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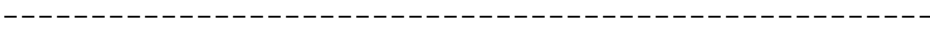
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
CANDIDATE SCREENING FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY
BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

2:20 p.m.

1101 Pendleton Street
Gressette Building, Room 201
Columbia, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: LISA GARSON
COURT REPORTER



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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER JR, CHAIRMAN

3 REPRESENTATIVE PETER M. McCOY JR

4 REPRESENTATIVE DAVID J MACK III

5 SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES JR

6 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. WHITMIRE

7 SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

8 SENATOR JOHN YANCY McGILL

9 REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS HENDERSON

10 COMMITTEE RESEARCH PERSONNEL:

11 MARTHA CASTO

12

13 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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2 SENATOR PEELER: I'd like to welcome everyone
3 back and call us back into order. This is a Joint
4 Committee to Screen Candidates for University Board of
5 Trustees. We'll take candidates for the South Carolina
6 State University.

7 Is Ms. Duncan here yet?

8 MS. CASTO: Ms. Duncan has called. She is on
9 her way. She was on Gervais Street about five minutes
10 ago.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Well, let's carry that
12 over and go to Mr. James Harvey.

13 MS. CASTO: Mr. Harvey is from Orangeburg. He
14 is behind Tab V in your notebook.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Harvey, please take a seat
16 and make sure the green light is on. I'll need to swear
17 you in, so if you will please raise your right hand.

18 (Xames E. Harvey was duly sworn, after which
19 testimony commenced at 2:25 p.m.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
21 the Committee why you would like to serve on this board?

22 MR. HARVEY: There are a number of reasons. My
23 wife is a graduate of South Carolina State University. I
24 have a bit of a cold. Sorry.

25 We moved down here two and a half years ago.

1 For the last 27 years, we've been going up and down the
2 road to visit her family in Orangeburg, and often we
3 would take part in activities from the South Carolina
4 State University, so I was asked if I would step up and
5 volunteer to be a trustee, so that's one part.

6 The other part of that is that, as far as my
7 faith journey, we're always asked by the minister to do
8 service and be a service to the community. I started off
9 by volunteering in the schools. Right now I'm a fourth
10 grade math tutor, as a volunteer, in the Orangeburg
11 District Schools.

12 Last year I helped one of the guidance
13 departments with the school, so I've been doing volunteer
14 work, and I thought I would extend my volunteer work to
15 the University.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Appreciate that. Mr. McCoy?

17 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Dr. Harvey, can you fill the panel in on a
19 little bit about your Ph. D and the degree that you got.

20 MR. HARVEY: Yes. It's kind of a unique
21 degree. There aren't too many universities that offer
22 that, but in my situation, in Ohio, when they wrote the
23 psychology law, I was grandfathered in. I have a
24 private license as a psychologist, but I was at the
25 master's level.

1 When I decided to go back to school after
2 graduation, I was told that I would have to go back and
3 do a full year of internship, if I wanted to do it in
4 psychology. Well, I was consulting at the Center for
5 Community Solutions and I was two-blocks away from
6 Cleveland State University's program in Urban Education
7 Policy and I was doing policy work, so I decided that I
8 would go that route and it was part time.

9 I was working there, and it took about seven
10 years, but at age 65 I completed the degree.

11 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Congratulations.

12 Dr. Harvey, you said your wife went to SC
13 State.

14 MR. HARVEY: That's correct.

15 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: When did she graduate?

16 MR. HARVEY: She did her undergraduate at
17 Claflin, so let's see -- she graduated high school in
18 '62, so that would have been '68, and then she went into
19 the master's program in around 1968.

20 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Have you all, as a
21 family, maintained a relationship with SC State? Have
22 you all been part of their extracurricular activities?

23 MR. HARVEY: Off and on, we have. Her mother
24 lives two blocks from the University, and when she first
25 moved her family into town she worked for their student

1 union for a little bit, so we were there. We were close
2 and often we would take part in some of the activities.

3 Since we have moved there, we support the
4 Bulldogs. We have season tickets to the football games
5 and their State Association which supports the football
6 team. Occasionally, we get to basketball games and we
7 occasionally go to concerts or to their Stanback Museum.

8 I've been on their radio station a few times
9 talking about mental health, so we have some relationship
10 with the University.

11 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: And I think that your
12 educational background would offer an excellent
13 opportunity to serve on the board and I think you would
14 offer a very good insight, maybe a little bit of a
15 different insight from the current board members right
16 now.

17 Do you have a vision? Or do you have a thought
18 or a goal that you would like to see accomplished, if you
19 were elected to this board?

20 MR. HARVEY: Well, there are clearly some areas
21 that the University needs to work on. Certainly,
22 retention of students and also recruitment. I saw some
23 of the data, where, in 2007, there were close to 5,000
24 students there, and the last figure I heard was 3,400.
25 So clearly, there are some issues there.

1 One of the areas that I'm interested in is
2 supporting students when they get into school so they can
3 be successful. There was a good article in the paper
4 today about their nursing program, where they had trouble
5 passing the State exam, the students weren't doing well,
6 and then they implemented an intervention where, one, the
7 students had more time on task. Even after class there
8 was an expectation that they would have some support and
9 mentoring, as well as practice sessions for the test.

