

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
 2 TO SCREEN CANDIDATES
 FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

3
 4
 5
 6 Tuesday, March 26, 2013

7
 8 9:10 a.m.

9
 10 Gressette Senate Building
 1101 Pendleton Street
 Room 201
 11 Columbia, SC

12
 13 REPORTED BY: Joy R. Dawson, Court Reporter
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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER, JR., CHAIRMAN

3 SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.

4 SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

5 SENATOR J. YANCEY MCGILL

6 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. "BILL" WHITMIRE

7 REPRESENTATIVE DAVID J. MACK, III

8 REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS HENDERSON

9 REPRESENTATIVE PETER M. McCOY, JR.

10

11 ALSO PRESENT: MARTHA CASTO

12

13 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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2 SENATOR PEELER: I'd like to call the
3 meeting to order, the meeting of the joint
4 committee to screen University Board of Trustee
5 candidates. We'll get started with the Francis
6 Marion candidates. The first candidate, Martha.

7 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir. This morning,
8 y'all are going to be screening the Francis Marion
9 candidates that are running for contested seats.
10 The first one up is for the 3rd Congressional
11 District, Lonnie Adamson.

12 MR. ADAMSON: Thank you for the chance
13 to be a part of this.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning. I guess
15 we'll start off right off the bat. I think
16 probably you're running, and your wife's running
17 for the same seat?

18 MR. ADAMSON: Correct.

19 SENATOR PEELER: I'd entertain a motion
20 to maybe go into executive session, and let's hear
21 from -- we don't want to get into a domestic
22 squabble.

23 MR. ADAMSON: I wouldn't fear that.
24 We're just trying to --

25 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is to go

1 into executive session. Is there a second?

2 (The motion was seconded.)

3 (The Joint Legislative Committee went into
4 executive session from 9:11 a.m. to 9:31 a.m.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: We're in open session
6 now. We're screening candidate Lonnie Adamson from
7 Pendleton for the 3rd Congressional District,
8 seat 3.

9 Mr. Adamson, if you would, please raise
10 your right hand.

11 (Lonnie Adamson was duly sworn, after
12 which testimony commenced at 9:31 a.m.)
13 being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

14 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
15 share with the committee why you'd like to serve on
16 the Francis Marion University Board?

17 MR. ADAMSON: We have a daughter who
18 attends Francis Marion, Nancy's daughter, my
19 stepdaughter. And being in that position, it has
20 allowed us to see a bit of the university and a
21 good bit of her friends and connections. And --
22 and I believe that seeing that group of -- of kids
23 has reinforced, in my mind, how important their
24 education will be to themselves, important to
25 themselves, and important to the future economy of

1 South Carolina, frankly. We're in a tough spot,
2 and we have to have good education, the best
3 education at the cheapest cost. And that's kind of
4 where -- that's kind of my approach to seeking this
5 position, is to find for them the best education at
6 the least cost.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I see
8 where you were fired from a job nine years ago for
9 failure to meet a deadline. You're a newspaper
10 man, right?

11 MR. ADAMSON: Yes.

12 SENATOR PEELER: You were the general
13 manager and editor of the Easley Progress
14 Newspaper?

15 MR. ADAMSON: Correct.

16 SENATOR PEELER: For the matter being,
17 can we give him a deadline, maybe? I'm just -- you
18 don't get it. Newspaper men just don't have my
19 sense of humor, I don't think.

20 MR. ADAMSON: I haven't walked in your
21 shoes.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or
23 comments for Mr. Adamson?

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chairman. And thank you for your willingness

1 to serve. I've heard your opening comments, and I
2 guess my thoughts are twofold. What is -- you
3 mentioned your daughter and her friends and your
4 observation of Francis Marion. Has that been a
5 positive or a negative observation of the
6 university?

7 MR. ADAMSON: It's been a positive
8 observation as to the university, its development,
9 its growth. And, you know, there are certain
10 challenges that every organization is going to go
11 through. And, you know, I don't have any specific
12 negatives to point to. But I have seen in my
13 reporting duties the challenges of state government
14 and -- and watching in -- in our arena, Senator,
15 Tri-County Tech and some of the liaisons that have
16 happened between high schools and Tri-County Tech
17 and Clemson and Tri-County Tech and how those -- to
18 my way of thinking, from a man who graduated from
19 the university in '81, that there are
20 out-of-the-box kinds of ways of thinking. And I
21 think, if that makes any sense, kind of generally
22 considering all the possibilities for them, I don't
23 have any negatives against the university that
24 I'm...

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Do you have a

1 specific challenge that you see at the university?

2 MR. ADAMSON: I do not.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And the
4 other comment I thought would be interesting to get
5 your response to, you said also about -- talked
6 about the money, the tuition, I think.

7 What do you see the value of the
8 education, as far as -- I assume y'all are
9 helping to pay for your daughter's education?

10 MR. ADAMSON: Yes, sir.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I mean, is it a
12 good value? The tuition increases, what's your
13 philosophy on parents and paying for the tuition
14 and the value of Francis Marion for the amount of
15 money that's paid for -- for that tuition for their
16 education?

17 MR. ADAMSON: I think it's a good
18 education at Francis Marion for what we're paying,
19 if that's your question.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Right.

21 MR. ADAMSON: We're in a relatively
22 good position in regard to helping Olivia pay her
23 tuition. She's a good student, and she has
24 scholarships and grants and that sort of thing. I
25 guess seeing some of her friends and the challenge,

1 places that they've come from, I just -- you know,
2 I'm ignorant about it, Senator, but I am in a
3 position I think I can learn and be helpful, you
4 know. I have run media companies, several of them
5 now, and some of the worst newspaper times, some of
6 the worst economic times that this country has
7 seen, and we've made money every month. But --

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Congratulations.

9 MR. ADAMSON: But it's not been easy.
10 And so I think I might bring some understanding
11 about -- about that process.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Representative
15 Whitmire.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 Mr. Adamson, if elected, would you be
19 able to work with the other Board members and --
20 without -- the reason I'm asking this, we've got
21 some schools in our state where we've had some
22 problems. And you being a new potential member to
23 Francis Marion, would you be able to, you know, try
24 to work and solve the problems and differences with
25 them?

1 MR. ADAMSON: Absolutely. I'm --
2 I'm obviously new to this process. But I am a --
3 my method is to listen and grow and learn and plod
4 through issues. I'm a plodder. You may find Nancy
5 to be a little -- a little more out there, but I
6 work through issues. And that's what I would do on
7 this Board.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Good. That's
9 what I wanted to hear. Thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
11 comments? I guess we need to express the fact that
12 you are offering as a candidate, and your wife,
13 Nancy King, is offering as a candidate.

14 MR. ADAMSON: Yes, sir.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Do you foresee any
16 problems with that?

17 MR. ADAMSON: Not from my view, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: I'm anxious to see
19 what she says.

20 Any other questions or comments?

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Clarification then,
22 Mr. Chairman. I hear your last comments about both
23 of them running, but also, he's running for -- it's
24 my understanding the 3rd Congressional District and
25 the at-large district as well?

1 SENATOR PEELER: That's correct.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So will we be
3 screening twice, or would a motion be in order to
4 nominate for the 3rd and for the at-large and let
5 the same record also stand in that at-large seat?

6 SENATOR PEELER: If that's in agreement
7 with the members.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So I would make
9 that motion.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, before
11 you make such a motion, with the understanding that
12 we need to find out to make sure there's no
13 conflict. That was the only caveat I would put on
14 that. But I second his motion.

15 SENATOR PEELER: But as far as
16 qualifications --

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: At this committee
18 at this time, certainly, I think with the testimony
19 we've heard, as far as being qualified to serve in
20 either of these -- and I guess there's that
21 potential of being elected to -- the same person
22 being elected to two, so, I mean, I guess that's
23 just uncharted territory from that standpoint. But
24 as far as his qualifications for this, that would
25 be my motion, with the caveat that the Senator from

1 Williamsburg put upon them.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Well, since we're
3 plowing new ground, you can also add that if he
4 became effective he was elected to both positions,
5 he wouldn't be qualified for one of them? He
6 couldn't be qualified for both? We're plowing new
7 ground.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Certainly, I think
9 we would have to reopen -- I don't know either.

10 SENATOR PEELER: I guess he'd have to
11 choose which seat he would --

12 SENATOR MCGILL: Chairman, what usually
13 happens under dual office holding is you have to
14 forfeit the first seat that you would win, and then
15 acceptance would be with the second, the last seat
16 that you would win. That's the seat you would
17 serve in.

18 MR. ADAMSON: Correct.

19 SENATOR PEELER: There you go. That
20 would work. And that would vacate the -- with the
21 understanding we're -- we're in unchartered waters
22 we're sailing in today.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And if there's any
24 uncomfot, us doing it together, I don't mind
25 making a -- going and waiting and making a second

1 motion for the at-large.

2 SENATOR PEELER: No. I think it's wise
3 to go ahead and if we find him --

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: If he's qualified
5 for one, he's certainly qualified for the other,
6 and I'll accept that motion.

7 (The motion was seconded.)

8 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is and
9 seconded that Lonnie Adamson from Pendleton is
10 qualified for the 3rd Congressional District, seat
11 3.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: To be a candidate.

13 SENATOR PEELER: A candidate. And also
14 qualified to be a candidate for the at-large seat 9
15 for the Francis Marion University Board of
16 Trustees.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That is my motion.

18 SENATOR PEELER: And a second is made.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: Seconded with the
20 stipulation of checking out conflict.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, sir. Any
22 discussion? None. All in favor raise your right
23 hand. Thank you.

24 (The motion was granted.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

1 Thank you for your willingness to
2 serve.

3 Now, Patricia C. Hartung, Greenwood,
4 for 3rd Congressional District, seat 3.

5 (Patricia C. Hartung was duly sworn,
6 after which testimony commenced at 9:41 a.m.)

7 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Hartung, would you
8 please tell us why you'd like to continue to serve
9 on the Board of Francis Marion University.

10 MS. HARTUNG: Thank you, sir. I've
11 served on the Board of Trustees since July of 1999.
12 I represent the 3rd Congressional District. It's
13 been a great honor to serve with Dr. Fred Carter
14 and the Board of Trustees over these past 13 and a
15 half years. And I'm extremely proud of the
16 accomplishments that we've been able to undertake,
17 and, most notably, the continuing rising enrollment
18 in that area and, not only from students
19 representing that area, but the whole state of
20 South Carolina, and the expansion of the academic
21 programs to include undergraduate and graduate
22 programs in nursing, while keeping tuition
23 affordable and low.

24 And next year we hope to bring on a new
25 academic program to better meet the needs of the

1 manufacturing community in the northeastern part of
2 the state. I would like to continue to be a part
3 of that progress and serve the citizens of Francis
4 Marion University and the state of South Carolina.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Great. Thank you.

6 Any questions or comments?

7 Senator Alexander.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: You mentioned
9 enrollment at the school. What is your mix of
10 in-state and out-of-state students?

11 MS. HARTUNG: Currently, it's over
12 93 percent in-state which is extremely high.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And what is
14 the major course of -- the focus that students have
15 there? Is it --

16 MS. HARTUNG: It's a general liberal
17 arts education. However, over the past decade or
18 so, we've expanded the business programs there. So
19 we have a lot of students now enrolling in the
20 business programs. And they've added the
21 masters in business administration which is an
22 outstanding program for that region.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And during your
24 tenure on the Board, how would you classify your
25 attendance at Board meetings?

1 MS. HARTUNG: Excellent. With the
2 exception of the fact that I had twins four years
3 ago, and I was out for a couple of meetings during
4 the course of my pregnancy.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Sure. And then one
6 last question, if I could, Mr. Chairman, is dealing
7 with the tuition.

8 Where do you see the value of
9 Francis Marion for the amount of tuition, and what
10 do you foresee going forward?

11 MS. HARTUNG: Last year, we were --
12 even though we experienced the same thing that
13 other public universities experienced with the
14 mandated retirement increases and employee
15 increases, we were able to keep tuition at around
16 3 percent. We raised it to no more than 3 percent.
17 We usually make decisions like that in June of the
18 year. I would hope that we could continue to keep
19 tuition low so that we can continue to keep the
20 enrollment high at Francis Marion University.

21 It's very difficult -- I would say also
22 that over 90 percent of our students receive some
23 sort of financial aid, so I think that helps a
24 great deal as well.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

2 Senator McGill.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: 14 years a member of

4 the Board?

5 MS. HARTUNG: Just about, July.

6 SENATOR MCGILL: Where did you get your

7 MBA from?

8 MS. HARTUNG: Clemson University.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Clemson University. I

10 notice -- I don't know how you're doing what you're

11 doing, but you're so much involved nationally,

12 state, local, it's -- it's quite a resume.

13 MS. HARTUNG: (Witness moves head up and

14 down.)

15 SENATOR MCGILL: Do you have enough

16 time to serve?

17 MS. HARTUNG: Yes, sir, I actually do.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: How about your -- with

19 the government position?

20 MS. HARTUNG: You mean?

21 SENATOR MCGILL: You're the director?

22 MS. HARTUNG: I'm the director of the

23 Upper Savannah Council of Governments, yes. We

24 have an exceptional staff.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Does that fit well

1 with the university?

2 MS. HARTUNG: Actually, it really does
3 because one of the programs that we run is the work
4 force development program, and we speak with
5 representatives from industry and business almost
6 daily. So we know what they're looking for in a
7 candidate for employment. And we're -- and I think
8 that helps me in helping direct the way the
9 university is growing in their academic curriculum.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Have we ever had twins
11 graduate from one university?

12 MS. HARTUNG: Good question. I have no
13 idea. Have you?

14 SENATOR PEELER: My brothers, Bill and
15 Bob.

16 MS. HARTUNG: Excellent.

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Question's answered.
18 That's all, Mr. Chairman.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
20 comments?

21 Getting on, what's the desire of the
22 committee?

23 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable
24 report.

25 (The motion was seconded.)

1 SENATOR PEELER: Motion made and
2 seconded for a favorable report. All in favor,
3 raise your right hand.

4 (The motion was granted.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your
6 willingness to serve.

7 MS. HARTUNG: Yes, sir.

8 SENATOR PEELER: What are your twins'
9 names? Are they two boys, two girls?

10 MS. HARTUNG: No. Mason and Samantha,
11 girl and boy.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, okay.

13 MS. HARTUNG: Very, very different.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Well, I have twin
15 brothers, and then my daughter has twin sons, so
16 twins run in our family.

17 MS. HARTUNG: Oh, well, they do in my
18 family as well.

19 SENATOR PEELER: And there's such thing
20 as twin talk too. I'm telling you.

21 MS. HARTUNG: Yeah, there is.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Anyway, God bless you.

23 MS. HARTUNG: But the girl is dominant
24 right now.

25 SENATOR PEELER: We'll find out in a

1 minute, won't we? No debate there. Thank you.

2 Next we have Nancy King from Pendleton,
3 3rd Congressional District, seat 3.

4 (Nancy King was duly sworn, after which
5 testimony commenced at 9:47 a.m.)

6 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
7 share with the committee why you'd like to serve on
8 the Francis Marion University Board?

9 MS. KING: I have a daughter who will
10 be a sophomore at Francis Marion. I think it's
11 imperative that there is a parental voice on this
12 Board. I think it's important that there is a
13 middle-class, hardworking person also on the Board,
14 and that's who I am.

15 SENATOR PEELER: I notice you were
16 raised by a Wisconsin dairy farmer and a nurse?

17 MS. KING: I am. My father farmed
18 since he left the sixth grade. My brother still
19 farms. We have a 200-acre farm with 200 registered
20 Holsteins.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Good. You know what
22 work is then.

23 MS. KING: I do.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 Any questions or comments of Ms. King?

1 Senator Alexander.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: In your work
3 ability, would it have any impact on your ability
4 to attend meetings or functions that would be a
5 responsibility as a Board member at Francis Marion?

6 MS. KING: No. I would be able to
7 attend every meeting.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And you
9 mentioned the parental voice on the Board. Is --
10 is there anyone -- no one else serving on the Board
11 that currently has a student, or that's just a
12 perspective that you --

13 MS. KING: I think that's a perspective
14 that I have. When I looked at the Board of
15 Trustees, I didn't see many salespeople on there,
16 but lots of attorneys, and I just think I would be
17 a different voice on that Board. I think I'd come
18 from a place of compassion, somebody who's worked
19 hard, somebody who's put a strong work ethic into
20 my children's life. I think it would be a
21 different voice on that Board.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: From your
25 perspective as a parent, what -- what have you seen

1 from the school itself, good, bad, or indifferent,
2 from a parent's point of view?

3 MS. KING: I think the small class
4 sizes are very positive. My daughter has the
5 ability to talk to each of her professors openly.
6 They allow a very open communication with her.
7 She's able to e-mail them, call them. I think that
8 is unheard of.

9 I wish there were more ways on campus
10 for them to do community outreach, to do a service
11 project. We visited other campuses before she
12 chose Francis Marion where service projects were
13 very important. I think it's important for these
14 students that are graduating to learn how to give
15 back.

16 Our family gives back all the time. We
17 work at a soup kitchen as a family in Seneca. I
18 think as a student in a university, you need to
19 learn that skill, or you need to have that
20 compassion to give back.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Another question:
22 What do you see the role of a Board being,
23 individually and collectively?

