

(Approved at August 8, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting)
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 11-12, 2024

Alumni Hall/Zoom Video Conference

Presiding:
Renée B. Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees

Trustee Shawn Holland, Chair, Student Affairs & Athletics Committee
Trustee Penny Rosner, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Trustee Laurin Burch, Chair, Budget, Finance, & Facilities Committee
Trustee Tav Swarat, Vice Chair, Audit and Governance Committee
Trustee Toya Pound, Chair, Access, Equity & Inclusion Committee
Trustee Beth Burke, Chair, Development, Alumni, Governmental
& External Relations Committee

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Board Member(s) Present – Trustees Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, Demetria Clemons, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger (Chair), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson (Vice Chair), Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton and John Wood

Board Member(s) via Zoom – Trustees John Busch, Henrietta Golding, Brian Stern, Ricci Welch (Secretary) and Neysa Williams

Board Member(s) Absent – Trustee David Hay

President's Cabinet Member(s) Present – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Knudt Flor, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, Courtney Howard, John Loonan, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Mark Staples

Other Attendees Present – Joh-nette Brown, Betty Craig, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Chris Korey, Wendy Koreyva (Internal Auditor), Jesse Kunze (IT), Lance Laidlaw (IT), Kameelah Martin, Ashleigh Parr, Seth Pritchard, Paul Schwager, William Veal (Faculty Senate Speaker),

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Welcome

Chair Romberger 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.

“Welcome to the Board meeting. I look forward to a good meeting over the next couple of days. And I really appreciate you being present because that is what makes us a strong board. You are encouraged

to share your thoughts over the next few days because collective participation is what makes us an effective board.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECESSED

Chair Romberger recessed the full Board meeting and handed the floor over to Committee Chair Shawn Holland for the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Shawn Holland, Chair; Trustee Craig Thornton, Vice Chair

Committee Member(s) Present – Trustees Shawn Holland (chair), Demetria Clemons, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Toya Pound, Neysa Williams, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)

Committee Member(s) via Zoom – Trustee Craig Thornton (vice chair) and Ricci Welch

Call to Order

Committee Chair Shawn Holland called the meeting to order at 8:31 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 Hank Futch, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Student Affairs and Athletics Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

Athletics Updates – Matt Roberts

- Introduction of Chris Mack, New Men’s Basketball Head Coach, and his staff
- Competitive Success
 - Spring Sport Highlights
- Community Engagement
 - March Madness Visibility Impact
 - FY24 Revenue Update

Student Spotlights – Alicia Caudill

Lilli Taylor, Outgoing SGA President, presented the SGA’s annual accomplishments and introduced Adam El Hassan, SGA President-Elect.

Chair Holland recognized Lilli for her outstanding service as SGA President and presented her with a small token of appreciation for her enthusiastic committed service to our institution. He thanked Adam for attending the meeting today and noted that the Board looks forward to working with him.

Student Affairs Updates - Alicia Caudill

- The Charleston Student Health & Wellbeing Consortium
 - 2nd Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 21, at the College.
- Student Organization Anti-Hazing Updates to Policies, Prevention Efforts and Student Support
- Be Kind Committee – Spreading acts of kindness

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Hank Futch, and seconded by Trustee Andy Gianoukos, that the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting be adjourned at 9:17 a.m. All in favor.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Member(s) Present – Trustees *Penny Rosner (chair), Beth Burke, Demetria Clemons, Andy Gianoukos, Toya Pound, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

Committee Member(s) via Zoom – Trustees *John Busch and Ricci Welch (vice chair)*

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustee *David Hay*

Call to Order

Committee Chair Penny Rosner called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been R and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, that the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