10 That's an example of helping those students
11 stay in school and be successful in school and also
12 become supportive alumni when they graduate. That type
13 of thing, I certainly would be supportive of and
14 interested in helping out.

15 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Dr. Harvey, thank you
16 for entertaining my questions. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
18 questions or comments? Representative Mack.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Dr. Harvey, in terms of working to get more
21 students to come to SC State University, what role do you
22 think you personally can play to help promote the school?

23 MR. HARVEY: Once I'm on the board, I'd have to
24 see what kind of committees I might be assigned to. I
25 assume there's a committee that focuses on this kind of

1 concern. I think part of that would be to look at those
2 universities that have been successful in this process.

3 I know from all the places that I've graduated
4 from, I get a call from a student asking for support.
5 That's a very effective tool. I don't know if they do
6 that at South Carolina State University but, if not,
7 that's a very good way of doing that.

8 Also being supportive of various fund raising
9 activities, making sure that you hire staff that are very
10 good at maintaining contacts with the alumni association
11 and finding support, as well as individuals that can work
12 on grant writing and grants that help the University.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

14 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you. I appreciate your
15 willingness to serve on this board. For the last several
16 years, there's been a lot of turnover from the leadership
17 of the University. What ideas do you have where some
18 changes may need to be made in that regard?

19 MR. HARVEY: I think this is a concern of many
20 universities, and certainly -- I was reading some data on
21 the black colleges and universities where maybe
22 40 percent have interim presidents. You look at the
23 history of South Carolina State and the early
24 presidents -- their terms were 17 years, 20 years. They
25 would be there a long time.

1 You look at the recent history and most of them
2 are there three -- maybe one, four years, but most of
3 them are there for three years. You have this constant
4 leadership turnover, so part of that is looking at data
5 to see how other universities are successful in
6 recruiting and maintaining, looking at the bylaws, which
7 I reviewed briefly, in relationship to the process of
8 selecting and hiring presidents for the University, and
9 finding ways to make sure they're supportive and that you
10 have leaders that will stay for a longer period of time.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
13 Dr. Harvey, for offering to serve. I'm just following
14 with the same line of questioning that Senator Hayes had.

15 I notice that you've only lived in South
16 Carolina for two and a half years; is that correct?

17 MR. HARVEY: That's correct.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Are you aware of the
19 many difficulties that have plagued, I guess, South
20 Carolina State, as far as their board and retention of
21 their administration?

22 MR. HARVEY: I'm aware partly because I have a
23 lot of friends and colleagues that work there who discuss
24 those issues from time to time. Much of my knowledge
25 base is from what I see in the newspaper, so I have no

1 detail in relationship to that. I found it interesting
2 when I went to Founder's Day, and I spent some time on
3 the campus and I looked around. There are so many good
4 things going on, and yet, everyone talks about dissension
5 and difficulties within the board of trustees. So in
6 that sense, I'm aware of it, but I don't have the
7 intimate details of what exactly is occurring that is
8 creating some difficulties in relationship to decision
9 making.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: If elected, do you
11 feel like you would be able to work with the other board
12 members to try to fix what is a very proud State
13 institution?

14 MR. HARVEY: Well, I've been on a lot of boards
15 over the years, and part of it was to be proactive in
16 relationship to doing collaborative problem solving and
17 working together. I either work as a member, trying to
18 contribute where I can; or if I'm asked to step up in a
19 leadership role, I'll do that.

20 I think there are certainly some things to do.
21 I don't know if they have regular training sessions.
22 When I went on the Mental Health Board, immediately there
23 was training for new board members. Annually we go to
24 Columbia for training in relationship to how to be a good
25 board member for the Orangeburg Area Mental Health

1 Center's Board.

2 Those types of things would be some things that
3 might be helpful in relationship to helping that board
4 become more cohesive in their decision making.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Thank you.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Following up on that, it's
8 my understanding that you do serve on the Orangeburg
9 Mental Health Board currently.

10 MR. HARVEY: That's correct.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: If elected to this board, I
12 would assume that would be a dual office.

13 MR. HARVEY: I don't know that, but that's
14 helpful for me to understand.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: If that were the case,
16 would you be willing to resign from the Orangeburg Mental
17 Health Board?

18 MR. HARVEY: I would be reluctantly willing.
19 That's one of my favorite areas -- working with mental
20 health. That would be a bit of a decision, but, yes, I
21 would be willing to step up if put in the position as a
22 trustee.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I know you already put
24 on the record that you're retired, but out of
25 consistency, is there anything that would preclude you

1 from being able to dedicate the time and energies needed
2 to be a member of the board?

3 MR. HARVEY: No. I've kept my certification in
4 case I had to go back to work, but I'm planning to remain
5 retired and if children stay out of my pocket, I can do
6 that.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good luck on that.

8 MR. HARVEY: That's my plan, and I think long
9 term, I would be able to consistently serve on the board.

10 SENATOR PEELER: I want everyone to have an
11 opportunity to be heard. Anyone else? Senator McGill.

12 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me ask you this. Of
13 course, you have a very deep resume, and I can tell you,
14 in your field, you have excelled. I don't know how
15 you've done all this in your lifetime. It's amazing the
16 information that you've provided to this committee. We
17 commend you for a career that strong.

