

(Approved at April 8, 2021 Board of Trustees Committee Meetings)
(Approved at April 9, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting)

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 28-29, 2021

Zoom Video Conference*
Board of Trustees' Office, Room 208-C, Randolph Hall

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

Trustee Ricci Welch, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Trustee Randy Lowell, Chair, Budget, Finance, & Facilities Committee
Trustee Chuck Baker, Chair, Student Affairs & Athletics Committee
Trustee Steve Swanson, Member, Audit and Governance Committee
Trustee John Busch, Chair, Access, Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee
Trustee Steve Swanson, Chair, Development, Alumni, Governmental
& External Relations Committee

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021
8:30 a.m.

Board Members via Zoom – Trustees Chuck Baker, Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, John Busch, Demetria Clemons (Vice Chair), Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay (Chair), Shawn Holland, Randy Lowell, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger (Secretary), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch and John Wood

Board Member(s) Absent – Trustee Brian Stern

Other Attendees via Zoom – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Betty Craig, John Curtis, Ana Gilpatrick, Renard Harris, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Simon Lewis, John Loonan, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Angela Mulholland, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts, Mark Staples, Amy Takayama-Perez, and Chris Tobin; David McNair, President, The McNair Group; Bill Rogers, Director, S.C. Press Association

(Only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, Senior Leadership Team, Board Office Staff, and others presenting or participating in the meetings are noted as attendees).

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hay called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Chair Hay welcomed everyone and congratulated the administration and faculty on the smooth start of another semester during a pandemic only to be challenged one week later by an extraordinarily large number of new student COVID cases.

Chair Hay stated, “On behalf of the Board, let me express our gratitude for the remarkable efforts of the many faculty and staff that are going above and beyond to maintain and enhance our well-deserved reputation as a student-centered institution. Many faculty and staff have been literally working day and night these past few weekends to ensure excellent care of our College family. Thank you all.”

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) PRESENTATION

Chair Hay introduced Ron Menchaca, Vice President of Communications, who introduced guest speaker Bill Rogers, Director of the S.C. Press Association. Mr. Menchaca noted that our communications team at the College works closely with members of the news media on a daily basis to answer questions, arrange interviews with faculty and staff and to promote the College’s programs and people. Further, he noted that these relationships are built on trust and transparency, so it’s critical that we, as a public institution, not only adhere to the requirements of the state’s Freedom of Information Act but also stay up to date on any changes and interpretations.

Mr. Rogers reviewed the South Carolina Press Association’s “A Guide to Using and Complying with the Freedom of Information Act.” Chair Hay asked Mr. Rogers to provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of his “Citizens Guide to South Carolina’s Freedom of Information Act.”

CHAIR HAY’S REMARKS

Before turning the meeting over to Trustee Ricci Welch for the Academic Affairs Committee meeting, Chair Hay took a moment to speak about the committee meetings.

“As you know, all Board members are encouraged to attend all committee meetings, but best practices for good Board Governance advises the members of each committee to feel responsibility for and focus on the work of their respective committees.

In fact, I would like to remind Board members that, generally speaking, the committee meeting’s work is the main responsibility of the members of that committee. Non-committee members are encouraged to air on the side of waiting for direction from the committee chair before expressing his/her thoughts during a particular committee meeting.

The committee chair will be happy to answer any non-committee members’ questions during the committee meeting, but best practices for Good Governance and Robert’s Rules of Order advise discussion solely among fellow committee members during committee meetings.

Now, in a Zoom meeting, it may be difficult to determine who is on which committee. I will count on each of you remembering which committee you serve on today, but when we meet again in person,

hopefully, in April, we will ensure that the Board members' table name cards make those committee member distinctions clear.

In addition, as you will recall, I shared at the October Board meeting that we would leave our current committee assignments structure in place through the January Board meeting. In fact, due to the Zoom meeting limitations we have experienced over the last several months, I recommend we leave the current committee structure in place until we can meet again in person (hopefully, in April) and after that meeting, I will encourage you to contact me with any requested committee assignment changes.”