24 MS. KING: I think a Board,
25 collectively, would work together to make the

1 experience of a college education positive, to work
2 with the president to make the University work. I
3 know the economic policies are important to the
4 Board of Trustees as well. To make the campus
5 attractive to those who are looking at it to
6 attend.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

8 Representative McCoy.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 Just a comment, Ms. King. In reading
12 your personal written statement to the Board, I
13 want to commend you on what you've been through. I
14 want to commend you on, from what I've read too,
15 it -- certainly, it's well said that you put your
16 family first, and you take care of your children,
17 and that's an incredible testimony that you've
18 given here. And I want to commend you on that, and
19 I want to wish you luck.

20 MS. KING: Thank you.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Representative
22 Whitmire.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for
24 offering to run. As a parent -- I'm a parent of
25 former college kids and stuff -- what changes or

1 improvements -- I know you just touched on that
2 with Representative Mack -- would you advocate if
3 you were elected?

4 MS. KING: Improvements, I would work
5 on graduation rates coming out of Francis Marion.
6 I think what is in the media, they're pretty low
7 percentages. I think those need to be improved. I
8 have understood from Olivia how difficult it is for
9 work-study programs on campus for children -- or
10 students to be employed. I would -- would like
11 that to be improved.

12 I think it would be interesting to
13 explore the possibility of some type of
14 transportation. Clemson has a viable
15 transportation. And I know we're talking different
16 sizes of universities, but there's isn't a viable
17 transportation source for those students to get
18 emerged into Florence to have the jobs that they
19 need. So many of those students come without
20 transportation. They are confined to that
21 on-campus environment for jobs or work-studies.
22 Whereas, I think if there was transportation
23 available, perhaps that would broaden some of the
24 scopes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. I like

1 your answers. Thank you.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
3 comments?

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman?

5 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I would move that
7 Ms. King be qualified to be a candidate for the 3rd
8 Congressional District and also the at-large seat,
9 as noted, that she's running for. In that
10 standpoint, with the same caveat from the Senator
11 from Williamsburg to be applied.

12 (The motion was seconded.)

13 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, please
14 raise your right hand.

15 (The motion was granted.)

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your
17 willingness to serve.

18 MS. KING: Thank you.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Is this Mr. Gibbons
20 then?

21 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir. Alan Gibbons is
22 from New Zion. His is for the 6th Congressional
23 District, seat 6 on the Board. This term
24 expires in 2014.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning, sir.

1 MR. GIBBONS: Good morning.

2 (Alan L. Gibbons was duly sworn, after
3 which testimony commenced at 9:55 a.m.)

4 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
5 share with us why you'd like to serve on the Board?

6 MR. GIBBONS: Mr. Chairman,
7 distinguished members of the Committee, I'm a proud
8 graduate of Francis Marion College, now Francis
9 Marion University. My wife is a graduate of
10 Francis Marion. My business partner of some
11 28 years is a graduate of Francis Marion. My
12 youngest son is a student at Francis Marion
13 majoring in accounting, Lord help him.

14 My decision to run for this seat is not
15 one that was made in haste or on a whim. This is
16 something that I have actually been looking at and
17 thinking about for some five or six years. And
18 during that time, I have taken the opportunity to
19 stop by from time to time and talk to
20 Dr. Fred Carter about some of the plans and
21 programs and progress that's being made at the
22 University.

23 I feel that I've got a skill set that I
24 can bring as a CPA, as a small business person, as
25 a parent of a student there. And I guess, finally,

1 I -- being from -- a life-long resident of
2 Clarendon County, I would welcome the opportunity
3 to bring some more representation from that
4 Clarendon/Sumter/Orangeburg area of our state to
5 the Francis Marion Board. I guess the short answer
6 is that I would like to serve my University.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Thank you. Any
8 questions or comments?

9 Representative McCoy?

10 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 Mr. Gibbons, thank you for coming for
13 coming forward, and thank you for your ability and
14 want to serve. Looking at this, I see that the
15 seat, unfortunately, expires in 2014, right around
16 the corner.

17 Do you have any sort of issues with
18 that? Do you have any sort of problems coming back
19 here again?

20 MR. GIBBONS: Not really. I mean, I
21 understand that there was an awful lot of work in
22 the reshuffling of not only this Board but many,
23 many others, and this is the seat that I would like
24 to seat, so I understand that.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: And it sounds

1 like you certainly have a very rich history with
2 Francis Marion. And what would you like to see or,
3 if you were fortunate enough to become a new Board
4 member, what would be on your agenda or things
5 you'd like to see accomplished in the next few
6 years?

7 MR. GIBBONS: I guess one thing that
8 springs to mind is -- and I guess this is really
9 from my son's perspective -- I think we need to
10 take a look at the technology at the University and
11 see kind of where we are and what updates need to
12 be made there. The University's made such great
13 strides over the years, but there's some technology
14 infrastructure that needs to be looked at and
15 improved, primarily in the dorm rooms with the
16 connectability of the students and whatnot.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
19 comments?

20 Senator Alexander.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

22 Being a CPA yourself and your son going
23 in that direction, I know it makes you proud. As
24 far as being -- your profession, would it have any
25 impact on your ability to serve on the Board like

1 January through April or certain things of that --
2 your attendance?

3 MR. GIBBONS: No, sir. Obviously, I've
4 found the time to be here today, and, you know,
5 it's all a matter of managing time. And I realize
6 that there are quarterly Board meetings, and one of
7 those Board meetings do fall in March. And I feel
8 that I can make that time available.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments?
11 Representative Whitmire?

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Mr. Chairman,
13 I notice that Mr. Gibbons is a Methodist, so I
14 think we need to go ahead and report him out now.

15 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

16 (The motion was seconded.)

17 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for favorable
18 report and seconded. All in favor, please raise
19 your right hand.

20 (The motion was granted.)

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. That goes
22 for a Baptist too.

23 Thank you for your willingness to
24 serve.

25 MR. GIBBONS: Well, I have a cousin who

1 is a Methodist minister. He says Baptists make the
2 best Methodists so...

3 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

4 Who's next?

5 MS. CASTO: Next is Floyd Keels. He is
6 running for the 6th District seat as well.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning, sir.

8 MR. KEELS: Good morning, sir.

9 (Floyd L. Keels was duly sworn, after
10 which testimony commenced at 10:00 a.m.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
12 share with the committee why you'd like to serve on
13 the Francis Marion University Board?

14 MR. KEELS: Yes, sir. I have a long
15 history with Francis Marion University, and I would
16 love to have the opportunity to continue. We
17 consider Francis Marion as being the pearl of the
18 Pee Dee. Francis Marion provides services far
19 beyond the classrooms. The University is woven
20 throughout the community, and we certainly would
21 appreciate the opportunity to serve.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any
23 questions or comments of Mr. Keels?

24 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, let
25 me say this.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. McGill.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: Of course, I know
3 Mr. Gibbons, and I know Mr. Keels both, and I can
4 tell you both bring very strong financial
5 backgrounds that would be an asset, certainly, for
6 the University, no question about that.

7 And I know that Mr. Keels, you're
8 president and CEO of Santee Electric Co-Op.

9 MR. KEELS: Yes, sir. That is correct.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: And I also note that
11 you live in Florence County and also the fact that
12 you serve on the lower Florence County Hospital
13 Board, and I understand under dual office holding,
14 if you're elected, you automatically forfeit the
15 first seat under dual office holding?

16 MR. KEELS: Yes, sir.

17 SENATOR MCGILL: And the question is,
18 what do you feel that you can bring to the Board
19 that can make a difference? You can't hardly do it
20 the first two or three meetings, but it takes time
21 for a new Board member to fit directly into the
22 area that they would like to see the University go.
23 But what would you like to see for the University?

24 MR. KEELS: Thank you, Senator. What I
25 have to bring to the University would be just a

1 wealth of experience working within the Pee Dee
2 region and having knowledge, first-hand knowledge
3 of Francis Marion University having served on the
4 foundation Board the several years. I have also
5 served on the nursing committee, advisory
6 committee, for a number of years, from inception to
7 this time.

8 So what I can bring to the Board would
9 be just the skill set it takes -- what it takes to
10 help with strategic planning, business development,
11 and continuation of a great record that has been
12 established by Dr. Carter and the Board.

13 MR. MCGILL: I would say one other
14 thing. I noted that when the state hit some
15 financial difficulty that you served on some type
16 of commission or Board three or four, five years
17 ago. Most of us in the Senate served on Senate
18 finance. And, of course, funding is a big issue
19 for any university, but what did you do? What was
20 the commission that you served on in the state.

21 MR. KEELS: I was privileged to serve
22 on the management accountability and performance
23 commission that was established by our former,
24 governor, Governor Sanford, Mark Sanford, and it
25 was actually during the time that President Carter

1 was on a sabbatical working as Chief of Staff for
2 the governor.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: What's the -- what's
4 the financial status of Santee Electric Co-Op.

5 MR. KEELS: The financial status of the
6 corporation that I work for is very strong. We
7 have about 200 -- a little more than \$200 million
8 in plant. We serve more than 5,000 miles of lines
9 and the 30 -- about 45,000 accounts. We have the
10 largest geographic footprint for any electric
11 cooperative in the state of South Carolina, so we
12 are very financially strong.

13 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, just for
14 the record, both Mr. Keels and Mr. Gibbons, both,
15 of course, are friends of mine, and there's no
16 question that both would make good members on this
17 Board. At this time, I would like to move
18 favorable to Mr. Keels.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Before we do that,
20 let's ask some more questions.

21 Representative McCoy, did you have a
22 question?

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: I did. Thank
24 you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Mr. Keels, this is just the same

1 question I asked Mr. Gibbons. And I appreciate
2 your willingness to serve, and I appreciate your
3 being with us here today. Again, I know this
4 expires quickly. Do you have a problem with that
5 next year?

6 MR. KEELS: No, sir I do not. I see
7 change is the only constant, and we expect change
8 to take place, and we'd be more than willing to
9 come back and do what we're doing today; although
10 this is my first experience sitting in the presence
11 of such an eloquent staff, but we'll look forward
12 to that.

13 SENATOR PEELER: I'm glad you said
14 staff and not elected officials. I noticed that.
15 You're pretty sharp.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Mr. Keels, I
17 hear from a lot of folks that the process -- either
18 whether you're running for a board seat or you're
19 running for a judgeship or anything you're doing
20 when you come up here is tough. It takes a lot of
21 time, takes a lot of energy, and to turn around and
22 do it in another year would be tough, but I
23 appreciate you wanting to come back to do that
24 again.

25 MR. KEELS: Thank you, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: The Senator from
2 Williamsburg mentioned the Lower Florence County
3 Hospital Board, and I have that on my notes too, as
4 far as dual office holding. Is that an appointed
5 position or...

6 MR. KEELS: Yes, sir, it is.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Would that rise
8 to the level of dual office holding?

9 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR PEELER: So you are willing to
11 step down from that position if you are fortunate
12 enough to be elected to this Board?

13 MR. KEELS: Yes, sir. It would be a
14 continuation of service so...

15 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other
16 questions or comments?

17 Being none, the senator from
18 Williamsburg moves for favorable report.

19 (The motion was seconded.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Seconded. All in
21 favor, raise your right hand.

22 (The motion was granted.)

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your
24 willingness to serve. We have two fine candidates
25 it looks like.

1 MS. CASTO: The next two candidates are
2 running for the same seat. They are both
3 incumbents, but because of the restructuring of the
4 Board, they ended up in the same seat.
5 Melissa Johnson Emery is from Conway, and this term
6 expires in 2016.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

8 MS. EMERY: Good morning.

9 (Melissa Johnson Emery was duly sworn,
10 after which testimony commenced at 10:06 a.m.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
12 share with us why you'd like to continue to serve?

13 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir. I've been on the
14 Board of Trustees at Francis Marion since May
15 of 1998, but my basis with Francis Marion goes back
16 beyond that. I am one of those people that the
17 school was created for to serve. I attended
18 Francis Marion and graduated in 1991. I was from
19 Dillon, drove back and forth. First in my family
20 to go to school -- to -- on to college. And
21 Francis Marion gave me a tremendous basis.

22 We were able to afford me going to
23 Francis Marion, but it gave me an educational basis
24 that allowed me to springboard. I went on to law
25 school and have done well for myself, and I can

1 chart that back to the foundation that Francis
2 Marion gave me. And so when the opportunity came
3 to serve on the Board, I was happy to do it and to
4 give back to the University that had been so
5 important in my life. And so I have enjoyed my
6 time and tenure on the Board, and I look forward to
7 continuing on.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Where did you go to
9 law school?

10 MS. EMERY: I went to law school
11 between '91 and graduated in '94.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Where?

13 MS. EMERY: USC.

14 SENATOR PEELER: And do you have your
15 own law firm?

16 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir. I'm a sole
17 practitioner in Conway.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Any questions
19 or comments?

20 Senator Alexander.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 A couple -- does your law firm do any
24 work with the University, with Francis Marion.

25 MS. EMERY: No, sir. I'm a family

1 court practitioner, so that's 100 percent of my
2 practice.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. The other is
4 how would you describe your attendance since being
5 a Board member?

6 MS. EMERY: My attendance rate is
7 excellent. The only time that I have been unable
8 to attend is if I've been called in for an
9 emergency hearing. Sometimes in family court if
10 I'm appointed to a DSS case, they have certain time
11 limits and restraints. But, generally, if that
12 happens and I can't make the drive over, I try to
13 attend by phone.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. So that's at
15 the request of a judge?

16 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir. Something I
17 can't get around, but we try to work it out because
18 they understand how important the Board is to me,
19 and so they really try to work with me.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Ladies
21 first. Representative Henderson.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you
23 for your service. I know you've been on the Board
24 for a while. This is actually kind of more of a
25 technical question. I don't know if this would be

1 the appropriate time to ask, but how -- how is it
2 that we actually have two incumbents running in an
3 at-large seat when there are other at-large seats
4 that are also open?

5 MS. CASTO: Francis Marion was one of
6 those boards when, with the 7th Congressional
7 District that last year, each of the -- the House
8 and Senate education committees went back to the
9 boards and asked them how they wanted to
10 restructure to accommodate the 7th District.
11 Francis Marion had an awful lot from the Pee Dee, I
12 think, on their board and from the 6th
13 Congressional District. So what they did was make
14 some at-large seats, and it was decided by the
15 Board -- it's my understanding in talking with
16 Dr. Carter -- as to which current incumbents would
17 run for which seats. You may remember there was
18 one incumbent who failed to file for the other
19 at-large seat, which is why there is one that
20 doesn't have an incumbent. But for some reason or
21 another -- I don't know if it was a drawing of
22 straws, or whatever, but these were the seats that
23 these two incumbents were to file for.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So -- just
25 so I understand, so the other at-large seat where

1 we just interviewed Mr. Adamson and his wife,
2 Ms. King, for -- that's the seat that had the
3 incumbent that didn't apply?

4 MS. CASTO: Correct.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So then --
6 so now we have to two incumbents now running
7 against each, and I mean -- with all due respect,
8 does the Board, if Ms. Emery or this other person
9 that's an incumbent had decided, well, you know, I
10 would rather just apply for this other one, it
11 doesn't really matter, I mean, I don't understand
12 how -- maybe this is a whole another discussion.

13 MS. CASTO: They could have applied for
14 it.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: How that
16 Board can tell them what they have to apply for. I
17 don't understand that. I just feel sorry that we
18 have two incumbents running against each other, and
19 we have two at-large seats, and one of them doesn't
20 have an incumbent. Not that that would make a
21 difference, but I'm just trying to figure out how
22 that all works so...

23 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
24 speak to that? Were you lucky or unlucky?

25 MS. EMERY: Well, she is right in that

1 there was some discussion because we did have a lot
2 of switching around where we were trying to be
3 respectful of -- of making sure that some
4 experienced members remained on the Board that have
5 been of great service to Francis Marion. It was
6 unfortunate that one of the other incumbents did
7 not get his letter in on time to run for an
8 at-large seat. One of the confusions I guess that
9 I might have had is I was in a judicial race back
10 last year, and we were only allowed -- even though
11 there were several seats, we were only allowed to
12 pledge and put in a letter of intent for one spot.
13 We were not allowed to run for multiple seats. So
14 I was kind of under the same impression that we
15 were under that same obligation here.

16 Had I known that it was open to -- to
17 put in for other slots, we might could have covered
18 that base a little bit better than what was done
19 because it's very unfortunate. I consider
20 Dr. Dozier one of my closest friends, and, I mean,
21 it's very unfortunate that we're in the same race.
22 But I think that part of the confusion -- and it
23 might just have been my misunderstanding based on
24 my experience in the judicial race process.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 Ms. Emery, good to see you.

4 MS. EMERY: Good to see you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Back up here
6 again, obviously, to do this. And I appreciate
7 your willingness to serve as well. And it was a
8 pleasure getting to know you while you were running
9 for your judgeship.

10 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Is that in your
12 future again? Is that something you'd like to do
13 as well, pursue another judgeship?

