



**SC Governor's School
for Agriculture**
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

March 11, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA

Mr. Bland, President, introduced Mr. Damian Dominguez from the Index Journal.

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, Tom Love, Craig Kesler, Ron Davis, Gary Coleman, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Kesler made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Love seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 3RD MINUTES

Mr. Love made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Keown provided an update to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Keown first mentioned a gift from local historian Bob Edmonds. This meaningful gift was an original doctor's note from Dr. De la Howe to John C Calhoun. Mr. Keown was excited to inform the Board of Trustees of our new industry partners. Jonny Watts came to our campus for a tour. Case is donating a tractor for our students to use for up to two-hundred and fifty hours. KIOTI Tractor has brought a tractor to use for our equine arena. Bo Blanchard is trying to bring a John Deer Planter to show our students how to



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

operate it. Agri Supply came this week and will donate equipment to our school. The Duke Energy Foundation decided to donate \$100,000 to our Foundation Board but has agreed to give \$150,000. It is required by our enabling legislation that our Board of Trustees must vote on any restricted funds.

Our campus hosted our Ag Fest event last weekend and had over six-hundred and forty-six people at lunchtime. We believe over a thousand individuals came as best as we could estimate. We added a dairy show, a horse show and increased our beef show this year. Since we last met, our students have traveled to FFA Legislative Appreciation Day and 4-H Legislative Appreciation Day.

Mr. Keown updated the Board of Trustees on his visit to the House, Ways, and Means Committee. Our school asked for a new ag shop, kitchen renovations, and teacher step raises, and we will hopefully receive our budget back soon. We are currently in the middle of the SFAA Audit.

As for new positions opening, we need two qualified RAs. If you know anyone interested, please send them our way. We offered a PR Position, but it did not work out. We have interviewed for our new recruiter this week.

Please mark your calendars for our Jeff Duncan visit on April 11th at 10 AM. Also, Bicycle across South Carolina chooses a different location each year, and this year we have the honor of being the host site. It will take place October 13th through 16th, and they expect around six hundred participants.

The Pendleton Farmer Society, one of only three left in the SC Agricultural Society, has invited our students on April 26th. If you would like to attend, please give a headcount before April 1st. Please save the date for Graduation on May 27th on the Governor's Green at 5 PM. If there is rain, our graduation ceremony will occur in the chapel. Tonight, we are hosting the SC Miss FFA Pageant at Lander. Once De la Howe Hall is completed, the pageant will be held at our auditorium. Please also save the date for May 6th, which is our awards day.

The Foundation Board of Directors has raised over \$200,000. We cannot sell merchandise as an agency, but the Foundation Board is looking to sell some through the Foundation and possibly auction a turkey hunt. The Foundation Board has hired a new CPA, Bob Coble is their lawyer, and has asked for an Executive Director because the enabling legislation requires it.

VII. 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



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

concerns they had from the written reports. Each department head present gave an update on their department for the school year.

Business Operations- Mr. Coleman

Mr. Coleman provided an update to the Board of Trustees. Legislative budget hearings have taken place in January and February. The business department is getting ready for capital projects and are planning to meet with our team to prepare. The SFAA Audit from July 1st through January 31st is almost complete and will hopefully end this month. In expenditures, we had around half a million dollars mostly in salaries and fringe. The Business Office has a new server that will give greater access information on emails and will reduce man time.

The Board of Trustees asked Mr. Coleman to look into the McCann Scholarships Funds.

School-Mr. Thompson

Thompson gave an update regarding the school. The roster in your packet is updated, and the school conducted a survey with our teachers, and only Ms. Hollingsworth, who is moving to Greenville, will not be returning. After the holidays, we had five students enroll. Next year, we will be on a semester block schedule, not an AB schedule. This will help them focus on four classes and not eight. Our five new students are from all over the state.

You have your A-B Honor Roll in your packet, and 43% of our students are on the honor roll. Each quarter we give a championship belt to the residence hall with the highest GPA. We teased that the belt would never be given to the boy's side of campus, but the males from the Carolina residence hall have proved us wrong! There will be a drop in grades in the next grading period from virtual learning. We are currently tracking our graduation rates, and we are at 95% for our seniors. After this grading period, probation letters will be sent out. With college acceptances, a new reality is setting in with in-state tuition to Clemson, ABAC, and even tech schools to see where they could go for free. A few of our students will be taking a visit to SC State next Wednesday.

Also, in the packet is the proposed calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. Students will start a week early, and we will have a fall break in October. Spring break will still be the same. As for awards, our students continue to



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

win prizes and recognitions. Mr. Morton has also won The Turn the Key Award. The SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe will also give one of our students an in-house scholarship. Our underclassmen will move out on May 27th, and our seniors will move out and take exams the week before.