Provost's Report – *Suzanne Austin*

- Dean Searches
 - School of the Arts – Jayme Host has been named dean, effective July 1, 2024.
 - School of Humanities and Social Sciences – Interim Dean will be announced soon and a Search Committee in early fall.
 - School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics – Seth Pritchard will continue as Interim Dean and a national search in late summer/early fall.
 - Graduate School – Kameelah Martin will step down as Interim Dean on July 1 and another Interim Dean will be announced soon.
- School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and Renaming of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal – *Interim Dean Seth Pritchard*
- New Executive Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA) Program Proposal – Dean *Paul Schwager*
- Dean's Presentation
 - Beth Meyer-Bernstein, Interim Dean, School of the Arts

Motion to Approve School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and Renamikng of School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Administration recommends the Board of Trustees make a motion to approve the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and the Renaming of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch, to approve the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and the Renaming of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

Motion to Approve New EDBA Program Proposal

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Administration recommends the Board of Trustees make a motion to approve the new Executive Doctorate of Business Administration (EDBA) Program Proposal.

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, to approve the new Executive Doctorate of Business Administration (EDBA) Program Proposal. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

Motion to Approve the Resolution on Awarding of May Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, to approve the Resolution on Awarding of May Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

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

April 12, 2024

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §59-130-30 (9) 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 2024 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 2024 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 2024 semester, the names of each of which shall be published in the Official Program for the May 2024 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 and the University of Charleston, South Carolina, as may be necessary and appropriate to account for the actual academic performance of degree seeking candidates during the Spring 2024 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 to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Toya Pound, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, that the Academic Affairs Committee meeting be adjourned at 10:13 a.m. All in favor.

[Break at 10:14 a.m.]

BUDGET, FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Laurin Burch, Chair; Trustee Steve Swanson, Vice Chair

Committee Member(s) Present – Trustees Laurin Burch (chair), Steve Swanson (vice chair), Demetria Clemons, David Hay, Shawn Holland, Neysa Williams, John Wood, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)

Committee Member(s) Participating via Zoom – Trustees Henrietta Golding and Brian Stern

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustee David Hay

Call to Order

Committee Chair Burch called the meeting to order at 10:31 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 Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, that the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

Budget and Finance Updates – John Loonan

- Budget & Finance 3rd Quarter Review
 - Board of Trustees March 31, 2024 Quarter End Report
 - Expense Trending Analysis
- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Timeline and Highlights
- Fiscal Year 2025 Fee Proposals
 - Campus Services (Dining Plan Changes)

Facilities Management – John Morris

- 2024 Summer E&G Projects
 - 14 Green Way: Piazza and Exterior Repairs
 - 58 George Street: Major Renovation
 - 207 Calhoun Street: Exterior Renovation
 - Addlestone Library: Building Envelope Repairs

- Berry Hall: Honors Innovation Center Renovation
- Campus Beautification – Bronze signs on all campus buildings
- Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Interior Renovation
- Johnson P.E. Center: Roof and Interior Repairs
- Randolph Hall: Suite 105 Renovation
- School of Education Building: Exterior Renovation
- School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering Building: Envelope Repairs
- Simons Center for the Arts: Major Renovations (almost ready for occupancy)
- Stern Student Center: Major Renovation
- Summer 2024 classroom Refresh
- 2024 Summer Student Housing Projects
 - 2, 4, 6 and 8 Bull Street Historic Homes: Building Envelope Repairs
 - 28, 34, 36, 38 Coming Historic Homes: Piazza Repairs and Exterior Painting
 - Berry Residence Hall: Exterior Repairs
 - Buist Rivers Residence Hall: Major Renovation
 - Craig Residence Hall: Major Renovation
 - King George Inn: Fire Alarm, Sprinkler, and Selective Window Replacement
- 2024 Summer Auxiliary Projects
 - 81 Wentworth Street: Land Acquisition
 - Black House: Exterior and Interior Repairs
 - Craig Hall Catering Kitchen: Interior Renovation
 - Starbucks Café at Addlestone: Interior Renovation
- 2024 Mechanical and Infrastructure Projects
 - Central Energy and Campus Piping Infrastructure Upgrades
 - Fresh Food Company: HVAC Upgrades
 - Main Campus Access Control: Phase Two
 - Stono Preserve: Dike Repair
 - Tate Center: HVAC System Renovation, Final Phase
 - Thaddeus Street Jr. Education Center: HVAC Upgrades
- Projects in the Queue (for State approval and back to Trustees for approval)
 - 176 Lockwood Boulevard: Building Envelope Repairs
 - Grice Marine Lab Annex: Major Renovation
 - Sottile Theatre: Exterior Repairs and Safety Upgrades
 - St. Philip and Coming Street Housing Innovation District
 - Wells Fargo Auditorium Renovation
- Building Design Standards

