

1
2 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO SCREEN CANDIDATES
3 FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4

5 PUBLIC HEARINGS
6

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9
10
11 Monday, April 11, 2016
12

13 3:06 p.m.
14

15 Gressette Senate Building
16 1101 Pendleton Street, Room 209
17 Columbia, South Carolina
18

19 REPORTED BY: SHERI L. BYERS
20 Registered Professional Reporter

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER, JR., CHAIRMAN
REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. "BILL" WHITMIRE,
VICE-CHAIRMAN

SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

SENATOR JOHN L. SCOTT

SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.

REPRESENTATIVE MIA S. MCLEOD

STAFF:

MARTHA CASTO
JULIE PRICE

(INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT.)

1 SENATOR PEELER: If there's no objection,
2 we'll go ahead and get started. We would like to
3 welcome everyone. This is the Joint Legislative
4 Committee to Screen Candidates for Colleges and
5 University Boards of Trustees.

6 First, we have Francis Marion University.
7 Mr. Benny Joe "Jody" Bryson from Greenville.

8 Would you come forward.

9 Take a seat and make sure your light is
10 burning green.

11 MR. BRYSON: I see a green light, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 SENATOR PEELER: I can hear you. Okay.

14 For the record, if you would state your name.

15 MR. BRYSON: My name is Benny Joe Bryson,
16 otherwise known as Jody.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir.

18 Let me swear you in. Do you swear to tell
19 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
20 so help you God?

21 MR. BRYSON: I do.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a brief
23 statement on why you would like to serve on the Francis
24 Marion board?

25 MR. BRYSON: Yes, sir. I'm a longtime

1 supporter of our higher education here in South
2 Carolina. I think it fills a vital role for our
3 citizens, especially when it comes to raising the level
4 of income and economic development opportunities for
5 our citizenry.

6 I've been very privileged to be able to serve
7 the last four years on the Francis Marion board. I
8 believe they do an exceptional job of combining
9 education opportunities and economic development in the
10 Pee Dee area and the entire state.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir.

12 Any questions or comments from members of the
13 committee?

14 Mr. Bryson, you've been the board since 2013?

15 MR. BRYSON: Yes, sir.

16 SENATOR PEELER: 90 percent instate. How
17 many instate students do you have?

18 MR. BRYSON: I think the average is about 92,
19 93 percent, the last report we received from staff, so
20 it's a very high percentage.

21 SENATOR PEELER: I see where you said the
22 biggest strength is Fred Carter.

23 MR. BRYSON: He does an exceptional job.
24 Under his leadership, I think the university has really
25 expanded into a number of private and public

1 partnerships that have benefited the students and the
2 local community.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Definitely an asset to the
4 university.

5 Senator Scott.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you. Thank you for
7 serving.

8 Tell me a little bit about your diversity
9 program at Francis Marion.

10 MR. BRYSON: Yes, sir. We have a diversity
11 initiative and an office with dedicated staff. In
12 fact, this year I have the privilege of serving as
13 chair of our Athletics and Student Affairs Committee,
14 so we receive a very detailed report each quarter at
15 our board meetings from the head of those departments.

16 I think they do a very nice job. And they've
17 really engaged the student body in those initiatives
18 over the last several years, and I think that has
19 produced excellent results.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me about the makeup of
21 the student body population.

22 MR. BRYSON: It's roughly 45 percent
23 minority, 55 percent other. And I think that's been a
24 very healthy mix for the school.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 MR. BRYSON: Thank you, sir.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

3 SENATOR HAYES: I notice where your full-time
4 job is with the South Carolina Technology and Aviation
5 Center.

6 MR. BRYSON: Yes, sir.

7 SENATOR HAYES: How does that work that you
8 do regularly tie in to your service on the board?

9 MR. BRYSON: We are a big believer in
10 partnerships. The South Carolina Technology and
11 Aviation Center is a 51-year-old business and aviation
12 park, but we work with multiple partners such as
13 Clemson University ICAR, such as Greenville Technical
14 Colleges to try to identify opportunities for not only
15 the employees who work at the park but their dependents
16 and those who might be looking for job opportunities in
17 the future.

18 And so I understand the value of
19 public/private partnerships, and I try to apply that
20 thinking to the things that I'm involved with at
21 Francis Marion because I think that's a model that can
22 be replicated. And they do a fine job of partnering
23 with industry in the Pee Dee, so a lot of similarities,
24 and I just try to lend my experience when I feel like
25 it can help in that area.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander, did you
2 have a question?

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I just wanted to clarify the fact that having
5 been on the board for a few years and appreciate your
6 service. How would you classify your ability to be
7 involved at the university during that period of time
8 as far as attending board meetings and functions from
9 that standpoint?

10 MR. BRYSON: If I'm not mistaken, I have
11 perfect attendance at all of our board meetings, and I
12 have attended all commencement exercises with the
13 exception of one, if I'm not mistaken. And I really
14 enjoy the commencement exercises where the students and
15 the families are there for the graduation. It is a
16 real honor to be a part of that ceremony twice a year.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Scott, did you have an
20 additional question?

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, sir. There was an
22 article this morning in the paper that talks about the
23 teacher shortage. Tell me a little bit about your
24 teaching program and the contribution that you, as a
25 board member, can get the school to make to help us

1 make up the teacher shortage.

2 MR. BRYSON: I think we need to continue to
3 focus on raising awareness of the -- of Francis Marion
4 University statewide and really make certain that we're
5 making any student who might be interested in their
6 excellent education program, making them aware of that
7 and bringing those opportunities to the school in terms
8 of new student enrollment.

9 So I think they do a nice job with that
10 program. I haven't been directly involved with that in
11 my first term, but I do think it's headed in the right
12 direction from all the reports that I've received.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: I was going to ask you, were
14 there any incentive programs that you have. If not, I
15 think you clarified you haven't been on long enough and
16 in looking at the next go around --

17 MR. BRYSON: I'll try to keep an eye on that.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: -- try to focus on that.

19 MR. BRYSON: Yes.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: That's going to be a major
21 issue for the college and universities. Thank you so
22 much.

23 MR. BRYSON: Thank you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 Welcome, Mr. Bryson.

3 MR. BRYSON: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I want to commend
5 you and your fellow board members on emphasis on
6 instate first. I wish we could say that about every
7 one of our schools, but we can't.

8 What is your graduation rate? Do you have
9 any idea on that?

10 MR. BRYSON: I believe I have that note here.
11 I know it's -- I know it's -- I know it's very good. I
12 would have to get back to you on that. I just don't
13 have that number off the top of my head at this time,
14 but I do believe it's above average. But I apologize,
15 I just don't have that specific number in my notes
16 here.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. That's fine.

18 I guess speaking from having two liberal arts
19 daughters who graduated from instate schools and having
20 to struggle to find a job. They had to go back and get
21 their masters and so forth. Do you feel like Francis
22 Marion prepares these young people once they do
23 graduate to go out into the real world?

24 MR. BRYSON: I do. I graduated from an
25 instate school with a liberal arts degree, so I

1 understand. It can be difficult. I was a political
2 science major, and there aren't a lot of job openings
3 for political scientists out there.

4 I think what our graduates receive is
5 excellent communications training, and I think what I
6 hear in my daily work is that employers, industry,
7 technology companies, they're all looking for students
8 who can communicate, write well, speak, understand how
9 to write contracts and communicate in all different
10 types of business matters.