Maintenance- Mr. Mims

Mr. Durham recently retired, so Mr. Scott Mims provided the maintenance report. The Horse Arena is complete, and we are now looking to see about getting lights for the arena. As for the 951 Highway 81 Shed Demo, the A/E study has been done, and waiting on quotes to come in. The Dairy Barn has become popular, and we have several groups wanting to rent it out. The elevator at the Dairy Barn is now on SCBO. Bids have been received; however, there were issues with the low bid, and the project will have to be put back on SCBO and rebid. The A/E firm let us know that the capacity for the upstairs is one-hundred-and-fifty people.

Nine of the residential halls are complete. A general contractor from the outside has handled it, and we have to get an A/E firm to come in. We have had several different firms go in and leave. Only one A/E firm has been interested. The emergency generators are on site, and we are now waiting to get the P.O in the next few days. The swimming pool is now gone, and the additional parking is complete. The L.S Brice school units have been replaced out.

With Dominion, the Osmose report is complete. Per the report, we have developed a pole replacement plan and are currently working to secure funding. As for the barn, the asbestos will have to be removed first, and then within the next month and a half, it will be gone. The Education Center Roads are under construction and will hopefully be done by the end of the week. We also added additional parking and handicap parking at the Education Center. The phase one environmental assessment is complete. The Verizon contract is being reviewed and coordinated with the Department of Administration and SCETV. We are still waiting for materials to come in for the five stand.

The De la Howe Hall project has received phase one and phase two approval. DP3 Architects have been awarded the contract. We are currently working to remove the asbestos and lead paint. A perfect timeline would place this project finishing in August of 2023. Our campus has struggled with the McCormick County water system. We have contracted Cranston Engineering to evaluate the water supply and make recommendations. Horse



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

trails will be our next big project, and we would like to integrate trials. Dominion also has a program that will come out and replace lightbulbs with LED lights for free. Several school districts have participated in this program

Mrs. Miller- Education Center

The Education Center has been extremely busy hosting workshops. The soap workshops were popular enough to host two sessions and still have a waitlist. The wildlife conclave has been postponed from Covid. The Education Center will have a ton of workshops coming up, and there will be sixteen summer camps this summer. We are also hosting the Farm Bureau Youth Leadership camp. We have partnered with SC State and will be the host site for their camps. Since we last meet, The Education Center has decorated Christmas Trees for the McCormick Chamber of Commerce and participated in the cookie walk. On March 1st, we had a garden club with over fifty members tour.

Dana Marin- HR and Residential Life

Next, Ms. Martin updated the Board of Trustees on HR and residential life. In the HR department, we will have several open positions. We are in need of two full-time female RAs. We also have a building and grounds position, part-time RAS, a mechanic, a full-time custodian, and a part-time custodian. As for residential life, two assistant directors joined our team. Denise Wise, who was a security guard, will work Friday through Tuesday as an assistant director, and Lindsey Davis, who worked as a farm manager at Clemson University, will also serve as an assistant director.

Osborne

Officer Osborne gave the Board of Trustees an update on security for the campus. Board members will have a new access card. We have had issues with parking at large events such as Ag Fest. All of the parking lots were full during this event. Students have participated in active shooter drills, and it is mandated that we perform two active shooter drills a year. On March 29th, SC Patrol will be on our campus to conduct a DUI awareness training for our students.

Wellness Center - Anne Horne

Mrs. Horne provided an update on the Wellness Center. On February 17th, our campus will hold a Covid-19 booster clinic. We are now using the test to



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

stay method through DHEC. They have provided us with tests, and we will keep these on hand although we have low Covid numbers. Our campus now has two new EpiPens and two new AEDs. We are looking at hosting a mental health program for our staff that would last around eight hours.

Farm and Grounds- Andrew Warner

Mr. Warner was not able to attend the Board of Trustees meeting.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Davis made the motion at 11:58 a.m. to enter executive session. Mr. Lamb seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

At 1:10 p.m. Mr. Lamb made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Kesler seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to exit executive session.

IX. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was nothing to report during executive session.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the Duke Energy Foundation donation. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved to accept the Duke Energy Foundation donation.

Mr. Love made a motion to approve the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Gary Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

XI. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, June 17th at 10:30 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Love made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Lamb seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.



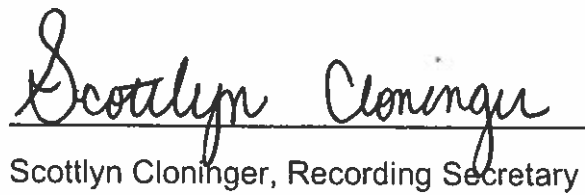
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06/17/2022

Date Approved by Board of Trustees


Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary


Scottlyn Cloninger, Recording Secretary