18 Let me ask you, in your professional opinion --
19 they kind of touched on the fringes of what's going on
20 over at State. I chair the Subcommittee of Senate
21 Finance with South Carolina State's PSA program. We've
22 always been kind to that program because the General
23 Assembly has always been kind, financially, to State.

24 What do you think is the issue? Is it too much
25 board intervention trying to run the day-to-day

1 operation? What would be the problem?

2 MR. HARVEY: Of course, I'm making very early
3 assumptions. I haven't served on the board and don't
4 have a detailed knowledge base. From what I see, there
5 seems to be this ongoing conflict in relationship to
6 leadership and who has control of the decision making
7 process.

8 It appears to me that there needs to be some
9 clarity in relationship to the responsibilities of the
10 board members, and some of it is spelled out fairly
11 clearly in their bylaws and the responsibilities for
12 those individuals that are hired in administrative
13 positions.

14 I think some clarity in that area can help.
15 Certainly, as I mentioned before, some training in
16 relationship to group decision making and how to work
17 together collaboratively to solve problems and there has
18 to be a little bit of give and take and discussions.

19 Policy is very difficult. You have a short
20 period of time to make decisions. You have to gather
21 data in a short period of time and then make good
22 decisions that have been thought out carefully over the
23 long term and how they'll impact the University. That
24 kind of approach needs to be done, and it might help with
25 the scenario.

1 I don't know the individuals personally on the
2 board. I don't know their personalities or any of that
3 detail, but other universities have done this. Other
4 universities have struggled, and then they pull
5 themselves together. I'm from Ohio. I've seen that at
6 Central State University where they have a very rough
7 period of time, and then they get good leadership and
8 they're on the road to getting back to their service to
9 the community.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: I've met a lot of professional
11 staff and professional educators from State coming in to
12 testify to the Subcommittee that I chair, and they're not
13 the problem. You have some very great faculty and staff
14 that have done a great job.

15 I don't know what the issue is because State is
16 one of the greatest educational assets that this State
17 has. I can tell you right now that the 1890 Program has
18 made such a big difference to urban South Carolina. Not
19 just urban and suburban areas, but all over the State,
20 and the true story about State is never told. It's
21 always something negative.

22 We want trustees that want to focus, at all
23 universities, on all the positives and getting away from
24 the negatives. So I say that for everybody in this room
25 because it's a shame that State has this negative

1 consistency when, in fact, it's one of the greatest
2 assets we have in the State.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Well said. Any other
4 questions or comments?

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable report.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Is there a second?

7 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

8 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
9 hand. Thank you. It's unanimous. I appreciate your
10 willingness to serve.

11 MS. CASTO: These are all running for the 6th
12 Congressional Districts. There are five candidates for
13 the 6th Congressional District. Dean Patrick.

14 Mr. Patrick is from Columbia, and these terms
15 expire 2017.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Would you
17 please raise your right hand to be sworn.

18 (Dean C. Patrick was duly sworn, after which
19 testimony commenced at 2:41 p.m.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to express to
21 the Committee why you'd like to serve?

22 MR. PATRICK: Well, starting out, I'm a proud
23 South Carolinian State. I've been fortunate to have been
24 trained well at Midwest Illinois University where I
25 received my doctorate.

1 I was able to come back and, because of their
2 mentoring and training, I came back to State for a while
3 in the 1890 Research and Extension Program where, in that
4 program, I became very much acquainted with the
5 demographics of this state.

6 From there I was privileged again while doing
7 that study, particularly, to have been brought into the
8 Department of Social Services as the State Planning and
9 Research Director. Again, that experience of having the
10 opportunity to deal with the people, the families, the
11 children of this State have made me well-acquainted and
12 aware of the issues and problems.

13 From there I had the privilege of working with
14 the University of South Carolina. I was in the tech
15 school system for a moment. From those experiences, I
16 feel really good about my ability to, most importantly,
17 deal with issues of students and their families.

18 Now, the planning and research skills lend
19 themselves to informed decision making by having the
20 ability to find issues, answers, and go after questions
21 in a very informed and methodical way. I feel that's
22 something that's needed on this board because I've seen
23 and read and I'm a little bit familiar with the board,
24 that from the outside looking in, that's not the way you
25 do business.

1 I think the board should, more or less, be
2 heard and not necessarily seen, and I think that they
3 should guide on issues of policy and they should advise
4 the administration and allow them to do their job.

5 From there -- obviously, those are the main
6 things that I see. Particularly from the students in
7 this state, I don't think enough of our students are
8 taking advantage of their institution. I think there
9 needs to be some advice and guidance in that area.

10 Because of my background, I feel very good that
11 I could provide that.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any questions or
13 comments from members of the Committee? Representative
14 McCoy.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MCCOY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Dr. Patrick, thank you for being here today,
17 and thank you for your willingness to serve our State and
18 serve our State University.

19 Reading your letter to the Committee here, it
20 lists a doctorate degree that you've attained. Can you
21 fill the panel in on the specifics of your doctorate
22 degree.