11 I think Francis Marion is doing a good job,
12 and then we're adding some preprofessional and
13 professional programs that allow the students to take
14 that liberal arts, I guess, foundation and funnel that
15 or really move that into more of a professional program
16 like our new school of health sciences, for example.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. BRYSON: Thank you.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Bryson, you mentioned
20 school of health sciences. Is there an effort at
21 Francis Marion to create a new med school at Francis
22 Marion?

23 MR. BRYSON: Not to my knowledge, Mr.
24 Chairman. The school of health sciences includes the
25 nursing school, the nursing program, the clinical

1 psychology program, and a physician assistant program.
2 Trying to meet specific needs in the state's health
3 care industry.

4 SENATOR PEELER: We have several candidates
5 from the Medical University coming after you. Would
6 that be a duplication of what you're doing now or
7 trying to do?

8 MR. BRYSON: I don't believe so. I think Dr.
9 Carter and his staff have been very strategic about
10 trying to identify those areas that would support the
11 healthcare industry and the medical community. Such as
12 having good, qualified trained nurses who will stay
13 instate and work in our area hospitals.

14 The physician assistant program I think is
15 another similar type of program where you're providing
16 trained professionals who can help our medical doctors,
17 you know, be more productive and have more success with
18 their patients. So I think it's looking for those
19 niches and trying to produce graduates who can fill
20 those needs as that industry grows.

21 SENATOR PEELER: You view it more as a
22 partnership and not a competition?

23 MR. BRYSON: I do. I believe it's a
24 partnership, yes, sir.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or

1 comments?

2 What's the desire of the committee?

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Is there a second?

5 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

6 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

7 (Members respond.)

8 Opposed, no.

9 And the ayes have it.

10 Thank you. We appreciate your willingness to
11 serve.

12 MR. BRYSON: Thank you very much. I really
13 appreciate your time today.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

15 And while the folks are here, I want to thank
16 you for coming back. I know most of you, if not all of
17 you, were here before, but we were locked down on some
18 issues on the floor of the Senate and couldn't make it.

19 So I surely do appreciate you coming back, and we'll
20 note that as a star. Thank you.

21 Next, Medical University of South Carolina.
22 First up, Michael Stavrinakis. Charleston, 1st
23 Congressional District lay member.

24 MR. STAVRINAKIS: Good evening.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon. For the

1 record, if you would give us your full name.

2 MR. STAVRINAKIS: Michael Stavrakis.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in. Do you
4 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
5 but the truth, so help you God?

6 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I do.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
8 brief statement?

9 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I would first like to thank
10 you for coming in on a Monday. I know it is tough for
11 you guys, and I was working with Julie on this day. My
12 wife is expecting a baby here in a couple of weeks. So
13 I was like don't do it during her due date, but I
14 appreciate you working through that.

15 As a resident of Charleston, MUSC is such a
16 woven part of the community and to serve on it is just
17 an absolute honor. They give so much not only to the
18 whole state but to the community of Charleston, and for
19 me to be able to give back, I'm just honored, honored
20 to do it.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?

22 Senator Alexander.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Good afternoon, sir. As well as I asked
25 earlier, being on the board, and of course, I know you

1 are in the Charleston area, but still I would like for
2 the record to have some feel for your involvement and
3 participation in the events there at the Medical
4 University of South Carolina.

5 MR. STAVRINAKIS: Yes, sir. I volunteer on a
6 lot of subcommittees. I've made it clear to Dr. Cole,
7 Dr. Cawley, Mr. Sweatman that any time that they need a
8 board member at any event in Charleston to please call
9 on me. I'm a short drive away. I'm anxious to serve.
10 I'm just as excited today to serve if you give me that
11 opportunity as I was three years ago.

12 I have had a nearly perfect attendance
13 record. I missed half of a meeting, a half of a day.
14 My daughter was riding in the equestrian regional
15 finals in Atlanta, and I got permission from our
16 chairman to take a half day off, so I did that and
17 drove my daughter to Atlanta.

18 I'm very honored to serve on a lot of
19 subcommittees, including the Diversity and Inclusion
20 Committee with Anton Gunn and the team that Dr. Cole
21 has put together. I think that MUSC has done a huge,
22 huge increase in effort to satisfy the diversity and
23 inclusion needs of the state.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: One other question, if I
25 could, Mr. Chairman.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Certainly.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: You mention here
3 basically what the cost is for instate students. Do
4 you have a comparison? Have you all looked at that
5 from the standpoint of other states to see where we
6 compare? Are we about where the other states are, or
7 are we low, high?

8 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I think we're either -- on
9 the medical side, I think we're either in line or a
10 touch above in some cases. On the dental school, we're
11 probably very high. But I think we're in line as far
12 as the medical college goes.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

16 Following up on what Senator Alexander said,
17 why is the dental school higher than the medical
18 school? That doesn't make any sense to me.

19 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I think there's a funding
20 issue for the dental school. We have some debt. It's
21 the only dental school in the state, and tuition is
22 about the only way we can -- hopefully, the Senate will
23 help us with some of our dental school debt coming up
24 this year. I'm sure it's been requested by Mr.
25 Sweatman and the team.

1 I think that has a lot to do with it the way
2 the dental school was put together. There was
3 anticipation of a bond bill that kind of didn't happen,
4 and we just got stuck with a lot of debt.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I remember that.

6 Now I understand when doctors say, you know,
7 heck, I've got to pay off all my debts.

8 MR. STAVRINAKIS: It is expensive to educate
9 medically.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's just
11 tuition, that's not counting everything else you have
12 going on. You could be talking 3- or \$400,000 almost.

13 MR. STAVRINAKIS: By the time you graduate,
14 yes, sir.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

16 SENATOR HAYES: Just very briefly, there was
17 some talk about doing some programs in common with
18 College of Charleston. Is there anything moving on
19 that?

20 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I think that Dr. Cole and
21 Senator McConnell have a lot of dialogue about putting
22 some things together. I'm not sure where they are. It
23 kind of just came up in our last meeting. There was
24 nothing really significant to report. I think there's
25 more of a chance of some collaboration with Clemson

1 going on between the two presidents and the deans at
2 this point.

3 SENATOR HAYES: Okay.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: You mentioned the diversity
6 program. Tell us about what's going on in your
7 diversity program, what your numbers actually look like
8 as it relates to minority students.

9 MR. STAVRINAKIS: Yes, sir. We have a very
10 good minority presentation, and our college of medicine
11 is either -- I won't give you the wrong stat, but it's
12 either at the top or very close to the top in African
13 American male graduation of any college in the country
14 outside of a predominantly black college. So Dr. Cole
15 and Anton Gunn have put together a tremendous,
16 aggressive program.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: So what are your percentages?

18 MR. STAVRINAKIS: I'm not real sure the
19 percentages on the college side. I know on the
20 hospital side, as far as employment, it is over 30
21 percent, which is basically in line with the county. I
22 can't tell you the exact number on the college side,
23 but it's pretty good.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,

1 comments?

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

4 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

5 (Members respond.)

6 Opposed, no.

7 And the ayes have it.

8 Thank you so much.

9 MR. STAVRINAKIS: Thank you for your time.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Next is William Bingham from
11 Cayce. Incumbent 2nd Congressional District lay
12 member.

13 Good afternoon, sir.

14 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 SENATOR PEELER: For the record, if you would
16 give us your name.

17 MR. BINGHAM: My name is William Harold
18 Bingham Sr.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to tell the
20 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
21 help you God?