Trustee John Busch expressed his opinion that the new committee structure adopted 18 months ago whereby the committee meetings run consecutively rather than concurrently do not provide as much time for committee member discussion. Therefore, Trustee Bush believes the current committee meetings aren't as effective and recommends that the old committee structure be put back in place.

RECESS BOARD MEETING

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swart, to recess the full Board meeting and begin with the committee meetings. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Ricci Welch, Chair; Trustee Penny Rosner, Vice Chair

Committee Members via Zoom – Ricci Welch (Chair), Penny Rosner (Vice Chair), Laurin Burch, John Busch, Demetria Clemons, Andy Gianoukos, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger, Penny Rosner (vice chair), Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (chair), David Hay (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)

Call to Order

Committee Chair Ricci Welch called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Laurin Burch, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Reports/Updates

Suzanne Austin – Provost's Report focused on three areas:

- (1) Faculty Awards
 - Changes to faculty awards must be approved by the Board.
 - Several changes have been proposed limiting the number of times an individual can receive an award.
 - Several new awards have been proposed.

- (2) Dean Presentations
 - At each regularly scheduled Board meeting, beginning with the April meeting, two deans will be invited to give presentations at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. The Deans will be provided with a suggested template that includes financial information, major accomplishments, etc.
- (3) Student Speakers at Commencement
 - Starting in Spring 2021, the focus will be on our students and three student speakers will be chosen in lieu of regular speakers, one for each Commencement Ceremony.
 - A committee will be selected to vet nominees; student remarks will be reviewed and practice sessions will be mandatory. The committee, Executive VP for Students, and the Provost will make the final decision regarding student speakers.

A number of Board members expressed concern regarding this recommendation, and it was determined that the will of the Board is that they prefer to have traditional Commencement Speakers when possible.

Staff Advisory Committee Chair’s Report – Ana Gilpatrick
Faculty Senate Report – Simon Lewis

Resolution to Approve Awarding of May Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees

Committee Chair Welch reviewed the Resolution to Approve Awarding of May Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees. She asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the Resolution since all Board members were provided with a copy of the Resolution for review prior to the meeting and it is on the screen. **The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee John Busch, to approve the Awarding of May Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed – the Resolution was adopted and approved.** [*Resolution was approved by the full Board on Friday, January 29, 2021 – see Friday’s meeting minutes for wording.*]

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee John Busch, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, to go into Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. for “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property” and “Employee records – legal matters and executive contract negotiations – personnel matters.” All in favor.

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

[Trustee Henrietta Golding left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.]

The motion was made by Trustee Renée Romberger, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, to come out of Executive Session at 10:04 a.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Welch noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee John Busch, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, that the Academic Affairs Committee meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m. All in favor.

BUDGET, FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Randy Lowell, Chair; Trustee John Wood, Vice Chair

Committee Members via Zoom – Trustees Chuck Baker; Beth Burke; Demetria Clemons; Henrietta Golding, Shawn Holland; Randy Lowell (Chair), Renée Romberger, Steve Swanson, and John Wood (Vice Chair); David Hay, ex officio; Andrew Hsu, ex officio, non-voting

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustee Brian Stern

Call to Order

Committee Chair Randy Lowell called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Chuck Baker, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting and the December 18, 2020 Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee Special Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Committee Chair Lowell turned the meeting over to John Loonan, Executive VP for Business Affairs, to introduce those presenting updates.

[Trustee Henrietta Golding rejoined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.]

Budget and Finance Updates

Budget/Finance Update – John Loonan, Executive VP, Business Affairs

Enrollment Update – Amy Tamakaya-Perez, VP of University Marketing and Enrollment Planning

Information Technology Update – Mark Staples

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Laurin Burch, to go into Executive Session at 11:13 a.m. for the “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 put in the waiting room.]

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, to come out of Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Lowell noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to Approve Negotiation of 26 Coming Street Lease

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Chuck Baker, to approve the College negotiating the lease of 26 Coming Street. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding, that the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee be adjourned at 12:08 p.m. All in favor.

