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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

February 19, 2016

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016, in the Alumni Center Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. Mark W. Buyck Jr., Chairman; Mr. Chuck Allen; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William W. Jones Jr.; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mr. Charles H. Williams; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr., Board Chairman; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Vice Chairman. Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr. was absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mrs. Paula Harper Bethea; Mr. Tommy C. Cofield; Mr. A. C. "Bubba" Fennell; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; and Mr. Thad Westbrook.

Chairman of the Faculty Senate August E. "Augie" Grant was present. Also in attendance was the University's NCAA/SEC Representative Valinda Littlefield.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Amy E. Stone; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Provost Joan T. A. Gabel; Chief Operating Officer Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President for System Planning Mary Anne Fitzpatrick; Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Jancy Houck; Vice President for Human Resources Chris Byrd; Vice President for Facilities and Transportation Derrick Huggins; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; USC Upstate Chancellor Tom Moore; Dean of Libraries Thomas F. McNally; Dean of the School of Music Tayloe Harding; Associate Vice President for Business Affairs, Division of Administration and Finance, Helen T. Zeigler; Executive Director of Audit & Advisory Services Pam Doran; Executive Director of My Carolina Alumni Association Jack W. Claypoole; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. "Bill" Kirkland; Director of Facilities Planning and Programming and University Architect Derek S. Gruner; Senior Associate Athletics Director Judy Van Horn; Chief Financial Officer, Athletics Department, Jeff Tallant; University Treasurer Pat Lardner; University Controller Jennifer Muir; My Carolina Alumni Association Senior Director of Operations Kevin

Grindstaff; Chief of Staff, President's Office, J. Cantey Heath Jr.; Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, USC Aiken, Joe Sobieralski; Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, USC Aiken, Jeff Priest; Trustee Emeritus M. Wayne Staton; President, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Mark Emmert; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Terri Saxon and Ina Wilson.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Buyck called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked Board members to introduce themselves. Mr. Hickman introduced members of the media who were in attendance: Pete Iacobelli with the Associated Press; Hannah Jeffrey with the *Free Times*; Josh Kendall with *The State*; Scott Hood with Gamecock Central; Willie Smith with *The Greenville News*; and David Caraviello of *The Post and Courier*.

Chairman Buyck said that notice of the meeting had been posted; the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials circulated to the committee; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

II. Athletics Director's Report

Chairman Buyck called on Mr. Tanner who reported on the following topics.

Academic Success – The Fall 2015 departmental Grade Point Average (GPA) was 3.171 making it the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester with a departmental GPA of at least a 3.0. Out of 500-plus student-athletes, 360 surpassed a 3.0 GPA, including 32 football players. The women's golf team achieved the highest GPA of 3.739; while the men's swimming team achieved the second highest GPA in the program's history at 3.367. Other academic highlights for the semester included: 15 of 18 teams recording a 3.0 or higher GPA; 172 student-athletes making the Dean's List (3.5 GPA or 3.25 GPA for freshman); and 66 student-athletes making the President's List (4.0 GPA).

Gamecocks were #1 on the SEC Fall 2015 Academic Honor Roll for the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year including 28 football players.

Twenty-one student athletes graduated in December 2015, including former baseball player Grayson Greiner who returned to complete his degree.

Student-athletes achieved outstanding GPAs while completing over 5,000 hours of community service during the 2015 Fall Semester.

Gamecock Fans – Mr. Tanner noted statistics in support of the claim that Gamecock fans are the best. USC is the only school in the NCAA where men's and women's basketball average 11,000 or more

fans per game. With an average attendance of over 14,557 fans per game, women's basketball ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation and set the record for the most season tickets sold in the history of the program. The men's basketball average attendance ranked USC 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation and 5<sup>th</sup> in the SEC. During Frank Martin's tenure as men's head basketball coach, season ticket sales increased by 40%, with over 8,000 season tickets sold this year.

Other fan statistics include: 5,700 season baseball tickets sold for the 2016 season; 51,000 season football tickets sold for the 2015 season with an average attendance of 78,822; and 796 season softball tickets sold; while volleyball ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation and 6<sup>th</sup> in the SEC in average attendance. A total of 19,029 students attended at least one sporting event this year.

Mr. Tanner reviewed the National Letter of Intent signing dates for recruits enrolling for the Academic Year 2015-16. He announced, by sport, the list of recruits who had committed to be Gamecocks.

Achievements – The following teams were ranked in the top 25 for at least one week: baseball; men's and women's basketball, golf, and soccer; beach volleyball; equestrian; men's swimming and diving; and men's track. The *Collegiate Baseball* magazine ranked the Gamecock's 2015 baseball recruiting class 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation.

- Basketball – The men's and women's basketball teams opened their seasons with a combined 30-0 record, the best combined start in SEC history; and their combined records of 45-6 is the best of any school in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I. Three players were named to the Gamecock's "1,000 Point Club." Sindarius Thornwell and Michael Carrera became the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> players, respectively, from the men's team; and Alaina Coates the 31<sup>st</sup> player from the women's team. The men's basketball team started the season 15-0, the second best start in the school history behind only the 17-0 start in 1933-34.