23 MR. PATRICK: Here again, fortunate enough
24 through the State's experience. After getting out of
25 school, I got a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling.

1 From there I was recruited and had the ability
2 to go to Southern Illinois. Now, the degree is
3 rehabilitation administration. What that means -- that's
4 reform, that's revising, that's changing, that's having
5 the ability to program and evaluate and those kinds of
6 things, particularly with disenfranchised and special
7 populations.

8 So disadvantaged -- that's that type of
9 training. The term rehabilitate is, indeed, part of that
10 training.

11 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: And that's an impressive
12 degree and your educational career has been impressive,
13 so I commend you on that as well. I see that you
14 graduated -- is it 1976?

15 MR. PATRICK: Yes, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Have you maintained a
17 relationship with the school outside of your graduation
18 and outside of you not attending there anymore?

19 MR. PATRICK: When I came back from Illinois in
20 1985, I started to work there. I was recruited to go to
21 Louisiana University system, and that was dragging a
22 little bit, so I was fortunate to have my alma mater
23 provide me with a position in the 1890 Research and
24 Extension Program.

25 While there -- during that time between '85 to

1 '98, I taught as an adjunct professor in the graduate
2 school in counseling.

3 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: We've had a lot of folks
4 come up today and yesterday and talk about why they want
5 to serve and the importance of serving on the school's
6 board. A theme that we've heard is, that a degree today
7 is not what was it was 25 years ago.

8 If you were to step in and be a trustee or be a
9 board member here, how would you help make a degree be
10 worth what it was worth 25 years ago? Or make it so that
11 these young folks could go out and get a job, which is of
12 utmost importance?

13 MR. PATRICK: Well, let's start from the people
14 aspect of it, one thing that has really gotten me
15 everything. I'm a guy that's on my second career. I
16 left the University as a research assistant professor and
17 went into the School District. That's what I'm doing
18 now.

19 One thing about that, I see everyday children
20 who have fallen between the cracks and are not getting
21 the attention they deserve and the guidance. Likewise, I
22 don't believe that our University, in particular, is
23 really going after a niche in that market.

24 I work at the Heyward Career and Technology
25 Center. We teach trades. We offer skills to who --

1 because of the way they're raised, their family
2 situation, their demographics, their economic situation,
3 they don't see themselves going to college. But if you
4 know anything about career technical education,
5 generally, those kids that go through that training and
6 get a skill, they actually do better in college once they
7 learn.

8 As a result, there's a whole pool of students
9 that could be steered to college. Now, considering the
10 drop in enrollment of South Carolina State, we have to
11 look at various pools of student opportunity that we can
12 tap into, that is readily available to us. I see my
13 particular advantage in that scenario of becoming a board
14 member is to be able to talk really strong and
15 passionately about going after the students.

16 That drop in enrollment, I find really
17 disheartening.

18 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: I agree with you. Dr.
19 Patrick, I appreciate you entertaining my questions.
20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Dr. Patrick, I appreciate your willingness to serve.

24 Representative McCoy just made some really,
25 really great comments that I agree with about the

1 University. My wife is a graduate of the University, my
2 mother is, my father got his master's from there. So the
3 school is very personal to me, but perception is reality.
4 Unfortunately, there's been a perception with so many
5 incidents that leads us to the point where there's a lot
6 of parents, quite frankly, that do not want to send their
7 children to South Carolina State University.

8 I want you to expand on what you just said. I
9 think you made some really great points concerning
10 getting out there and promoting the school. I think one
11 of the things that the trustees need to do a better job
12 of is being a representative for the school, to go out in
13 the community, go out to high schools and even middle
14 schools and promote South Carolina State University in
15 order to get the confidence back, so that families feel
16 comfortable about sending their children to the school.

17 Your thoughts about that.

18 MR. PATRICK: Well, in my current position --
19 I've been there about 12 years. We always invite
20 colleges and universities, training schools, to come in
21 and recruit our students. I have noticed that my alma
22 mater has not done what I would like to have them do in
23 that regard.

24 When you deal with people -- and I say that as
25 a counselor -- you have to take the time to warm up. You

1 have to take the time to sell. And most importantly, you
2 have to take time to reach out. When I look as a
3 parent -- because I'm advising parents and children about
4 where to go to school. When I look at that and I go on
5 the web page and I look at South Carolina State's web
6 page and I see the acceptance rate is 96 percent, how can
7 that be? How can I tell a parent to choose State?

8 It hurts me to my heart. There's something
9 wrong in that statistic that I would love to have the
10 time to deal with at some point. Certainly, those things
11 turn parents off, and I'm an alumni. I'm talking to a
12 parent and that child, and they say, what's special about
13 this situation?

14 When I look at a comparable institution, same
15 size, black, whatever, I see their acceptance rates more,
16 based on their resources and size, in the neighborhood of
17 50 and 70 percent. That's average throughout this
18 region -- Southeast. What's happening to us?

