

(Approved at August 6, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting)

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC

Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Board of Trustees' Office, Room 208C, Randolph Hall
Zoom Video Conference*
June 25, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Presiding:
David M. Hay, Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Members Participating via Zoom Video Conference – Trustees Chuck Baker, Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, John Busch, Demetria Clemons, Hank Futch, Henrietta Golding, David Hay (Chair), Shawn Holland, Renée Romberger, Penny Rosner, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch and John Wood

Board Members Absent: Trustees Cherry Daniel, Randy Lowell and Toya Pound

Other Attendees Participating via Zoom Video Conference – President Andrew Hsu, Dr. Robert Ball, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Betty Craig, John Curtis, Renard Harris, Elizabeth Kassebaum, John Loonan, Bridget McLernon-Sikes, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Angela Mulholland, Amy Orr, Paul Patrick, Ed Pope, Jonathan Ray, Matt Roberts, Mark Staples, Chris Tobin and Fran Welch; Jenna Schiferl, Post & Courier; Representative Sylleste Davis

(only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, Senior Leadership Team, Board Office Staff, Media, special guests, and others presenting or participating in the meeting are noted as attendees).

WELCOME

Elizabeth Kassebaum, Executive Secretary for the Board of Trustees and meeting organizer for today's virtual meeting, welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Chair Hay.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Chair Hay began the meeting by reiterating how much the Board Members appreciate all that the President, administration and faculty have been doing and continue to do to help our institution continue with forward progress during this unprecedented time.

**Board of Trustees Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing due to COVID-19 crisis.*

Before getting into the business of today's meeting, Chair Hay took a moment to comment on the current climate.

“In these challenging times with a world-wide pandemic and social unrest, it gives me great comfort that the College's Board, Administration, Faculty and Students are charging ahead with plans to reopen our campus.

While I know the ground has shifted under our feet, I am confident that continuing our work together we will emerge from all of these challenges stronger and better prepared for all the future has to bring.

To that end, you will recall that I distributed an email to Board members last week regarding these challenging times, and I would like to ask for unanimous consent that it be made part of this meeting's minutes for the record.” All in favor. *[Copy of Chair Hay's email to the Board of Trustees can be found at the end of these meeting minutes.]*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The motion was made by Trustee Craig Thornton, and seconded by Trustee Laurin Burch, that the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

FALL 2020 COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN AND RETURN TO CAMPUS UPDATE

Before turning the meeting over to Paul Patrick for a summary of the draft campus-wide COVID-19 Plan, President Hsu delivered brief remarks regarding the plan.

“I want to first thank all of the different working group leaders and working group members for their incredible hard work.

For weeks now, they have been meeting, thinking and planning. And then they have been doing even more thinking and planning!!

They have been taking a very complex problem and trying to find real-time solutions.

Of course, no solution is perfect. No solution can be perfect in this situation.

However, you should be very proud of the work they have done. I know I am.

Before I turn things over to Paul to run through a summary of our plans, I want to share three things related to COVID-19.

First, I want to share the efforts of the College's administration to work with the mayor and Charleston City Council to pass a temporary face covering ordinance.

For our city to recover, we need to stop the transmission of the disease.

Face coverings are a simple, yet effective way to protect our community – much like seatbelts are.

We have had many conversations with the mayor and various council members on the subject.

I want to especially thank Chair Hay's wife, Mariana Hay, who has led the charge on the College's request for face coverings with other King Street merchants. She has been a great partner on this initiative.

The City Council will be meeting later this afternoon to discuss the possibility of such a temporary ordinance.

As for our fall plans, I want to make you aware that we are working with Dr. Robert Ball of MUSC. You may know or recognize him – he is a distinguished alumnus of the College – Class of 1966.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Ball earlier in the spring when the outbreak was in its early stages, and he was one of the first in the region to foresee the realities of COVID-19.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Ball, he is an expert of infectious diseases and is an incredible resource to the state.

His counsel, both early on and now, are much appreciated.

Lastly, I want to thank our legal team, among so many others on campus, for reviewing the entire plan and making sure that we are in compliance with the CDC and SCDHEC.