[Lunch Break]

BOARD GOVERNANCE PRESENTATION

Chair Hay welcomed David McNair, President of The McNair Group, back for another Board Governance Presentation.

Mr. McNair opened with a brief recap of where he left the discussion/decisions in June 2019 and reinforced the very positive SACSCOC Board Self-Assessment done in Fall 2020.

Assessments are useful and can take good to great. With that in mind, he polled the Board members to gain insights and generate discussion.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Chuck Baker, Chair; Trustee Shawn Holland, Vice Chair

***Committee Members Present** – Trustees Chuck Baker (chair); Demetria Clemons; Hank Futch; Shawn Holland (vice chair); Randy Lowell, Toya Pound; Renée Romberger; Penny Rosner; Craig Thornton; Ricci Welch; David Hay, ex officio; Andrew Hsu, ex officio, non-voting*

Call to Order

Committee Chair Chuck Baker called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Ricci Welch, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Student Affairs and Athletics Committee Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Student Affairs Updates

Committee Chair Baker turned the meeting over to Alicia Caudill, Executive VP for Student Affairs, who introduced program updates.

Dean of Students Transition and Working with Students During COVID-19 – Alicia Caudill
Athletics Update – Matt Roberts

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Randy Lowell, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, to go into Executive Session at 2:03 p.m. for the “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 put in the waiting room.]

The motion was made by Trustee Renée Romberger, and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland, to come out of Executive Session at 2:55 p.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Baker noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Renée Romberger, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, that the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:57 p.m. All in favor.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Henrietta Golding, Chair

Committee Members via Zoom – Trustees Beth Burke, Laurin Burch, Henrietta Golding (chair), Steve Swanson, and John Wood; David Hay, Chair, Board of Trustees, ex-officio

Call to Order

Committee Chair Henrietta Golding called the meeting to order at 2:57 p.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Audit and Governance Committee Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, to go into Executive Session at 2:59 p.m. for “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 put in the waiting room.]

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, to come out of Executive Session at 4:11 p.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Golding noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, that the Committee's proposed Bylaws Amendments (30 days' prior notice) be presented to the Board for consideration at the April Board of Trustees meeting. The chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, that the Audit and Governance Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:15 p.m. All in favor.

DEVELOPMENT, ALUMNI AND GOVERNMENTAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Steve Swanson, Chair; Trustee John Busch, Vice Chair

Committee Members via Zoom – Trustees Steve Swanson (chair); Laurin Burch; John Busch (vice chair); Beth Burke; Hank Futch; Andy Gianoukos; Henrietta Golding; Tav Swarat; John Wood; David Hay, ex officio; Andrew Hsu, ex officio, non-voting

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustee Brian Stern

Call to Order

Committee Chair Steve Swanson called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m., noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee John Busch, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Development, Alumni, Governmental and External Relations Committee Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Reports

Development and Alumni Affairs Update – Chris Tobin
Marketing and Communications Update – Ron Menchaca
Government and External Relations Update – Paul Patrick

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee John Busch, to go into Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. for “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 put in the waiting room.]

The motion was made by Trustee John Busch, and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding, to come out of Executive Session at 5:25 p.m. All in favor.

Committee Member Swanson noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, that the Development, Alumni, and Governmental Affairs and External Relations Committee be adjourned at 5:28 p.m. All in favor.

BOARD MEETING RECONVENES

Chair Hay thanked everyone for a long and productive meeting and noted that the Board meeting will recess for the evening and continue in the morning at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION TO RECESS

The motion was made by Trustee Demetria Clemons, and seconded by Trustee John Busch, to recess the Board meeting at 5:29 p.m. until tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. All in favor.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Board Members via Zoom – Trustees Chuck Baker, Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, John Busch, Demetria Clemons (vice chair), Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay (chair), Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger (secretary), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch and John Wood

Board Member(s) Absent – Trustees Randy Lowell and Brian Stern

Other Attendees via Zoom – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Mark Berry, Peggy Boykin, Betty Craig, Alicia Caudill, John Curtis, John Douglass, Renard Harris, Elizabeth Kassebaum, John Loonan, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Angela Mulholland, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts, Shane Quinn, Mark Staples, Amy Takayama-Perez, Chris Tobin and Derrick Williams; Sylvia Harvey (Trustee Emeritus)

(Only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, Senior Leadership Team, Board Office Staff, and others presenting or participating in the meetings are noted as attendees).