19 A parent -- when I try to sell that child to my
20 alma mater, will say, whoa, have you seen the web page?
21 Explain that acceptance rate to me. I even took it upon
22 myself to e-mail Allan Grove, who is responsible for
23 putting that information out there. He told me, he said,
24 well, I see what you're saying, but this was the
25 information that was sent in. I said to him, this can't

1 be right because just out of mere processing of
2 applications where you have so many sent incomplete, and
3 that sort of thing, the sheer numbers are going to make
4 it so that 96 percent just is not right.

5 He says, well, this is the information that was
6 reported. Somebody has to have the ability to do those
7 types of things to keep the school out of harm's way.
8 The next aspect of that, sir, is, because I'm on the
9 people's side and I understand, in my opinion, the
10 demographics of this state, both rural and urban. I
11 think we really have to prepare ourselves to take the
12 time.

13 And you know what? Something that I learned is
14 that it just don't hurt to be nice. Why can't you have a
15 conversation? Why can't you reach out to somebody? You
16 know, being a preacher and a teacher's kid, that's what I
17 believe in, and I believe it earnestly because, when you
18 think about it, it doesn't hurt to be nice. It doesn't
19 hurt to smile. It doesn't hurt if you extend yourself to
20 somebody, in particular when you're trying to get them or
21 trying to sell them something.

22 I should not have had to come from a position
23 of power to force, coerce, or somehow intimidate you into
24 doing something, when it's much easier for me to warm up
25 to you and make you feel that it's your decision. So

1 that's where I'm coming from, and I hope I'm answering
2 your question, but that's how I'm feeling about that.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Senator Hayes.

4 SENATOR HAYES: Just two things. One -- and I
5 ask this question of all candidates. There's been
6 leadership turnover there at South Carolina State.

7 What ideas do you have as far as how to deal
8 with that in the future?

9 MR. PATRICK: Well, we have to enable the
10 leaders to be able to do their job. We have to hold them
11 accountable. I go back to the training I've had. I've
12 been trained in program evaluation.

13 You can't really allow an administrator -- or
14 criticize or hold to bear an administrator, if you have
15 never really given them an opportunity to do their job.

16 If you take the time to give really clear cut
17 parameters of operation, you take the time to clearly
18 communicate the desire and things that you want from that
19 administration, and you give them an outcome-based
20 directive through the advice of the board and its policy,
21 that's how we handle that situation of advice.

22 I seem to see more of, for lack of a better
23 word, meddling. I think that it's not the right way to
24 do business. I think that we can do better business, and
25 until we take the time to act professionally in the form

1 of boards and what their original intents are, we'll
2 never be able to get out of this.

3 We have to put them to bear, give them a
4 charge, make it clear, communicate it effectively, and
5 evaluate it based on the premise of what we intended to
6 do.

7 SENATOR HAYES: Great. Thank you.

8 The other question I had was, just looking at
9 your record, it looks like you had a couple of DUIs in
10 the early '90s.

11 Have you had any problems with DUIs or anything
12 since that time?

13 MR. PATRICK: No, sir. I got a son who is in
14 his fourth year at USC. I'm a single parent, and I had
15 to work hard to make sure he stayed there.

16 Yeah, that was there. I have no shame about
17 that. I was living out there. But when you have a child
18 and you have a good mother who has failing kidney
19 disease -- a mother that -- we were not married, but I
20 felt because of my parenting, what do you do? You take
21 care of the situation.

22 As God would have it, she got another kidney.
23 My son came here and is in his fourth year at USC.

24 SENATOR HAYES: You do have several speeding
25 tickets. It looks like '12, '08, '05, '04, so you're

1 down fairly low on points.

2 MR. PATRICK: No.

3 SENATOR HAYES: Well, this is what we have on
4 your driving record.

5 MR. PATRICK: When was that? In '08?

6 SENATOR HAYES: Four speeding tickets, 2012,
7 2008, 2005, and 2004.

8 MR. PATRICK: Maybe. The points are every two
9 years, right?

10 SENATOR HAYES: Well, it says that you
11 currently have two points. That's what we were told.

12 MR. PATRICK: No.

13 SENATOR HAYES: Oh, two points against you.
14 I'm sorry. I misunderstood the reading here, but I just
15 wanted to note on that.

16 MR. PATRICK: Rightly so. That was -- we
17 learn, we grow up, and we become responsible.

18 SENATOR HAYES: Nothing further.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Again, I certainly appreciate the work that
22 you've done and the difference that you're making. From
23 what I've heard in your testimony and your comments,
24 you're continuing to work at this time; is that correct?

25 MR. PATRICK: Yes.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So, again, in the ability
2 to carry out the duties and responsibilities of a board
3 member, how would you handle that if you're elected?

4 MR. PATRICK: Well, I have time to take. I
5 have time, if it was necessary. Yes. I have time to
6 take.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Just wanted to make
8 sure. Thank you, sir.

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

11 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Motion for favorable
12 report.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Second?

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

15 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
16 hand. It's unanimous. Thank you for your willingness to
17 serve.

18 MS. CASTO: Joseph Rice, Jr.

19 Mr. Rice is from Orangeburg, and is a 6th
20 Congressional District, Seat 2.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

22 (Joseph W. Rice, Jr. was duly sworn, after
23 which testimony commenced at 2:57 p.m.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share why
25 you would like to serve?