Chair Romberger thanked John Morris for all he has done to make our campus beautiful. Upon his retirement in June, she presented him with a small token of appreciation for his years of service to the College.

Trustee Ricci Welch shared a relevant quote from James H. Kirkland, Chancellor at Vanderbilt, 1893-1937 – “It would be a mistake if we contented ourselves with a backward look in building a university. There is never an occasion for finishing touches. The task is always one of laying foundations.”

Enrollment Planning – *Jimmie Foster*

- Spring 2024 New Undergraduate Enrollments
- Fall 2024 Enrollment Update
- Future Application Funnels

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to go into Executive Session at 11:39 a.m. for the “Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege”, “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property”, “Personnel matters – legal matters covered by attorney-client privilege” and “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services and competitive information”. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland, to come out of Executive Session at 12:22 p.m. All in favor.

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

During Executive Session, a Soteria Representative presented the Campus Security Plan Update.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Neysa Williams, that the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting be adjourned at 12:23 p.m. All in favor.

Chair Romberger reconvened the full Board meeting for Provost Suzanne Austin’s presentation regarding “Student Success – Improving Retention and Graduation Rates” during lunch.

[Word of Prayer by Trustee Beth Burke]

STUDENT SUCCESS – IMPROVING RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

Power Point Presentation, “Building Pathways for Student Success,” by Suzanne Austin, Alicia Caudill, Chris Korey and Courtney Howard.

[Trustee Henrietta Golding left zoom at 1:20 p.m.]

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Henrietta Golding, Chair; Trustee Tav Swarat, Vice Chair

Committee Member(s) Present – Trustees Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat (vice chair), Neysa Williams, John Wood, Renée Romberger (ex-officio)

Committee Member(s) via Zoom – Trustee Brian Stern

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustees Henrietta Golding (chair) and David Hay

Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Swarat called the meeting to order at 1:36 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 Beth Burke, that the minutes of the January 18, 2024 Audit and Governance Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

Board of Trustees Signed Ethics Disclosure Form and Oath of Office, Code of Conduct and Statement of Commitment

Vice Chair Swarat reminded everyone that at the January 27, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved the annual completion by every Board member of the Disclosure of Ethics Compliance Form, certifying each respective member's full compliance with the State Ethics Act and all related procedures and regulations, including related College of Charleston policies and procedures.

In addition, after diligent examination of USC's Code of Conduct and Clemson University's Board of Trustees Manual Appendix E (Trustee Code of Conduct and Responsibilities) and other good governance and best practices research, on August 6, 2021, the Board adopted similar principles in its own College of Charleston Board of Trustees "Oath of Office, Code of Conduct and Statement of Commitment.

Before asking all Board members to sign both documents, Vice Chair Swarat read the first three items of the document to have in our meeting minutes.

"By signing this Code of Conduct and Statement of Commitment, I endorse and accept the important responsibilities that define my role as a member of the Board. Accordingly, I hereby affirm and publicly commit to the following guiding principles and core values:

- (1) I have a clear and ongoing commitment to the essential fiduciary responsibilities of service on the Board and I will take part in periodic board education programs, including ongoing reviews of fiduciary principles in order to continually improve my service.
- (2) As a fiduciary, I recognize that the Board acts in a transparent, honest, fair and respectful manner in order to contribute to the mission and strategic priorities of the College of Charleston.
- (3) I am committed to a health culture of board governance, one that is committed to goodwill and dedicated to sustaining the trust and support for the College of Charleston constituency stakeholders."