14 MS. EMERY: Well, if I recover from the
15 last process. Because this -- this is -- this is
16 an intense process, but I will dare say it is not
17 quite as rigorous as the judicial process, election
18 process. That is not something that I have given
19 up on by far. I am very passionate about family
20 court. And I think that came across in my
21 election -- my candidacy in my family court race.
22 And can I say that that is something that I would
23 not strive for if the opportunity came available?
24 I probably would, if that opportunity came
25 available. Right now there's nothing that I'm

1 aware of that's coming down the pike, and so that
2 was one of the things I was torn about is if I had
3 won the candidacy for the bench, I would have had
4 to give up my seat at Francis Marion which is my
5 heart. So I think now that there's an upside to
6 not prevailing in the judicial race in that it
7 allows me to continue to serve my home.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Absolutely. And
9 I commend your service. Obviously, you've been
10 with Francis Marion for a long time. Can you tell
11 me, or tell the panel, a little bit about the
12 changes that you've seen in your 15 years serving
13 on the Board and the direction of the University?

14 MS. EMERY: I sure can. When I first
15 came on the Board, we had a different president,
16 Dr. Vickers. And within the first year of my
17 tenure on the Board, we made a change in the
18 presidency from Dr. Vickers to Dr. Carter. And
19 that was probably one of the most positive things
20 that a Board could do for its school, is to place
21 Dr. Carter at the helm of the school. We have
22 grown in tuition. We have grown in -- with
23 relationship to the community. I'm sorry, not
24 tuition, enrollment, sorry. I apologize,
25 Enrollment. And our relationship to the community.

1 We are actually welcomed out, and the Board is
2 allowed a more active role out at the school.

3 I remember one time when Dr. Vickers
4 was there, and I was the youngest one ever elected
5 to the Board. I was 28 when I first started on the
6 Board, and I still had a good relationship with a
7 lot of my professors. And they would invite me
8 back out to speak to some of their prelaw classes
9 and political science classes. And I remember
10 going out, and Dr. Vickers did not want me out
11 there. He was very concerned about the mixture of
12 trustee going out into the classes; whereas,
13 Dr. Carter welcomes the involvement. Welcomes it.
14 Because he realizes that a lot of the Board members
15 are former students at Francis Marion, and it's
16 good for the students to look and say I can be that
17 if I work hard.

18 But we have grown tremendously. I
19 think the involvement of the community out at the
20 school is wonderful. We've grown in the nursing.
21 We have a new nursing school. We have -- the
22 business school has grown. We've got the
23 performing arts center now out in Florence that is
24 in conjunction with the school. We've got a huge
25 new sports complex, and so we have seen remarkable

1 changes and managed to keep the tuition down, not
2 up.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: That's excellent
4 to hear.

5 And, Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate
6 time, I'd move to find Ms. Emery qualified.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Sure.

8 Mr. Mack.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 You've just answered the question I was
12 going to ask about your 15 years experience. But I
13 just wanted to make a comment. I think that your
14 experience and perspective is very valuable to the
15 school and for other folks looking to be trustees.

16 MS. EMERY: Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Ms. Emery, I
19 just want to thank you for your service. Your
20 life's just been a true success story.

21 MS. EMERY: Thank you, sir. I
22 appreciate that.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I want just
24 to say that it's a real shame that we're going to
25 lose an outstanding member, whether it's you or

1 Dr. Dozier. I wish Francis Marion had done it
2 differently because the state of South Carolina is
3 going to be the loser somewhere on this.

4 MS. EMERY: I appreciate you saying
5 that.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
7 questions?

8 Senator McGill.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me say quickly
10 that both of these candidates we know well. You've
11 served, I guess as it says here, some 15 years, and
12 I think Dr. Dozier has served some 22, 23 years.
13 Both very qualified. I would say to you, I
14 represent Horry County as well Georgetown. But I'm
15 a little bit partisan in the fact that I see you
16 being a judge at some point anyway. I'm not
17 soliciting votes for her to be a judge, but the
18 thing is this, is that I think the system works.

19 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir.

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Because protection of
21 incumbency in this case is not the deal. What has
22 happened is it's two incumbents running against
23 each other. They'll have to get out at the
24 appropriate time after screening and campaign, in
25 which we'll win because both of you will served in

1 some capacity. And there's no question in my mind
2 that you're both well qualified.

3 That's what amazes me about the Francis
4 Marion Board. We have such quality people running
5 for the Francis Marion Board. It is an attraction.
6 People want to serve on that Board, and that's a
7 good thing. And so Fred Carter must be doing
8 something very well. And I can tell you now, to
9 hear a mother talk about her daughter here, family
10 members that have graduated from the University,
11 that speaks well. There's a lot of pride at
12 Francis Marion.

13 MS. EMERY: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: So Representative
16 McCoy moves a favorable report. Is there a second?

17 (The motion was seconded.)

18 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

19 All in favor, raise your right hand.

20 (The motion was granted.)

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Thank you
22 for your willingness to serve.

23 Next.

24 MS. CASTO: Next is Randall Dozier from
25 Murrells Inlet. He is an incumbent, but he is

1 running for at-large seat 11 as well.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning, sir.

3 MR. DOZIER: Good morning.

4 (H. Randall Dozier was duly sworn,
5 after which testimony commenced at 10:19 a.m.)

6 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
7 share with the committee why you'd like to continue
8 to serve?

9 MR. DOZIER: Yes. My name is
10 Randall Dozier. I'm originally from Marion County.
11 Horry County is where I grew up. I attended
12 Francis Marion, graduated in 1977. Kind of dates
13 me a little bit. Been involved with Francis Marion
14 since 1973. I was appointed in 1991 by
15 Governor Campbell to serve a vacant seat. I have
16 served in a variety of capacities, hold a number of
17 chairmanships there, various committees. I
18 presently serve as chairman of that Board and have
19 done a lot of work there, certainly seen a lot of
20 changes over the years, have a scholarship in the
21 family name. I have a lot of projects that we're
22 working and would like to continue serve the people
23 and the students of the Pee Dee, especially
24 Georgetown, access to Francis Marion, would like to
25 continue in that capacity.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any
2 comments or questions of Dr. Dozier?

3 Senator McGill.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Dr. Dozier, presently
5 it states in here that you're the chairman of the
6 Board of Trustees. How long have you been
7 chairman?

8 MR. DOZIER: I've been chairman since
9 2011, sir. Two years this July.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: What is the -- the
11 fiscal strength of Francis Marion?

12 MR. DOZIER: Well, financially, I guess
13 as you look at it, I think we probably are doing
14 fairly well compared to most. Our tuition is
15 relatively low compared to other state
16 universities. But I would tell you that the
17 quality of education I think is very high. We're
18 very proud of what's going on with Francis Marion
19 with the new nursing program, new nurse practitioner,
20 engineering degree that will start fairly soon. I
21 think probably, like myself, I would not have been
22 able to access college if it hadn't been for
23 Francis Marion. It certainly gave me a strong
24 foundation. I still have a number of friends and
25 acquaintances I've had over the years.

1 SENATOR MCGILL: And presently you're
2 Superintendent of Education of Georgetown County?

3 MR. DOZIER: Yes, I am.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: And the question is,
5 what does it take to get into Francis Marion, SAT?

6 MR. DOZIER: Well, the average SAT, I'm
7 not sure I would have been able to get in now since
8 it's risen so high. But, certainly, it's a little
9 higher. The quality of students that we have is
10 higher. I will tell you though that about
11 95 percent of our kids are from the Pee Dee. We
12 serve the Pee Dee. My only interest is -- in being
13 a trustee is to make sure that continues and that
14 students have access to a quality education, but
15 not also that they graduate but also stay in the
16 area and work and be productive citizens for the
17 area of the Pee Dee.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: You know, that's the
19 whole question, Chairman, and the end result, is
20 that this past Christmas a year ago, I spoke with
21 the graduating class at Clemson University, some
22 1,200 graduates. And that was the message I gave
23 to the graduates. You need to locate here in South
24 Carolina, and if you can't, then try to stay as
25 close in touch, not just with the University, but

1 the business community and the culture of the
2 state. My thought pattern, Dr. Dozier, that --
3 that Francis Marion is on a fast track for
4 positive, progressive growth.

5 What is the cost of a student to go,
6 roughly?

7 MR. DOZIER: You know, I really --
8 tuition, since I'm not paying tuition right now, I
9 think it's probably about, a little over 8,000 per
10 semester maybe -- or maybe that's for the year,
11 exclusive of room and board -- maybe 8,500,
12 somewhere in that range. I'm sorry to say I don't
13 pay it anymore, thankfully. My child graduated,
14 so -- but he went to College of Charleston. It's
15 in the lower percentile though. As far as the
16 other public institutions, I think we're probably
17 toward the bottom.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: What is the toughest
19 decision that a trustee has to make at the
20 University?

21 MR. DOZIER: Well, primarily, we deal
22 with policy, procedure. With President Fred
23 Carter, it's not really hard being a trustee. You
24 know, I defer to him for most things. We do have a
25 number of conversations during the course of the

1 year, course of the month as chairman. For me, as
2 chairman attending, it's certainly an issue. You
3 know, I probably attend one to two to three events
4 a month now, which is a lot more than just a
5 regular trustee. You know, day-to-day for us,
6 being visible, being supportive of the faculty,
7 having access and conversations about what their
8 needs are, certainly, as any faculty, I think
9 salaries and benefits certainly is a priority for
10 us.

11 SENATOR MCGILL: One last question.
12 Y'all just built a baseball stadium at Francis
13 Marion?

14 MR. DOZIER: Yes. Athletic complex.
15 Not only baseball. Softball, soccer, try to cover
16 all the facets of Title 9 so it's fairly
17 comprehensive.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: Is it true that
19 Francis Marion defeated the baseball team at the
20 University of South Carolina?

21 MR. DOZIER: Yes, it is, 5 to 4.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Can I have
23 that repeated? I didn't hear that.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: It's being
25 recorded.

1 MR. DOZIER: And they haven't been back
2 either. So as far as getting them there, they
3 haven't returned, so it's an open invitation for
4 them to come back.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Dr. McGill from
6 Clemson University, anymore questions?

7 SENATOR MCGILL: No more questions.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Following up on
10 that last question from Dr. McGill, which game was
11 that that -- was that the inaugural game of the new
12 stadium?

13 MR. DOZIER: I think it was. I think
14 it was the first game in that stadium that night
15 where we had a sellout crowd. It was a very
16 important event. It's an important event for
17 Florence and Francis Marion. You know, we look at
18 people coming and ticket revenue and economy and
19 the impact it had. I think it was really positive.
20 We thank them for coming.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I was just curious
22 here. Looking now, I think I heard you say you
23 grew up in Marion?

24 MR. DOZIER: Actually Mullins, Marion
25 County.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mullins, Marion
2 County. But your career as a teacher began in
3 Greenville County?

4 MR. DOZIER: Greenville. I spent 22
5 years in Greenville, and that's where I hooked up,
6 I guess, with Governor Campbell and a number of
7 people that I've met that I still have friendships
8 with.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Was that because of
10 a coaching position there that took you to
11 Greenville?

12 MR. DOZIER: It was because I was
13 getting married. I needed a job, and that's where
14 I got one. It's important to be gainfully employed
15 right before you get married.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I understand that.
17 One last question, Mr. Chairman.

18 As far as your attendance on the Board,
19 how would you classify your attendance of Board
20 meetings?

21 MR. DOZIER: Senator, I can't remember
22 the last time I've missed a meeting. I certainly
23 haven't missed a meeting in the last two years as
24 chairman, and, again, attendance is something that
25 I take -- how do I say -- utmost. I think they

1 expect you to be at those events and attend. If
2 you're not there, you can't have an input, so I try
3 not to miss.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

5 Physical security of the campus, do you
6 think -- do you want to comment on that, how secure
7 the campus is?

8 MR. DOZIER: Well, I would assume this
9 is pure as any in state. We have our own
10 University police, and I know they make that a
11 priority. I guess you're referring back to other
12 incidents that have happened throughout.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Right.

14 MR. DOZIER: I know they have a plan
15 with regards to notifying folks or -- a lot of
16 people live on that campus in dorms, but not as
17 many. It's still primarily a commuter college
18 where most of those percentage commute and drive
19 back and forth, and so you do have a lot of people
20 coming and going during the day. So it's something
21 that certainly causes concern and we do talk about
22 from time to time.

23 SENATOR PEELER: How about cyber
24 security? Do you have anything?

25 MR. DOZIER: Well, I know somebody

1 mentioned technology. I know we've been operating
2 our technology and going to more to wireless, and
3 the dorms have that. And I would assume that the
4 firewalls and things that they have are comparable
5 to most state universities.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
7 questions or comments?

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'd just like
9 to make one comment.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Representative
11 Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Dr. Dozier,
13 thank you for your service to not only K-12 but to
14 higher ed. I've looked at your resume. Very
15 impressive.

16 MR. DOZIER: Thank you, sir.

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable
19 report.

20 (The motion was seconded.)

21 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise
22 your right hand.

23 (The motion was granted.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 MR. DOZIER: Thank you.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your
2 service. And I would like to echo what's been
3 commented before. It's a real shame that one of
4 you's got to step down. A lot of institutional
5 knowledge there. I wish it had worked out
6 differently, but we have two fine candidates.

7 All right.

8 MS. CASTO: That concludes
9 Francis Marion. The College of Charleston is the
10 next Board to be examined.

11 (Off-the-record conference.)

12 MS. CASTO: Ms. Daniel is an incumbent.
13 She is running for the 1st Congressional District.
14 The seat's to expire in 2016.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

16 MS. DANIEL: Good morning.

17 SENATOR PEELER: How are you?

18 MS. DANIEL: Very well.

19 (L. Cherry Daniel was duly sworn, after
20 which testimony commenced at 10:30 a.m.)

21 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Daniel, would you
22 like to share with the committee why you'd like to
23 continue to serve on the College of Charleston
24 Board?

25 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1 members of the committee. I appreciate you
2 allowing me to come before you today. I'm a
3 graduate of the College of Charleston, 1975. My
4 younger sister is also a graduate, 1974. My
5 deceased mother attended the College of Charleston.
6 My deceased two uncles graduated from the College
7 of Charleston and went on to become very
8 influential attorneys in South Carolina.

9 Both my sister and myself, we worked
10 our way through school on a work-study scholarship,
11 and it made it accessible for us to afford to go to
12 the college because we were one of seven children.
13 We graduated, I'm proud to say, without incurring
14 any debt, and we both went on to become teachers.
15 I've been on the Board for 17 years as a trustee.
16 Eight of those 17, I've served as the Chair of the
17 Academic Affairs Committee, and I also serve on the
18 Executive Committee. The college, needless to say,
19 has given so much to me and my family. It means
20 the world to me. It's a great place. I feel very
21 humbled to serve on there, and I really appreciate
22 the fact that I'm able to give my educational
23 experience that I've had for 32 years in public
24 education, give that knowledge and that experience
25 back to the college to make some real good

1 decisions for our students in our school.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. You also
3 serve on the Work Force Investment Board?

4 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir. I was appointed
5 by the governor several years ago, but I no longer
6 serve on that.

7 SENATOR PEELER: So you're not on that?

8 MS. DANIEL: No, sir. I don't serve on
9 that any more.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any questions
11 or comments?

12 Representative Henderson.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Daniel, for your
15 service and your enthusiasm for the University.
16 First time I met you, what I remember is your
17 enthusiasm. Let me ask you a question, and I made
18 the comment to Representative McCoy a minute ago.
19 I'm not exactly sure how to go here, but I'm going
20 to go here. And that is, that I hear that there
21 are some issues with different Board members maybe
22 having disagreements with the current college
23 president, and I won't say anything more. I just
24 wanted to ask you to comment on that, what your
25 opinion -- what's that about, and, you know, do you

1 see -- what is your opinion of the president? I
2 honestly -- I have no intent. I mean, if he walked
3 in the door, I probably wouldn't know who he is.
4 So it's not like I have an agenda. But when I hear
5 that and I know that we're appointing new trustees,
6 I feel like I would like to kind of get a handle on
7 what's going on and where people that are running
8 for this Board fall out in that whole situation.

9 MS. DANIEL: Sure. And that's a fair
10 question. You know, everybody has a different
11 style, management style. And I think that whether
12 you're a superintendent, whether you're a head of a
13 school, like myself, or whether you're a college
14 president, you're going to have people that
15 disagree with certain strategies and certain ways
16 that you go in deciding on decisions. You know,
17 presently, we are supportive of President Benson.
18 And, you know, until -- I think he's got a two
19 year -- two years left on his contract. And so,
20 you know, you're going to hear, you know,
21 unfortunately, people will talk because they,
22 perhaps, do not like his management style. His
23 management style has never bothered me. He's a
24 real nice guy. Actually, if you get to know him,
25 he's a super guy. But I think that sometimes,

1 because our school has grown so fast -- we've added
2 so many majors; we're exploding down in the low
3 country. We really are. And I think that that has
4 got people real nervous. I really do. I think
5 that's got people real nervous, and that parlays
6 into maybe some unfounded criticism.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 Ms. Daniel, my fellow James Islander, I
11 want to say first of all, thank you for being here,
12 and thank you for your service to the College of
13 Charleston. I think they're a very lucky
14 institution to have you.

15 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: And your
17 education background and your commitment to
18 education of not only our college students but our
19 youth as well is to be commended.

20 And could you tell the board a little
21 bit about -- I just think it's fascinating -- your
22 virtual charter school and -- and you sharing that.

23 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir. Well,
24 Mr. Whitmire was very helpful in the charter school
25 movement. And the charter school is all about

1 choices for students, giving the students other
2 options that they don't have in their respective
3 communities. And we serve online students,
4 kindergarten through 12th grade. We have about --
5 almost 4,000 students in our school.