1 MR. RICE: Yes. I'm a graduate of South
2 Carolina State College. I finished in 1958. I also have
3 a master's from South Carolina State College. South
4 Carolina State College really changed my life.

5 I grew up in Anderson, South Carolina. I came
6 to South Carolina, not to go to college but to bring
7 someone else, but upon coming to South Carolina State and
8 being on the college campus, I decided that day that I
9 would come back, and I came back the next day and
10 enrolled in South Carolina State College.

11 The main reason for, I guess, getting involved
12 in this is that I've been noticing a lot of things going
13 on. Since I live in Orangeburg, I'm privy to see a lot
14 of the activities. I read the paper, and I'm also
15 involved in the everyday life in Orangeburg, South
16 Carolina.

17 My wife and I both are graduates from South
18 Carolina State College. I have a grandson who is
19 enrolled, so we have a long history of being involved
20 with the college.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. I see you
22 have a Ph. D.

23 MR. RICE: I do.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Were you a teacher at one
25 time? Or a professor?

1 MR. RICE: I've been a little bit of both.

2 SENATOR PEELER: I also see where you own your
3 own construction company now.

4 MR. RICE: Well, I do small repairs, but I
5 taught for six years in Branchville; four years at the
6 South Carolina State College, at the laboratory school;
7 one year at Francis Marion College; and I was a
8 superintendent for 23 years in Orangeburg County.

9 SENATOR PEELER: And your son is a swimming
10 coach at South Carolina State.

11 MR. RICE: He teaches swimming. Yes.

12 SENATOR PEELER: How long has he been there?

13 MR. RICE: Three or four years.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

15 Any other questions or comments?

16 Representative Whitmire.

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

19 Dr. Rice, I'm looking at your life history.
20 That sounds like a real Horacio Alger story. I really
21 admire you for what you've -- especially as a young
22 person, for what you've accomplished.

23 Since you live in Orangeburg, you obviously
24 have a feel for what you're hearing at SC State. Can you
25 fill me in on what you think the problems have been down

1 there?

2 MR. RICE: Well, having served on a board and
3 served for a board, I think the board should make policy
4 and let the administrator implement the policy.

5 I think when boards get too much involved, you
6 get a house divided, and a house divided cannot stand.
7 Therefore, I think when the board is united, the
8 administrator feels comfortable and don't have to
9 second-guess what is going to be the next move.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So you would be
11 willing to work with other board members, if elected, to
12 help choose proper administrators and let them do their
13 job.

14 MR. RICE: Yes, sir. I also served as Chairman
15 of the Board at Regional Medical Center. I was chairman
16 for four years. I served on the board for a number of
17 years. When we brought in a new administrator, we gave
18 him the policy and we helped and counseled him where we
19 felt necessary. We did not, in any way, attempt to get
20 into the day-to-day operation of the hospital.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you. Once
22 again, I have great admiration for what you've
23 accomplished in your life.

24 MR. RICE: Thank you, sir.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions? Comments?

1 SENATOR MCGILL: Motion for favorable report.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for favorable report.

3 Second?

4 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Second.

5 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, please raise
6 your right hand. It's unanimous. Thank you.

7 MR. RICE: Thank you, sir.

8 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is William
9 Small, Jr, and he is from Yemassee, also in the 6th
10 Congressional District.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir. Please
12 raise your right hand.

13 (William Small, Jr. was duly sworn, after which
14 testimony commenced at 3:10 p.m.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
16 the Committee why you would like to serve on this board?

17 MR. SMALL: Thank you, sir.

18 As I said in my written testimony, my entire
19 life has been a life of public service and public policy
20 engagement. I have a combination of over 32 years in
21 higher education and public service, and I'm a product of
22 historically black colleges and universities and believe
23 strongly in them.

24 Part of the time I spent in South Carolina, I
25 was the economic developer in Hampton County, and I am

1 intimately acquainted with the importance of a prepared
2 workforce, in terms of the economic, stability, and
3 progress that this state needs to make.

4 I have a deep sense of appreciation and concern
5 for what South Carolina would be without South Carolina
6 State University. Part of my experience is in dispute
7 resolution work, conflict resolution work. I have over
8 ten years of experience working in labor relations,
9 although this is not a union context, but working as a
10 hearing officer, arbitrator, and mediator to resolve
11 disputes.

12 I think that I have the temperament, the
13 experience, and the skill sets to make a contribution. I
14 want to say upfront, and I'm certainly eager to answer
15 your questions, I don't come with a presupposition that I
16 have the answers to the problems there. But I do believe
17 that if the right people are appointed, the answers will
18 be in the room.

19 I think it's extremely important that when we
20 hear about the difficulties at South Carolina State,
21 rarely do we hear about goals, and I think a conversation
22 that the goals the institution should be pursuing, the
23 niche that it can serve in the State, the service that it
24 can render that is not being met -- when we can move the
25 conversation to that level of discussion, I think a lot

1 of the difficulties that are so prevalent in the press
2 and in the conversation will begin to fade away.

3 I think there are tremendous opportunities in
4 the state to create innovative K through 14 education
5 models, which would fit the model that South Carolina
6 State -- the role that South Carolina State plays in the
7 education panoply of this State.