Board members signed both documents and initialed all 17 items to indicate their endorsement and acceptance of each responsibility. Elizabeth Kassebaum collected all signed forms and sent forms to the Board members participating in the meeting via zoom.

Internal Audit Update and FY24 and FY25 Proposed Audit Plans

Wendy Koreyva, Internal Auditor, provided an Internal Audit Update, including the FY24 and FY25 Proposed Audit Plans.

Before going into Executive Session, Vice Chair Swarat reported that, in keeping with the directives in our Bylaws, he wanted to mention that Chair Golding will accept nominations for Board Officers at the August Board meeting and elections will be held at the October Board meeting.

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Laurin Burch, to go into Executive Session at 1:57 p.m. for the "Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege". All in favor.

Vice Chair Swarat noted that on returning to open session, action may be taken on the items discussed during the executive session.

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, to come out of Executive Session at 2:08 p.m. All in favor.

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

Motion to Approve FY24 and FY25 Audit Plans

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Internal Auditor recommends the Board of Trustees make a motion to approve the FY24 and FY25 Audit Plans.

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to approve the FY24 and FY25 Audit Plans. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Beth Burke, that the Audit and Governance Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:10 p.m. All in favor.

ACCESS, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Toya Pound, Chair; Trustee Penny Rosner, Vice Chair

Committee Member(s) Present – *Trustees Toya Pound (chair), Demetria Clemons, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Shawn Holland, Penny Rosner (vice chair), Craig Thornton and Renée Romberger (ex-officio)*

Committee Member(s) via Zoom – *Trustees John Busch and Ricci Welch*

Call to Order

Committee Chair Toya Pound called the meeting to order at 2:11 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 Demetria Clemons, and seconded by Trustee Hank Futch, that the minutes of the January 19, 2024 Access, Equity and Inclusion Committee be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

Institutional Diversity Updates – *Courtney Howard*

- Student Success Program Updates
 - 1967 Legacy Program
 - Crossing the Cistern
 - Launchpad for Success
- Diversity Education
 - Awareness Days
 - Signature Speaker Series
- HEED Comparison Report Highlights

Enrollment Planning – *Jimmie Foster*

- URM Admissions Update
- Scholarships and Aid
- Access and Pre-College Events
- Meeting Street Scholarship Fund

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Penny Rosner, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the Access, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:33 p.m. All in favor.

DEVELOPMENT, ALUMNI AND GOVERNMENTAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Beth Burke, Chair; Trustee John Wood, Vice Chair

Committee Member(s) Present – Trustees Beth Burke (chair), Laurin Burch, Hank Futch, Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, John Wood (vice chair), Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)

Committee Member(s) via Zoom – Trustees John Busch and Brian Stern

Committee Member(s) Absent – Trustees Henrietta Golding and David Hay

Call to Order

Committee Chair Beth Burke called the meeting to order at 2:33 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 Penny Rosner, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, that the minutes of the January 19, 2024 Development, Alumni, Governmental and External Relations Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Governmental Affairs Updates – Paul Patrick

Marketing and Communications Updates – Ron Menchaca

- University Marketing Project Updates
- National Media Placements
- Communications
- CofC Podcasts
- Introduction of George Johnson, Executive Director of Strategic Communications
- Creative Support for Admitted student days, CofC Day, Bridge Run, NCAA Tournament
- SC ETV/Public Radio Partnership

Institutional Advancement Updates – Dan Frezza

- FY24 Goals (total dollars, donors and trends)
- CofC Day Review and 4th Quarter Projection

Executive Session

The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, to go into Executive Session at 3:17 p.m. for the purpose of “Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege” and “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services, and competitive information”. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee John Wood, and seconded by Trustee Laurin Burch, to leave Executive Session at 3:54 p.m. All in favor.

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

[Public Session resumed.]

