

**South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics**

Board of Trustees Meeting

In-Person and Zoom Video Conference

November 19, 2020

Noon

**Governing Board Members Present In-Person**

Mr. Robert Brown  
Dr. Rainey Knight  
Mr. Dennis Getter  
Ms. Barbara Melvin

**Governing Board Members Present via Zoom:**

Ms. B. Charmeka Childs  
Dr. DeWitt (Ty) Coleman  
Mr. William Hudson Denny  
Mr. John Michael Florence  
Dr. Judith Salley  
Mr. Heyward Hilliard – joined at 12:15 p.m.  
Dr. Henry Tisdale  
Mr. James Gergen  
Dr. Cynthia Young  
Dr. Rusty Monhollon  
Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick  
Ms. Molly Spearman  
Dr. David Tedeschi – left at 1:05 p.m.

**Guests Present Via Zoom and In-Person:**

Dr. Suprana Bali (PAC) – Video  
Ms. Heidi Buckley (PAC) - Video  
Mr. Shane Farmer (President, Alumni Assoc.) - Video

**Staff Members Present In-Person and via Zoom Video:**

Dr. Ershela Sims	Mr. Chris Lambert - Video
Mrs. Kiersten Cole – Video	Dr. Emilye Mobley - Video
Mrs. Elizabeth Dinndorf - Video	Mr. Jon Shannon - Video
Mr. Danny Dorsel	Mrs. Bridget Lloyd
Mr. Brock Heron	Dr. Kathryn deRidder-Vignone - Video
Mr. Randy La Cross	

**Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Chairman Brown welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m. The roll was taken with a quorum present.

**Item 2: Future Board Meeting Schedule**

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

**Item 3: Approval of the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from May 29, 2020, and September 10, 2020**

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Melvin motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Florence seconded. There was no further discussion. Chairman Brown asked all in favor to signify by saying "I." Mr. Getter recused himself from the vote. The motion carried with the unanimous support of all except the abstaining Board member.

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Melvin motioned to approve the minutes, and Dr. Knight seconded. Chairman Brown asked all in favor to signify by saying "I." The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

**Agenda Amendment:**

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move Item 4 to a later time on the agenda in the absence of the Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson. Ms. Melvin motioned to approve, and Mr. Getter seconded. Chairman Brown asked all in favor to signify by saying "I." The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

**Item 5: Interim President's Report – Dr. Ershela Sims**

Dr. Sims' report consisted of the following updates:

- Admissions Updates – Mr. Chris Lambert
  - A decline in residential and virtual applications for the academic year 2020-2021 due to the pandemic.
  - Enrollment Management will host virtually a variety of recruitment initiatives.
- Personnel Updates – Dr. Ershela Sims
  - Mr. Randy La Cross will assume the role of Sr. Vice-President of Virtual & Outreach.
- New Logo and Messaging – Mrs. Kiersten Cole
- Spring Plan for Residential Program – Dr. Ershela Sims
  - The residential experience will have multiple entry points.
  - Reduced viral transmissions
  - Signage and physical distancing
  - Monitoring Symptoms/Testing Protocol

**Item 4: Ad Hoc Committee Report – Mr. Heyward Hilliard**

Mr. Hilliard gave a brief background on the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Hilliard's report summarized the Return to Residency Plan for the Spring 2021 semester. The plan addressed different approaches and educational initiatives to return students safely to in-person learning in the spring. Included in the plan for COVID-19 testing are partnerships with Carolina Pines and MUSC. Mr. Hilliard thanked the members of the Task Force, Ad Hoc Committee, and the Leadership at GSSM.

Chairman Brown explained the Board's responsibility to consider acceptance of the plan as it was presented. He acknowledged the plan was not representative of a unanimous agreement amongst everyone on campus. The plan has flexibility for employees at higher risks to allow faculty to teach their classes effectively.