8 We have lots and lots of students who are
9 under-served in their public school careers, particularly
10 in the rural counties, and I come from a very rural and
11 poor county. I think that with certain kinds of
12 precollege interventions, using the community college
13 system, using the four-year institutions, we can create
14 models for education that will be attention-getting on a
15 national level.

16 I'm currently the Vice-Chairman of the Area
17 Commission for the Technical College of the Lowcountry,
18 and we're beginning to make innovations in that regard,
19 in terms of having students graduate from high school
20 with college degrees, associate college degrees. I think
21 there are a range of models that could be constructed
22 which would serve, not only South Carolina State, but the
23 people in South Carolina in that regard.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 Mr. Small, I noticed in the information that

1 you're a former School Board Chairman in New Jersey.

2 MR. SMALL: Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Was that an elected position?

4 MR. SMALL: Yes, sir.

5 SENATOR PEELER: In the public school district?

6 MR. SMALL: Yes, sir.

7 SENATOR PEELER: How long did you serve?

8 MR. SMALL: It was a three-year term.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Some people call it a
10 sentence.

11 MR. SMALL: Well, I promised the Lord and one
12 sentence was enough.

13 SENATOR PEELER: I understand. Any questions
14 or comments? Senator Hayes.

15 SENATOR HAYES: Do you still practice law?

16 MR. SMALL: No, sir. I never practiced law
17 independently. I did work with the County Legal Services
18 Corporation doing legal work for indigents and doing
19 policy work for the organization and investigative work
20 for cases. I'm not a member of any Bar Association.

21 SENATOR HAYES: And you're retired now.

22 MR. SMALL: I am. I retired in 2000,
23 approximately 2000, and came to South Carolina.

24 SENATOR HAYES: What brought you down to
25 Beaufort County?

1 MR. SMALL: I live in Hampton County. My
2 parents are from Hampton County -- excuse me. My mother
3 is from Hampton County, and my dad was from Burton, in
4 Beaufort County. We used to come as kids to visit
5 grandparents, and I just happened to fit into the place,
6 bought property before I moved here, retired, and came
7 here.

8 SENATOR HAYES: One final question, and I've
9 asked this on most of the others. As far as the
10 leadership turnover, what ideas do you have as far as how
11 to deal with that?

12 MR. SMALL: I think the best way to address --
13 from my perspective, not knowing the details that go into
14 making this judgment, the best way to address the
15 turnover in leadership, is to hire well. Hire well.

16 Going back to the discussion about goals and
17 objectives. You need to know that the person that you're
18 hiring has bought into the agenda what the institution
19 has framed for itself and could contribute to the further
20 development in furtherance of that. I think respect --
21 and we heard conversations back and forth about the
22 appropriate roles that the board follows, the
23 administration follows. That's all a given.

24 People have to be on the same page, and if you
25 don't have goals in your goal drawer, junk will get in

1 your goal drawer, just like junk fills up every other
2 drawer. I think the conversation has to be about what is
3 the role for greatness, for the restoration of greatness
4 and public confidence that South Carolina State can play
5 in the education of young people in this state.

6 If I might say, the Governor met with the board
7 the other day and said I've got your back. There's an
8 opportunity to step up to that. What does that mean?
9 How does that translate into a program? How does that
10 translate into a reinvestment of program support which
11 re-instills public confidence, which then begins to
12 address questions of recruitment and retention and image
13 change?

14 I might say also, we were talking about the
15 decline in enrollment. I'm not prepared to put all of
16 that on State. When you look at what's happened with
17 Pell Grants, when you look at what's happened with the
18 employment market where someone said degrees don't mean
19 employment anymore. There are a lot of factors that are
20 working and impacting the whole enrollment decrease in
21 colleges and universities across this country.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Representative
23 Henderson.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman.

1 I appreciate your insight and I picked up on
2 something you said which is, basically, that you worked
3 in economic development.

4 MR. SMALL: Yes, ma'am.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: And you're from a
6 poor county.

7 MR. SMALL: Yes, ma'am.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So what role do you
9 see SC State taking in helping to improve the economic
10 vitality of that portion of the state that really, as you
11 know, needs, you know -- I could see -- and I'm from
12 Greenville and I'm from Ohio, so I'm not as familiar with
13 that part of the state, but I could see where it's
14 located, SC State really having a strong role in the
15 economic growth, partnering with communities like Hampton
16 and others. Elaborate on that a little bit.

17 MR. SMALL: I think that the needs in my area
18 in particular are multiple. South Carolina State has a
19 doctorate in education program. We need strong teachers
20 and teachers who are energized and committed. I think
21 there's a whole conversation to be had about the creation
22 of adjustments to teacher training curriculum.

23 We are turning out teachers, and they are
24 burning out rapidly, which says, perhaps, they're not
25 being fully prepared for the experiences they're going to

1 encounter.

2 Health care -- again, we have health care
3 needs. Pick the area and the curriculum that is in place
4 can serve us, or areas like ours, by creating a
5 well-prepared, competent, dedicated workforce, and I just
6 think the opportunities are myriad.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Mr. Small, first question, what college did you
11 graduate from?

12 MR. SMALL: I graduated from Howard University.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: I just wanted to hear
14 that for the record. We've been here almost two days,
15 and I wanted to hear Howard University.