22 MR. BINGHAM: I do sir.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
24 brief statement.

25 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir. I want to thank you

1 all for allowing me to serve on this board for 14
2 years. And I hope and trust that I can get your trust
3 to allow me to serve four more years.

4 I've been proud to serve on the Board of
5 Trustees at MUSC since 2002, working to make the
6 University of South Carolina a university the state of
7 South Carolina would be proud of. After more than a
8 decade of leadership, I have helped to grow and expand
9 the mission of MUSC.

10 I worked to create a ten-year master plan for
11 the university as an engineer from 2006 to 2016. At
12 present time, we are -- I'm in the process of working
13 on another ten-year master plan that we can follow.

14 I need to complete the rest of those
15 projects, if I'm allowed to. And I can say that for
16 the past 14 years, I have successfully mirrored the
17 mission of MUSC's statement of changing what's
18 possible. I look forward to continuing the mission for
19 the future years if the board -- at your pleasure.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments from
21 members of the committee.

22 Senator Alexander.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Good afternoon. Good to see you.

25 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, sir.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: A couple of things. For
2 those years of service, would you characterize your
3 time of attending board meetings, what kind of
4 attendance record do you have during that time?

5 MR. BINGHAM: Sir, I have a hundred percent
6 attendance record, not only on the board of trustees
7 but all the committee meetings and subcommittees that I
8 have been on. I've been in a lot of -- helping with
9 the -- as the people ask, I try not to interfere with
10 any day-to-day operation, which is not my job as a
11 trustee. However, if they need my assistance, I will
12 volunteer and go do that.

13 And during that past time, I have been
14 chairman of the facility committee for the last 12
15 years of those 14. I've been vice chairman for the
16 last three years or close to four years now as the
17 Board of Trustees vice chairman.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: One last question.
19 During those years of service and you mentioned during
20 your comments, what would you characterize as the
21 biggest change that you've seen at MUSC?

22 MR. BINGHAM: The entire campus, sir, because
23 the first thing that when I went on board in trying to
24 set up the master plan with all of the administrative
25 staff, we set a master plan so that we could create a

1 campus, one that you could go down to Charleston and
2 recognize and make it understood that that institution
3 is a statewide institution, located in Charleston. We
4 respect all the Charleston rules, and we wanted to make
5 sure that that happened.

6 And so since then, you can see the new dental
7 building has been built. The new art building has been
8 built. The bioengineering building has been built, the
9 discovery building. All of those are buildings that
10 have enhanced the university, and it has made us be way
11 up higher than we were when I first went on there as
12 far as nationally recognized.

13 I'm not sure of the numbers, but we are
14 recognized in the NIH higher than we have ever been
15 before. And that is accomplishment, not only you
16 allowing us to do what we've done but allowing us to
17 make yet one of the best places that a person needing
18 medical can come as far as the students we graduate.
19 We graduate with a high number of -- well, all of our
20 medical students just about graduate. Almost a hundred
21 percent of who we accept graduate. I don't have that
22 specific number, but that's what we've been told during
23 our period of time.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

2 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you, sir. I appreciate
3 your service. I was wondering in the next plan, do you
4 anticipate any of the programs at MUSC expanding
5 because of demand, not only demand about students
6 getting in the programs but also demand in hospitals
7 and medical providers for people that have those
8 qualifications? Do you anticipate anything expanding?

9 MR. BINGHAM: We're trying to, sir, but
10 you -- in the medical field, if we don't have a
11 residency spot, we can't accept them because we've got
12 so many medical schools opening up that don't have a
13 place in order to give them residencies. And when they
14 get through with the debt they have with the schools
15 they've got, they can't find residencies, so they don't
16 have an income in order to pay off the debt they got.

17 SENATOR HAYES: I understand, but I was
18 talking mainly about some others such as occupational
19 therapy, physical therapy, things of this sort, some of
20 those related healthcare professionals other than
21 medical or dental students that may not have any type
22 of residency.

23 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir. I think we're
24 graduating all of the ones we can right now. We've got
25 application -- we've got about 10 to 1 applications

1 received to acceptance because we don't have the places
2 to do it. We don't have the facilities to do it. And
3 the facilities we've expanded is the improvement and
4 make us be where we're at today, which is a lot further
5 along than we have in a ten-year master plan we got.
6 We're trying to do the Shawn Jenkins Hospital, the
7 Women's Pavilion and Children's Pavilion Hospital. And
8 we just finished up the art, which was art within the
9 first plan. And we've got phase 3 for art, which is
10 scheduled in the next ten years.

11 But to graduate people in the fields you've
12 just mentioned, it takes more than just adding numbers,
13 and our present president, Dr. Cole, is doing all he
14 can right now. He understands that, and we're working
15 very close with him in trying to make sure that
16 happens. So the plan is being done now for the next
17 ten years, and so I mean, we've got a lot of people
18 working on that issue.

19 SENATOR HAYES: All right.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Bingham, for
22 the 14 years that you've served on this board.

23 Tell me about your long-range plan. Does it
24 increase the number of students, more of diverse
25 students coming in? You've had a chance in 14 years to

1 see a lot of different things.

2 MR. BINGHAM: Yeah.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Share with me how that works
4 within the plan, especially with the issues we're
5 having with rural hospitals and rural hospital closings
6 for lack of doctors.

7 MR. BINGHAM: I don't want to give you the
8 wrong impression, but from what I understand from where
9 we've been and where we're at now, we have steadily
10 went up on the diversity part of it. And we have set
11 up a direct plan now with the people that my
12 predecessor just spoke of that we're doing all we can
13 in order to make the diversity part of it happen as far
14 as percentagewise, as far as trying to keep the debt
15 down that they've got to pay to go and that kind of
16 stuff.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

19 Representatives Whitmire.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

21 Welcome, Mr. Bingham.

22 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, sir.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: First off, I'm
24 going to say, I'm going to miss Kenny. He's been an
25 outstanding member of the House, and I've served with

1 him on Ways and Means for quite a number of years. And
2 so we'll miss him.

3 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, sir.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I like what you
5 said about how to improve MUSC, align education
6 programs with the state and economic needs.

7 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Can you expand a
9 little bit on that for me and tell me what you have in
10 mind. That would under your -- I forgot where it is.
11 I saw it under bullet points, so I don't know.

12 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir, that's what I was
13 looking at because at my age, you want to make sure you
14 look at the right spot so you concentrate on the right
15 item.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I got you.

17 MR. BINGHAM: What areas I think the college
18 and universities can improve, is that what you said?

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yeah, how to
20 improve MUSC, and you said somewhere align education
21 programs with the state's economic needs beginning a
22 B.S. in health care studies.

23 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir. Well, that's the --
24 B.S. in health care studies would be trying to work
25 with the people that the gentleman over here I think

1 while ago asked about what we're doing with the College
2 of Charleston, is that right now the Bachelor of
3 Science degrees, if I'm staying on the right question
4 you asked, is that the College of Charleston, I think
5 they can't issue a basic -- they have a bachelor of
6 arts. Am I not correct on that, sir?

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I don't know.

8 MR. BINGHAM: I think I'm correct on that.
9 But that's why we went to Clemson University because
10 they can issue a Bachelor of Science, in other words.
11 And so the medical school has to have certain
12 prerequisite courses, and so we don't want to get into
13 doing that. We want to be able to split the work with
14 either Clemson, USC, College of Charleston, whoever
15 provides those undergraduate degrees.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You want to partner
17 with these other schools?

