

(Approved at October 16, 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\*  
September 3, 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, Cherry Daniel, Hank Futch, David Hay (Chair), Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger, Penny Rosner, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch and John Wood

**Board Member(s) Absent:** Trustees Henrietta Golding and Randy Lowell

**Other Attendees Participating via Zoom Video Conference** – President Andrew Hsu, Melantha Ardrey, Suzanne Austin, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Betty Craig, John Curtis, Renard Harris, Elizabeth Kassebaum, John Loonan, Bridget McLernon-Sykes, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Angela Mulholland, Amy Orr, Paul Patrick, Jonathan Ray, Matt Roberts, Mark Staples, Amy Takayama-Perez, Chris Tobin, and Shane Quinn; Media: Channel 2, Channel 5, and City Paper

(only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, Senior Leadership Team, Board Office Staff, Media, 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 2:05 p.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

He welcomed everyone and noted that the purpose of the meeting is for the Board to hear a brief update on COVID-19 from President Hsu.

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

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

President Hsu's remarks regarding COVID-19:

“We intend to return to campus and begin our in-person/hybrid classes on Monday, September 14. Of course, we are also monitoring the news and numbers from around the state and our sister institutions, both here in South Carolina and beyond. And as you might expect, there are many lessons to be gathered. So, what are some of those lessons?”

Well, the numbers are certainly daunting. More than 25,000 cases and counting have been reported on U.S. college campuses. In many states, the flagship universities are taking the brunt of the virus spread, which makes sense since most of those universities are quite large ... they are more like miniature cities crammed into a very small geography.

In Columbia, for example, they have had a challenging time, especially this past week. In a week, the University of South Carolina has increased from 347 positive cases to more than 1,000. A challenge for them is their Greek village, where large, unsanctioned gatherings have been taking place.

Other universities of similar size are having the same problem – Michigan State, Iowa, Alabama, North Carolina, Purdue, Notre Dame, the list goes on.

Fortunately, our set-up as it relates to these social organizations is not like the larger schools. Our smaller size, in that respect, may be an advantage right now.

Other campuses in South Carolina, closer to our student body size, do have positive cases, but the numbers in comparison to the flagships seem more manageable. For example, Coastal Carolina, which returns to in-person instruction next Monday, has 66 positive cases out of a student body of 9,000.

Smaller schools such as Winthrop and Francis Marion University – also reopening for in-person instruction on Monday – have far fewer cases.

Interestingly, most universities are finding that on-campus behavior is fairly good, but off-campus and weekend gatherings are a problem and much harder to control. That statement seems pretty self-evident. However, peer monitoring seems to be having a positive effect, but that is only part of the solution.

As you may remember, in late August, we updated our Student Code of Conduct to reflect the work of our student-written Cougar Pledge and put into place a process for interim suspensions for violations. We are taking the Cougar Pledge very seriously with our students.

Their choices have consequences ... real consequences on the health of our community and real consequences on our ability to hold in-person/hybrid classes and stay on campus.

Our hope is that our many protocols and practices, together, as outlined in our Back on the Bricks return-to-campus plan will allow us to open up so that our students have a campus experience ... albeit a very different one as compared to years past ... so that we may keep them moving toward their degrees and academic goals.

As I have stated since Day One of our return-to-campus plan, we will pivot as necessary as the science and data dictate.

Our hope is that our many health and safety protocols, along with guidance from our public health officials and partner agencies, will help us navigate any uptick of positive cases among our campus community when students return to in-person/hybrid instruction.

At this time, our main messaging to students and our greater campus community is about adhering to prevention efforts and complying with campus regulations and city ordinances. That means, wear a face covering, social distance, wash your hands frequently and try to limit the number of people who you come into direct contact with.

This is strange and challenging time for the College of Charleston and for everyone in higher education. However, I am confident that our plans are well-thought-out and that they are flexible enough to accommodate what is a very fluid situation.

Of course, that is what you would expect from a liberal arts university – a place that teaches you to be adaptable and creative in your problem solving!”

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Renée Romberger, to go into Executive Session at 2:12 p.m. for a “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, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Bridget McLernon-Sykes, Amy Orr, and Melantha Ardrey remained for Executive Session. All others were moved to the waiting room for Executive Session.]*

**The motion was made by Trustee Renée Romberger, and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch, to come out of Executive Session at 3:09 p.m. All in favor.**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS**

Elizabeth Kassebaum briefed the Board on a few housekeeping items:

- The Board will receive a meeting notice for a Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee special meeting regarding the budget on September 29 at 1:00 p.m., followed by a Board of Trustees special meeting at 2:00 p.m., and the regular Executive Committee meeting for the October Board meeting at 3:00 p.m.

At the Executive Committee meeting, Chair Hay and President Hsu would like for each of the committee chairs to give brief reports of their respective October 15<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting Agendas.

- There will be a special virtual meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on Friday, October 2, at 1:00 p.m.
- For the October Board of Trustees meeting, we are planning a one-day meeting on Thursday, October 15, via zoom video conference and in a campus facility with social distancing.
- Zoom meeting calendar notices for these meetings will be distributed next week.
- Reminder that the Board Candidate Elections will be held on Wednesday, September 23, at 12 noon, in Columbia.
- A virtual New Board Member Orientation is scheduled for Friday, September 25.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:11 p.m. All in favor.**