6 We've exceeded many of the
7 end-of-course tests with our students. Our
8 students have done very well. We're working on our
9 PASS scores, but the other scores, the ASAT scores
10 in the high school has done very, very well. We
11 have -- we're the -- one of two virtual schools --
12 actually, one of -- two of five virtual schools
13 that have done well on the report card. So we're
14 real excited about it. This is our fifth year.
15 We're growing, but we want to make sure that we're
16 growing reasonably, just like at the College of
17 Charleston. Any board that we want, we want it to
18 be manageable.

19 We want to make sure that we have the
20 resources to give our students at the College of
21 Charleston a quality experience and also so they
22 can become gainfully employed.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Ms. Daniel, in
24 your 17 years of being on the Board, can you tell
25 this panel a little bit of how you've seen the

1 college change?

2 MS. DANIEL: Gosh. You know, it's so
3 funny. Seventeen years ago, first of all, we had
4 our diversity -- our diverse population -- our
5 African-American enrollment was probably around
6 6 percent. Now it's 14 percent. It's because of
7 the initiatives that we've put in place. We've got
8 an office in diversity. We've got a great program
9 called -- by Mr. Breland, your dear friend. He's
10 done a terrific job in getting African-American
11 males into the teaching profession, getting
12 involved in the schools of education, to train them
13 to become teachers so that they can go out into the
14 word. And all of them have already been promised
15 jobs thus far. That's been a big thing.

16 Another milestone that's happened is,
17 as you know, we have a terrific problem in South
18 Carolina in child obesity, high blood pressure,
19 diabetes. You name it, we've got a real problem in
20 our state with some health issues. We've
21 implemented or established a major of public
22 health, and right now we have about 300 majors in
23 that. We're projecting that to be 7- or 800 majors
24 in the next three years, in which we've seen that
25 significantly grow. And that literally parlays

1 out -- it parlays what's out in the workforce in
2 the 21st, to get those jobs.

3 So we're training our future leaders of
4 tomorrow in today's workforce for the 21st Century,
5 so we've done a good job with that.

6 We're also constantly looking at ways
7 to cut costs. We're conducting a cost-containment
8 study on our operations. You know, down at the
9 college, if you've gone around the campus you see
10 we're in a lot of the old buildings, and
11 maintenance is rather high, so we've done a lot of
12 working and looking at how we can reconfigure our
13 allocation and our revenue because there's not
14 going to be any more revenue. You know, we know
15 that, and we've got to what we call go our own and
16 make sure that we spend those dollars very wisely.
17 So we've kept tuition down. We've grown in a
18 very -- I think a very reasonable and very smart
19 way. And we've implemented majors that parlay into
20 jobs when our students graduate. So our students
21 are not going to be having a bill of \$60,000 and
22 coming out and not having a job. So I think we've
23 done a wonderful job in that respect. It's grown.
24 It's not the same school that I started on 17 years
25 ago by any means, but it's really -- it's exciting

1 to be here.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Ms. Daniel,
3 thank you.

4 And at the appropriate time,
5 Mr. Chairman, I would move for a favorable report.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 Ms. Daniel, I just wanted to say for
10 the record you do a phenomenal job as a member of
11 the Board. You are -- from what I've seen over the
12 years, you've been the face of the college. We see
13 you at everything --

14 MS. DANIEL: I take it very seriously.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: -- whether it's
16 small, large. I mean, you know, it's almost like
17 there's more than one of you.

18 MS. DANIEL: My mother was glad there
19 was only one of me.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: But I just
21 wanted to say for the record and for the Board, you
22 do a great job, and we appreciate your service to
23 the college, and I think that you are a great
24 representative of what a Board member should be.

25 MS. DANIEL: Thank you very much, sir.

1 I appreciate that.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Daniel, have you
3 every heard of Twitter or tweeting?

4 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir, but I don't do
5 that.

6 SENATOR PEELER: I know that. You
7 couldn't because you must say what you're going to
8 say in 140 characters or less.

9 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
11 comments?

12 Senator Alexander.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Briefly, if I
14 could, Mr. Chairman, certainly, one, I concur in
15 the comments by Representative Mack, and so I won't
16 repeat those.

17 How has your attendance record been in
18 your tenure on the Board?

19 MS. DANIEL: Sir, I've missed one
20 meeting, to my knowledge, in 17 years, and that was
21 because I had a horrible skiing accident, and I
22 literally couldn't sit.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And I want
24 to commend you. In your statement for us, you
25 mentioned that the Board did not increase tuition

1 in in-states students in the '11-'12.

2 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: What was the
4 increase for '12-'13?

5 MS. DANIEL: I think it was less than
6 Senator Leatherman's recommendation of 2.3 percent,
7 sir.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you
9 for your being a good steward of the tax dollars
10 from that standpoint.

11 And the last thing is, with your great
12 success with the virtual school, the charter
13 school -- and I commend you for that -- where do
14 you see that -- briefly, where do you see that in
15 the realm of the College of Charleston?

16 MS. DANIEL: Thank you very much, sir.
17 We have -- our Academic Affairs Committee is very
18 interested in pursuing looking at online programs
19 for the College of Charleston. And, basically, we
20 just conducted a task force, and we had
21 recommendations from that task force at our last
22 meeting, and now we're looking to see how we're
23 going to be able to implement offering some online
24 courses for students that, perhaps, in the summer
25 they want to go back home maybe to Clemson or

1 Dillon or places like that to work, you know, they
2 can't afford to stay in Charleston, so they could
3 take an online course.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And being the
5 leader of a premier, virtual charter school, what
6 has your experience been, and how would that relate
7 to the -- the experience of being at a college
8 institution, compared to online from that -- I know
9 you just mentioned about the summers, but, I mean,
10 is there a concern that people would lose that
11 ability --

12 MS. DANIEL: Oh, yeah. I wouldn't say
13 that we should offer the entire degree online. I'm
14 not into that at all. I think that we would be
15 another option, if you will. Many of our students
16 that are enrolled in our public online school, they
17 don't go to our school for four or five years.
18 They'll go for two or three years, and then they'll
19 go back to their home base school. And that's how
20 I see this, is that it certainly would not replace
21 that very rich and robust relationships of our
22 faculty and our students enjoying a face-to-face
23 setting.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So it would have
25 the ability to complement that?

1 MS. DANIEL: Oh, absolutely, sir.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me just say, I can
6 remember 17 and a half, 18 years ago when she was
7 campaigning. Hasn't aged an ounce. Her academia
8 and her excitement, I can tell you that she has
9 been the ambassador for the College of Charleston.

10 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

11 SENATOR MCGILL: And I also can tell
12 you that we're proud of the service that you've
13 had, and for you to take that no vote on raising
14 that tuition on students, that was a hard decision.

15 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: But I can tell you
17 now, a lot of presidents have had a hard task, as
18 far as increasing that rate over the years. Some
19 have fallen, some have risen with requests, and
20 some have not.

21 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

22 SENATOR MCGILL: But y'all chose to do
23 that. The College of Charleston is one of the
24 finest educational institutions we have in this
25 state.

1 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, sir.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: I congratulate you for
3 your service.

4 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, sir. That
5 means a lot to me.

6 SENATOR PEELER: And I appreciate your
7 wonderful sense of humor. Every time I meet you in
8 any setting, any venue, I leave with a smile.

9 MS. DANIEL: Thank you, sir. Thank
10 you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
12 comments?

13 Representative Whitmire.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Going back to
15 the virtuals --

16 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- you know,
18 we were talking about that years ago. How much has
19 that grown over the years?

20 MS. DANIEL: It's incredible. It's
21 gone from 2,000 students in the first year to about
22 8,000 students at the present level. Right now, in
23 my professional opinion, I think we've kind of
24 capped out, saturated the state. And so we're --
25 the only issue that I have is that we can't really

1 reach out into the real rural areas where perhaps
2 it would be a wonderful option if you could get a
3 high speed Internet. And I have had that
4 conversation with Pam Lackey at AT&T. And so we're
5 trying to look at some ways that we could partner
6 some way, somehow to get high speed Internet in
7 those areas.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes. That's
9 always been a concern of mine.

10 MS. DANIEL: Yeah. It is a concern.
11 It really is.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Thank
13 you for what you've done on that, and also thank
14 you for your service.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
16 comments? What's the desire of the committee.

17 Representative McCoy.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: I move for a
19 favorable report.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

21 (The motion was seconded.)

22 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, please
23 raise your right hand.

24 (The motion was granted.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

1 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Please take up
3 twittering. I want to see how you do it.

4 MS. CASTO: Next is Lee Mikell. Lee is
5 from the 2nd Congressional District. He is an
6 incumbent. His term will expire in 2016 as well.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning, sir.

8 MR. MIKELL: Good morning.

9 (G. Lee Mikell was duly sworn, after
10 which testimony commenced at 10:44 a.m.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
12 share with the committee why you'd like to continue
13 to serve?

14 MR. MIKELL: Mr. Chairman, members of
15 the committee, I certainly wish I followed somebody
16 else other than Cherry, but I'll try to be brief,
17 and I'll just kind of repeat my statement there. I
18 finished college in 1984. I have a great
19 admiration and appreciation for the school and have
20 enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the Board for
21 the past eight years.

22 While the past few years have been
23 difficult for higher education institutions in
24 South Carolina and around the country, I'm pleased
25 with the progress that has been made at the College

1 of Charleston. Enrollment applications continued
2 to reach record levels. For instance, this past
3 year, we had roughly 14,000 application for roughly
4 2,100 freshman positions. Admission standards
5 remain high, and the school continues to receive
6 high ratings from outside organizations such as the
7 Princeton Review and Barron's Best Buys In College
8 Education.

9 Like other state institutions, the
10 College of Charleston is faced with the hard task
11 of maintaining a balance between providing a
12 high-quality education experience for our students
13 while also ensuring the school remains affordable
14 and accessible. The College of Charleston has
15 completed a detailed strategic plan that I think
16 guides us towards that balance. I've been honored
17 and appreciate the opportunity the General Assembly
18 has given me previously to serve on the Board, and
19 I look forward to continuing to commit the time and
20 resources necessary to continue if re-elected by
21 the general assembly.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Great. Any questions
23 or comments?

24 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable report.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Good.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Can I have --

2 SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: I will hold it back.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I just noticed on
5 here too, your spouse, just for the record, I think
6 is involved in a venture, is that right, that may
7 or may not do business with the state?

8 MR. MIKELL: Yes.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: But would it be my
10 understanding that any of that would be through a
11 procurement bid process that would go through that
12 process to procure any of those services?

13 MR. MIKELL: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. So, for the
15 record, I wanted that to be reflected. And I would
16 second the motion.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other
18 questions or comments before we take a vote?

19 Being none, all in favor of a favorable
20 report, raise your right hand.

21 (The motion was granted.)

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your
23 willingness to serve.

24 Next candidate.

25 MS. CASTO: The next candidate's

1 Edward Thomas. He's from Anderson, representing
2 the 3rd Congressional District. His term will
3 expire in 2016 as well.

4 (Edward L. Thomas was duly sworn, after
5 which testimony commenced at 10:47 a.m.)

6 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
7 share with the committee why you want to serve?

8 MR. THOMAS: Well, I'm a graduate of
9 the college. I feel like I received a good
10 education there. I went to dental school in
11 Charleston, and I feel like the college definitely
12 laid the groundwork, you know, for my succeeding
13 there. I've got a daughter that's a senior at the
14 College of Charleston. I think she's the one that
15 kind of got me peaked or interested in pursuing
16 this seat.

17 My kids are either in college, or
18 they're out of the house. I have time to devote to
19 do it. I have a sincere interest in the wellbeing
20 of the college. And it's just something I've kind
21 of always wanted to do, be more involved with the
22 college. Living in the upstate, it's kind of hard
23 to get down to Charleston very much.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any questions
25 or comments?

1 SENATOR MCGILL: I'd like to ask him a
2 question.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: What year did you
5 graduate from MUSC?

6 MR. THOMAS: '78.

7 SENATOR MCGILL: '78. And so you've
8 been in practice. Are you still in practice?

9 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: And you said your
11 daughter --

12 MR. THOMAS: Senior at the College of
13 Charleston.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Senior at college.

15 MR. THOMAS: She'll graduate in May.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: With pride. You know,
17 I had Alexander call me at one time trying to help
18 a student get in, Mr. Chairman, and I said, the
19 young lady's been accepted at Clemson. She'd been
20 accepted at the University, and I know she can get
21 in at the College of Charleston. He said wrong.
22 He said, I don't want to hurt your feelings, but
23 you've got to go a long way to get into the College
24 of Charleston academically and across the board.
25 What a statement Alex made, former Senator, and

1 great reputation.

2 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. That -- the
3 school -- I don't -- I'm not as well-informed as
4 Ms. Daniel is on everything but...

5 SENATOR PEELER: Nobody is.

6 MR. THOMAS: I'm just glad that Lee
7 went right after her. At least I got a little bit
8 of a buffer. She's a hard act to follow. But I
9 started in '72. I think the school had only been
10 two years state-supported, and it only had like
11 1,000 students and just watching how it has grown
12 and how they manage their resources well...

13 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman,
14 beautiful campus. I believe Senator McConnell and
15 Senator Ravenel both attended the College of
16 Charleston.

17 SENATOR PEELER: That explains it. You
18 put it in Gaffnese.

19 Senator Alexander.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

21 Just for the record as well, and thank
22 you for your willingness to serve and the work that
23 you do, listed on here. Those are -- the claims
24 that you have, those are just general work that you
25 do through insurance, filing claims, things of that

1 nature, is that right, for work that's performed
2 from that standpoint?

3 MR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good deal. Thank
5 you, sir.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions
7 and comments? What's the desire of the committee?

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
10 report.

11 (The motion was seconded.)

12 SENATOR PEELER: Second is favorable.

13 All in favor, raise your right hand.

14 (The motion was granted.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I
16 appreciate your willingness to serve.

17 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Good luck.

19 Next candidate.

20 MS. CASTO: Next one is Kelly Moorhead.
21 Ms. Moorhead -- this is an open seat. This is the
22 4th Congressional District with a term to expire in
23 2016.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

25 MS. MOORHEAD: Good morning.

1 (Kelly Moorhead was duly sworn, after
2 which testimony commenced at 10:51 a.m.)

3 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
4 share with us why you'd like to serve?

5 MS. MOORHEAD: Yes, thank you. I
6 graduated from the college in 1999 with a degree in
7 business administration. I'm thankful for my
8 college education as it gave me foundation to be
9 successful in the workplace and in the community.

10 I would like to serve on the College of
11 Charleston Board for two reasons. I would like to
12 be a part of continuing to make the college a
13 special place for its students, faculty, staff and
14 alumni, and I also believe I can make a difference.

15 As you may know, the College of
16 Charleston is the oldest college or university in
17 the state of South Carolina. But what you probably
18 don't know is that because of the growth the
19 college has experienced over the past years, it has
20 a very young alumni base. Approximately 70 percent
21 of the alumni graduated after 1993.

22 I'm so proud to be a graduate of the
23 College of Charleston. I'm very thankful for this
24 opportunity. I know the college will be an
25 affordable and accessible higher education

1 institution in our state.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any
3 questions or comments?

4 Representative Henderson.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
6 Ms. Moorhead. I know both of these ladies are from
7 Greenville and from the 4th District. Tell me a
8 little bit about your involvement with the school
9 since you've left. Involvement in clubs or
10 committees or alumni groups, or whatever.

11 MS. MOORHEAD: Sure. I have been
12 involved at the College of Charleston, not in
13 Charleston, but I have been involved with the
14 alumni group in Greenville. As you all know,
15 Greenville has the second largest alumni base in
16 the state of South Carolina, second to Charleston,
17 of course. Especially over the past two years,
18 I've probably gone to every alumni event that we've
19 had. And being the second largest alumni base in
20 the state, we probably have about six to eight
21 active alumni members. I think that's a bad
22 statistic.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: What about
24 other community boards and service and things that
25 you've been involved in?

1 MS. MOORHEAD: Sure. I'm involved in
2 Leadership Greenville. I'm a graduate of
3 Leadership Greenville. I'm currently doing DLI at
4 the Riley Institute, which is a fascinating course.
5 I'm a mentor. I'm mentoring for a youth center.
6 I've coached high school church basketball for
7 Christ Church. And then my work on the alumni
8 board and then other activities work-related.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: All right.
10 Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Ms. Morehead, thank you for your
15 willingness to come forward and willingness to
16 serve. Can you tell the panel a little bit about
17 what you would expect to do as a new board member
18 to the College of Charleston Board, maybe one of
19 your first goals or first ideas you would like to
20 see.

21 MS. MOORHEAD: Well, I don't think you
22 can kind of come in on a board as a newbie or a
23 rookie and blaze your ideas. I think it's a good
24 idea or good thought to sit back and kind of learn
25 a lit bit about what's going on at the college,

1 understand the management style of the president,
2 understand how the Board works, the Board chair,
3 how he likes to run his Board.