Motion to Approve Buono Endowed Professorship Naming Opportunity

The motion was made by Trustee Penny Rosner, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to approve the Buono Endowed Professorship in Commercial Real Estate naming opportunity. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

NOTE: The DAGER Committee approved the Buono Endowed Professorship in Commercial Real Estate naming opportunity on Thursday, April 11, but it was not presented to the full Board for approval on Friday, April 12, due to time constraints. Therefore, the DAGER Committee will present it to the full Board for approval at the Board of Trustees Meeting/Retreat on June 10.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, that the Development, Alumni, and Governmental Affairs and External Relations Committee be adjourned at 3:56 p.m. All in favor.

President Hsu's Report

President Hsu's report today serves as a moment of reflection.

“This spring represents the completion of my fifth year at the College of Charleston, and therefore we are in the fourth year of implementing our ten-year strategic plan. I am pleased to report that our many different initiatives are progressing nicely.

We are making gains in every pillar and in every cross-cutting theme, in ways big and small. You have heard throughout today, the most recent exciting things that are happening on campus.

What I hope your takeaway from these two days meetings is a sense of momentum. I think this institutional momentum is really a game changer. Momentum attracts the attention of others, it draws them in and inspires them to engage with us in new and more meaningful ways.

An obvious example of this momentum would be the hiring of Coach Chris Mack, a national-level talent who has competed and succeeded at the highest levels. Coach Mack is here because he sees an opportunity for the College of Charleston to be great – he sees our potential and where we should be and ought to be in the basketball world.

That is a credit not only to the players and coaching staffs under John Kresse, Earl Grant, Bobby Cremins, and Pat Kelsey, but to our entire athletics department, our faculty and staff and our growing fan base.

Together, we have energized this city, and we have built a culture of excellence.

That momentum around winning carries far beyond the basketball court. It can be found in every aspect of the university. You saw it on CofC Day as we engaged the most number of people in school history in a roughly 30-hour time period. You will see an acceleration in the momentum of our fundraising activities as we kick off our capital campaign, and as we secure more major, transformational gifts.

I am excited about what our IA team, working closely with campus partners, have in the pipeline. I believe we are about to usher in a new, greater level of engagement in our philanthropy efforts.

And that momentum carries over into our academic work as well. As you heard from Provost Austin in her presentation today, we have brought to you our recommendation to organize a new School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics, alongside a School of Natural and Environmental Sciences. This set-up will provide our university a chance to align similar STEM disciplines in such a way to both accelerate and maximize innovations.

One of our newest curricular innovations is the School of Business' new EDDBA, which will be the first in our state and provide our institution another terminal degree program in our push to be a national university.

And all of this energy – in building a successful basketball program, in expanding our fundraising efforts, in evolving our academic portfolio, of touting more loudly and more frequently our many achievements – together they are growing our reputation.

And what does a growing reputation mean? It means we experienced another record-setting year of applications – with more than 31,000 apps, an increase of approximately 19 percent over last year's record numbers. You heard from Jimmie that our selectivity is likely to be 57%; remember a few short years ago we were at 84%. This is a phenomenal sea change for us. I don't know of any other university in the country that was able to make that kind of progress in such a short period of time.

Improved selectivity will continue to impact our reputation and positively influence next year's aspiring College of Charleston students. All of this is very exciting, and we are seeing our labors bear fruit.

The future for higher education may be uncertain, but what I am certain of ... is that the College of Charleston will continue its centuries-old tradition of educating the best and brightest and position our students for future success.”

Chair Romberger's Report

“First, I cannot overstate the importance of Board Member attendance and participation at meetings. Frankly, in-person attendance is preferred over zoom participation. However, we remain grateful for those able to participate via zoom.”

“Our New Trustees Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, and Friday, May 17. I am pleased that Ricci Welch will be Derrick Williams' mentor, Steve Swanson will be Matt Klein's mentor, and Tav Swarat will be Darryl Fyall's mentor. All Board members are welcome to come to any of the New Board Member Orientation Sessions.

The new Board members' first official Board meeting will be the June 9-10-11 Meeting/Retreat at The Mills House in Charleston on Sunday and Monday; Alumni Hall on Tuesday.