Meeting Reconvened

Chair Hay reconvened the meeting at 8:34 a.m. and welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee John Busch, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the minutes of the October 15-16, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting, the December 18, 2020 and January 6, 2021 Board of Trustees Special Meetings be approved as presented. Trustee Henrietta Golding abstained from approval of the October Meeting Minutes. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Alumni Association Board President; Charleston Athletic Fund Director; and Foundation Board Chair Reports

Chair Hay welcomed Derrick Williams, President of the Alumni Association; Peggy Boykin, Chair of the Foundation Board; and John Douglass, Chair of the Charleston Athletic Fund, via Zoom, who shared reports from their respective Board.

[Recessed full Board meeting for Access, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee meeting at 8:50 a.m.]

ACCESS, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee John Busch, Chair

Committee Members via Zoom – *Trustees John Busch (chair); Chuck Baker, Demetria Clemons, Andy Gianoukos, and Ricci Welch*

Call to Order

Committee Chair John Busch called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m., noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Chuck Baker, and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch, that the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Access, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Meeting be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Reports

Amy Takayama-Perez

- Students of Color Freshmen Applications
- Eduventures Results
- Fall 2021 Yield

Renard Harris

- DivEDU Modules
- Division Equity Education Program (D.E.E.P.)
- Launchpad for Success
- 1967 Legacy Program
- Crossing the Cistern
- Campus Inclusion Team (CIT)

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Chuck Baker, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, that the Access, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee meeting be adjourned at 9:21 a.m. All in favor.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Hay reconvened the Board of Trustees meeting and announced motions/resolutions from various committee meetings.

Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Resolution for Awarding of May Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AWARDING OF DEGREES**

January 29, 2021

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §59-130-30 the Board of Trustees of the College is constituted as a body corporate and politic and is empowered, among other things, to “confer degrees upon students and other persons as the board considers qualified;”

WHEREAS, the President has made available to the Board a preliminary list of candidates for the award of baccalaureate and graduate degrees from the several Schools of the College and the University of Charleston, South Carolina;

WHEREAS, each such candidate has been certified by the appropriate Dean, the Registrar, and the Provost, as Chief Academic Officer of the College, as meeting the requirements and prerequisites for the award of the appropriate degree upon the candidate’s successful conclusion of the Spring 2021 Semester;

WHEREAS, the Board has accepted such representations and certifications as being true and accurate in all material respects and has determined that all such degree candidates are so qualified for the award of their respective degrees upon the successful conclusion of the Spring 2021 Semester; and

WHEREAS, all of the relevant degree-awarding programs of the College related to degrees to be awarded under this Resolution have been duly approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the President to confer on each and all of the aforementioned described degree candidates who have successfully completed the Spring 2021 semester, the names of each of which shall be published in the Official Program for the May 2021 Graduation Ceremony, those degrees for which they have been found qualified, together with all the rights, honors, privileges and responsibilities appertaining thereto;

RESOLVED, that the President and the Provost, or either of them, may make such adjustments to the preliminary list of candidates for the award of baccalaureate and graduate degrees from the several Schools of the College, as may be necessary and appropriate to account for the actual academic performance of degree seeking candidates during the Spring 2021 semester; and

RESOLVED, that the President and Provost, and such employees as may be designated by both or either of them, are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all action as may be necessary and appropriate to implement this Resolution and effectuate its purposes.

Motion from the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee

The Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee moves that the College negotiating the lease of 26 Coming Street be approved as presented. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

Motion from the Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee moves that its proposed Bylaws Amendments (30 days' prior notice) be presented to the Board for consideration at the April Board of Trustees meeting. The chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved.