18 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir. We've been trying
19 that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you think it has
21 worked so far?

22 MR. BINGHAM: Well, if I might say, you have
23 to -- let me see if I'll say it right without
24 embarrassing or saying something about somebody else
25 that's misunderstood.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: As long as it's not
2 Clemson, go ahead.

3 MR. BINGHAM: You have people that try to
4 protect their turf. I'll use that word. You call it
5 silos, if you want, and we're trying to break down
6 silos. I recognize as a board member that the
7 University of -- the Medical University of South
8 Carolina is located in Charleston. However, it is a
9 statewide place. That's why you elect people from all
10 over the state to make sure that that institution
11 receives and collaborates with all other schools in the
12 state that we support.

13 And so as my part of the Medical University,
14 I have tried -- my whole experience has been as a
15 professional engineer doing buildings as far as
16 planning and running a business of my own, is trying to
17 do one thing: Give my time and energy to better serve
18 the state of South Carolina in my days after I retire,
19 so to speak.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Thank you,
21 sir.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

23 Mr. Bingham, I've been told that employee
24 morale has improved significantly in recent years.
25 Have you found that to be the case?

1 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. At MUSC,
2 I'm speaking of, yes, sir.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Yes.

4 MR. BINGHAM: Yes, sir.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

6 Any other questions? Comments? What's the
7 desire of the committee?

8 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable report.

9 SENATOR SCOTT: Second.

10 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

11 (Members respond.)

12 Opposed, no.

13 And the ayes have it.

14 Thank you, Mr. Bingham.

15 MR. BINGHAM: Thank you, sir.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Next we have Charles
17 Schulze. Greenwood, 3rd Congressional lay member.

18 MR. SCHULZE: Good afternoon.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir. If you
20 would say your name.

21 MR. SCHULZE: My name is Charles Warren
22 Schulze.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Let me
24 swear you in.

25 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole

1 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

2 MR. SCHULZE: I do.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
4 brief statement.

5 MR. SCHULZE: Mike, Mr. Bingham and I, we
6 came on the board at the same time in 2002. I've had
7 14 years on the board. Of those 14, 13 of those have
8 been as the chairman of the finance committee, as a
9 CPA. That's my expertise. I have no expertise in the
10 medical area, but I'm a good listener, and I've learned
11 a lot about medicine.

12 But in those 14 years, I think the thing that
13 I've helped with and improved is we have completely
14 revamped our accounting and reporting system, and we
15 can now -- we now have a better handle on the finances.

16 As you can imagine, when I first came on that
17 board, we had an \$800-million budget and today the
18 enterprise is over \$2.2 billion. So it was a good
19 thing we revised it in the nick of time before we had
20 that tremendous growth. So I've enjoyed those 14
21 years, and I hope to have a few more to serve the
22 Medical University of South Carolina.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments.

24 Senator Scott.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Schulze, thank you for

1 your service and for your time.

2 MR. SCHULZE: Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: You said you revised the
4 system. You want to tell me a little bit about what
5 you did. The revision, is it on the intake of grants
6 and scholarships and that kind of issue or is it just a
7 basic financial, part of financial management of the
8 school within itself?

9 MR. SCHULZE: Senator Scott, it was primarily
10 the management of the finances. We had -- as an
11 enterprise at large, you can imagine, we probably had
12 three or four different systems floating around. This
13 department did something one way and another reported a
14 different way, but we got a better handle on that. We
15 do a much better job of what I call cost accounting.
16 We know now everybody gets their fair share of the
17 utility bill, those type things, so we now know where
18 we -- I don't want to use the word make money, but
19 where we're not losing money. And it's -- and we can
20 identify that in a very accurate manner, and that's
21 been huge given the way we've grown.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: You talk a little bit about
23 your budgeting and accounting that you did also. I'm
24 pretty sure you either did an indirect cost proposal or
25 you did some kind of a sharing proposal, but also when

1 it came down to the actual budgeting and budgeting
2 forecast now you have gained more control departmental
3 wise in terms of how the spending was actually taking
4 place.

5 MR. SCHULZE: Senator Scott, we were
6 decentralized.

7 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

8 MR. SCHULZE: As you know, an enterprise that
9 big cannot afford to be decentralized. We have become
10 much more centralized, much more formal. We can make
11 decisions much better than we ever could in the past
12 because we have a real numbers and real profitability
13 to back that up.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 Good afternoon. Good to see you again.

18 MR. SCHULZE: Good to see you, sir.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I appreciate your
20 continued service and willingness to continue to serve.
21 And if you could really, I guess two questions in one
22 as far as -- and I know this is a busy time of year for
23 you.

24 MR. SCHULZE: Yes. I'm going back to work
25 when I leave here.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: We appreciate you being
2 here. But your involvement at MUSC, what do you see on
3 the horizon briefly?

4 MR. SCHULZE: And I know you've asked this
5 question in a little bit different way, but I've been
6 very involved. Out of approximately 84 board meetings
7 and probably another 30 or 40 committee meetings, I've
8 missed one meeting in that time. I've been very
9 involved.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good.

11 MR. SCHULZE: I believe -- we have a real
12 working board. We don't have an executive committee.
13 Everybody's in it together. That's by design. We're
14 not bashful when it comes to asking new members to jump
15 in and do things. It takes a good bit of time, but,
16 you know, people seem to find that time.

17 I can't recall anybody consistently not
18 showing up, the board members to meetings and not
19 showing up for committee meetings and such. We've got
20 a real -- let me just put it this way. It's the best
21 board I've ever served on, and I've been on a lot of
22 boards in 40 something years.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I appreciate that
24 comment. That's a great vote of confidence there.
25 Thank you, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

3 Welcome, sir.

4 MR. SCHULZE: Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: First off, I just
6 want to make a statement. Thank you for your service
7 to our country.

8 MR. SCHULZE: Thank you, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I noticed that
10 we're kind of in the same generation.

11 MR. SCHULZE: Yes, sir.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And you were Air
13 Force and I was Army. I was a little luckier than you,
14 so thank you.

15 MR. SCHULZE: I'd do it again, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Me, too.

17 The satellite campuses, tell me a little bit
18 about -- since I'm close to Anderson, about this AnMed
19 third- and fourth-year program, if you don't mind.

20 MR. SCHULZE: That's a great introduction. I
21 know you've asked some of these other folks about
22 adding PA schools and med schools. It's a real issue.
23 You can add all the med schools and all the PA schools
24 and all the nurse practitioner programs, but you're not
25 going to gain a whole lot in the end because those

1 folks have to have residencies plus clinical rotations.

2 And the reason AnMed branch campus is out
3 there is because we ran out of spaces for clinical
4 rotation on campus. I mean, you can imagine, I mean,
5 we're the second largest hospital, but it takes
6 patients and doctors and with the number of students,
7 we could not grow anymore without expanding outward.
8 And this is pretty much a trend across the United
9 States that you're starting to see right now.

10 But the problem, the real problem is when you
11 see these new medical schools, the number of
12 residencies are governed not by the state but by the
13 fed. By the GME, the graduate medical education
14 levels. Those numbers have not changed since 1990 I
15 think '6, so they there are no new residency slots out
16 there.

17 So if you allow additional med schools to
18 come online, a big problem is where are they going to
19 go when they graduate? You're starting to see some
20 graduates coming out this year or next year, and it's a
21 real issue. It's going to put a burden on a lot of
22 hospitals that are connected or affiliated with these
23 medical universities because they're going to have to
24 fund residency slots, which are going to cost them
25 about \$80,000 a year.

