seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**Item 3. Resolutions Honoring Clemson Medal of Honor Recipients**

Statement: The Chairman called on Thornton Kirby to explain a request from General Gene Blackwell for a Board resolution honoring three Medal of Honor recipients who attended Clemson prior to joining the military. Executive Secretary Kirby provided a summary of the three resolutions, and the Chairman asked for a motion to approve. See Attachment 2.

Action: Mr. Swann made a motion to approve the resolutions, Mrs. McAbee seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**Item 4. Final Report from the Commission on the Future of Clemson University**

Statement: Chairman Gressette recognized David Stalnaker to officially present the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Clemson University. Mr. Stalnaker reported that copies of the Final Report had already been provided to all Trustees, and that he was pleased to make this official presentation on behalf of all members of the Commission. Chairman Gressette thanked Mr. Stalnaker for his work and explained that the Board would consider all recommendations through its current committee structure. The Chairman concluded his comments by thanking again all members of the Commission on the Future of Clemson University for their dedicated work.

**Item 5. Approval of Minutes**

Statement: The minutes of the July 17, 1998 Board Meeting and the September 23, 1998 Teleconference of the Board were submitted for approval, and there being no changes, the Chairman noted that they would stand approved as written.

**Item 6. Future Board Meetings**

Statement: The Chairman called on Thornton Kirby to present the dates of future Board meetings. Mr. Kirby reported that the Board would meet on January 29, 1999 in Clemson and on April 16, 1999 in Clemson.

**Item 7. Student Affairs Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Mr. Swann for a report from the Student Affairs Committee.

Informational Items

A. Parents' Council Update

Statement: Mr. Swann recognized Almeda Jacks, who introduced Messrs. Dave Smith and Jim Klaverius, officers of the Parents' Council. Mr. Smith updated the Board on activities currently underway to enhance the Clemson experience for students, and he shared a number of opportunities currently being pursued by the Council. Mr. Klaverius updated the Board on the creation of a new entity, the Parents' Development Committee, and he provided an overview of plans for the Committee's first year of existence.

B. Student Government Update

Statement: Matt Dunbar, Student Body President, provided an update on student government activities and answered questions from the Trustees. Foremost among the priorities of Student Government, according to Mr. Dunbar, are campus recreation, academic integrity, and housing issues. Mr. Swann thanked Mr. Dunbar for his report and expressed the Board's ongoing support for the activities of Student Government.

C. Graduate Student Government Update

Statement: David Hamilton, Past President of the Graduate Student Government, updated the Board on concerns of the graduate student population. Mr. Swann thanked Mr. Hamilton for his report and expressed the Board's appreciation for his work on behalf of the University's graduate students.

D. Career Center Statistics

Statement: Jeffrey Powell, Director of the University's Career Center, reported on the increased use of the Career Center during the past year. He noted that employer visits and interviews were up compared to the prior year, as was the number of alumni registered for career services. Mr. Swann thanked Mr. Powell for his report and commended him not only for his results, but also for his efforts to measure results.

E. Campus Issues

Statement: Vice President Jacks reported briefly on current issues of importance to the campus at large, including several racial incidents. She outlined the Administration's response to the issues and stated she would keep the Board apprised of future developments.

**Item 8. Executive and Audit Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette reported that the Audit and Executive Committee had met prior to the Board meeting, at which time the Committee heard from Becky Bowman, the University's Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance Services who recently left her position with the NCAA to join the Clemson staff. Among other things, Ms. Bowman updated the Committee on basic principles of compliance and rules of thumb for avoiding violations.

Action Item

A. Revised Charter for the Board of Visitors

Statement: Chairman Gressette reported that the Audit and Executive Committee had approved modifications to the Charter for the Board of Visitors (Attachment 3).

Action: Mr. Gressette made a motion that the revised charter be approved by the full Board, Mr. Amick seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Informational Item

A. Revision to the Presidential Selection Process

Statement: Chairman Gressette reported that he had appointed an ad hoc committee to review the existing Presidential Selection Process, and the committee's report had been received during the Audit and Executive Committee meeting. While the ad hoc committee was not satisfied with the existing process, it made no specific suggestions for adoption. Mr. Gressette reported that he had directed the committee to consider proposed modifications and advise the Board when it was prepared to move forward.

**Item 9. Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Mrs. McAbee for her committee's report.

Action Items

A. Agricultural Heritage Center Lease

Statement: Mrs. McAbee called on Stassen Thompson to discuss a proposed lease for the Agricultural Heritage Center located at the Edisto REC. Mr. Thompson outlined the proposed lease, and Mrs. McAbee reported that the Committee had recommended approval by the full Board.

Action: Mrs. McAbee made a motion to approve the lease, Dr. Lynn seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

B. BellSouth Request

Statement: Mrs. McAbee called on Stassen Thompson to discuss a request from BellSouth for an easement to locate a switchbox to serve the Hardscrabble Road and Clemson Road area of Columbia (Attachment 4). Mr. Thompson outlined the terms of the easement, for which BellSouth would pay Clemson Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000). Mrs. McAbee reported that the Committee had recommended approval by the full Board.

Action: Mrs. McAbee made a motion to approve the lease, Mr. Kingsmore seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**Item 10. Budget and Finance Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Mr. Amick for his committee's report.