4 So what I would like to see is continue
5 the tradition of keeping tuition low. And I also
6 played basketball at the College of Charleston, so
7 maybe I could offer a little insight on the
8 athletics portion there. Also, like I said,
9 70 percent of the alumni graduated after 1993,
10 which is who I am. So hopefully I can bring a
11 little bit of interest and energy to the youth of
12 the alumni base.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: And I think what
14 you said is very accurate. I learned from my
15 esteemed colleagues and senators who have been here
16 for a long time, and it's sometimes good to sit
17 back and learn from folks that have done it for a
18 little while. And y'all are this close, NCAA
19 tournament. (Indicating)

20 MS. MOORHEAD: That's right.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: That's all.
22 Thank you for being here.

23 MS. MOOREHEAD: Thank you very much.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I just wanted to --

1 with your employment, would you anticipate any
2 problem with you having the ability to attend board
3 meetings or any events from that standpoint?

4 MS. MOORHEAD: Not at all. I have
5 worked really closely with the president of our
6 company. He is very supportive of me doing this.
7 He is very supportive of women in leadership roles
8 in his company and in the community, so I have the
9 full support of my office.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Representative
11 Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I want you to
13 know, Ms. Moorhead, I'm going to vote you out even
14 though you're making me feel very old. My daughter
15 graduated in 2000 from the College of Charleston,
16 and I --

17 SENATOR PEELER: You are old.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I knew he'd
19 say something.

20 But thank you for your willingness to
21 serve. I think, you know, a lot of times the
22 colleges have folks in my age bracket, and maybe
23 sometimes we need some youthful perspective, so
24 good luck to you.

25 MS. MOORHEAD: Thank you very much.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
2 comments?

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable
4 report.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.
6 Is there a second?

7 (The motion was seconded.)

8 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard. All
9 in favor, please raise your right hand.

10 (The motion was granted.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

12 MS. MOORHEAD: Thank you very much.

13 SENATOR PEELER: We appreciate your
14 willingness to serve.

15 MS. MOORHEAD: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

17 MS. CASTO: Next is Renee Romberger.

18 She is from Greenville and is running for the 4th
19 Congressional seat as well.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

21 MS. ROMBERGER: Good morning.

22 (Renee Buyck Romberger was duly sworn,
23 after which testimony commenced at 10:56 a.m.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
25 share with us why you'd like to serve?

1 MS. ROMBERGER: Sure. I'm in the
2 healthcare business, and as a healthcare
3 professional, I see firsthand every day the impact
4 that education has on the health of our state. And
5 I have a -- as a graduate of the College of
6 Charleston and a long-time supporter of the
7 college, I have a real desire and interest to
8 continue my service.

9 I've been involved with the college on
10 a number of levels over the passed 30 years. And
11 I'd love to be as young as Kelly, but I graduated
12 in 1981. Since that time, I've served on the
13 alumni board as a young mom, and then I helped to
14 found the alumni association in the upstate. I've
15 served on that board. I've served on the national
16 board for the alumni association. I just completed
17 my tenure on the College of Charleston Foundation
18 Board of Directors, and that really was a great
19 opportunity to contribute and give back to the
20 college and see firsthand the impact that the
21 college does and can make in the future of our
22 state.

23 I am firmly grounded in the belief that
24 we need to keep tuition low, that we need to keep
25 our colleges, our public institutions, open and

1 available to students in South Carolina. I know
2 that if we're going to improve the health of the
3 state that we've got to be able to make sure that
4 we have educated young folks in the state.

5 So it is my passion and belief in
6 giving back and continuing my service that drives
7 me to want to serve on the Board of Trustees.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

9 Questions or comments?

10 Representative Henderson.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
12 Ms. Romberger for your service. And I know that
13 you have been involved for many years with the
14 University. As a healthcare professional -- I know
15 your husband is too. He's at Shriners --
16 obviously, you know, healthcare is one of the
17 growing job markets, and I was glad to see that the
18 college has added -- maybe that was Francis Marion.
19 Talk to me a little bit about the University as far
20 where you see -- I know like biology and some of
21 the sciences are real big there, that maybe your
22 input in healthcare could help. What would be some
23 ideas you might have as far as things that they
24 could do to continue to improve jobs, you know, for
25 students in that industry and maybe changes that

1 you might see that -- might need to do to respond
2 to the growing need for healthcare?

3 MS. ROMBERGER: Sure. Well, first let
4 me say that I agree with, I think, Kelly who said
5 this before me, that if I were elected and coming
6 in as a new trustee, I would walk in with eyes open
7 and wanting to see it from a trustee perspective
8 and not assuming that I've got a global
9 perspective, having served on the Board of
10 Directors at the foundation for eight years. But
11 the college has had a rich tradition of graduating
12 future physicians and nurses in South Carolina,
13 physical therapists, pretty much across the
14 healthcare spectrum.

15 Oftentimes you see students graduating
16 from the College of Charleston and moving on to the
17 medical University or USC through their programs.
18 So certainly as a clinician, we have a very strong
19 background to support South Carolina. But also,
20 more recently, the school of education has moved in
21 to adding a public health degree. And I feel
22 extremely passionately about that because what I
23 know is in healthcare today, we've got to get out
24 of the focus of just staying isolated, hospitals or
25 doctors or specific realms, but really looking at

1 how we integrate and work together. And that whole
2 public health degree is one that I think will
3 really help improve the health of the state because
4 it will force us to really look more globally at
5 how healthcare is a continuing and not just
6 episodic care.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Okay.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?
9 Representative Mack.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 I just wanted to say I know
13 Ms. Romberger well, and, you know, what you see is
14 what you get. She's very enthusiastic,
15 knowledgeable, very much involved in the community
16 aspects, and I think she'd be a great person to
17 have an opportunity to serve.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

20 And I do appreciate your work in the
21 healthcare field and your work in the community.
22 Again, I guess along the consistent theme I've had,
23 as far as your ability to serve on the Board with
24 your responsibilities, how would that fit in from
25 your perspective?

1 MS. ROMBERGER: I have a great track
2 record of once I commit to something, I commit.
3 And if I'm elected to serve on the Board of
4 Trustees, then I will be there at every meeting. I
5 believe that you've got to be present and be
6 visible and be involved if you're going to serve.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Very briefly, we know
11 that education and healthcare go hand-in-hand. And
12 there is no question that your background will
13 bring strength, not just academic strength, but it
14 will bring finance and healthcare strength. And it
15 is the future. Young people that don't have a good
16 healthcare plan or don't have a good academic
17 background and don't have retirement -- you can
18 have five million in the bank, but you can lose
19 that five million in short order not having the
20 proper healthcare. So I think that you have been a
21 great asset to this state, the short time that I've
22 known you. I met you several weeks ago at this
23 walk-in thing, but I've talked to other people, and
24 we look forward to the opportunity to seeing what
25 happens with you and the other person that's

1 running too.

2 That young lady that's running, what a
3 great testament that she's wanting to get active so
4 young and serve on that board. I'm telling you,
5 Mr. Chairman, every candidate that we have, it's
6 just remarkable that there's that strong desire to
7 support the university that they graduated from.

8 And we commend you and the young lady
9 that's running both.

10 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
12 comments?

13 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Move for
14 favorable report.

15 (The motion was seconded.)

16 SENATOR PEELER: Motion made for
17 favorable and a second. All in favor, raise your
18 right hand.

19 (The motion was granted.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Appreciate
21 your willingness to serve.

22 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is
23 Robert Burch. He is from Camden. There are three
24 candidates running for the 5th Congressional Seat.
25 There are no incumbents. It's an open seat, and

1 the term expires in 2016.

2 SENATOR PEELER: So this is for Seat
3 10, right?

4 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir.

5 SENATOR PEELER: How are you, sir?

6 MR. BURCH: Great. Good morning.

7 (Robert M. Burch, III was duly sworn,
8 after which testimony commenced at 11:03 a.m.)

9 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
10 share with the committee why you would like to
11 serve?

12 MR. BURCH: Sure. Back in the fall of
13 1996, I was a 17-year-old kid, and my parents
14 dropped me off in the dorm at the College of
15 Charleston and left. And I was on my own at that
16 point. I financed my way through school with
17 student loans and worked hard. With an accounting
18 degree, I graduated in 2000. I have two siblings
19 that attended there. I met my wife on the first
20 day of class, so it's a special place to me, and I
21 just want to give back. And now that I have the
22 time to do that in my career, you know, it's
23 something that I hold dear, as I said, and I'd just
24 love to give back and help the college to continue
25 to prosper.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I notice
2 on the information that the company that you're
3 affiliated with as a controller that contracts with
4 the College of Charleston. How would you handle
5 that?

6 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir. As of right now,
7 we're not currently not doing any work for the
8 school. We had done some work in the past. But if
9 there were ever an issue, I would recuse myself
10 and, obviously, not participate in the vote or...

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
12 questions or comments?

13 Ms. Henderson.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 Consistent with my line of questions
17 here, have you been involved with the university
18 over the years since you've started your
19 professional career in committees or alumni groups
20 or anything like that?

21 MR. BURCH: Yes, ma'am. While I was in
22 school, I was a member of the Student Alumni
23 Associates and also the Charleston 40 which is an
24 ambassador group. And then after school, after
25 college, we joined the alumni associations,

1 lifetime members, stayed active, you know,
2 participated in the local alumni groups, still try
3 to attend the functions. There's a big one coming
4 up in May around graduation. So we still have
5 friends there.

6 My wife worked in the alumni office.
7 And also when we were in school, she was a student
8 worker in the admissions office. So we still have
9 strong ties to the school and keep in touch. And
10 now that I'm in Camden, it's harder to get back
11 down there, but we do try to stay active as much as
12 we can, yeah.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: What would
14 be some of your top priorities as a new Board
15 member or as a member of the Board as far as for
16 the University, the reasons why you would want to
17 serve?

18 MR. BURCH: I would like to, first, get
19 in there and learn the issues, learn the school,
20 you know, kind of get a feel for what's going on,
21 and then, you know, if -- for the things that come
22 up to us, I would take it and kind of use it as a
23 common-sense approach, is it good for the school
24 overall and for the state. And, you know, as far
25 as an agenda or priorities, at this point, there

1 are none, just to help the school continue to
2 prosper and to provide a quality education.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Other questions,
5 comments?

6 Mr. Whitmire.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

8 Mr. Burch, I am looking at your work
9 that you have done for the College of Charleston in
10 the amount of -- what is it -- about \$45,000 over
11 the -- in the last few years; is that correct?

12 Have I got the wrong one?

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Millions.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm sorry,
15 millions. Yes, \$45 million.

16 Is that going to have any impact on,
17 you know, with you getting so many large contracts
18 with the college? Will that affect you at all?

19 MR. BURCH: I was not employed with the
20 company, my present employer, at the time they did
21 that work.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

23 MR. BURCH: I was not employed. I
24 started with them in December.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. So you

1 had nothing to do with that?

2 MR. BURCH: No, sir.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

4 MR. BURCH: And my pay is a base salary
5 and a bonus tied to performance, not tied to
6 profitability or anything. I've contacted the
7 state Ethics Commission and got a general ruling
8 that I should proceed with this and that as long as
9 I recuse myself of any potential conflicts...

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: In the
11 future?

12 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. That's
14 all I need to know. Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Glad you did
16 that. Thank you.

17 Any other questions or comments?

18 Being none, what's the desire of the
19 committee?

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable
21 report.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
23 report. And a second?

24 (The motion was seconded.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise

1 your right hand.

2 (The motion was granted.)

3 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I

4 appreciate your willingness to serve.

5 Next candidate.

6 MS. CASTO: Next candidate is
7 Pansy King-Reid from Fort Mill. This is the 5th
8 Congressional seat as well. The term expires 2016.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

10 MS. KING-REID: Good morning.

11 (Pansy King-Reid was duly sworn, after
12 which testimony commenced at 11:08 a.m.)

13 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
14 share with the committee why you'd like to serve?

15 MS. KING-REID: Well, I'm not a
16 graduate of the College of Charleston. I'm a
17 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in
18 Charlotte, North Carolina which is a liberal arts
19 college. And I feel like I can bring diversity to
20 the Board. When I was helping with Johnson C.
21 Smith, I was a philanthropist. I gave over
22 \$250,000 a year for six years. And now that I'm a
23 marketing director, I feel like that I can help the
24 College of Charleston do the same thing.

25 SENATOR PEELER: I was looking over the

1 information. You're currently a marketing director
2 for Chestnut Law Firm.

3 MS. KING-REID: Yes.

4 SENATOR PEELER: In Gainesville,
5 Florida?

6 MS. KING-REID: Our home office is
7 based in Gainesville, Florida.

8 SENATOR PEELER: But you work in Fort
9 Mill now?

10 MS. KING-REID: I live -- based in
11 South Carolina, yes.

12 SENATOR PEELER: And it shows you
13 haven't filed a tax return in the last five years?

14 MS. KING-REID: No, I haven't.

15 SENATOR PEELER: How did you get by
16 with that?

17 MS. KING-REID: I was a stay-at-home
18 mom, and alimony and child support, basically child
19 support.

20 SENATOR PEELER: So your home address
21 is?

22 MS. KING-REID: 130 Melbourne Drive
23 Fort Mill, South Carolina.

24 SENATOR PEELER: And your name is Pansy
25 Ellen Louise King?

1 MS. KING-REID: Pansy Ellen Louise
2 King-Reid. I was divorced. I'm a Reid, so I'm
3 Pansy King Reid.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Is that what's on your
5 driver's license? Have you had a chance to change
6 that yet?

7 MS. KING-REID: No, I haven't because
8 what happened, when I went to get my driver's
9 license back in South Carolina, I had a Virginia
10 driver's license, and it just popped up Pansy King
11 because I got my license in South Carolina, but my
12 Social Security card and everything says Reid.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, ma'am.

14 Any other -- Mr. Whitmire.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE:

16 Ms. King-Reid, can you give me, or us, your vision
17 for the College of Charleston as far as what you
18 want to see in the future?

19 MS. KING-REID: Well, what I would like
20 to see is more diversity on the Board. And I feel
21 like what I can bring is diversity. I'm a
22 minority. I'm an African-American woman, and my
23 views may be a little different, but I won't go in
24 there trying to change anything. I feel like you
25 need to be mentored into anything that you go into.

1 So I would sit down and discuss things with the
2 Board and see what I can see, what I can bring to
3 them.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Can you
5 expound on what you mean by your views might be
6 different?

7 MS. KING-REID: Well, by me being an
8 African-American woman and having two -- two
9 teeners, one a sophomore in college and one that's
10 about to go to college, my views may be coming from
11 more so as a parent and raising teenagers.

12 I just know higher education is
13 everything to my family. And sometimes young
14 people don't have the proper things to get into
15 college, and as a Board member, I can bring the
16 aspects of maybe sitting down with some of the
17 students that are trying to get in there that can't
18 afford to go, and we come up with different ways to
19 help them get into college.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you know
21 if there are any African-American members on the
22 Board presently? I don't know.

23 MS. KING-REID: I think it's one.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: One. All
25 right, thank you.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

4 And thank you for your willingness to
5 serve and for being here this morning. I wanted to
6 go back. I want to know if I understood correctly.
7 You have a South Carolina driver's license now?

8 MS. KING-REID: Oh, yes. I've had a
9 South Carolina driver's license.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: It's just not the
11 correct name?

12 MS. KING-REID: Yes. You're right.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And it
14 reflects -- your driver's license reflects the
15 address that's on your information here?

16 MS. KING-REID: Yes.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: As far as the part
18 of the filling out of the information, is the state
19 Ethics Commission state -- statement of economic
20 interest. Are you aware of that form?

21 MS. KING-REID: Yes. I filled that
22 out.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Would you get with --

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, the
25 form I've got before me, I've got the form, but I

1 see nothing marked on the form whatsoever.

2 MS. KING-REID: Ms. Julie Price had
3 called me, and I submitted it. I had left that
4 out. I didn't know that -- I put it in the packet,
5 but I spoke with her and she put it back in there.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Well, I've got --
7 we just need to get staff, if we could -- I mean,
8 we've got the form.

9 MS. CASTO: We've got the form. She
10 did not -- she filled out the first page, and that
11 is all that is complete.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: But there's nothing
13 that's related to any of the questions. Are you
14 aware -- did you fill out one of the forms that
15 has -- did you answer the questions, or did you
16 just do the first page?

17 MS. KING-REID: I think I did.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Do you want to show it
19 to us?

20 MS. CASTO: You have it in your packet,
21 don't you? Didn't Julie give you a copy of --

22 SENATOR PEELER: We'll just take a few
23 minutes, for the record.

24 (Off-the-record conference.)

25 MS. KING-REID: You're talking about

1 page 1?

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, I'm
3 talking about pages 2, 3, and 4.

4 MS. KING-REID: I have page 1 and 2
5 filled out. The one that's -- the interests.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And if you don't
7 have it --

8 MS. KING-REID: No, I don't. I didn't
9 have any interests to anything.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I think for the
11 record, Mr. Chairman, we need to get that
12 completed.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Yeah. You need to
14 complete that.

15 MS. KING-REID: Okay.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Henderson.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
20 Senator Peeler.

21 I'm trying to be consistent with my
22 questions, and so I won't ask you what your
23 involvement with the College of Charleston has been
24 since you're not a graduate, which we have a lot of
25 people that apply for different boards. So my

1 question then would be actually, what drew you --
2 what's your interest in the College of Charleston,
3 specifically, that would -- you know, led you to
4 really feel like, you know, I want to be with the
5 College of Charleston and not Francis Marion or
6 Lander, you know, some other school.