1 So on the one hand, we need more doctors. On
2 the other hand, we have a real impediment of getting
3 those doctors to where they can pay off debt through
4 the residency slots.

5 You know, it's a real dilemma, and as we
6 expand these programs in the state, there are a few
7 good things that come from it, but, you know, what are
8 you going to tell that student at the end of the four
9 years when he has \$300,000 worth of debt and can't get
10 a residency slot?

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You got any ideas
12 on what to do about this problem?

13 MR. SCHULZE: We had board meetings last
14 week, and this came up. You know, it is looking more
15 and more like -- and we do it also, because we don't
16 have enough slots in Charleston, is we're going to have
17 to start funding more and more residency slots so, you
18 know, and that's not going to come from state dollars.

19 We've been through -- I've been on this thing
20 14 years and where we were getting \$110 million a year
21 down to 40 million as the financial crisis hit. So,
22 you know, that's not something -- that's not a high
23 priority, I don't think right now, with the state. So
24 it's going to have to come from the institutions and
25 their foundations or whatever they can find. But it's

1 a problem, so ...

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And I'm assuming if
3 we don't come through with more money, the price of
4 tuition could go up also.

5 MR. SCHULZE: You know, that's a good
6 question, but I don't think necessarily. We just voted
7 on our increases, and I think most all of them were
8 zero. I know med school was zero, and maybe one or two
9 had a 2 to 3 percent increase, but, you know, you just
10 got to find new ways to bring in revenue.

11 And one of our biggest ways is our practice
12 plan in our hospital. Those have turned out pretty
13 good. But our hospital is a -- let me use the right
14 word, it does more than its fair share for indigent and
15 charity care than any other hospital in the state and
16 makes it tougher on us because our margin that we could
17 use to help alleviate some of these problems isn't
18 there. Where a Greenville or a Columbia hospital
19 system might make a margin of 6 or 7, 8 percent, you
20 know, we're lucky to get a couple percent out of it,
21 that it even shows up.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Speaking of your
23 hospital, I will give you some kudos. I've had several
24 colleagues who had to go down to the hospital and
25 they've come back with nothing but rave reviews.

1 MR. SCHULZE: Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I've instructed my
3 wife, even though I'm 250 miles away, if something
4 happens to me, come on down to the hospital.

5 MR. SCHULZE: Same here, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you so much
7 for your service.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

9 Any other questions or comments?

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

11 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable
12 report.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Second.

14 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

15 (Members respond.)

16 Opposed, no.

17 And the ayes have it.

18 Let's let you get back to work. We need the
19 money.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Well said.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Next is David Mitchell from
22 Spartanburg. 4th Congressional medical member.

23 Dr. Mitchell, good afternoon.

24 DR. MITCHELL: Good afternoon.

25 SENATOR PEELER: For the record, if you will

1 give us your full name.

2 DR. MITCHELL: Michael David Mitchell.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in.

4 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
5 truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?

6 DR. MITCHELL: I do.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
8 brief statement on why you would like to serve?

9 DR. MITCHELL: Yes. Thank you. I attended
10 medical school at MUSC and finished my orthopedic
11 residency at MUSC. I would be proud to be able to give
12 back to the university that has given me so much. I
13 feel that I have a lot to offer in terms of leadership
14 roles in statewide medical societies and my experience
15 from being on the DHEC board.

16 I also live and work in the District 4. This
17 is the area of the state up in Greenville/Spartanburg
18 that presently has two new medical schools. I feel
19 that District 4 would have an improved relationship
20 with MUSC and those new medical schools as well as the
21 physicians in this area.

22 Also, over the past ten years I've been able
23 to form an orthopedic research spine group that has
24 formed a company. We've been through research and
25 development and have developed some products for the

1 orthopedic industry, and that's an area that I'm very
2 proud to see Dr. Cole look at and improve MUSC as the
3 foundation for research and development. And I look
4 forward to being a part of that as well as their
5 continued clinical expertise. Thank you.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Questions or
7 comments?

8 Senator Scott.

9 SENATOR SCOTT: Dr. Mitchell, tell me a
10 little bit about being able to recruit young students
11 to become doctors who are interested in rural medicine.
12 What has been your experience as a board member, what
13 plan or strategy has the board implemented to do that?

14 DR. MITCHELL: I have not been on the board
15 before, but I think a very big part of getting
16 physicians in to medical school is the tuition price.
17 The medical schools in my area are much higher in cost,
18 and we need to keep that cost down or have a way of
19 paying them back if they go into an area that needs
20 physicians that's not normally very well populated.

21 That would be an area that I think that the
22 state and the medical school could look at, is how to
23 keep the cost down or has some type of reimbursement
24 for those students.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

2 Any other questions or comments?

3 Senator Alexander.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. A couple of
5 things. Your interest in seeking the board, is there
6 anything in your profession -- obviously, if you've
7 been on the DHEC board, you had to attend meetings.
8 But have you looked at the schedule as far as your
9 ability to be engaged in meeting those responsibilities
10 if you were selected?

11 DR. MITCHELL: I've talked to some of the
12 board members. I grew up with a uncle that was on the
13 MUSC board, so from my teenage years, I've heard about
14 the board day in and day out. And I think I would be
15 very available. You know, I learned that from the DHEC
16 board. I understand the meetings are every other
17 month, but certainly, if they were every month or there
18 was a working board, I could certainly clear my own
19 schedule. I'm in the private practice of medicine, so
20 I can arrange my schedule a little bit more than
21 somebody who is working for somebody.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: One of your -- thank you.
23 One of your questions here, you're talking about
24 obviously strong educational advances and excellent
25 research and talking about the Piedmont and mountain

1 regions where obviously there is underserved areas from
2 the physician standpoint. You're talking about
3 collaboration from that. Is there a model that's out
4 there that you're aware of that you would look to from
5 that standpoint?

6 DR. MITCHELL: The model has been the
7 reimbursement for some of the expenses. If they come
8 out of medical school with a debt of, you know,
9 \$200,000 over 25 years, at 6 to 7 percent, they're
10 paying over half a million dollars for that education.
11 If we could somehow use the model that's been used to
12 help reimburse people like the -- some of the Indian
13 reservations, you were able to go to an Indian
14 reservation and they would help you pay off some of
15 your tuition debt.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

18 Representative McLeod has a question.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Hi, Dr. Mitchell. I
20 see that you referenced the diversity of out-of-state
21 students coming in to MUSC through regional and
22 cultural, well, the differences that they bring to the
23 university.

24 DR. MITCHELL: Yes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: What is your

1 perspective on the -- what is the diversity of the
2 student population currently, do you know?

3 DR. MITCHELL: I believe the instate is 70
4 percent or so, and the minority students I believe were
5 classified at approximately 22 percent.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. Is there an
7 effort to increase diversity within the Medical
8 University?

9 DR. MITCHELL: Not being on the board, I
10 don't know that for sure, but I know that when I was
11 there and the people I've talked to, there is an effort
12 always, some special programs, some special recruitment
13 techniques for all types of students and even residents
14 that are looking for people to make MUSC a very
15 diverse, very inclusive campus.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Your reference to
17 diversity just caught my attention when you referenced
18 out-of-state students and the diversity they bring
19 because of the cultural and regional differences, so I
20 just thought I would ask that question.