The Return to Residency Plan for Spring 2021 was presented as a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee. This committee is a standing committee; a motion or seconded was not required. There being no further discussions, Chairman Brown asked all in favor of the Return to Residency Plan to signify by saying "I." Chairman Brown asked if there were any oppositions. None opposed. The Board of Trustees unanimously carried the motion.

**Item 6: Finance, Facilities, and Operations:** Mr. Brock Heron

Mr. Heron stated there was no action needed. The Finance report consisted of the following:

- Financial Reports as of October 31, 2020
- FY2021 Budget Update
- FY2022 Budget Update
- Aramark Contractual Agreement Increase

**Item 7: GSSM Foundation Report:** Mrs. Elizabeth Dinndorf and Mr. James Gergen

The Foundation report consisted of the following for discussion.

- New Legislation: S613 signed by Gov. Henry McMaster on Sept. 28, 2020.
  - The Board of Trustees may establish an endowment fund.
    - Separate non-profit entity
    - The Executive Director of the Development Office and the Head of School must review the proposed annual operations and capital budgets.
    - Board approval is required before acceptance of restricted funds.
    - The Board and the endowment fund must enter into a written agreement before taking any action.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and the Foundation
  - Outlined in the SC Office of the Inspector General Review of the School and its supporting Foundation - (Oct. 2017 and Aug. 2018)

Chairman Brown clarified the reason for the establishment of Legislation S613. Chairman Brown asked whether additional clarification was needed. Hearing no request for further clarification, Chairman Brown proposed that Mr. Danny Dorsel assume the additional responsibilities as Executive Director for the Development Office at GSSM.

Chairman Brown entertained a motion before moving into further discussion. Mr. Hilliard made a motion that the recommendation of Mr. Dorsel to assume the additional duties as Executive Director of the Community Development office be approved. Mr. Gergen seconded.

Chairman Brown allowed time for further discussion on the motion. The following recommendations were discussed.

- A written delineation of the Development Office's role and function and the Executive Director's job description for board review.

- Assignment of the Institutional Advancement Committee (IAC), chaired by Mr. Gergen and the Foundation – Governance Committee, to lead the charge in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GSSM and the Foundation for discussion at the next Board meeting.
- Delay further actions until the above issues are addressed individually.

The Board agreed with the IAC and Governance committee leading the charge in drafting the MOU. Chairman Brown recommended postponing the appointment of Mr. Dorsel as Executive Director of the Development Office to the school at this time.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Requests from Donors – Mrs. Elizabeth Dinndorf
  - Funders are requesting a Board adopted plan of action towards diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy and evaluation.
- Update: Fundraising Results included participation from:
  - GSSM Leadership Team
  - GSSM Foundation Board of Directors
  - GSSM Alumni Association Board
  - GSSM Board of Trustees

#### **Item 8: Approval of Consent Agenda**

Chairman Brown called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda submitted for informational purposes. Ms. Melvin moved to approve. Dr. Knight seconded and unanimously carried by the Board.

#### **Item 9: Break**

Chairman Brown moved for a five-minute break at 2:26 p.m. with the Board convening immediately afterward into Executive Session.

#### **Item 10: Executive Session (Closed)**

Chairman Brown convened into Executive Session at approximately 2:35 p.m. to discuss the Interim President and Presidential Search.

#### **Item 11: Reconvene to Open Session**

Chairman Brown reconvened to Open Session at approximately 3:18 p.m. and stated no action was taken by the Board while in Executive Session.

Mr. Gergen motioned that Mr. Daniel Dorsel is named Interim President of the school effective January 1, 2021. Mr. Hilliard seconded. There was no other recognition. Chairman Brown asked all in favor to signify by saying "I." The motion was carried unanimously by the Board. Chairman Brown congratulated Mr. Dorsel on the appointment.

#### **Presidential Search Committee**

Chairman Brown announced the establishment of a Presidential Search Committee with Board Trustee Mr. John Florence as Chair.

**Item 12: Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to approve by Ms. Melvin, seconded by Mr. Denny, and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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Robert Brown, Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

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Date