7 MS. KING-REID: Well, once -- I
8 visit -- I work in Charleston a lot. And so I was
9 down there and just visiting the College of
10 Charleston and -- and I just struck an interest
11 because it's a liberal arts school like the college
12 that I graduated from. And I had a couple of -- my
13 sister's friends, they graduated from there. And
14 just talking to them and just, you know,
15 visiting the school. And I feel like I would be an
16 asset to them.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

18 MS. KING-REID: Thank you.

19 SENATOR PEELER: I want to get back to
20 your driving record and your driver's license.

21 You currently have five points on your
22 driver's license, and in the last eight years,
23 you've moved several times; is that correct?

24 MS. KING-REID: Yes, sir. I was --
25 my -- my driving record, I have two speeding

1 tickets on there in Georgia, and the tickets
2 were -- my nieces have sickle-cell, and I was
3 trying to get to the hospital. That's why the two
4 tickets that are on there. So about three months
5 ago, I took the class at York Tech to get my points
6 back.

7 SENATOR PEELER: According to the
8 records, I think it shows seven speeding tickets.

9 MS. KING-REID: Seven?

10 SENATOR PEELER: On the ten-year
11 driving record.

12 MS. KING-REID: Oh. The last two that
13 I received were in Georgia.

14 SENATOR PEELER: You could give
15 Danica Patrick a run for her money.

16 MS. KING-REID: I --

17 SENATOR PEELER: Just say yes.

18 MS. KING-REID: Yes. Actually, I like
19 her so...

20 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Let's go back
21 to the Chestnut Law Firm.

22 MS. KING-REID: Yes.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Does that law firm
24 have an office in South Carolina?

25 MS. KING-REID: No. They don't have an

1 office in South Carolina.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Are you paid? Do you
3 receive a salary?

4 MS. KING-REID: Yes.

5 SENATOR PEELER: How long have you been
6 working there?

7 MS. KING-REID: I've been working for
8 the Chestnut Law Firm six months.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Have you filed a tax
10 return?

11 MS. KING-REID: Yes. This year.

12 SENATOR PEELER: 2012. Okay. Any
13 other questions or comments?

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I've got
15 a question. I want to go back to this \$250,000. I
16 want to get a better feel.

17 You're in marketing?

18 MS. KING-REID: Yes.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: And you helped raise
20 funding for your alma mater?

21 MS. KING-REID: Yes. Actually, we
22 didn't raise it. I was married at the time, and my
23 ex-husband, we -- well, we raised it, but we gave
24 it in his name.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: All right.

1 MS. KING-REID: But I'm in marketing
2 now. That's what I do.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: You're a good
4 communicator.

5 MS. KING-REID: Thank you.

6 SENATOR MCGILL: Yes, you are.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there's a lot of red
10 flags here, but, you know, there have been other
11 candidates with not so golden driving records. But
12 I guess what concerns me the most is not filing a
13 tax return over the last four -- three or four
14 years. However, you know, I still feel like maybe
15 we should report her out favorably and just see
16 where things go. I don't know if that's enough to
17 disqualify her or not, but that's just me.

18 MS. KING-REID: Excuse me, sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes.

20 MS. KING-REID: According to my -- I
21 was married, and my ex-husband, they said I didn't
22 have to file a tax return because you don't file a
23 tax return on child support.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. All
25 right.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. If you were
2 fortunate enough to be elected, do you plan on
3 staying in Fort Mill for a while?

4 MS. KING-REID: Oh, yes. South
5 Carolina is my home.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. All right. And
7 would you drive under the speed limit when you
8 attend the meetings?

9 MS. KING-REID: Yes, yes.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
11 questions or comments?

12 Hearing none, what's the desire of the
13 committee?

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable
15 report.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
17 report.

18 (The motion was seconded.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: And a second is heard.
20 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

21 (The motion was granted.)

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Appreciate
23 your willingness to serve.

24 Next candidate.

25 MS. CASTO: The last candidate for the

1 5th Congressional District seat is
2 Michael Todd Warrick from Sumter. It is seat
3 number 10, it expires 2016.

4 SENATOR PEELER: How are you doing,
5 sir?

6 DR. WARRICK: Doing well. How are you,
7 sir?

8 SENATOR PEELER: Doing good.

9 (Michael Todd Warrick was duly sworn,
10 after which testimony commenced at 11:20 a.m.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
12 share with the committee why you'd like to serve?

13 DR. WARRICK: Certainly. As a
14 second-generation alumnus of the College of
15 Charleston, as well as a second-generation alumnus
16 of the Medical University of South Carolina, I'm a
17 product of the South Carolina higher education. At
18 this point in my life, I enjoy a successful medical
19 practice. I have four lovely children. I'm
20 involved in my community, my local and state
21 medical society, and my church. I'm at a point in
22 my life where I'm enjoying the success both
23 personally and professionally that institutions,
24 like the College of Charleston, helped instill in
25 me. I'm at a point in my life where I feel called

1 to give back, to help others find their own
2 personal and professional success.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any questions
4 of Dr. Warrick?

5 Ms. Henderson.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
7 Dr. Warrick. I've got to say you don't look like
8 you're 37 years old.

9 DR. WARRICK: I do get that from time
10 to time.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: You look
12 very young, and you've accomplished a lot in your
13 short life so far. But I always appreciate
14 physicians because I know how busy you are, and
15 everybody's busy, but your willingness to offer to
16 serve, and with a young family and all the other
17 demands on your time, as I know well when my
18 children were younger how hard it was to find time
19 to do anything outside of, you know, job and home
20 responsibilities. But what would be some things
21 that you would be -- and, again, as I asked
22 Ms. Romberger about being involved in healthcare,
23 what would be some of your unique perspective or
24 ideas or things that you would, perhaps, be able to
25 contribute to the Board about the direction of the

1 University, knowing where we're headed with
2 healthcare?

3 DR. WARRICK: Certainly. With respect
4 to healthcare specifically, as a physician, as a
5 young graduate, not only do I bring energy and also
6 a sense of purpose, but I like getting involved in
7 institutions that have a clear mission statement,
8 that know where they want to go. I find that in my
9 service to the local YMCA as well as to my church.
10 College of Charleston is a clear mission statement,
11 and it's to provide the best education available to
12 the students of South Carolina, unapologetically.

13 As a graduate, as someone who has
14 reaped the benefits of that, I would like to help
15 the University to foster its relationships with
16 other universities and institutions that have
17 helped form my personal and professional success.
18 The Medical University of South Carolina, the
19 University of South Carolina, and other
20 institutions in the region and in the state are
21 doing a tremendous effort to grow and develop, not
22 only healthcare workers and providers, but also to
23 do basic science research, clinical research, and
24 expanding focus beyond there to applied engineering
25 and other programs that foster the types of

1 scientific developments necessary to make South
2 Carolina a leader in the nation in developing new
3 technology and infrastructure to provide care for
4 not just the state citizens but also for the rest
5 of the country.

6 As someone who has family ties to the
7 universities, as someone who has recently graduated
8 from both MUSC and the College of Charleston, I
9 would like to see some added collaboration between
10 those two institutions specifically, such that
11 synergistics and exponential growth of clinical and
12 basic science research could enable both
13 institutions to grow and prosper, such that the
14 rest of the state of South Carolina can enjoy those
15 benefits.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 Dr. Warrick, thank you for being here.
21 It's been a pleasure to get to talk to you and get
22 to know you over the past couple of weeks as well.
23 You certainly have the ties to the College of
24 Charleston, and you certainly have the ties to
25 MUSC. And what you spoke about, about creating

1 more of a relationship between those two
2 institutions, I think would be an excellent idea as
3 well. And I don't know if you can answer this. I
4 just don't know the answer to this. Is there
5 anybody else on that board who is a physician?

6 DR. WARRICK: Yes, there is. There is
7 a gynecologist who lives in the Mt. Pleasant area.
8 Her name is Toya Pound.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Okay. I think
10 you would make an excellent addition. Thank you
11 for being here today.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
13 comments?

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I just
15 want to say I'm very impressed. Impressed.

16 DR. WARRICK: Oh, thank you, sir.
17 Well, my wife likes to say that busy people stay
18 busy and are effective. I would like to say to the
19 panel, I am a father of young children. I do have
20 a busy medical practice, but I am blessed with a
21 very supportive family, both in Charleston -- my
22 parents still live there, as well as my wife's
23 family, who are all very supportive of me giving
24 back to the community and serving the citizens in
25 the state that they enjoy as well.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Mr. Chairman, I
2 think that the same Twitter analogy would also
3 apply here.

4 DR. WARRICK: I tried to be brief. My
5 wife told me to make it short.

6 SENATOR PEELER: I think you found the
7 fountain of youth.

8 DR. WARRICK: My father's a
9 dermatologist. I bathe in sunscreen. You can tell
10 from my anemic glow.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Well, I know you're
12 not even old enough to know who this is, but you
13 remind me of Doogie Howser.

14 DR. WARRICK: I remember that show.
15 It's on Nick At Nite now.

16 SENATOR PEELER: That's probably too
17 late. Surely you go to bed before then.

18 DR. WARRICK: Well, my bedtime is 7:30.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
20 comments?

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: I move for a
22 favorable report.

23 (Motion was seconded.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Motion was favorable
25 and a second. All in favor, please raise your

1 right hand.

2 (The motion was granted.)

3 DR. WARRICK: Thank you all. Thank you
4 for coming out on your furlough.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. You get
6 bonus points for even noticing that. Thank you.

7 MS. CASTO: Next is Emily Guess. She's
8 from Denmark and is running for the 6th
9 Congressional District seat, expiring in 2016.
10 This is an open seat.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

12 MS. GUESS: I think we've gone from the
13 youngest to the oldest.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, don't say that.

15 MS. GUESS: I graduated from the
16 College of Charleston in 1966. I was the youngest
17 graduate at that time.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Ma'am, let me swear
19 you in, not that I don't believe what you're
20 saying.

21 As time goes on, I get more funny. I
22 promise.

23 (Emily F. Guess was duly sworn, after
24 which testimony commenced at 11:27 a.m.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: Sorry I interrupted

1 you. Go right ahead.

2 MS. GUESS: So I was the youngest
3 living graduate of the college, and they had my
4 picture in the paper kissing the oldest living
5 graduate of the College of Charleston. My
6 grandfather had attended the College of Charleston,
7 but he beat me out by a few years. It was a
8 tradition in our family.

9 I have spent my entire life dedicated
10 to education. You know, if I was go to say I had a
11 passion it would be education. I spent 34 years in
12 the public schools in South Carolina, mostly as an
13 elementary guidance counselor. And a lot of my
14 students, when they got ready to go to college,
15 would come and talk to me about what did I think.
16 So I steered a lot of them to the college over the
17 years.

18 I'm a grandmother. I'm retired, so I
19 have time. I do serve on a lot of boards. I am
20 very active in my community, my church. I don't --
21 I don't know what y'all want me to say, if you have
22 any questions.

23 SENATOR PEELER: I'm sure we'll have
24 some questions. Thank you.

25 Any questions or comments?

1 Representative McCoy.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 Ms. Guess, thank you for being here
5 with us today, and thank you for your willingness
6 to serve. You have an impressive resume, and
7 you've certainly been involved in the education
8 system in a lot of different aspects, and we
9 applaud that, and we thank you for that.

10 You mentioned that you were involved in
11 a bunch of boards. Is anything that you're
12 involved in now going to be any sort of conflict
13 with time when it comes to serving on this
14 particular Board?

15 MS. GUESS: No. In fact, I'm known for
16 never missing a meeting. If I put you on my
17 calender, you will see me.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: And can you tell
19 me a little bit about the Bamberg County DDSN Board
20 and how long you served on that board?

21 MS. GUESS: I was -- my son is 37, and
22 when he was a year old, he was my premie that had a
23 lot of problems, so I was not working then. I was
24 asked to help form that board. So 36 years ago, I
25 helped form that board. It has been my baby.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: You've been
2 involved with it for a long time, and I don't know
3 the legal aspects of it, but if you were elected to
4 this particular Board, would that be dual office
5 holding? Would you have to give up that previous
6 board?

7 MS. GUESS: I don't know. That's a
8 county board. I don't know that...

9 MS. CASTO: You were appointed probably
10 by the county legislative delegation?

11 MS. GUESS: Yes.

12 MS. CASTO: So, yes, you would have to.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Okay. And
14 that's something that you would be willing to do,
15 even though you've been involved for such a long
16 time, 36 years.

17 MS. GUESS: It would be hard, but I
18 would do it.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you. I
20 appreciate you answering my questions.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
22 comments?

23 Mr. Whitmire.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Ms. Guess, I
25 just want to say thank you for your service to our

1 state as an elementary educator. My wife is an
2 elementary principal. My wife's mother was an
3 elementary teacher, so was my aunt. So I've gotten
4 a good dose of what it's like to be working with
5 young people, so -- and also, thank you for your
6 willingness to not only serve the young folks but
7 the higher ed folks here in our state. Good luck
8 to you.

9 MS. GUESS: Well, thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments?

11 Senator Hayes.

12 SENATOR HAYES: Just wondering what
13 your vision might be for the College of Charleston.

14 MS. GUESS: Well, it was so important
15 to me, and I think they do such a good job in
16 educating the students. When I went there, there
17 were 70 in my graduating class. I have -- I've
18 been so impressed with their growth and the fact
19 that they're still known for their education. You
20 know, it's a wonderful institution. As I say, my
21 grandfather went there.

22 My vision would be for it to continue
23 to be a major secondary, you know, postsecondary
24 institution in the state. But, also, I would like
25 to see it -- like, they didn't recruit in Bamberg

1 and Barnwell Counties where I was an educator. And
2 I thought that was something they could have done.
3 I -- one of the students I sent there graduated and
4 has since graduated from medical school. He was
5 superb. I did not know why they were not asked to
6 -- to, you know, try to get him to go there. And
7 he went on my recommendation and loved it. And his
8 sister went there because he loved it so much.

9 So I would like to see us -- I know we
10 get a lot of students from out of state, but I
11 don't want us to miss anybody like the young man
12 who spoke ahead of me. I mean, I think it was
13 wonderful that he went there. And look what an
14 asset he is to the state now.

15 Hopefully, I've been an asset to the
16 state.

17 SENATOR PEELER: We think you have.

18 Any other questions or comments -- and
19 continue to be.

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable
21 report.

22 (The motion was seconded.)

23 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
24 and a second and third. All in favor, raise your
25 right hand.

1 (The motion was granted.)

2 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you very much.

3 I appreciate your willingness to serve. Let's
4 double check on the DDSN Board. I'd sure hate to
5 lose you on that too.

6 MS. GUESS: I know. I would hate -- I
7 would still go by there, and I would still love
8 those people.

9 SENATOR PEELER: I bet you would.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. CASTO: The next candidate for the
12 6th Congressional District is Ricci Land Welch.
13 She's from Manning. This term expires in 2016.

14 SENATOR PEELER: How are you?

15 MS. WELCH: I'm doing well.

16 (Ricci Land Welch was duly sworn, after
17 which testimony commenced at 11:33 a.m.)

18 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
19 share with the committee why you'd like to serve?

20 MS. WELCH: I would. First,
21 Senator Peeler, I'd like to thank you all for
22 giving up a large portion of your furlough. I come
23 from a family of political servants who've had to
24 give up vacations, so I have a good perspective of
25 what y'all are giving up, and I thank you for your

1 service.

2 I would like to follow in my mother's
3 footsteps. She has held this seat that I am
4 running for today since in 1988. I went to College
5 of Charleston in 1988. As soon as I got there, she
6 followed me. My children will be entering college,
7 hopefully, in 2019 and 2020, and I wouldn't mind
8 being there when they got there.

9 I served on the Lander Board of
10 Trustees for eight years. I started when my son
11 was a week old, and my schedule got such when my
12 kids were eight and nine that I could no longer do
13 it. I don't know if y'all have ever driven from
14 Manning to Greenwood, but there's really no easy
15 way to get there. So I missed that. I missed it
16 as soon as I got off that board. I felt like that
17 was a decision that I should not have made, and I'm
18 ready to get back into the world of higher
19 education.

20 I am a College of Charleston graduate.
21 I'm also a graduate of the University of South
22 Carolina School of Law. I've kept up with the
23 college's growth since my graduation. I've
24 attended alumni events. I've donated when I could,
25 and have watched its growth and am impressed with

1 its growth. But I know that you can't sit back and
2 enjoy growth without looking towards the future.
3 So I'm familiar with the college's vision for 2020,
4 and I would like to have a small part in that. I
5 know from my service on the Lander Board, you can
6 be a small part of a large thing, and that's what
7 I'd like to do.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Questions
9 or comments from any of the committee?

10 Senator Hayes.

11 SENATOR HAYES: You're John Land's
12 daughter. I'll try not to hold that against you.

13 MS. WELCH: I appreciate that.

14 SENATOR HAYES: But, obviously, you
15 take after your momma, which is a good thing.

16 MS. WELCH: I'll take that as a
17 compliment.

18 SENATOR HAYES: Seriously, I appreciate
19 your willingness to serve on this Board.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 Senator Alexander.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman. And I think you've kind of touched
24 on it, from the standpoint of your ability of
25 understanding the time commitments. And I guess

1 with your practice and things of that nature, you
2 certainly would feel comfortable in having the time
3 to contribute and be a member of the Board?