Health and safety are our top priorities. And by ensuring our compliance with national and state health guidelines, we will be able to do our best mitigating risks.

As you all know, this has been a tremendous lift for everyone on campus, and I am pleased to report that they have proven yet again that they were up to the task.”

At this point, President Hsu turned the meeting over to Paul Patrick to provide a summary of the draft campus-wide COVID-19 Plan.

First, Paul recognized Representative Sylleste Davis from the State House who joined today's virtual meeting.

Dr. Robert Ball talked about the trajectory of COVID-19 and how to bring the campus back on-line with students returning to campus in the fall.

Highlights of Dr. Ball's report:

- Trajectory of the current pandemic is terrible.
- First and second waves won't hold.
- It is not going away.
- It dipped a little in May.
- Not wearing masks has led to the upswing.
- Short incubation period – 4-5 days
- One in five have it with no symptoms.
- July 4th activities will trigger another surge.
- Commended the College for a well thought out plan
- Hope students will wear masks – enforcing is difficult

Chair Hay thanked Dr. Ball for his willingness to serve his alma mater, city and state.

DRAFT CAMPUS-WIDE COVID-19 PLAN SUMMARY

Paul Patrick thanked the many working group chairs and members for their many hours of hard work developing a draft plan.

Paul reviewed the draft “Outline of the campus-wide COVID-19 Plan,.” The plan will be available for distribution within the next week or so.

He noted that the plan will change as the pandemic develops, but we have a plan to go forward noting that (1) the number one goal is the safest and most productive learning experience for our students, with proper health and safety protocols in place for students, faculty, staff and visitors; and (2) the plan is created and adopted to conform with best practices of various government public health and safety agencies, i.e., CDC, OSHA, EEOC, DHEC and SCDHEC.

Student Technology Requirements/Support

- Students will be required to have a laptop.
- For those unable to purchase a laptop, the College will support an effort to supply one.
- In order to limit shared spaces, campus-wide computer labs will be taken offline.
- IT will provide students with the necessary software so they can conduct their computer lab assignments on their personal computer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern, to go into Executive Session at 3:13 p.m. for the following purposes: (1) Legal Counsel with consult and provide legal advice on Litigation, including actual and potential legal claims; (2) Employee records – legal matters and executive contract negotiations – personnel matters; and (3) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property. All in favor.

[Only the Board of Trustees, President Hsu, Senior Team and Elizabeth Kassebaum remained for Executive Session. All others were moved to the waiting room for Executive Session.]

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern, to come out of Executive Session at 4:29 p.m. All in favor.

Chair Hay noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Housekeeping Item

Elizabeth Kassebaum informed the Board that the Board Candidate Elections will be held on Wednesday, September 23, at noon in the House Chambers.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:32 p.m. All in favor.

June 17, 2020

Dear Fellow Trustees,

I hope you are doing well.

As I am sure you have seen in the headlines, certainly with Clemson and the University of South Carolina, colleges and universities – as well as cities – are being asked by their communities to reexamine the names behind buildings and the presence of statues.

President Hsu and I are confident that in the coming weeks and months that the Board will have further discussions about the appropriateness of various names of campus facilities.

As a campus that is 250 years old, the College of Charleston reflects much of the complex history of this country. I met with President Hsu, his staff and Vice Chair Clemons a few times these past weeks to discuss this issue specifically.

In order for the College to address its history in a thoughtful and appropriate manner, President Hsu is creating a Historical Review Taskforce, which will be made up of campus scholars and researchers, in order that the College can ensure a more complete account of its story. Fortunately, much good work has already been done by the College's Historical Documentation Committee as part of the 250th celebration, and the hope is that this taskforce can expand on it.

President Hsu is charging this taskforce to recommend to him a set of principles and criteria for new historical interpretive signage on our campus buildings and will also call upon this taskforce to present research and historical context for Board of Trustees to consider regarding any desire of constituents to rename campus facilities.

The Board of Trustees remains the approving authority for naming on campus, and this taskforce will serve as a resource to help better inform the decisions both of the administration and the trustees.

More information and more context will make us a stronger university.

Sincerely,

David