Introduction of President Hsu

Before President Hsu gave his President's Report, Chair Hay had some nice words to say about the President. "I express my appreciation for our President's incredible leadership and unrelenting optimism through all of our challenges that we have faced, including a pandemic. We are in a much better place because of his leadership. Thank you, President Hsu."

President's Report

- "Thank you, Chair Hay. I appreciate those remarks – they are very encouraging.
- I will try to keep my report fairly brief because I know we have covered already so much in our various committee meetings and you have seen firsthand the tremendous work of our senior team leaders, our faculty and our staff.
- So, let me begin with COVID-19. Unfortunately, as you know, our campus has seen a recent spike in its number of positive cases and with those students requiring isolation and quarantine in our residence halls.

Our hope is that we have seen the highwater mark and that the numbers begin to taper off. However, we are prepared and are preparing for a scenario in which those numbers may increase.

I cannot say enough of how proud I am of our staff for rising to the occasion. They have done a tremendous job of providing comfort and care to our students.

As you might imagine, the coordination of care is a complicated puzzle of logistics.

Our Student Affairs team and our Campus Services team have done an incredible job of figuring that puzzle out – along with the support of our facilities management team, dining services team, custodial team and many, MANY volunteers across campus.

Together, they have shown tremendous creativity and resiliency in scaling up our health and safety responses.

I am not overstating it when I say that they are the reason for our ability to remain open. They are the reason for our success.

I wish we could all gather together and give them a standing ovation for their work thus far. But, that standing ovation, unfortunately, would be premature.

We still have days and weeks to go to navigate this pandemic. And that means there is still much work to be done by our campus community.

If this were a marathon, we are probably a few miles from the finish line. But I would still like to recognize the incredible effort and the incredible work of our staff thus far.

- Now, I would like to touch upon a few updates.
- Of course, yesterday was an exciting day of engagement for our entire College of Charleston community as we celebrated our second-annual CofC Day.

I want to applaud our Division of Institutional Advancement for orchestrating another phenomenal day of giving.

We expanded our giving base by more than 1,700 during those 24 hours, and we celebrated several large, seven-figure gifts that will help us take the College of Charleston to even greater heights.

- Yesterday, we also publicly launched – with the help of the Divisions of University Communications and University Marketing and Enrollment Planning – the implementation phase of our 10-year strategic plan, *Tradition & Transformation*.

That plan, as you well know, serves as our rallying point in the days ahead, and I am excited for the work that will be undertaken by each pillar steering committee.

Our pillar leads – Alicia Caudill, Suzanne Austin and John Loonan – will be bringing their committees together next month to get things fully in motion.

Even in a pandemic, there is still much life on this campus.

And the strategic plan will be an injection of even more energy.

- Former interim president Steve Osborne and I attended the awards ceremony held in our Sottile Theatre last week, and I gladly accepted an award celebrating the restoration work done in Sottile.

The renovations done in Sottile are truly beautiful, and I look forward to the day when you all get a chance to see them firsthand.

In the meantime, I suggest you check out the most recent issue of the *College of Charleston Magazine* as well as the *College Today*, where you can find some great pictures of that restoration work.

Or, you can just look on my Twitter and Instagram accounts. I took a picture of Steve with the award!

- Speaking of our physical campus, I want to share with you the progress made by our Facilities Management team.

For our 250th anniversary, we earmarked approximately \$3 million from the Capital Improvement Fee to improve the physical grounds, which included landscaping along Greenway, a new brick pathway through the Cistern Yard, beautification of the entrance area around our admissions visitors' center and the renovation of our old physical plant building.

Like the Sottile Theatre, a number of areas have seen some really nice improvements, and I look forward to you all seeing the upgrades in person the next time you are on campus.

Kudos to John Morris and his Facilities Management team for their work.

- The last topic I would like to discuss gets to one of the crosscutting themes of our strategic plan – and that is strategic partnerships.

The first I want to mention is our close relationship with the former Charleston Visitors Bureau, now called Explore Charleston.

Helen Hill and her team are wonderful partners and advocates for the College.

I especially want to thank them for the great deal they gave us in providing us prime advertising space in their latest Visitors' Guide.