Dinner on Sunday night will be held at The Mills House with the Board of Trustees, the President, President's Cabinet and Dr. Ellen Chaffee, Interim President and CEO of AGB and Consultant for our June Retreat.

At 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Dr. Chaffee will deliver a presentation, “Role and Responsibilities of Board Members,” including Best Practices in Board Governance. Additional presentations will cover budget, tuition and fees, as well as current/future issues in higher education for our institution.

Dinner on Monday with the Board and President only will be held at 82 Queen Street. On Tuesday, the meeting/retreat will continue in Alumni Hall.

While nothing we do will ever be enough, we would like to provide Board Service Appreciation Presentations to Demetria Clemons, John Busch and John Wood at the June or August Board meeting, whichever may be more convenient for them.

Finally, I wanted to share with everyone that at the June meeting, I will ask each of you to provide a list of the committees on which you would like to serve, and I will provide the new committee structure before the August Board meeting.”

Housekeeping Items

Elizabeth Kassebaum mentioned a few housekeeping items:

“Details regarding the three Commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10, will be sent to everyone next week.

The Academic Expo is next Thursday, April 18. It is not included on the giant list of meetings/events at your places.”

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECESSED

Chair Romberger recessed the Board meeting at 4:22 p.m. until tomorrow morning, Friday, April 12, at 8:00 a.m. for continental breakfast and the Board meeting at 8:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Board Member(s) Present – Trustees Renée Romberger (chair), Laurin Burch, Demetria Clemons, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson (vice chair), Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (secretary), Neysa Williams and John Wood

Board Member(s) via Zoom – Trustees Beth Burke, John Busch, Henrietta Golding and Brian Stern

Board Member(s) Absent – Trustee David Hay

President’s Cabinet Member(s) Present – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, Courtney Howard, John Loonan, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, John Morris, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Mark Staples

President’s Cabinet Absent – Knudt Flor

Other Attendees Present – Joh-nette Brown (IT), Elizabeth Colbert-Busch (Alumni Board), Lindsey Copeland (Staff Advisory Committee to the President), Betty Craig, Julia Eichelberger, Grant Gilmore, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Steve Kerrigan (Foundation Board), Jesse Kunze (IT), Lance Laidlaw (IT), Laura Minges, Chris O’Neal (Charleston Athletic Fund Board), Ann Pryor, and William Veal (Faculty Senate Speaker)

Other Attendees via Zoom – Amy Goble

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

Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Romberger reconvened the Board meeting at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone attending the meeting. She expressed “special” thanks for the nice dinner last evening in the CATO Center Lobby with the SOTA Council, SOTA Leadership, the Board of Trustees and the President’s Cabinet before attending “The Importance of Being Earnest” Dress Rehearsal at The Chapel Theatre.

Also, Chair Romberger thanked the Board Committee liaisons, Board Staff and Technical Staff that assist with these Board meetings. “We are always grateful for what you do.”

“A Moment in History” Presentation by Dr. Grant Gilmore

Dr. Grant Gilmore presented today’s “A Moment in History” Presentation, “From Kitchen to Dwelling – An Evolving Urban African American Landscape at the College of Charleston.” Dr. Gilmore is Associate Professor of Art and Architectural History in the School of the Arts.

Approval of Minutes

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the minutes of the January 18-19, 2024 Board of Trustees Meetings; the February 20, 2024 Board of Trustees Special Meeting; March 18, 2024 Board of Trustees Special Meeting; April 2, 2024 Board of Trustees Special Meeting; and April 4, 2024 Board of Trustees April Prep Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

Foundation Board Chair, Alumni Association Board President, and Charleston Athletic Fund President Reports

Steve Kerrigan, Chair of the Foundation Board; Elizabeth Colbert-Busch, President of the Alumni Association Board; and Chris O’Neal, President of the Charleston Athletic Fund, presented their respective Board Reports.

Presentation of Gift to Steve Kerrigan:

Following Steve Kerrigan’s report, Chair Romberger presented him with a small token of appreciation for his dedicated service as Chair of the Foundation Board for the past two years.

