



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

March 22, 2024– 10:30 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Hugh Bland, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order.

II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA

Mr. Bland, Board Chair, introduced guests.

III. INVOCATION

Edgar Lamb, a member of the Board, gave the invocation.

IV. ROLL CALL

Mr. Keown conducted the roll call. In attendance were Hugh Bland, Edgar Lamb, Dr. Anne Hancock, Ron Davis, Craig Kesler, Gary Coleman, Bert Bagley, Yvonne Knight-Carter, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

VI. APPROVAL OF 12.08.23 MINUTES

Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Keown provided several updates. Dr. Keown introduced Thomas Kaminer, who manages finances for eighteen agencies, and J.C. Chandler, the President's House intern. Since the last meeting, Mr. Hunter Morton was named the Region Five Young Ag Teacher of the Year. Dr. Keown collaborated with Billy Garrett to create a resolution honoring Tom Love for his service to the Board, which was presented at Ag Fest. Despite terrible weather and a postponed horse event, 777 guests attended AG Fest. The Miss FFA pageant had 89 contestants, with a total



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attendance of 600 people. He reported that the Senate budget hearing occurred on March 6th.

Representative Hadden informed Dr. Keown that the Senate Breakfast Sponsor had canceled, leading to the school hosting the event since it was booked out to 2025. A family day at SRP Park is planned to celebrate the school's 98 out of 100 on its report card. On March 26, 2024, a cookout featuring the school's own beef will take place at 12 PM. Spring Break is scheduled for April 1st-5th. A Fireside Chat with Mr. Bob Edmonds at the Education Center is planned for April 6th from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. On April 12th, the NRCS President will visit the campus, followed by Pendleton's Farmer Society meeting on April 18th, of which Dr. Keown is the president. Alumni will have a spring BBQ at the Savannah Lakes Recreational Center on April 20th. An ADM representative is scheduled to visit the campus on April 23rd, followed by Plant Presentation Day at the statehouse for the Governor's Mansion on April 24th. New student orientation is set for May 3rd, followed by an Ag and Art Tour on May 4th. Awards will be presented on May 10th, followed by the FFA/4H banquet. Graduation for the 32 seniors is scheduled for May 24th. Dr. Keown also highlighted a successful meeting with Lynn Mattice, noting that Mattice is a valuable contact for our school.

VIII. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board Members received departmental reports from the school prior to the scheduled March meeting. They took this time to discuss any questions or concerns they had from the written reports. Each department head present gave an update on their department for the school year.

Outreach-Mrs. Miller

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Mrs. Miller provided an update for the Outreach Department, giving a special shout-out to Mr. Murphy and Mr. McCullough for their hard work. She shared that for the 2024-2025 school year, 24 students have been accepted, with 16 committed to enroll as of February 29, 2024. Of these students, 7 are from the Midlands, 7 from the Upstate, and 2 from the Lowcountry, while 1 student from the Pee Dee has been accepted but has not yet committed. Additionally, there are 4 students currently under review, 3 deferred pending GPA requirements, and 11 applications in progress. Since August, the Outreach Department has visited 50 schools and participated in 22 special events, including expos, livestock shows, and conferences.

Important upcoming dates include the New Student Orientation on May 3rd. Several workshops are also scheduled: the Small Ruminant Clinic by the



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McCormick Livestock Association on March 12th, the Holy Cow! A Collage Workshop on March 19th, the Edmonds Book Signing Event on April 6th, the Learn & Burn workshop on April 16th, Farm City Day on April 18th, and the Salsa Garden Workshop with the date to be determined.

School- Mr. Thompson

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Mr. Thompson provided an update on the school. He noted that Ag Fest required more advertisements, prompting outreach to the community calendar to increase public awareness. Preparations for Cognia accreditation in the fall are underway, with the next steps involving Elliot Observations, surveys, and updating the strategic plan. Additionally, Mr. Thompson has scheduled a meeting with Lander University to discuss offering college classes for students. FFA week is quickly approaching. The five-year review of the Ag Teacher has been postponed, and SAE information has been submitted.

HR and Residential Life- Ms. Martin

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Ms. Martin provided an update for Human Resources and Residential Life. In December 2023, several new hires joined the campus. Efforts are underway to complete onboarding and new hire paperwork. Ms. Martin mentioned that positions are currently taking three weeks to be posted. The organizational chart and employee handbook are being updated. In Residential Life, the extended break is scheduled from the March 29, 2024- April 7, 2024. Preparations are also being made for move-out and the upcoming school year.