Informational Item

A. Legislative Priorities for 1999

Statement: Mr. Amick called on Scott Ludlow to present the University's legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the South Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Ludlow presented his report and offered to answer questions. Mr. Amick thanked Mr. Ludlow for his report.

**Item 11. Educational Policy Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Mr. McCraw for his committee's report.

Action Items

A. Merger of Agricultural Education & Biology

Statement: Mr. McCraw asked Stef Rogers to update the Board on the proposed merger of two academic units. Provost Rogers explained the rationale for merging the Agricultural Education and Biology units, noting that the combined structure is intended to foster overall efficiency as well as synergy among faculty members. Provost Rogers also noted the extensive involvement of the faculty, staff, and extension associates who will be affected by the merger.

Action: After Provost Rogers completed his explanation, Mr. McCraw made a motion to approve the proposed merger, Mr. McTeer seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

B. Institutes and Centers

Statement: Provost Rogers discussed his plan to clarify the respective roles of institutes and centers at Clemson University, and he asked the Board to endorse the concept as he described it. The Provost explained that no clear guidelines exist to differentiate between centers and institutes, both of which are useful models for fostering interdisciplinary research. Since the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has recently made it easier for universities to create centers and institutes, Provost Rogers wants to use them to foster interdisciplinary research without allowing their proliferation.

According to the Provost's plan, centers will operate to foster interdisciplinary research across departmental lines within a particular college, and institutes will operate to foster interdisciplinary research across college boundaries.

Action: After discussion and questions from the Board, Mr. McCraw made a motion to approve the Provost's plan in concept, Mr. Smith seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

### Informational Items

#### A. Year 2000 Compliance

Statement: Chris Duckenfield reported on the University's Year 2000 compliance efforts, noting that almost all University systems were Year 2000 compliant as of the meeting date. Two major systems are not yet compliant, namely those for Human Resources/Accounting and the library. Mr. Duckenfield reported that the Human Resources/Accounting system is in the process of being converted to Peoplesoft, and the first components are expected to be installed by January of 1999.

Following his report Mr. Duckenfield answered a number of questions from the Board, and Mr. Amick asked him to provide more detailed reporting on Year 200 compliance at future meetings.

#### B. Library Year 2000 Compliance

Statement: Provost Rogers reported that a new computing system for the library has been purchased and will be installed in two parts, the first in May of 1999 and the second in July of 1999. He reported that he expects the library system to be operational prior to January 1, 2000.

#### C. Off Campus, Distance & Continuing Education

Statement: Provost Rogers updated the Board on accomplishments in Clemson's distance education technology and plans for future improvements. He also

provided benchmark data for several peer institutions, including Auburn, Georgia Tech, N.C. State, and the University of South Carolina.

D. LIFE Scholarships

Statement: Provost Rogers reported that LIFE Scholarships have been awarded by the State of South Carolina for the first time this Fall, and seventy-five percent (75%) of Clemson's students have benefited as scholarship recipients.

**Item 12. Institutional Advancement Committee**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Mr. Hendrix for his committee's report.

Action Item

A. State Endowment Investment

Statement: Mr. Hendrix noted that recent legislation enacted by the General Assembly allowed endowment funds held by the State Treasurer on behalf of colleges and universities to be returned to the institutions for investment management. He advised the Board that two steps would be required in order for this to be accomplished. The University would have to approve a memorandum of understanding with the Clemson University Foundation dictating the terms by which the endowment funds would be invested and managed, and then the University would have to loan to the Foundation those assets to be managed in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.

Action: Mr. Hendrix made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 5) and loan to the Clemson University Foundation up to one hundred percent of all endowment funds, quasi-endowment funds, and other assets not currently managed by the Clemson University Foundation. Mrs. McAbee seconded the motion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Informational Items

A. Advancement Reports

Statement: Mr. Hendrix called on Neill Cameron to present the most recent reports on endowment, fund-raising, public affairs, and media activity for the quarter. Mr. Cameron updated the Board on these reports and answered questions posed by the Trustees. He recognized Debbie DuBose for her outstanding efforts during the prior year, and Mr. Hendrix commended both Mr. Cameron and Mrs. DuBose for their outstanding work.

**Item 13. Ratification of Mail Ballot**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on Thornton Kirby for a report on a recent mail ballot. Mr. Kirby reported that nominations for the Clemson University

Research Foundation (CURF) Board of Directors had been received and approved by the Board through a mail ballot, and he asked for ratification of the mail ballot by action at the full Board meeting. Mr. Kirby reported that the new Directors of the CURF Board are Mr. Charles Watt and Mr. Al Quick.

Action: Mr. Kingsmore made a motion to approve the mail ballot, Mr. McTeer seconded, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

**Item 14. President's Report**

Statement: Chairman Gressette called on President Curris for his report, and the President updated the Board on an education-related grant recently awarded to Clemson by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. President Curris commended the University's faculty for substantive efforts to improve the quality of education in South Carolina.

President Curris also discussed the disturbing increase in excessive alcohol consumption by college students nationwide, noting that Clemson is not immune from this issue. President Curris advised the Board to expect several new initiatives to address alcohol abuse on campus, and he thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to report.

**Item 15. Adjourn**

Statement: There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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J. Thornton Kirby  
Executive Secretary