4 MS. WELCH: I would, Senator. Usually
5 with trials, we know when those are going to occur,
6 and so we can ask for continuances or orders of
7 protection. That never was a problem when I served
8 on the Lander's committee. And Board schedules are
9 given out, and I would stop what I'm doing to take
10 care of my obligations.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative
12 Whitmire.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

14 You mentioned you've kept up with
15 what's going on at the college. Are there any
16 changes or anything else that you would like to see
17 instituted?

18 MS. WELCH: There are always changes.
19 One is the -- the entering the Colonial Athletic
20 Association, and the facilities are constantly
21 changing. One thing that I do notice and have been
22 aware of is that the College of Charleston has one
23 of the lowest minority participations, and that's
24 something that needs to be worked on. If we're a
25 state school and we're representing our state and

1 providing higher education for our citizens of our
2 state, we need to make sure that we have a
3 representative student body. And that is something
4 that I would personally be interested in. I would
5 never go onto a board with an agenda. I don't
6 think that's the right way to approach it. But it
7 is something that's true to my heart since I am
8 from a rural community, and I think that's
9 something important to look at.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How would you
11 go about recruiting more minorities?

12 MS. WELCH: Like my opponent said
13 earlier, going to the smaller counties and finding
14 students who are qualified. And, unfortunately,
15 while I served on the Lander board, what we found
16 is sometimes the minorities were not as prepared,
17 and so while I was at Lander, there was a grant
18 that was written and approved that helped the
19 minorities once they got there to stay there.
20 Because it's one thing to accept a minority, but
21 what we want is to graduate a minority.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
24 comments?

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Chairman?

1 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me say this. Of
3 course, I've known Ms. Welch a long time, and your
4 mother served with great distinction for many
5 years. And I know this, that it's not just
6 tradition historical that you want to serve. It is
7 traditional. It is history. But the fact of the
8 matter is, you bring to the table -- from your
9 legal knowledge, you bring to the table that
10 trustee experience at Lander.

11 We listened to a lot of Lander trustee
12 potentials yesterday. And I can tell you this,
13 that you will be a great asset with the knowledge
14 that you have for the College of Charleston, and I
15 can tell you that this other lady who's running for
16 the seat as well, she will bring a great deal of
17 knowledge to the College of Charleston Board.

18 I've known you and your family for some
19 time, and there's no question in my mind that
20 you'll be a great asset, impeccable reputation, and
21 a great mother and a great worker.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 MS. WELCH: Thank you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 Any other questions or comments?

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

2 (The motion was seconded.)

3 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is
4 favorable report and seconded.

5 All in favor, raise your right hand.

6 (The motion was granted.)

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

8 MS. WELCH: Thank you.

9 SENATOR PEELER: I appreciate your
10 willingness to serve.

11 MS. WELCH: Senator Peeler, we don't
12 have a parking space in the family any longer, so I
13 parked on the road and had to navigate through the
14 traffic. And when I was walking up the first time,
15 I saw, it said, danger, do not enter. I wanted
16 y'all to know that y'all weren't dangerous or scary
17 at all, and I appreciate your time.

18 SENATOR PEELER: I thought you were
19 going to say you looked at your dad's parking
20 space, and I parked in it.

21 Please tell your mother and father
22 hello for us.

23 MS. WELCH: I will.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

25 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is

1 Henrietta Golding from Myrtle Beach. She will be
2 the 7th Congressional District. What the College
3 of Charleston did with the new 7th Congressional
4 District is they added an extra person to their
5 board, I believe, so there are two seats for the
6 7th, seat 13 and seat 14. Ms Golding is from seat
7 13, running unopposed.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Hello. How are you?

9 MS. GOLDING: I'm well. Good morning.

10 (Henrietta U. Golding was duly sworn,
11 after which testimony commenced at 11:40 a.m.)

12 SENATOR PEELER: Welcome. And please
13 share with the committee why you would like to
14 serve.

15 MS. GOLDING: Thank you for the
16 opportunity of appearing here today. I am a
17 graduate of the College of Charleston, graduated
18 1974. I was very active in student government, was
19 the president of the student body. In my junior
20 year and in my freshman, sophomore, and my senior
21 year, I was president of my class.

22 I have continued to remain in contact
23 and active with the Alumni Association. I served
24 on the Foundation Board for eight years as well.
25 I'm at a point in my profession where I have now

1 the opportunity to make a contribution to the
2 college, not only monetarily, but also with my
3 time.

4 And I believe that the College of
5 Charleston -- were it not for the College of
6 Charleston, I would not have been a lawyer. I
7 would not have been successful. I would not have
8 been able to take care of my family. I owe a great
9 deal to the college, and it is now time that I
10 repay, other than my yearly contributions.

11 I went to the College of Charleston on
12 scholarship and on student loans. I was raised by
13 a single mother who worked three jobs at one time.
14 She did not have a profession. So I was instilled
15 by my mother that you need to have a profession as
16 a woman to be successful. The college gave me that
17 opportunity, and the college also financed my
18 education through my loans and scholarships. I
19 want that opportunity to be available to all people
20 in South Carolina, to all especially the young
21 people in South Carolina. And that's where I hope
22 to focus my efforts. Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any
24 questions or comments?

25 Representative Whitmire.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

2 Thank you, Ms. Golding, for offering to
3 serve. Just curious, you're from San Francisco.
4 How did you end up here in South Carolina?

5 MS. GOLDING: I was born in
6 San Francisco. I think I stayed there about six
7 weeks. I was an Army brat.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I understand.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?
10 Ms. Henderson.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you
12 for your willingness to serve. I had a question
13 about the McNair firm. Is there a conflict with
14 that since they are registered -- have many
15 registered lobbyists with the state?

16 MS. CASTO: No, there is not conflict.
17 You are not a registered lobbyist for McNair.

18 MS. GOLDING: That's correct. I am
19 not.

20 MS. CASTO: As long as she is not --
21 just like we had one before who works for SCANA who
22 hires several lobbyists.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Okay.

24 MS. CASTO: It's okay.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Right.

1 Well, thank you. I just wanted to make sure that
2 wasn't going to be a problem. Thank you.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

4 SENATOR HAYES: I was going to ask,
5 what vision do you have for the college?

6 MS. GOLDING: The college academically
7 is excellent, has a great deal of excellence in
8 this state and, I think, nationally and
9 internationally. And my vision is to continue that
10 excellence in academics but have that excellence in
11 academics available to the people in South Carolina
12 who cannot afford a college education. I want them
13 to participate and be able to be part of the
14 college.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
16 comments?

17 SENATOR HAYES: Move for favorable.

18 (The motion was seconded.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
20 report and seconded.

21 Your mother did a fine job, in my
22 opinion.

23 All in favor, raise your right hand.

24 (The motion was granted.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: I sure appreciate your

1 willingness to serve.

2 MS. GOLDING: Thank you.

3 MS. CASTO: The next two candidates are
4 from the 7th Congressional District, seat number
5 14. The first one is Renee Goldfinch. She is from
6 Myrtle Beach, and this term will expire in 2016.

7 SENATOR PEELER: How are you?

8 MS. GOLDFINCH: I'm well. How are you?

9 (Renee B. Goldfinch was duly sworn,
10 after which testimony commenced at 11:44 a.m.)

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
12 share why you'd like to serve on this committee?

13 MS. GOLDFINCH: I would love to.

14 I want to serve on the College of
15 Charleston Board because I feel it is my
16 responsibility to give back to a school that gave
17 so much to me. As a proud graduate, I feel that I
18 am most aware of the current challenges that the
19 school faces and the areas in which it's
20 succeeding.

21 I'm a native Charlestonian. I'm a
22 native of Wando High School. I got a degree from
23 the College of Charleston in corporate
24 communications, and then I went on to get my
25 masters in business administration at the Citadel.

1 I understand the importance of the
2 College of Charleston to the Charleston area and to
3 the state. It is obvious that the value of a
4 four-year college degree is not what it used to be.
5 Many people have a degree. Because of that, it is
6 important to maintain and even increase the value
7 of education while keeping tuition low.

8 Education has always been a passion of
9 mine. I serve on the Georgetown County First Steps
10 Board. I also serve on the Junior Achievement
11 Board, and I'm the director of children's ministry
12 at my church. Because of my service on these
13 boards and through my own personal education, I
14 know that education is the key component to the
15 success of our citizens in this great state.

16 So, in conclusion, my background,
17 education, and experience in the educational field
18 makes me a qualified candidate for the Board.
19 Thank you.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Questions
21 or comments?

22 Senator McCoy.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 Ms. Goldfinch, thank you for being here

1 today. I promised your husband I'd be mighty hard
2 on you up here. I want to commend you for getting
3 involved at such a young age. I think we've heard
4 a lot of good folks come up here and testify how
5 they want to help the school or how the school's
6 helped them. And to have a new perspective and
7 have a young, fresh face in there I think would do
8 nothing but benefit the school and help the school
9 further down the road.

10 Can you tell me what year you did
11 graduate from the College of Charleston?

12 MS. GOLDFINCH: 2006.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: 2006, makes me
14 feel like an old man too.

15 SENATOR PEELER: How do you think that
16 makes me feel?

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Can you tell me
18 a little bit about how -- I mean, you're a very
19 recent graduate -- and how you'd like to see the
20 school progress and how you'd like to see it tie in
21 with other schools such as MUSC or even the
22 Citadel. Like you said, you've gotten a degree
23 from there as well.

24 MS. GOLDFINCH: Right. Which I guess
25 that's kind of what's my vision, you know, being a

1 young graduate with my vision for the school.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Sure.

3 MS. GOLDFINCH: As I mentioned, I feel
4 like the value of a four degree isn't as valuable
5 as it used to be. You know, most people my age
6 have to have a masters degree or have to go on
7 further. So my vision really is just to -- to
8 develop transitional programs between graduates and
9 alumni to get the graduates into good jobs, really
10 just to increase the value of that education.

11 You know, my husband's a graduate of
12 the Citadel, and they do it so well there. I mean,
13 their alumni and their students, enrolled students,
14 are so tightly knitted together through networking.
15 And I think that if the college could development a
16 system like that and also with developing
17 relationships with Charleston companies, Boeing,
18 Intertech, Blackbaud. Using the alumni that are
19 there and also building relationships within the
20 community will help increase the value of that
21 degree.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Sure. And I
23 think your age is your biggest asset because you
24 see our state and you see our nation heading
25 towards almost double-digit unemployment. You're

1 seeing how hard it is for folks to get jobs once
2 they graduate from college, not only graduate from
3 college, find a job, but also try to deal with
4 student loan debt --

5 MS. GOLDFINCH: Right.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: -- which I have,
7 and I'm still working on paying myself.

8 MS. GOLDFINCH: Right. And I think
9 it's important for everybody to be aware of the
10 high supply of graduates from the College of
11 Charleston. A lot of people when they go to
12 college there, they want to stay there because it's
13 such a great place to live. So there's an influx
14 of graduates there. And being aware of that can
15 help the community and the alumni and the business
16 community plan where to put everyone.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Absolutely.
18 Thank you for answering my questions. It's a
19 pleasure to have you here today.

20 MS. GOLDFINCH: Thank you.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

22 Representative Henderson.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, thank
24 you. And I do have to mirror the fact that we
25 really have seen for the College of Charleston,

1 more than any of the other schools that we've been
2 doing since yesterday, is a lot of really good
3 young graduates that are here wanting to be a part
4 of this Board. And I think it's a real good
5 testament to the school that you all want to be
6 here, and I just think it's awesome.

7 You touched on something that I think
8 is -- you're the first person in two days that's
9 touched on it. And as the parent of college
10 students and one that's still getting ready to go
11 to college, and that is, you made the point that a
12 college degree is not worth what it used to be.
13 And I'm lucky that my kids are majoring in science
14 and engineering. And so I feel pretty confident
15 that they're going to have jobs. But, you know, I
16 sat through a whole panel, the governor's thing
17 that she did on higher ed back in the fall and
18 listened to people like Boeing and BMW and the tech
19 colleges Lewis Gossett from the manufacturing lines
20 talk about the fact that the tech schools are
21 reeducating all these kids that have, you know,
22 history degrees from Furman and all this, who can't
23 find jobs.

24 And so here's where I'm headed, is you
25 mentioned that, and I feel it's also part of the

1 job of higher education to help either put in
2 degree programs and/or move kids to places where
3 they feel -- and as parents to have a job because
4 we don't want to tell our kids, you know, Peter,
5 you really shouldn't major in marketing because
6 you're probably not going to get a job in that, and
7 you should major in something else. So just talk
8 about that a little bit because I think that's
9 really important. And like said, you're the first
10 person to mention it. And I think it's changed a
11 lot, not only in K through 12, but also higher ed,
12 is how do we develop programs and put students into
13 programs that are actually going to get them jobs
14 and not just be there to have a degree?

15 MS. GOLDFINCH: Right. I think
16 something that will help that is, I mean, just
17 simple planning. You know, when you're a senior or
18 even when you're a junior, you need to be looking
19 for jobs, when you're a senior. And if the school
20 could develop some programs maybe through
21 internships or externships with the community and
22 even throughout the country to kind of secure a
23 job, I mean, I think it's the priority of the
24 student to be kind of working on that and working
25 on finding a job, not the day they graduate, but

1 before. And I think if the school would put those
2 programs in place that that would help a lot of,
3 oh, my gosh, I've got to find a job; what am I
4 going to do. You know, so just with some basic
5 planning, I think that that could help solve some
6 of the problems there.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
8 comments?

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I just
10 would like to say -- and, of course, I've known
11 Renee and her husband for the past year. I've
12 gotten to know them better. And I can tell you
13 that's a fine young family, and I can also tell you
14 that I'm just amazed that these young people are
15 jumping out and wanting to get involved, and never
16 before have we seen that, young females getting
17 involved, young males, and that's commendable.

18 MS. GOLDFINCH: Thank you.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: And, of course, I
20 can't help but think your record, too, is
21 impeccable and also can tell you that, if elected,
22 you'll make a great Board member.

23 MS. GOLDFINCH: Thank you.

24 SENATOR MCGILL: You really will. Move
25 favorable report.

1 (The motion was seconded.)

2 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is
3 favorable report and a seconded.

4 I would like to discuss just a little
5 bit on what Ms. Henderson brought up about what you
6 said about a college degree is not worth as much
7 now as it was at one time. And then what we've
8 heard over the past couple of days is, it's more
9 difficult now to be admitted into college than it
10 was at one time. There's something wrong with that
11 equation. It's more difficult to get in, yet when
12 you get out, it's not worth as much.

13 I'm glad you brought that up, and it's
14 really a concern of mine too.

15 Motion is a favorable report. All in
16 favor, raise your right hand.

17 (The motion was granted.)

18 SENATOR PEELER: Unanimous.

19 You probably weren't here earlier this
20 morning, but there's a husband and wife team
21 running for the same seat on the Francis Marion
22 Board, so I need to share with
23 Representative Goldfinch if you ever think about
24 running for the house, he may be in trouble.

25 MS. GOLDFINCH: He is in trouble.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is
3 Dwight Johnson. He is from Florence. He is the
4 incumbent running for a new seat for the 7th
5 Congressional District seat.

6 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, sir?

7 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 (Dwight Johnson was duly sworn, after
9 which testimony commenced at 11:53 a.m.)

10 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
11 share with the committee why you'd like to serve?

12 MR. JOHNSON: I will, thank you. And
13 thank you, Senator, and thank you other members of
14 the committee. I sit here feeling like the
15 redheaded stepchild. That is, that when I was
16 originally elected to the College of Charleston
17 Board, I was serving from the 6th district. Due to
18 reapportionment, my house was drawn into the 5th
19 district. Now my residence has been drawn into the
20 7th district, so it's been a bumpy road, but I've
21 been happy and proud to serve.

22 I currently serve as chairman of the
23 athletic committee. I serve on the facilities
24 committee and the information technology committee.
25 I feel like that a lot has been done since I've

1 been on the Board, and there's a lot more to do.

2 The College of Charleston is the
3 premier name. I travel worldwide with my business,
4 and when I wear College of Charleston
5 paraphernalia -- I actually had on a College of
6 Charleston golf shirt in Singapore in May of last
7 year, and this gentleman walked down the street and
8 went, College of Charleston, basketball. So it's
9 obvious that the institutions in the state of South
10 Carolina, because of social media and network, are
11 known worldwide. And I ask you for your indulgence
12 in giving me another four years to serve on this
13 Board.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Speaking of redheaded
15 stepchildren, does Representative Henderson have
16 anything to say?

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I'm not
18 making any comment.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McCoy.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you.

21 Mr. Chairman.

22 Mr. Johnson, thank you. I appreciate
23 your time, and I appreciate you being here today.
24 This is more of a technical question, I guess. As
25 an incumbent, was there an opportunity for you to

1 file for, you know, seat 13? That's an open seat.

2 I mean -- or was it...

3 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. There's two
4 seats open there. You've got to file for one or
5 the other and I chose 14.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Okay. Because
7 we did deal with this issue earlier where we had
8 folks file for an open seat as opposed -- and filed
9 for a seat that's actually held by an incumbent as
10 well so...

11 MR. JOHNSON: So we -- last year when
12 we filed originally, I filed for seat 14, and
13 then -- or I was going to file for seat 14. Then
14 we were told it was going to remain the way it was,
15 so I filed for my current 5th district seat. And,
16 of course, you know the delays that was brought on
17 by the Court's actions. And so when those were
18 cleared up, it was back to the 7th district from
19 14th.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Okay. And
21 you've been on the Board for 11 years?