Head Women's Basketball Coach Dawn Staley was named USA Basketball Co-National Coach of the Year, making her the first person to have earned both a USA Basketball Coach and Athlete of the Year award. For the second-straight season the team posted its best start in school history at 22-0. USC Gamecock A'ja Wilson was named 2015 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year for her performance at the 2015 International Basketball Federation (FIBA) U19 World Championship.

- Golf – Associate Women’s Golf Coach/Director of Golf Operations and Facilities Puggy

Blackmon was awarded the Labron Harris Sr. Award by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Men’s Golf player Matt NeSmith was named the South Carolina Golf Association’s Player of the Year for 2015.

- Soccer – The men’s team finished the 2015 season 22<sup>nd</sup> in the National Soccer Coaches of America poll; and completed its second undefeated home slate in program history.

- Tennis – The men’s tennis team won five individual titles in Fall 2015, the most since 1997-98. Head Women’s Tennis Coach Kevin Epley won his 200<sup>th</sup> career match versus #7 University of Virginia on January 29. It was the Lady Gamecock’s first win over a top-10 team since 2009.

Mr. Tanner noted the accomplishments of Head Football Coach Will Muschamp, prior to his becoming a Gamecock: 2012 SEC Coach of the Year; 2003 National Champion; two-time SEC Champion; Big 12 Champion; and 21 years coaching experience with 13 of those years in the SEC.

Mr. Tanner concluded his presentation by showing a video of Gamecock athletes in action.

Chairman Buyck thanked Mr. Tanner for his informative presentation, which he said was received as information.

### III. Mark Emmert, President, National Collegiate Athletic Association

Chairman Buyck called on President Pastides to introduce Dr. Emmert.

President Pastides said that Dr. Emmert was the 5<sup>th</sup> president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). During his tenure as president, since October 2010, Dr. Emmert has championed greater support for student-athlete wellness and academic success. While on campus the previous day, Dr. Emmert met with student-athletes, athletics officials and the Athletics Advisory Committee; was the featured speaker at a Leadership Dialogue held at the Darla Moore School of Business; and attended the women’s basketball game.

Among Dr. Emmert’s many academic roles: he served as President of the University of Washington, his alma mater; Chancellor of LSU; Provost and Chancellor at the University of Connecticut; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Montana State University-Bozeman; and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. Emmert earned his Master’s and Doctorate degrees from Syracuse University.

Dr. Emmert discussed the role and responsibilities of the NCAA and commended Mr. Tanner on his presentation because it focused on student-athletes’ academic successes, in conjunction with athletic competition at the highest levels; which he noted was the first priority of the NCAA. Dr. Emmert said he

had a great experience meeting with the University's staff and exceptional student-athletes. He emphasized what a great time it was to be a student-athlete as evidenced by the higher graduation rates as compared to non-athletic students.

President Pastides asked Dr. Emmert about the business side of college athletics and the media. Dr. Emmert said that it was clear that media consumption in sports is changing significantly, which created opportunities and challenges the NCAA was exploring. He clarified that the NCAA only had media responsibility for the championships and noted that the NCAA generates 92% of its revenue from the Men's Basketball Tournament.

Trustee Fennell asked Dr. Emmert about the concept of designating student-athletes as employees, to receive payment in addition to their educational opportunities. Dr. Emmert said he did not support the concept; however, he did support an obligation to provide student-athletes all they need to be successful while a student and following graduation.

As a former college football player and a coach, Trustee Allen said he hoped the NCAA governing authority would adopt a rule prohibiting practice during spring break. He said that the time demands placed on student-athletes, especially football players, make it essential for them to have time to refresh and rejuvenate and any attempt to hold practice during spring break was very misguided. Dr. Emmert responded that rebalancing academics and athletics in relation to time demands on student-athletes was an issue to be considered in the upcoming year.

Trustee Westbrook asked Mr. Emmert what he considered the most significant challenges. He responded, saying his first priority was fair treatment and the health and wellness of the student-athletes. Dr. Emmert said he was really proud of the NCAA's effort to stay at the cutting edge of understanding concussions and to learn more about "rest and recovery."

Trustee von Lehe asked what the NCAA was doing to publish student-athletes' academic accomplishments. Dr. Emmert discussed details of recent press conferences; but noted that unfortunately the media tended to report on the sensational or negative stories. He said it was expected that student-athletes should do well academically and athletically and become successful graduates. Therefore, those accomplishments were rarely reported by the media. Dr. Emmert added that reports like Mr. Tanner's were important. As part of the discussion, Dr. Augie Grant, faculty representative to the Board, asked that academic support resources available to student-athletes be expanded to the rest of the student body.

President Pastides asked Dr. Emmert to comment on Gamecock's Coach Muschamp "one of the smartest guys in football." Dr. Emmert said that in his conversations with Coach Muschamp that the coach had been excited to find such emphasis on academic and student development at the University.

Chairman Buyck thanked Dr. Emmert for his valued insight into college athletics.

IV. Other Matters

Chairman Buyck called for any other matters to come before the committee.

V. Adjournment

There being no other matters to come before the committee, Chairman Buyck declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy E. Stone  
Secretary