“Of course, your service as Foundation Board Chair is only a small part of your service to the College of Charleston. It is particularly notable that you have provided your extraordinary service despite the fact that you are not an alum of the College.

I am pleased to remind everyone that you and your wife Maureen were recognized for your outstanding service by the awarding of an honorary degree in May 2019.

It is not just your work on the Foundation Board since 2011, but it is also the creation of the School of Business Student Investment Fund that promotes our gratitude. Friends of the College come from many sources, and we are grateful for each of them.”

Presentation of Gift to Elizabeth Colbert-Busch:

Following Elizabeth Colbert-Busch's report and introduction of Laurie Minges, President-Elect of the Alumni Association Board, Chair Romberger presented her with a small token of appreciation for her dedicated service as President of the Alumni Association Board for the past two years.

"Elizabeth has been connected to the College for decades. In fact, she graduated from the College of Charleston in 1979.

Since she began her service on the Alumni Board in 2015, Alumni giving and engagement has increased dramatically. I am confident that it is her leadership that has contributed to this important effort.

It means a great deal to me that as Chair of the Board, I can present this small token of appreciation to you personally."

Chair Romberger noted that Chris O'Neal will be staying in his role for a while and expressed her appreciation and support for all he does for the College and the Charleston Athletic Fund.

Faculty Senate Report

William Veal, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, gave his report on behalf of the Faculty.

He started his report with a riddle.

"In halls of power, I silently tread,
Across whispered words, my seeds are spread.
A ghost at meetings, I am felt but unseen,
In the heart of the old, I am a force so keen.

I am the architect of minds, reshaping thought and space,
I am a blueprint new, in an intellectual chase.
Once set upon an ancient path, now veering paths untrod,
I challenge norms and spark reforms, where knowledge dares to prod.

Crafted by the wise, yet oft opposed by those who've come before,
I'm met with sighs, rolled eyes, and cries of "Do we need more?"
Yet through the pages, fresh and bold, my winds do blow,
Molding young and daring old to think, evolve, and grow.

What am I, I am sought by the brave,
Yet feared by those who'd rather save?
Who am I?

CHANGE

Today's word is change. We have all listened to presentations about how the college and its departments, programs, and decisions have changed due to external factors. The faculty has worked diligently this year in their committees reviewing, assessing, evaluating, and creating change. Our faculty, with the guidance of the Faculty Activity Manual, serves on 21 committees. Three are Standing Senate Committees and 22 are Standing College Committees. We just added one this year. Part of their charge is to address change as it is provided by ideas, research, administration, and state and federal laws.

Yesterday's reports were an excellent example of the work that the faculty has provided this year. For example, the SGA president, Lilli Taylor, spoke about grade forgiveness. The Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid has been discussing this topic for many months and is close to a final suggestion. Jimmie Foster mentioned GPA for transfer students. Chris Korey mentioned the reduced credit hours for declaring a major. The Provost and Dean Pritchard discussed the New School of Engineering, Computing, and Mathematics. The Provost also presented the new EDBA program for a vote. These last two items were rigorously reviewed and culminated with suggestions and subsequent changes. All these items, motions, and initiatives were discussed, evaluated, and revised by faculty members in many committees before they came to the Board for a vote.

I will say that change is difficult for some of the faculty. We don't always want change or like it, but we realize that change is a necessary progression of a university. Professional programs are a necessity for us to survive, but we never want to leave the roots of the liberal arts.

I want to leave you all with a quote from a famous scientist that relates to this period of our growth.

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one more responsive to change. – Charles Darwin”

Chair Romberger congratulated William on his re-election for another term as Faculty Speaker.

Staff Advisory Committee Report

Lindsey Copeland, Chair of the Staff Advisory Committee to the President, gave her report on behalf of the Staff.

Chair Romberger noted that the Staff Advisory Committee elections will be held later this summer.

Board of Trustees Committee Chairs' Reports

Student Affairs and Athletics Committee – Committee Chair Shawn Holland

“Matt Roberts introduced Chris Mack, the new Men's Basketball Coach, and some of his assistant coaches.