Security- Deputy Osborne

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Officer Osborne provided an update on security. He reported that Guard One has been experiencing understaffing issues. Efforts are underway to address this by working on a bill to create our own police department, which has been filed and is currently awaiting further action. Additionally, a trial is being conducted for a new camera equipped with a vape alarm to enhance campus security.

Public Information Officer- Tony Baughman

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Mr. Baughman provided an update for Public Information. He shared the link to purchase tickets for the alumni spring dance and discussed ongoing video projects, including field trips, a senior video, and collaborations with Bart on drone footage. Mr. Baughman praised teachers for their excellent work in sharing stories. He also



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highlighted recent podcast guests such as Louis Salazar, Brandy Neeley, Dan Hill, Austin Jenkins, and Rushawnda Olden, and announced that Chuck Leavell is planned as a guest for the next season.

Facilities and Maintenance- Mr. Mims

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Scott Mims presented an update on maintenance, facilities, and special projects as of March 2024. He highlighted several ongoing initiatives, including separate bidding for the construction of Hesse Morrah and Charleston residence halls due to the escalating construction costs, with this being the third attempt. Progress was reported on emergency generator installation, Verizon tower approval, and De La Howe Hall renovation, with final paperwork submitted for bidding. Additionally, approval for funding from the timber account for a new greenhouse is pending JBRC approval. The power pole replacement project is progressing under budget. Mr. Mims also discussed ongoing efforts to address security fencing, trails enhancement with a grant application in process, and the renovation of rental houses, with one already occupied. Lastly, he provided updates on the selection of an architectural firm for the Ag Shop project and the forthcoming approval process from JBRC for Phase 2.

Farm- Mr. McCall

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Mr. McCall provided an update on the Farm. He reported that the Equine Center completed a total renovation of the stall bedding in the barn. Multiple loads of river sand were moved by hand and packed to form a stable footing, and new rubber mats were installed, significantly improving the barn.

The clearing of specific tracts of land and the thinning of adjacent tracts have been completed, with all boundaries approved by the board. Two spots where southern pine beetles had been spreading were identified, and the affected trees were removed as part of an addendum to the original sale, halting the spread of the infestation. Further recommendations on thinning stands to prevent beetle damage will be provided at the next meeting.

Cereal grains have been fertilized and are in good condition, while preparations for corn planting are underway. Funds have been designated through the Foundation for the purchase of a new agricultural sprayer and GPS system, representing a significant advancement in pasture and cropland management.



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Beef has been added to the inventory of food sources provided to the cafeteria, with pork and eggs continuing to be supplied regularly. Calving season for Herd 1 has begun and is progressing normally. The focus on student involvement is ongoing, with continual refinements to processes.

Progress is also being made in the development of the Small Ruminant Area. Fencing is being installed, and plans for barn renovation have been drawn. The process of clearing and stumping the clearcut areas has begun, with attention to soil loss prevention and the creation of reasonable slopes and drains for future cropland use.

IX. NORTHERN ITALY STUDENT TRIP JUNE 2025 VOTE

Mr. Davis made the motion to approve the 2025 student trip to Italy. Mr. Bagley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

X. POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL VOTE

During the Board meeting, Mr. Coble provided a briefing on the policy and procedure manual. He explained that there are two main documents: the bylaws and the rules for the Board. The bylaws were modeled after those of the Governor's School for Math and Science, with incorporation of John de la Howe statutes. Mr. Bagley raised a concern regarding the number of committees listed in the documents.

Mr. Bagley proposed a motion to dissolve the standing committees outlined in Article 5, Section 1A, and any relevant sections of Article 6, while retaining special or ad hoc committees. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Bagley motioned to align Rule 1 with Article 8, Section 8. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Hancock motioned to approve the bylaws and rules as previously amended. Mr. Bagley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

XI. HONORS LEVEL AG CLASSES VOTE

Mr. Kesler motioned to approve the honor level agricultural classes as outlined in the packet. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.



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- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- XIII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- XIV. OTHER BUSINESS**
- XV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, June 28th at 10:30 A.M.**
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kesler made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Davis seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

06/28/24

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman, in blue ink, positioned above a horizontal line.



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Vacant, Secretary

Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary

Scottlyn McCullough
