

(Approved at April 20, 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting)

**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC**

Special Board of Trustees Meeting
Randolph Hall Boardroom¹
February 6, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Presiding:
David M. Hay, Chair

Board Members Present: Trustees David M. Hay (Chair), Demetria Noisette Clemons, L. Cherry Daniel, Randy R. Lowell, Toya D. Pound, Penny S. Rosner, and Joseph F. Thompson, Jr.

Board Members Participating by Conference Call: Trustees John H. Busch, Frank M. Gadsden, Henrietta U. Golding, Gregory D. Padgett, Renee B. Romberger, Craig C. Thornton, Ricci L. Welch, and John B. Wood, Jr.

Board Members Absent: Trustees Don Belk, Annaliza O. Moorhead, Brian J. Stern, and M. Todd Warrick

Others Present: Michael Adeyanju (Director, Executive Communications), Mark Berry (Executive Director, Division of Marketing and Communications), Alicia Caudill (Executive VP, Student Affairs), Betty Craig (Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees), Rénard Harris (Associate VP/Chief Diversity Officer), Elizabeth Jurisich (Speaker of the Faculty/Professor, Mathematics Department), Elizabeth Kassebaum (Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees/VP, College Projects), Ron Menchaca (Senior Director, Communications), Angela Mulholland (General Counsel), Steve Osborne (Senior Advisor to the President), Paul Patrick (Executive VP, Business Affairs), and Chris Tobin (Executive VP, Institutional Advancement).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Chair Hay called the meeting to order noting that the press had been notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

He noted that Trustees John Busch, Frank Gadsden, Henrietta Golding, Greg Padgett, Renee Romberger, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch, and John Wood will participate by conference call.

He welcomed everyone and noted that they will continue moving forward this morning in response to President McConnell's announcement last week regarding his plans to retire.

¹In accordance with requirements of the *S. C. Freedom of Information Act*, news media was notified of the time, location, and agenda for this meeting.

As Chair Hay stated last week, “President McConnell has done an exceptional job in his role leading the College of Charleston. We are all proud of the work he and his leadership team have done and the strong foundation that he has built for which future generations of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders will benefit.

Being a university president is no easy task, and President McConnell has done an excellent job serving and leading his alma mater. We are forever grateful for his thoughtfulness, his tireless work and the honor and integrity he brought to Randolph all.

The College of Charleston is an extraordinary institution of higher learning, and it is the task of this board to find its next extraordinary leader, and we will.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved by Trustee Cherry Daniel, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, that the minutes of the January 30, 2018 Special Board Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The motion was made by Trustee Cherry Daniel, and seconded by Trustee Randy Lowell, to resolve the Board into Executive Session at 10:08 a.m. for the discussion of employment consistent with S.C. Freedom of Information Act [Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)]? All in favor.

For reasons of confidentiality in Executive Session, Chair Hay asked all Board members on the conference call to please acknowledge that they are on a phone line not being recorded and that they are in a private venue and alone while on this call. Trustees John Busch, Frank Gadsden, Henrietta Golding, Greg Padgett, Renee Romberger, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch, and John Wood responded affirmatively.

At this point, Chair Hay noted that only the Board members, Mark Berry, Elizabeth Kassebaum, and Paul Patrick shall remain and attend Executive Session. He noted that Steve Osborne and Betty Craig are subject to the call of the Board, if needed, during this Executive Session and asked them to remain available and in close proximity to the Randolph Hall Board Room.

[Everyone not requested to attend Executive Session left the Boardroom.]

The motion was made by Trustee Demetria Clemons, and seconded by Trustee Randy Lowell, to come out of Executive Session at 11:18 a.m. All in favor.

[Regular session resumed and everyone returned to the Boardroom.]

Chair Hay noted for the record that no action was taken during Executive Session.

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Joe Thompson, that based on advice of Legal Counsel, the Board of Trustees accepts President McConnell’s letter in which he submitted his resignation effective July 2, 2018. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Randy Lowell, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, to appoint Steve Osborne as the Interim President effective as of July 2, 2018, subject to the conclusion of mutually acceptable contract terms for that position. We look forward to

continuing to work with President McConnell and Steve Osborne during this search and the President's willingness to work in an advisory capacity after July 2. All in favor.

Steve Osborne's response: "I would like to express my appreciation for the confidence of the Board and state it is an honor to serve in this capacity, particularly as an alumnus of the College. I look forward to moving the College forward with a student-focused orientation. Again, I appreciate the support of all of you."

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS:

Renee Romberger, Search Committee Chair, spoke regarding the search process.

- Renee Romberger's remarks: "I appreciate your confidence in my leading the Search Committee. It is imperative to keep the Search Committee small with only eight members. Throughout the months of February and March, team leaders and co-leaders will schedule listening sessions to receive input from four stakeholder groups – faculty, students, staff, and donors/alumni."

(1) Student Listening Sessions:

Leader: Alicia Caudill, Executive VP, Student Affairs

Co-Leaders: Alexandra Helfgott, President, Student Government Association; and Timothy Buttram, President, Graduate Student Association

(2) Faculty Listening Sessions:

Leader: Timothy Johnson, Interim Dean, School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs

Co-Leaders: Hollis France, Associate Professor of Political Science/Faculty Member in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Women's and Gender Studies; Devon Hanahan, Faculty Marshal/Senior Instructor of Hispanic Studies; and Denis Keyes, Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee to the President/Professor of Teacher Education

(3) Staff Listening Sessions:

Leader: Rénard Harris, Chief Diversity Officer; Associate VP, Office of Institutional Diversity

Co-Leaders: Rudy Aliasaukas, Chair, Staff Advisory Committee to the President, and Database Specialist, Division of Institutional Advancement; and Ed Pope, VP, Human Resources.

(4) Donors/Alumni Listening Sessions:

Leader: Chris Tobin, Executive VP, Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, College of Charleston Foundation

Co-Leaders: David Crowley '02, President, Cougar Club; Jeff Kinard '77, Chair, College of Charleston Foundation Board of Directors; and Michael Renault '95, President-elect, Alumni Association

- An on-line survey will be available for members of the campus community who are unable to attend listening sessions so they may share their feedback regarding desired characteristics.
- A search firm will be selected by April.
- The job description will be posted by May-June.

- Candidates will be recommended to the full Board of Trustees and interviews scheduled in September.
- New President will be on the job by January 2019 or July 2019 depending on his/her schedule
- David Hay's remarks: "I want to thank both the members of the Presidential Search Committee as well as the faculty, staff, students, and volunteer leaders for their willingness to serve. While President McConnell's retirement marks the end of a remarkable career of public service to the State of South Carolina, it also represents a new beginning and another exciting chapter in the College's story as we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of our founding in 2020."

The motion was made by Trustee Randy Lowell, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. All in favor.