21 DR. MITCHELL: Okay.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: I want to expand on that, are
25 you talking about students from other countries who

1 come to the United States to go to school? Are you
2 talking about different nationalities of students?
3 What group when you talk about out-of-state communities
4 with the university or just minority students in
5 general?

6 DR. MITCHELL: In this instance I was
7 speaking mainly of minority students in general.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.
9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?
11 What's the desire of the committee?

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

13 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable
14 report. Second?

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

16 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

17 (Members respond.)

18 Opposed, no.

19 And the ayes have it.

20 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

21 DR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Next we have Charles Thomas.
23 Greenville, 4th Congressional medical member.
24 Incumbent. Good afternoon, sir.

25 DR. THOMAS: Good afternoon.

1 SENATOR PEELER: For the record, state your
2 full name.

3 DR. THOMAS: Charles Branham Thomas Jr.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in.

5 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
6 truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?

7 DR. THOMAS: I do.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
9 brief statement?

10 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. I've served on the
11 Medical University board 4th Congressional District
12 medical position. This is my 20th year now. Every
13 time I come to the screening I get asked that. In that
14 particular year, it was in '97, the Balanced Budget
15 Act, which put enormous pressure on our finances and of
16 course the ACA, Obama Care.

17 Currently this year, the big thing we got
18 going is try to get the Shawn Jenkins Women's and
19 Children's Hospital funded. We have \$25 million from
20 you all, and we also got \$25 million from Mr. Jenkins,
21 which allowed us to get our HUD loan. That was a down
22 payment on that. So the cost of the hospital is
23 additionally was \$450 million. Now it's a \$480
24 million, you know how those things go.

25 So we still have a pretty steep hill to climb

1 here. I'm chairman of the development committee, so
2 we've been working furiously and feverishly to get this
3 money raised so we can build this 260-bed facility for
4 the children and women of this state.

5 If you ask the -- well, you can't ask other
6 people that come forward, but if you ask the people
7 that are down there, it takes 8, 10, 12, 15 years to
8 get up to speed. It's a very big organization. For
9 example, there's over 37 advisory boards down there, so
10 it takes a long time to get your finger on the pulse
11 and find out where the skeletons are buried.

12 I served as the chairman of the board from
13 2006 to 2010, and so I do have -- I'm part of the
14 institutional memory, the collective memory of this
15 institution that is so necessary in something that's
16 big and this diverse. So I think that's what I bring
17 to the table, is that.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire has
19 a question.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I do. Thank you
21 for your service for 20 years.

22 I'm looking at the bullet points that are
23 provided to us, and it says under credit report address
24 discrepancy, saying an address was Awendaw. Can you
25 tell us for the record where you live.

1 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. I live in Greenville,
2 South Carolina. I have an apartment in Greenville. I
3 also have a farm in Laurens County where I pay 4
4 percent and also agricultural tax on that. I have a
5 vacation home in Awendaw where I pay 6 percent. I have
6 those documents, if you would like to see it.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Awendaw, is that
8 the way you pronounce it?

9 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir. It's about ten miles
10 north of Wild Dunes Marina on the waterway.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I have seen it when
12 I've gone up toward McClellanville.

13 DR. THOMAS: It's a state of mind.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yeah. Okay. So
15 you are Greenville?

16 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Just to get that
18 cleared up. That's all I wanted to ask you. Thank
19 you.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott has a
21 question.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you first for your 20
23 years of service. You made a comment about Obama Care,
24 which is the Affordable Care Act is what you're talking
25 about, that it has weighed in heavily on the school or

1 health care. I didn't quite catch all of the comment,
2 all of your comment. And if so, tell me how it's done
3 that.

4 DR. THOMAS: Well, the way it impacted us was
5 we had a lot more people who were insured and it put
6 tremendous stress on the system. You know, it also
7 helped the system to some degree because people who
8 heretofore weren't insured have now become insured.
9 But what I meant when I said that was that the increase
10 in demands on the system by virtue of an increase
11 number of patients.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Tell me, you've been
13 here long enough to watch your diversity program grow
14 as well. Tell me what's been the key to being able to
15 drive more minority students to come to --

16 DR. THOMAS: Mentoring at an early age.
17 That's how you get them in there. You can't go to them
18 when they're in college and --

19 SENATOR SCOTT: Mentoring an early age.

20 DR. THOMAS: Yeah.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: High school or --

22 DR. THOMAS: Or earlier. Earlier.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: You all have an outreach
24 program that's doing it in the high school?

25 DR. THOMAS: No, we don't.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me what the college is
2 doing to promote its diversity program for minority
3 students to be able to come -- who want to come to
4 MUSC.

5 DR. THOMAS: Right. As somebody pointed out,
6 the diversity inclusion has expanded greatly under the
7 leadership of Dr. Cole. These are the statistics.
8 There have been some numbers banted around here. But
9 the numbers are 25 percent minority, of which
10 approximately 13 or 14 percent are African American, a
11 lesser percentage are Asian American, and then the rest
12 of them are different nationalities.

13 The Medical University of South Carolina is
14 in the top 10 of medical schools in this country for
15 graduating black males which is no lean feat.

16 SENATOR SCOTT: African-American males,
17 correct.

18 DR. THOMAS: Yes. Yes. And so there's been
19 a lot of attention paid to that, a lot of time and
20 money spent on that, which has paid off. Our efforts
21 have paid off in that respect.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

24 Senator Alexander.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Good afternoon. Good to see you, sir.

2 You mentioned you had a time that you were
3 chairman, and obviously, that takes a lot of your time,
4 and I'm sure you had attendance there. Since that
5 period of time, how would you characterize your
6 involvement with MUSC during your tenure on the board
7 since --

8 DR. THOMAS: It's been extensive. In the 20
9 years, I missed one meeting for a death. I'm currently
10 retired, and I do short-term medical missionary work.
11 I just returned from the Dominican Republic, and I am
12 going in May to West Africa. I try to do three or four
13 of those a year. So other than my travels, I have
14 ample time to devote to the Medical University, and I
15 do.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you for your
17 service in the missionary field as well.

18 What is the biggest achievement do you think
19 during that 20 years at MUSC?

20 DR. THOMAS: Well, you know, diversity would
21 have to be one of them. 20 years ago, you know, you
22 didn't see African-Americans down there --
23 African-Americans down there. So that would be at the
24 top of the list. The expansion of the physical plant,
25 as Mr. Bingham listed, and all the new buildings that

1 we have built down there. And the synergy and the
2 energy that's been developed down there.

3 Twenty years ago, we were still a fairly
4 sleepy little medical school in South Carolina. Now
5 we're at the top quartile. In most of the metrics,
6 we're top third in NIH funding I believe this year, and
7 that's -- you know, which puts us in the top 50 medical
8 schools, and that's come from way down the line. We
9 were 120 or 130 something like that.

10 So there's been a lot of stuff going on down
11 there. It started with Ray Greenberg, and now David
12 Cole is a different kind of guy but he's just dynamic,
13 just as committed, and I see a continuing pace.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments?

17 Hearing none, what's the desire of the
18 committee?

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

20 SENATOR PEELER: A motion for a favorable
21 report. Second?

22 SENATOR SCOTT: Second.

23 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

24 (Members respond.)

25 Opposed, no.

1 And the ayes have it.

2 Thank you, Doctor.

3 DR. THOMAS: Thank you. I appreciate it.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Next is Barbara
5 Johnson-Williams from Orangeburg. 6th Congressional
6 lay member.

