



# SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

June 28, 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, Gary Coleman, Bert Bagley, Yvonne Knight-Carter, Ron Davis, Craig Kesler, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

### V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### VII. APPROVAL OF 3.22.24 MINUTES

Dr. Hancock made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

### VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Keown provided an update to the Board of Trustees. The budget has been sent to the Governor's desk, and we fared well. We received \$1 million for the De la Howe Site Work, along with a non-recurring \$1 million for the meats lab. While it's not the full amount needed, it indicates support for building the facility. Additionally, we secured \$1 million in recurring funds for new positions, including one that will assist Stacy with the Foundation. This also covers three new Resident Assistants (RAs), a Culinary Arts teacher, janitorial staff, and \$300,000 specifically allocated for teacher step raises.



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Ongoing renovation projects include the entrance gate, De la Howe Hall, and the greenhouse, which is currently under construction. The farm is thriving under Mr. McCall's excellent management. Lyle Fulmer, from Newberry County, was selected as one of six students from a pool of 12,500 to represent South Carolina as an FFA officer. We also secured three new state proficiency awards. Additionally, we are actively seeking a new recruiter, possibly for a remote or hybrid position.

Our campus hosted over 40 students for the Farm Bureau Leadership Camp. The museum at the dairy barn is now set up. Currently, we have students in Washington, DC; Illinois; Orlando, Florida; and eleven students in Ireland. Dr. Keown continues to serve on Peach State Credit Union's advisory board. Mr. Davis recently met with Peach State executives, and they generously donated \$4,000 toward the Veterans Monument, with a commitment to provide \$20,000 over the next five years. The Alumni Board has also raised \$7,000.

Finally, the General Assembly is working on policies related to seat time and cell phone usage.

## IX. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board Members received departmental reports from the school prior to the scheduled June 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.

### **Student Ireland Trip-Ms. Brown and Mr. McCall**

Ms. Brown and Mr. McCall provided an update on the student trip to Ireland. The students were highly engaged throughout the trip and were frequently complimented and mistaken for college students due to their exemplary behavior. The group consisted of 11 students, including six males and five females from grades 10 through 12. Each student received support from the Foundation. The ten-day itinerary included visits to Wheelock's Strawberry Farm, a robotic dairy farm, the Irish National Stud and Gardens, Connemara Oyster Farm, Highlands Apple Orchard, as well as various cattle and sheep farms. The students also explored Dublin, Waterford, Kilkenny, and Galway, with notable visits to Kilkenny Castle, Trinity College, the Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Cathedral of Our Lady, Kylemore Abbey, the National Gallery of Ireland, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, and the Cliffs of Moher. The next trip, scheduled for 2025, will be to Italy and France, where



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AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Dr. Keown is invited to speak on behalf of the agency. Future trips include Belize in 2026 and the Azores in 2027.

### **Outreach-Mrs. Miller**

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with an update on community outreach. She informed the Board that enrollment forms for the upcoming school year will be digital, and the enrollment portal for the 2024-2025 school year was opened on October 1st. The outreach department has also been active in promoting the school, visiting events such as Ag Expo, the SC State Fair, and countless school visits. Additionally, the school will be hosting a Halloween event on campus on October 29th.

### **Security- Officer Steve Osborne**

Officer Osborne provided the Board with an update on campus security. He informed the board that he visited a company out of Greenwood with security cameras and is working towards implementing them on campus. The school will also conduct active shooter training twice a year, as well as participate in the Great Shakeout, a nationwide earthquake drill to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### **HR and Residential Life- Ms. Martin**

Ms. Martin provided a brief update on two departments, HR and residential life. Regarding HR, EPMS evaluations are due on November 3rd, and the department is working on internships for the summer of 2024. State HR is behind schedule. On the other hand, residential life is changing the sign-out process, and the department will run the booth at the state fair on October 17th and 20th. Lastly, Ms. Martin will attend ABAC on November 6th and 7th.

### **Facilities and Maintenance- Mr. Mims**

Mr. Mims reported to the Board of Trustees on the status of maintenance, facilities, and special projects as of June 2024. The maintenance work on the Hessie Morrah and Charleston residence halls is currently under construction and is expected to be completed before January 2025. The installation of emergency generators is in progress, while we are awaiting Verizon to issue the necessary permits. The renovation of De La Howe Hall is underway, with



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AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

plans to be completed by June 2025. The new greenhouse is also under construction, with completion anticipated before October 2024. The security fencing project is under construction and is projected to be finished by September 2024.

For the trails project, we applied for a \$100,000 grant in January, but unfortunately, did not receive it. Therefore, JDLH will now handle this project in-house. All rental houses are occupied except for one duplex. The Ag Shop project is in the final drawing stages, and we are preparing to put it out to bid. The facilities and maintenance staff includes 1 Director, 6 Maintenance Staff, 2 Janitorial Staff, and 2 part-time positions, with one open maintenance position. We have logged 240 maintenance work orders into our system.

## **Foundation- Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith provided an update from the Foundation. The Land Lease Policy has been updated to ensure protection, allowing the school to potentially utilize the funds generated. The Foundation will also be able to funnel money to support the farm. Mrs. Smith is meeting with the attorney to discuss funds held by the state. A judgment action must be filed with the Richland County Court to facilitate the return of these funds to the school as an endowed account. Additionally, the Foundation has hosted two hiking groups from Savannah Lakes, resulting in two meal scholarships and an activity fee donation from the group. In February, ADM donated money, with most of the funds benefiting the farm.

## **X. VOTES**

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the Valedictorian and Salutatorian Requirements. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Hancock made a motion to approve Dual Enrollment Ag classes. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Lamb made a motion to approve early graduation requirements. Ms. Knight-Carter seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Hancock made a motion to approve the Land Lease Agreement. Mr. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.



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AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Mr. Lamb made a motion to approve the 2024 proposed timber thinning. Ms. Knight-Carter seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Bagley for his donation to the Foundation through his employment.

- XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, September 13, 2024

- XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lamb made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 12:21 P.M.

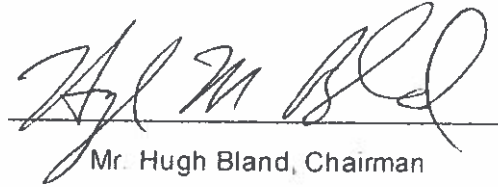


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Date Approved by Board of Trustees

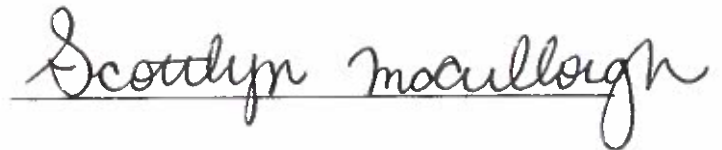
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Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary

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Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary

  
Scottlyn McCullough