22 MR. JOHNSON: 11 years.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Have you seen
24 the curriculum change in terms of requirements for
25 high school folks that are trying to apply to get

1 into the college?

2 MR. JOHNSON: I've seen the candidates
3 that we get, the students that we get. We have a
4 higher -- SAT score is higher, GPA, higher. The
5 College of Charleston is just a great academic
6 place, and we've added majors that -- that
7 facilitate the job situation we were talking about.
8 There's partnering that's going on with Boeing now
9 and other companies to understand exactly what we
10 need.

11 We have a problem at the College of
12 Charleston in the fact that we're limited to space.
13 We cannot take a whole lot more students because we
14 are in a historical environment downtown, and
15 there's just no place to put the students. And as
16 we move forward, I think it's -- you know, the fact
17 that we can look at having an adjunct campus in the
18 north, growing it, those will be places where we
19 can expand the programs that will more facilitate
20 the needs of South Carolina. This young lady
21 before me said most of the people that come to the
22 College of Charleston and graduate don't want to
23 leave South Carolina. If we get the best and the
24 brightest there and we educate them and keep them,
25 it can only be good for the entire state.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: They only want
2 to stay, and I agree with you totally. You're a
3 little over a decade of serving on this Board. Can
4 you fill the panel in on how tuition has changed in
5 those ten years?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Well, tuition has
7 changed, it's gone up. Over the last few years,
8 it's basically mirrored what the inflation rate
9 was, which is 3, 3 and a half percent. You know, I
10 wish I could tell you there was a better way or --
11 or -- I hate using the word -- cheaper way of doing
12 it. But costs are going up, and I'm confident we
13 have done everything and are doing everything we
14 can to keep the cost down. You know, our
15 professors have gone without raises. Our staff has
16 gone without raises at times. Until we have been
17 able -- in this past year, it was a little over
18 three percent, and the rate of inflation is about
19 3 percent, so we've been trying to keep it within
20 that realm.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Perfect. And I
22 appreciate you entertaining my questions. Thank
23 you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.
25 Representative Mack has a question.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman.

3 Mr. Johnson, I appreciate your
4 willingness to continue to serve. With your
5 experience on the Board, what are some of the other
6 things you see, as it relates to the future? I
7 know -- I'm from Charleston. I know that one of
8 the challenges you mentioned is the college being
9 landlocked. And so many people wanting to come
10 there, I know you have a lot of folks that apply
11 that you just don't have the room.

12 What do you see is the future in terms
13 of expansion and also the -- looking at other
14 avenues as far as curriculum is concerned?

15 MR. JOHNSON: Well, administration and
16 the Board all agree that having a north area
17 campus, whether it be along the 526 corridor or
18 further out, is -- it's adamant, we have to have
19 that. It's the only place we can expand. And
20 we're also obvious, that nobody's building homes or
21 going to the east, so all the growth is to the
22 west. I think in doing that and some of the things
23 we've talked about, is developing our program
24 further with Trident Technical College so that the
25 students that are there, that are in a curriculum,

1 can move right on into a curriculum at the College
2 of Charleston.

3 I think that will be a great thing
4 because a lot of times, whether it's financial or,
5 you know, the inability to meet certain
6 requirements, students go to the tech school. It's
7 good to make sure -- you know, I am a tech school
8 advocate. So make sure that they can do that
9 without hitting flaws.

10 So the growth area is huge. The other
11 thing is finding a way to increase our minority
12 population on our campus. We recruit heavily. I
13 personally had -- my sister's an educator in
14 Lexington School District Two. She had a young
15 lady that wanted to come to the college, and the
16 college did everything they could to get her there
17 and help finance her education. Unfortunately, we
18 couldn't give her what I would call a 100 percent
19 ride. But there was another school, a smaller
20 school, a minority school, that could give her a
21 100 percent ride. She had financial needs, and
22 that's why she chose to go to that school over the
23 College of Charleston.

24 And so it's important for us to
25 continue to look for ways, and we are. We've

1 started scholarships specific for minority students
2 to get those minority students in there, not
3 because they're a minority, but because of what
4 they can bring to the Board and their background
5 and education.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
7 comments?

8 Senator Alexander.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Just a couple. On
10 your tenure on the Board, how would you rate your
11 attendance?

12 MR. JOHNSON: I've missed two meetings.
13 One was due to back surgery. The other was last
14 May when we had a meeting, and I was in Beijing,
15 China with my company on business.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: The other question
17 that kind of follows up on Representative McCoy's
18 from the standpoint of tuition, where does the
19 college rank among institutions within the state?

20 MR. JOHNSON: Within the state, fourth
21 and fifth with in-state and out-of-state. We were
22 sixth. We dropped back with fifth with the latest
23 statistics, mainly because the board at Coastal
24 Carolina chose not have a rate increase. They
25 decided to just add another 500 students, and

1 that's how they've made up for their budget woes
2 this past year, so basically right in the middle.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
4 comments?

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I want
6 to make an observation.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: It's evident that
9 you're very knowledgeable about the College of
10 Charleston, and we thank you for your 11 years of
11 service. I've listened to people talk today about
12 entrance fees on students and the increasing and
13 voting no to increase that fee. Several years ago,
14 I think the College of Charleston went above what
15 Chairman Leatherman asked for on an actual fee,
16 yearly admission. And -- and I can't remember
17 exactly what happened. You might can share with
18 us, did the Board retract and lower that number, or
19 did they stay at that higher rating?

20 MR. JOHNSON: We had voted, because our
21 budget was made before we got a figure with what
22 the state would be adding, and we had voted to
23 raise tuition above what Senator Leatherman had
24 recommended. We met and did draw it back to what
25 Senator Leatherman asked. Of course, we had to

1 make some cuts for that. We had to put some things
2 on hold moving forward. You know, one of the major
3 expenses we have at the College of Charleston,
4 we've got a lot of old buildings that takes a lot
5 of upkeep. So we had to defer some of that
6 maintenance, and that's where we made up -- a lot
7 of that was deferring maintenance down the road of
8 those buildings and some projects we had to make up
9 that difference in what we would have had with the
10 tuition increase that we were asking for.

11 SENATOR MCGILL: So y'all did reduce
12 that fee?

13 MR. JOHNSON: We did.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: And I will say this,
15 that MUSC, all of the universities in South
16 Carolina had a hard time where they may have had a
17 30 percent participation by the state, and now I
18 think MUSC is down to 6 percent state
19 participation. And it's very hard on the
20 universities. A lot of hard decisions are going to
21 have to be made, not just in the past, but from
22 this day forward. You have done a good job on that
23 board. And I know you, and I also would share with
24 you that you are a qualified candidate.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
2 questions or comments?

3 I have a quick one. Carolina
4 Commodities, is that grain? What are your
5 commodities? What type of commodities do you sell?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Right now, I don't --
7 well, I do sell, I reckon, in a way. What I did
8 was, I retired after 36 years in communications,
9 since 2010. My wife has been in the pecan business
10 for over 30 years, and her company, which was
11 bought out by a company out of Texas, had decided
12 to cease operations in buying pecans in the
13 Pee Dee, in what we call the yard crop. That's the
14 people that comes from Senator McGill's territory,
15 and bring their 50, 100 pounds up.

16 I had an opportunity to get a building
17 close to her location and opened it up, and I buy
18 what's called a yard crop of pecans. Out of that
19 also came the opportunity to -- my own paper and
20 move my own paper, blueberries. The pecan I
21 thought was very important to the Pee Dee. I have
22 a location in Manning, one in Sumter and one in
23 Coward also at hardware stores.

24 The main people we buy them from are
25 the -- what we call yard nuts, anything from ten

1 pounds, you know. It's the nuts that pick up the
2 nuts. But anything from 10 pounds to, you know,
3 1,000 pounds, and it puts money in their pockets
4 and so...

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Chairman, let me just
6 say this.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, I want to say
8 something so bad.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Senator Verdin is very
10 heavily involved in the pecan business in South
11 Carolina and China, and I was listening the other
12 day, and they said they had planted some
13 18,000 acres of pecans recently. But there are a
14 lot of opportunities for ag business in South
15 Carolina, and it's a great opportunity.

16 MR. JOHNSON: They are. And I know
17 Representative Loftus in Greenville that was
18 looking at that. And then I commend Clemson
19 University. Last Tuesday, they had a meeting with
20 pecan growers and buyers in the state of South
21 Carolina because the Chinese only want large nuts,
22 size 15 and 16. Those nuts cannot be grown in west
23 Texas and New Mexico and Mexico. The climate in
24 South Carolina and North Carolina are better suited
25 for that. And so we're trying to -- we're trying

1 to, this year, get 18,000 new trees planted in
2 South Carolina and grow that.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Under oath, what's the
4 proper pronunciation pe-con or pe-can?

5 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Gibbons Young's
6 passed away last -- Senator McGill's familiar with
7 Mr. Young. He passed away last May. He always
8 said he bought pe-cans and he sold pe-cons.

9 SENATOR PEELER: You can put that in
10 Gaffnese.

11 Motion is a favorable report.

12 (The motion was seconded.)

13 SENATOR PEELER: Seconded. All in
14 favor, please raise your right hand.

15 (The motion was granted.)

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: I appreciate your
19 willingness to continue to serve.

20 Next candidate.

21 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is
22 David Mikell Hay. He is from Charleston and
23 running for at-large seat 16 on the College of
24 Charleston Board. The term expires 2016.

25 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, sir?

1 MR. HAY: Good morning.

2 (David Mikell Hay was duly sworn, after
3 which testimony commenced at 12:08 p.m.)

4 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
5 share with the committee why you'd like to serve?

6 MR. HAY: Sure. I graduated from the
7 College of Charleston in 1981. I think it was
8 before they even had student loans. So I worked
9 the whole way through my college career. And a few
10 years after graduating, I got a call from my
11 mother-in-law telling me that I needed to serve on
12 the alumni board, and, of course, I did, as we
13 would all do.

14 SENATOR PEELER: You're smarter than
15 you look.

16 MR. HAY: I think we all have had those
17 experiences. And so that started my service as a
18 volunteer at the College of Charleston. From
19 there, I've served on the alumni board as
20 president. I've served on the Foundation Board as
21 vice president. I currently serve on the
22 Foundation Board, and I did serve as a trustee for
23 a little under a year filling an unexpired term
24 that was a governor's-appointed seat.

25 And during all those years of service,

1 I've seen so many examples of opportunities at the
2 College of Charleston for helping people for
3 helping our state. I think there are so many
4 opportunities that we can continue to exploit.
5 Things -- things like, there's a program Bonner
6 Leaders, which are scholarships for
7 first-generation college students. Those are the
8 exciting things, and the college is full of
9 exciting programs right now that are seeking to
10 serve our citizens.

11 And I see so many opportunities. I
12 come from the business background, and that's the
13 perspective that I have sort of applied to my
14 service of the College of Charleston, looking at
15 operational efficiencies and opportunities, and
16 that's how I would continue to serve the college,
17 looking at it from that perspective.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

19 Questions or comments?

20 Representative McCoy.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 Mr. Hay, Thank you for being up here
24 with us today. I appreciate your time. And I've
25 known you for a long time, known your family for a

1 long time, and top-notch family, top-notch business
2 in Charleston, and I appreciate everything you've
3 done for the city itself too. I think you'd make
4 an excellent board member, and I wish you well for
5 this. I think you'd be a real asset to the College
6 of Charleston.

7 Only question I have for you, is you
8 were appointed by Governor Sanford. Did you choose
9 not to run after that term expired, or kind of what
10 happened after that?

11 MR. HAY: The -- I was, as I said,
12 serving by Governor Sanford. Governor Haley was
13 elected, and she appointed a different person to
14 serve.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Okay. So she
16 just picked somebody else after that?

17 MR. HAY: Correct.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Got you, okay.
19 Well, wish you the best of luck.

20 MR. HAY: Thank you. Congratulations
21 on your baby.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you. I
23 appreciate that.

24 MR. HAY: The power of Facebook.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: That's right.

1 Not much sleep in my house these days.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 Mr. Hay, what do you see as the future
6 for the college?

7 MR. HAY: You know, that's interesting.
8 There are so many opportunities. For my business,
9 if there are challenges or -- or new technology out
10 there that I don't understand, I feel like I better
11 find out what's going on because I know the young
12 people are already there. And that's the sort of
13 thing that, you know, I see at the College of
14 Charleston. There are so many trends and so many
15 opportunities that are out there that in this
16 ever-changing world, and I think we need to be
17 nimble and be able to see what opportunities are
18 out there and make sure to take advantage of it.

19 Before I went on the college board, I
20 served as chair of the commission, or piloted,
21 which is a harbor pilot commission, and I see such
22 growth. Whatever part of the state you're in, the
23 Port of Charleston is a vital part of our state and
24 the commerce that we enjoy. And I see, you know,
25 for example, supply chain, management logistics,

1 what a neat opportunity there.

2 We have a vibrant arts culture in
3 Charleston, expanding on that program. Education
4 has been our bedrock, and I think we need to
5 continue to serve the folks in that field too. I
6 think we just -- we need to honor our tradition but
7 be ready for whatever opportunities are coming our
8 way.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Okay. Well, I
10 just wanted to echo my good friend and colleague,
11 Representative McCoy, you and your family have been
12 a tremendous asset to the community, and I really
13 appreciate your overall service, not only to the
14 college but so many things you're involved in, I
15 appreciate what you do.

16 MR. HAY: Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

18 Any other questions or comments?

19 Representative Whitmire has a question.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Actually,
21 it's kind of a comment more than anything.

22 It makes our job very easy when you
23 have a candidate like you, Mr. Hay.

24 MR. HAY: Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I just wish

1 we had every candidate with your expertise and
2 willingness. I did want to make a personal thing.
3 I noticed that your home address is on Broad
4 Street.

5 MR. HAY: Yes, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And you're
7 right down the street from my ancestor, John
8 Rutledge House.

9 MR. HAY: That's right. My friends own
10 that now.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I know. I
12 wish I could afford to stay there, but that's
13 beyond my means now. Anyway, good luck to you.

14 MR. HAY: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

16 Questions or comments?

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Move for
18 favorable.

19 (The motion was seconded.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
21 report by Representative McCoy. Seconded by
22 Representative Mack.

23 All in favor, raise your right hand.

24 (The motion was granted.)

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Unanimous.

1 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

2 MR. HAY: You're welcome.

3 SENATOR PEELER: That completes the
4 list for the morning. We'll take a lunch break.
5 We'll take up the candidates for South Carolina
6 State University. It's supposed to start at 2:30.
7 If you would, arrive 15 minutes early at 2:15. And
8 make that House time, not Senate time.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Just real
10 quick, this whole issue of being able to apply for
11 two, because, you know, we've had, since that whole
12 first situation came up, some people that, you
13 know, could have benefitted by maybe applying for
14 two boards at one time.

15 Is there anything in the rules that
16 says you can or can't do that? If there isn't,
17 should we verify that?

18 MS. CASTO: That is something that
19 needs to be clarified, and this -- you know, we got
20 this committee in January and didn't have time to
21 get legislation through. And so that is something
22 during the interim that y'all probably need to work
23 on to introduce. And next year -- there's no
24 qualifications. There's nothing saying how many
25 seats you can file for and things of that nature,

1 so yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, on
3 that note, I actually have a bill filed that
4 requires people that leave the House or Senate to
5 wait that year before they can run, which I always
6 thought was a rule. It's a rule for judicial
7 candidates. It's a rule for lobbying. But it's
8 not a rule for college boards, and so I did file
9 that. I mean, that could be -- we could add some
10 other things to that that would address it.

11 But I would like -- so that way people
12 might know that, you know, if you can apply for
13 more than one and you really want to be on it, then
14 apply for two or three open seats, or not. So
15 anyway, thank you. I just wanted to bring that up.

16 SENATOR PEELER: You prefer the rifle
17 rather than the shotgun.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, I'm
19 just saying, if it's available or not, it doesn't
20 matter one way or another, but I think people
21 should know what the rules are.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Sure.

23 See you at 2:15.

24 (A luncheon recess transpired.)

25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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I, Joy R. Dawson, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true, accurate, and complete record.

I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in the events thereof.

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 12th day of April, 2013 at Rock Hill, York County, South Carolina.

Joy R. Dawson, Court Reporter
My Commission expires
June 27, 2018

1	I N D E X		
2	PAGE/LINE		
3	CANDIDATE:		
4	Lonnie Adamson	4	11
5	Patricia C. Hartung	13	5
6	Nancy King	19	4
7	Alan L. Gibbons	25	2
8	Floyd L. Keels	29	9
9	Melissa Johnson Emery	35	9
10	H. Randall Dozier	47	4
11	L. Cherry Daniel	56	19
12	G. Lee Mikell	71	9
13	Edward L. Thomas	74	4
14	Kelly Moorhead	78	1
15	Renee Buyck Romberger	83	22
16	Robert M. Burch, III	90	7
17	Pansy King-Reid	95	11
18	Michael Todd Warrick	107	9
19	Emily F. Guess	113	23
20	Ricci Land Welch	119	16
21	Henrietta U. Golding	126	10
22	Renee B. Goldfinch	130	9
23	Dwight Johnson	139	8
24	David Mikell Hay	152	2
25			