

Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina

MINUTES  
**TELECONFERENCE OF THE  
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Clemson, South Carolina  
June 12, 2020  
8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Notification as required by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act was given at least twenty-four hours before the meeting by posting the notice and agenda on the entrance of Sikes Hall, Clemson University and on the Clemson University Board of Trustees website. Additionally, notice of, and the agenda for, the meeting was sent via email to the distribution list maintained by the Office of Media Relations which includes approximately 80 reporters and editors at the major daily newspapers, television and radio stations in S.C.

After notification as required by the Freedom of Information Act, Trustee McKissick, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following present:

Trustees (all via phone/video): Smyth McKissick, *Chairman, presiding*; David Dukes; Ronnie Lee; Louis Lynn, Patti McAbee; Nicky McCarter; Bob Peeler; Cheri Phyfer; Mark Richardson; Bill Smith; Joe Swann; Kim Wilkerson; and David Wilkins

Trustees Emeriti: J.J. Britton, Bill Hendrix, Tom McTeer, and Allen Wood

Administration: James P. Clements, *President*; George Askew, *Vice President for Public Service*; Max Allen, *Vice President and Chief of Staff*; Anthony Wagner, *Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations*; Chip Hood, *General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees*; Chris Miller, *Interim Vice President for Student Affairs*; Robert H. Jones, *Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*; Tanju Karanfil, *Vice President for Research*; Robert Donato, *Chief Strategy Officer*; Angie Leidinger, *Vice President for External*; Dan Radakovich, *Director of Athletics*; Russ Kaurlooto, *Vice President and Chief Information Officer*; Brian O'Rourke, *Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations*; Mark Land, *Vice President for University Relations*; and Lee Gill, *Chief Diversity Officer*

Guests: Jermaine Johnson, *Office of General Counsel*; Joe Galbraith, *University Relations*; Rose Ellen Davis-Gross, *Office of the Board of Trustees*; Jon Clayton, *CCIT*; Doug Henry, *CCIT*; and Sally Mauldin, *Office of the Board of Trustees*

Media: Several media outlets and other guests joined the meeting via live stream hosted online by Clemson TV.

Sally Mauldin called roll of the Board of Trustees. Chairman McKissick noted that a quorum was present.

Joe Galbraith noted there were members of the media in attendance via live stream.

### Executive Session

Chairman McKissick said it was necessary to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding Section 10-1-165 of the S.C. Code and other matters covered by the attorney client privilege. He said no votes or action would be taken and the Board would reconvene in public session.

Trustee Peeler moved to go into executive session. Trustee McAbee seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 8:33 a.m. and returned to public session at 9:47 a.m.

Chairman McKissick made remarks about the purpose of today's meeting.

### Action Items

#### 1. Provost's Recommendation for the Honors College

Provost Jones presented his report and the following recommendations for the Honors College:

1. Set a goal, with metrics, of Clemson University having a nationally ranked top tier honors college aligned with the national prestige of the university.
2. Establish the position of Dean of the Honors College and launch a national search to fill the position.
3. Charge the Dean with preparing a strategic plan with detailed metrics that addresses the recommendations made by the Provost's Honors College Task Force.
4. Leverage the overall reputation of the university by immediately renaming and rebranding the college to the "Clemson University Honors College."

Trustee Wilkins moved to approve the recommendations for the Honors College. Trustee Dukes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### 2. Sense of the Board: Campus Climate

Chairman McKissick made remarks about Benjamin Tillman and the necessity of placing history in its context while also honoring Clemson's core values.

Trustee Peeler made remarks about the death of George Floyd and how it has inspired a call to action at this time. Trustee Peeler submitted the following resolution in the form of a motion:

Whereas:

Clemson University (“Clemson”) was established in 1889 with the fundamental purpose of being a high seminary of learning;

Clemson has throughout the years held true to its fundamental purpose while becoming a coeducational institution in 1955 and peacefully desegregating in 1963;

Recent unrest in our country has renewed the discussion around how Clemson honors certain historical figures on the campus and how that impacts the full breadth of the Clemson family;

Historically, the Clemson Board of Trustees has taken positions against symbols of racism and hatred in both 1999 and 2015 by supporting the removal of the confederate flag from the Statehouse and its grounds;

In July 2015, the Board denounced the racist views and actions of Benjamin Tillman who played a leading role in the founding of the university;

Also in July of 2015, the Board established a history task force to tell the full and complete history of Clemson and its people; Progress was made with the erection of historical markers, updating of the biographies of Clemson founders, and updating signage of all historical buildings to reflect their history appropriately;

In October 2017, the Board adopted a set of values to include; integrity, respect, diversity, patriotism, excellence, and self-reliance. Respect means to value the rights of others, their individual differences, beliefs, and ideas. Actively listen and communicate. Seek to understand the challenges they face and are forgiving; and

Recent events in our nation show that as a country we have much to learn and understand. Clemson has made strides; but we still have much to do.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SENSE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS:**

We encourage all members of the Clemson family to embrace the values of respect and diversity;

We acknowledge and appreciate the authority to change the names of historic buildings rests solely with the General Assembly as required by the Heritage Act;

We feel it important, however, to share our desires and respectfully request the General Assembly grant the authority for the Board of Trustees for Clemson University to restore Tillman Hall to its original name of the Main Building, commonly called “Old Main” during the 2021 Legislative Session;

We affirm that the Board will not be seeking further relief from the Heritage Act.

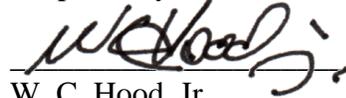
Trustee Lynn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman McKissick noted that while the Emeriti Trustees did not vote, the action items had their support as well.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman McKissick adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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W. C. Hood, Jr.

Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:

  
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Signature

July 24, 2020

Date