The University Marketing team did a great job with the double-page ad space, and the placement puts us front and center with Charleston's many tourists – who appear to be already coming back, despite the pandemic.

- The last strategic partnership combines internal with external.

When I arrived to the College, I set up with Anita Zucker the President's Strategic Initiative Council, with the assistance of the Division of Institutional Advancement.

Anita had recommended a leadership group like this based on her experience at the University of Florida.

We have met several times over the past year and a half, and the members represent some of the most top influencers of this institution and of various industries.

I am pleased that Trustee Steve Swanson and his wife, Emily, are members as well as other significant philanthropists, such as Anita, Martha Rivers Ingram, Mark and Judy Buono, Linda Ketner and Ben Navarro, to name just a few.

The members are currently working with IA to identify different areas in which they will help champion.

You may remember the Big Ideas campaign we had as the development arm of our 250th celebration year.

The Big Ideas represent different philanthropy initiatives on campus.

I am pleased to say that, so far, the following have garnered the most interest: the 1967 Legacy program supporting students of color, the Student Success Center, the opera program and the new engineering majors.

My hope is that we will be able to use our President's Strategic Initiative Council to lay the foundation for creating a wider circle of supporters and public interest.

So, more to come in this area.

- I know I said I was going to be brief, and what I shared, I realize now is actually a lot.
- But it is also just the tip of the iceberg of all the activities we have going on here on campus.
- With that, I will end and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.
- Thank you.”

Recognition of Betty Craig

Next, Chair Hay recognized Betty Craig for 50 years of service to the College. “I hope all of you saw the wonderful article in the most recent issue of The College’s Magazine about Betty Craig’s 50 extraordinary years at the College of Charleston.

Betty was hired in 1970 as the first of two faculty secretaries. She worked as Executive Secretary for Presidents Stern, Collins and Lightsey and, as most of you are aware, continued in the President’s Office and the Board Office through the presidencies of Sanders, Higdon, Benson, Festa, McConnell, Osborne and now President Hsu.

On behalf of the Board, Elizabeth Kassebaum presented Betty with a framed signed print of Randolph Hall.

Betty, on behalf of all the Board of Trustees, I am confident that I can express our deep gratitude for your service and will hope that your service will continue for many, many more years. Congratulations, Betty!”

Recognition of Retirees

Chair Hay recognized a number of great employees who retired on December 31. “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were unable to be with us in person today, but on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the following retirees for their many years of dedicated service to the College: Godfrey Gibbison, Valerie Morris, Laura Lageman, Gail Long and Jeri Cabot. As a small token of appreciation, Elizabeth Kassebaum delivered a framed signed print to Godfrey, Valerie, Laura, Gail and Jeri. Congratulations on their retirement.”

Housekeeping Items

Elizabeth Kassebaum provided housekeeping/information items:

- Elizabeth thanked the Board members who have already filed their S.C. Economic Interest Forms. For those who haven’t yet filed their forms, she reminded them of the March 30 deadline.
- When sending texts to Board members, Elizabeth asked Board members to please indicate who is sending the text.
- 2021 Board Meeting Dates:
 - April 8-9
 - June 14-15
 - August 5-6
 - October 14-15

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee John Busch, and seconded by Trustee Renée Romberger, to go into Executive Session at 9:52 a.m. for the following purposes: (1) Legal Counsel will consult and provide legal advice on litigation, including actual and potential legal claims (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property; and (3) Consideration of Candidates’ Qualifications for Honorary Degrees. All in favor.

[Only the Board Members, President Hsu, Senior Team, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Julia Eichelberger, Bernie Powers, and Anthony Greene remained for Executive Session. Others were put in the waiting room until Executive Session ends and regular session resumes.]

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, to come out of Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. All in favor.

Regular session resumed.

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

New Business

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, to approve Candidates A, B, and C be invited to serve as Commencement Speakers and receive honorary degrees during May 2021 Commencement. All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Renée Romberger, and seconded by Trustee Demetria Clemons, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:52 a.m. All in favor.