Matt Roberts' athletics report included updates on Competitive Success and Community Engagement.

Lilli Taylor, SGA President, provided annual highlights of the Student Government Association; and I presented her with a small token of appreciation for her outstanding service as President of the SGA this past year.

Adam El Hassan, President-Elect of the SGA, was introduced.

Alicia Caudill's Student Affairs Report included information regarding the Charleston Student Health and Wellbeing Consortium 2nd Annual Conference to be held at the College on Tuesday, May 21; student organization anti-hazing policy updates, prevention efforts and student support; and the Be Kind Committee.”

Academic Affairs Committee – Committee Chair Penny Rosner

“Provost Austin's Report included an update regarding Dean Searches.

The Committee approved motions for a School of Engineering, Computing & Mathematics and Renaming of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal; the new Executive Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA) Program Proposal; and a Resolution for Awarding May Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees, which will be presented to the full Board for consideration/approval later in today's meeting.

We heard a presentation by Beth Meyer-Bernstein, Dean of the School of the Arts.”

Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee – Committee Chair Laurin Burch

“We heard reports from John Loonan regarding the Budget & Finance 3rd Quarter Review, Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Timeline and Highlights, and Fiscal Year 2025 Fee Proposals; John Morris’ Facilities Report; and Jimmie Foster’s Enrollment Report, as well as an IT Security Report by Mark Staples.”

Chair Romberger recognized John Morris upon his retirement in June and presented him with a small token of appreciation for his years of service to the College.

Audit and Governance Committee – Committee Vice Chair Tav Swarat

“Board members were asked to sign an Ethics Disclosure Form and Oath of Office/Code of Conduct/Statement of Commitment.

Wendy Koreyva, the new Internal Auditor, provided updates regarding the FY24 and FY25 Proposed Audit Plans.

The Committee approved the FY24 and FY25 Audit Plans, which will be presented to the full Board for consideration/approval at the meeting later today.

And finally, Board members were reminded that nominations for Board Officers will be accepted at the August Board meeting and elections will be held at the October Board meeting.”

Access, Equity & Inclusion Committee – Committee Chair Toya Pound

“Dr. Courtney Howard, Chief Diversity Officer, presented the Office of Institutional Diversity Report, including Student Success Program Updates, Diversity Education, and HEED Comparison Report Highlights.

Jimmie Foster provided enrollment updates regarding URM Admissions.”

Development, Alumni, Governmental and External Relations Committee – Committee Chair Beth Burke

“Paul Patrick gave a Governmental Affairs Update.

Ron Menchaca provided a University Marketing Update.

Committee Resolutions/Motions Proposed During Yesterday’s Committee Meetings

Board Committees met yesterday and there are three motions from the Academic Affairs Committee and one motion from the Audit and Governance Committee to address.

Academic Affairs Committee:

The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics and the Renaming of the School of Natural and Environmental Sciences Proposal be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the new Executive Doctorate of Business Administration (EDBA) Program Proposal be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Resolution on “Awarding May Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees” be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

Audit and Governance Committee:

The Audit and Governance Committee moves that the FY24 and FY25 Audit Plans be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion passed. All in favor.

[Break at 9:20 a.m.]

Executive Session #1

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, to go into Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. for the following purposes: (1) Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property; (3) Employee records – legal matters and executive contract negotiations – personnel matters; (4) Personnel matters – legal matters covered by attorney-client privilege; and (5) Discussion of trade secrets (Section 30-4-40) where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services, and competitive information. All in favor.

[Trustee John Busch joined zoom at 9:48 a.m.]

Executive Session #2

At 10:28 a.m., only the Board of Trustees and President Hsu moved to the Randolph Hall Boardroom for continued Executive Session.

[At 11:49 a.m., Trustee Henrietta Golding left zoom.]

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, to come out of Executive Session at 12:07 p.m. All in favor.

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

[Public Session resumed]

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee John Wood, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:07 p.m. All in favor.