7 First off, I like that orange jacket. It
8 reminds me of the Tigers.

9 For the record, if you could give us your
10 full name.

11 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: My name is Barbara
12 Johnson-Williams.

13 SENATOR PEELER: If you will, let me swear
14 you in.

15 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
16 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

17 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Yes, I do.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
19 brief statement?

20 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: First of all, thank
21 you all for allowing me to serve the last three years.
22 I have truly enjoyed being a part of such a great
23 institution. I am still a neophyte, so still learning
24 some of the things that are going on with the
25 institution. And hopefully, I'll be around -- I'm not

1 sure if it's 14 or 20 years, as some of the others, but
2 be around long enough to help make a difference with
3 within the community and the state as well.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Thank you.

5 Questions or comments?

6 Senator Alexander.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

8 And good afternoon. It's nice to see you
9 today.

10 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: In being consistent,
12 please characterize for me your service and time
13 commitments and involvement with the board, please.

14 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: I, too, as some of the
15 others, have been given a chance to serve on some of
16 the other subcommittees.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And your attendance, I
18 mean, is it 90 percent, a hundred percent, 75 percent?
19 What would be your -- how would you describe --

20 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: If you could --

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: The board meetings.

22 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: I would say a hundred
23 percent with the exception of one time we could not get
24 there because of, I think it was ice or snow.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Sure.

1 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: A storm we had a
2 couple of years ago.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 I was looking at your bullet points, and
8 you're saying the biggest weakness -- I mean, I'm
9 sorry -- talking about tuition is not reasonable for
10 moderate-to-low income families. I couldn't agree with
11 you more, but how would MUSC go about bringing in, you
12 know, folks who are of limited means, so to speak?
13 They already get scholarships, I'm assuming.

14 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Well, I guess in order
15 to attract more, as pertains to funding, would probably
16 come more from you all. You say that we now get
17 scholarships to help with that, so I would presume more
18 fundings coming from this level.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, you know,
20 Senator Scott mentioned earlier about, you know, the
21 offering, you know, forgiveness on student loans as far
22 as education, in the public education field in the
23 schools. I wonder if there might be something that we
24 could look at in order to have people of limited
25 income, say, in poverty areas, if they're going to

1 become doctors, may be willing to go back into those
2 areas where they obviously are needed. Just a thought.
3 I don't know if that's something that could possibly be
4 done or not.

5 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: I would concur with
6 that. I think in some areas wherein you may have those
7 who may have graduated, if they're willing to go back
8 to rural areas and work and maybe their loans are
9 forgiven, that too could probably -- that would help
10 the college.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That seems to be an
12 underlying theme to the whole state. Industry won't
13 come to the poverty areas until you get the educated
14 people in there, and they're not going to come until
15 you have the jobs. So it is kind of like the chicken
16 and the egg. It is very difficult to get movement in
17 to these high-poverty areas. It's kind of a real slow
18 process, it seems like, unfortunately, whether it's
19 medical or public education or what. It's just my
20 little soliloquy there.

21 I noticed that you belong to the National
22 Association of Elementary and Secondary Administrators.
23 Were you a principal at one time?

24 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: No. I was in special
25 education.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Were you?

2 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I was in education
4 myself. My wife was in special education, teachers
5 starting out. I appreciate what you did in that field.

6 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for your
8 service on the board.

9 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

11 Any more questions or comments?

12 Representative McLeod has a question.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Thank you.

14 Ms. Johnson-Williams, thank you for your
15 service.

16 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: I want to ask you a
18 couple of questions actually. The first is, are you
19 the only woman on the board?

20 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: No.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. And are you
22 the only African-American on the board?

23 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: No, there are two.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. There are two.
25 The second question -- well, the third

1 question then is, I see that you have recommended
2 partnerships within public education to increase
3 diversity and in positions of authority. Are you aware
4 of any partnerships or opportunities or plans to
5 implement something like that?

6 I think that's a great idea, but I see that
7 you're from Orangeburg and I was just curious about
8 whether that is currently being implemented or is that
9 something that you would just recommend or propose that
10 the board look into doing when it comes to partnerships
11 and mentorships?

12 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: I'm sure there is some
13 of that that's going on right now, and it is a
14 proposal, would be a proposal as well. Because --
15 well, I'm retired and I went back to work, and because
16 I don't get a chance to get to Charleston as often as I
17 did in the -- you know, would like to. Hopefully, I'll
18 get a chance to go down and see some of the things that
19 are going on and end up getting involved with those
20 things.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Right. But are you
22 aware of any plans to implement these kind of
23 initiatives, say, in Orangeburg or places like
24 Orangeburg? I'm from small-town South Carolina, too,
25 so I know the importance and value of, you know, kind

1 of expanding that outreach.

2 Is there an effort to do that in Orangeburg
3 or in other smaller communities?

4 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Right now, that's what
5 we are doing.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: That is what you are
7 doing?

8 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Yeah, we have programs
9 involved in the Orangeburg area wherein we do an
10 outreach to the community because all persons are
11 stakeholders as it pertains to -- when it comes to the
12 educational system. We need the parents, we need the
13 businesses, industry, and so forth.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. What age
15 groups are you targeting?

16 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: High school.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. And are you
18 seeing any benefits? I know I'm asking a lot of
19 questions, but each time you respond I think of
20 something else.

21 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Yes. I think we are
22 making some inroads, yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. Thank you very
24 much.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

1 Any other questions or comments?

2 What's the desire of the committee?

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

5 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable
6 report. All in favor say "aye."

7 (Members respond.)

8 Opposed, no.

9 And the ayes have it.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you. Thank you.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Next we have Conyers

13 O'Bryan. Florence, 7th Congressional medical member.

14 Good afternoon.

15 DR. O'BRYAN: Thank you, sir.

16 SENATOR PEELER: For the record, if you could
17 give us your full name, not that we don't know.

18 DR. O'BRYAN: Edward Conyers O'Bryan Jr.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Let me
20 swear you in.

21 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
22 truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?

23 DR. O'BRYAN: I do.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Did you find your way here
25 okay? Over 40 years, I wonder how many times you have

1 been here. Doctor of the day and so forth.

2 DR. O'BRYAN: Lots of times. Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Dr. O'Bryan, would you like
4 to make a brief statement?

5 DR. O'BRYAN: It's a continuing pleasure and
6 an honor to serve as a trustee of the Medical
7 University of South Carolina. Particularly, as it has
8 continuously obtained and progressively so,
9 international recognition.

10 SENATOR PEELER: I feel like you ought to be
11 asking us questions instead of us asking you, but any
12 questions for Dr. O'Bryan?

13 Senator Alexander.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. I'm like you,
15 I think he needs to be asking us the questions, and I'm
16 confident that your distinguished service over all
17 these years that you have been so involved in the
18 university in so many different ways, the medical
19 school, so I'm sure you're there for all the meetings.

20 What do you -- and I saw under your questions
21 the biggest weakness -- or biggest challenge, I guess,
22 is the funding. Obviously, there's limited resources
23 from that standpoint, so is the university being
24 proactive in finding ways to make sure they're cutting
25 costs as well as looking for additional funding? Being

1 in business, there is only two ways, you need to sell
2 more or you cut your cost. That's the only two ways
3 I've found to make things work from that standpoint.

4 Do you have any thoughts?

5 DR. O'BRYAN: We've been very proactive,
6 basically, learning to survive. When I first came on
7 the board, we got 56 percent of our budget from the
8 state. Now we're about 1.5 percent. So survival is
9 dependent on us being totally proactive in those areas.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. Thank you for
11 your leadership from that standpoint.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott has a
13 question.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: Doctor, you've had the
15 opportunity to work with a lot of different presidents,
16 I guess all the way from Governor Edwards going to the
17 president that you have. What would have been the
18 difference in those presidents as it relates to the
19 growth of the institution? And it relates to back to a
20 comment that you made, the state became a lot leaner
21 and put it upon the institution to find ways to fund
22 itself. Styles of leadership, as well as knowledge
23 based, and most of -- I think all your presidents in
24 your tenure have been doctors.

25 You want to elaborate a little bit on that,

1 because you've had an upfront, close look at coming out
2 of the medical field yourself and having a doctor who
3 needs to both be a good manager, a good leader, and a
4 good planner and create direction for the hospital.

5 DR. O'BRYAN: I think the Medical University
6 really took off in Dr. Jim Edwards' tenure because he
7 surrounded himself with people like Dr. Ray Greenberg,
8 Dr. Layton McCurdy, so he had geniuses in every
9 particular part of the administration. His genius was
10 being an organizer and a leader. After that time, Dr.
11 Ray Greenberg and now Dr. David Cole has continued that
12 same plan.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
15 comments for Dr. O'Bryan?

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Move favorable.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Second.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Move for a favorable report
19 and second.

20 All in favor say "aye."

21 (Members respond.)

22 Opposed, no.

23 The ayes have it. Thank you, sir.

24 Next we move to College of Charleston.

25 Laurin Burch from Camden. 5th Congressional seat 10.

1 Good afternoon, sir. For the record, if you
2 could give us your full name.

3 MR. BURCH: Robert McLaurin Burch III.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Let me swear you
5 in.

6 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
7 truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?

8 MR. BURCH: Yes.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
10 brief statement?

11 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the
12 first of three siblings to attend the College of
13 Charleston, the school means a lot to me. It was there
14 I received a top-notch education, prepared to enter the
15 real world, and even met my wife.

16 Needless to say, as I said, the school means
17 a lot, and I would like to continue that service that I
18 show in other areas that I'm involved with the Kershaw
19 County hospital board, the Jaycees, the Kiwanis, and
20 several other civic organizations. And so I'd like to
21 continue that service to the College of Charleston
22 because I firmly believe that if you're able to serve
23 and give back, you need to do that.

24 Also, as a licensed CPA in state of South
25 Carolina, I firmly believe that my business and

1 accounting background could bring a lot to the table.
2 I would like to see us strive to keep the cost of
3 attendance as low as possible and increase the overall
4 value of the diploma.

5 I'm also concerned that at some point the
6 cost of a four-year degree will just be too much for
7 graduating college students to handle.

8 I also think the college has a great
9 opportunity to improve retention and diversity in the
10 student body.

11 I will take any questions you might have.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Let me give you a hint.
13 Next time you give a list, make sure to say that's
14 where you met your wife first.

15 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?

17 Senator Scott.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you. Thank you. Let
19 me thank you for your service. I know with the new
20 president that you have, your gain is our loss.
21 Lieutenant Governor McConnell, Pro Tempore McConnell,
22 Chairman of the Judiciary Committee McConnell was a
23 good leader here.

24 I know the institution and the board went
25 through a rugged period in the transitional period with

1 him coming to the university. Tell me what has
2 happened now since he's gotten there and things have
3 kind of settled down with the student body, the
4 faculty, and now the community as a result of some type
5 of plan, that along with the president, that the board
6 has put together so that you all begin to grow together
7 as a total community.

8 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir. Well, I'm not
9 currently on the board, so I can't speak to specifics
10 of --

11 SENATOR SCOTT: As an alumnus.

12 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir. Obviously, there was
13 some tension at first, and I think that has subsided.
14 I think everybody's main goal is what's best for the
15 university and moving in that direction. So I feel
16 confident that he's a very smart man, a good leader,
17 and so that's who the current board has decided to
18 place in there as president, and we need to stand
19 behind him and all be on the same page.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Are you comfortable with
21 that?

22 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Questions, comments?

1 Senator Alexander.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I believe, if my memory
3 serves me correct, you're in the construction business;
4 is that correct?

5 MR. BURCH: Yes, sir.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Yes, sir. And so is
7 there anything in your work that would preclude you to
8 carry out the duties and responsibilities if you are
9 elected to the board?

10 MR. BURCH: No, sir. I'd say I'm involved in
11 several other, on boards and organizations, and if I
12 make a commitment to do it, I give it my full
13 commitment.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
16 comments?

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

18 SENATOR PEELER: The move is a favorable
19 report. Second?

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Second.

21 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

22 (Members respond.)

23 Opposed, no.

24 And the ayes have it.

25 Michael Todd Warrick. Sumter, 5th

1 Congressional seat 10.

2 DR. WARRICK: Looks like I'm the only thing
3 between you guys and dinner, so ...

4 SENATOR PEELER: Brevity is a plus in this
5 committee.

6 DR. WARRICK: Yes, sir.

7 SENATOR PEELER: For the record, give us your
8 full name.

9 DR. WARRICK: Michael Todd Warrick.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Let me swear you
11 in.

12 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
13 truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?

14 DR. WARRICK: I do.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
16 brief statement?

17 DR. WARRICK: Brief, yes, sir. As an alumnus
18 of the College of Charleston, second-generation
19 alumnus, I'm proud of the college. I'm proud of my
20 education. As a physician, I use my math and science
21 background every day, but in a lot of my
22 extracurricular pursuits, I use the broad-based,
23 well-rounded liberal arts education I think is the
24 cornerstone of what makes the College of Charleston
25 graduate something to be proud of. And I look forward,

1 if given the opportunity, to serve my alma mater in
2 that capacity.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Doctor, you don't look a day
4 older than you did the last time you were here.

5 DR. WARRICK: I was wondering when you would
6 refer to me as Doogie Howser again.

7 SENATOR PEELER: That's right. Yes, sir.

8 DR. WARRICK: Well, thank you.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Do they still call you
10 Doogie?

11 DR. WARRICK: Yes, sir. I'll just say yes.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

13 Any questions or comments?

14 Senator Alexander.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 How would you classify as far as your ability
17 to be involved with the college and fulfilling those
18 duties and responsibilities?

19 DR. WARRICK: I think that I'd do an
20 excellent job, sir.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I mean, timewise, do you
22 have anything from a time commitment aspect that would
23 make it an issue for you?

24 DR. WARRICK: No, sir. I work banker's
25 hours.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good.

2 DR. WARRICK: I know. Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

4 SENATOR PEELER: How did you work that out?

5 DR. WARRICK: Careful selection.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or

7 comments?

8 Hearing none, what's the desire of the

9 committee?

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

12 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor say "aye."

13 (Members respond.)

14 Opposed, no.

15 And the ayes have it.

16 Thank you, sir.

17 DR. WARRICK: Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: And thank all the candidates

19 today for being willing to serve. And like I said, I

20 apologize for the inconvenience, but I appreciate you

21 all coming back. Thank you.

22 (The hearing adjourned at 4:24 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Sheri L. Byers, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public of the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the date and at the time mentioned on page 1 and the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

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 13th day of April, 2016, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.

Sheri L. Byers,
Registered Professional Reporter,
Notary Public
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission expires:
October 30, 2023

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