16 MR. SMALL: Thank you, very much. But my son
17 did graduate from South Carolina State.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: That's fine. My mother
19 and wife graduated from State.

20 You mentioned something that I think is very
21 key. You mentioned K through 14, and, of course, the
22 high schools are the feeder schools for the colleges.
23 The middle schools are the feeder schools for the high
24 schools, and when you tie that into small enrollment, I
25 take the position that you have to -- and one of the

1 things that the board should do, I believe, is to promote
2 the school within the high schools and middle schools and
3 even elementary schools, so that it can be on young
4 folks' radar that they want to go to South Carolina State
5 University.

6 As I said before, one of the problems that we
7 have now with all the things going on, there's a lot of
8 families that don't have confidence to send their
9 children to South Carolina State University. How do you
10 see your role, with regard to using your expertise, your
11 presence, because you have a good presence, going into
12 the schools and helping to promote South Carolina State
13 University?

14 MR. SMALL: One of the things that we did while
15 we were in the Office of Economic Development in Hampton
16 County was go after a community development block grant
17 and other monies to renovate the technical college
18 branch, which was existing in formula but the school
19 itself had been virtually dormant.

20 There had been no vocational courses offered
21 since the Vietnam era, or very little offerings in the
22 way of general education. Last July 10th, we opened a
23 newly renovated technical college in Barnwell with
24 modern, updated training skills in welding, C and C
25 operation, et cetera. I've been to virtually every

1 agency as a trustee for the Technical College of the
2 Lowcountry. I've been to council, I've been to the
3 agencies, I've been to the high schools, working with
4 them and talking with them about the importance of AP
5 classes, about the importance of getting students into
6 vocational tracks where, if they're not going to college,
7 that they graduate with something more than a
8 certificate.

9 I've also been in conversations about creating
10 models, education models, to let students in high school
11 enroll in the technical college, even though they can't
12 pass the compass test, by using other valid criteria for
13 admission.

14 So I think that experientially, we have done
15 it. Our commitment is to continue to do it. It's what
16 I've done all my life as an antipoverty director,
17 economic development director, and to some degree, as a
18 professor.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Representative
20 Alexander.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Just a couple of follow-up questions.

23 So you're currently serving on the Technical
24 College of the Lowcountry Board; is that correct?

25 MR. SMALL: Yes, sir. I'm the Vice-Chairman.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And how has your attendance
2 been? How long have you been on that board?

3 MR. SMALL: Six years.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: How has your attendance
5 been on that board?

6 MR. SMALL: We've experienced a recent dip in
7 attendance.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: No. I'm talking about your
9 attendance.

10 MR. SMALL: I have not missed a session.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And if elected to SC State
12 Board, what would be your position dealing with the
13 Technical College of the Lowcountry Board?

14 MR. SMALL: I would leave the Technical College
15 Board.

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

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

19 SENATOR HAYES: Motion for favorable report.

20 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Second.

21 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
22 hand. It's unanimous. Thank you very much for your
23 willingness to serve.

24 MS. CASTO: The final person for the 6th
25 Congressional Seat is Maurice Washington from Charleston.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

2 Please raise your right hand to be sworn.

3 (Maurice Washington was duly sworn, after which
4 testimony commenced at 3:13 p.m.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
6 the Committee why you would like to continue to serve on
7 the Board of the South Carolina State University?

8 MR. WASHINGTON: I would. Thank you very much.

9 My wife and best friend of 30 years, whom I met
10 at South Carolina State University, and my deep love and
11 appreciation of the University itself as a graduate.

12 I am a budget-hawk, an academic-hawk, and an
13 accountability-hawk. Three focuses that I strongly
14 believe would help this University over the next four
15 years.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or comments?
17 Representative McCoy.

18 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Mr. Washington, thank you for being here with
20 us today. I appreciate your time, and I thank you.

21 One of the comments when you gave your opening
22 statement just now, you talked about being a budget-hawk
23 and about being an accountability-hawk. I think that
24 those are underestimated qualities and I think that is a
25 true asset and I appreciate you coming in here and saying

1 that. It's good to have a fellow Charlestonian in here
2 with us as well.

3 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Can you fill me in on --
5 I've read a good bit of your background. What is Trust
6 Management, LLC?

7 MR. WASHINGTON: It's an insurance and
8 investment and consulting firm.

9 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: How long have you been
10 with them?

11 MR. WASHINGTON: Actually, I'm the president
12 and owner. Approximately, 18, 19 years.

13 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Are you set-up in
14 Charleston?

15 MR. WASHINGTON: I am, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: We also heard a lot --
17 and Representative Mack and Senator McGill have kind of
18 hit the nail on the head when it comes to SC State, and
19 we have a real gem of a school. We just need to have the
20 right folks in there to help flourish that school and
21 help get it back to a point, where Representative Mack
22 said, hey, we can encourage our children to go to school
23 here.

24 What kind of role would you take on the board,
25 if you were appointed to the board? What would be your

1 primary goal in helping bring folks back into the fold
2 here?

3 MR. WASHINGTON: I've served 12 years on the
4 Board of Trustees at South Carolina State University.
5 I've never missed a single board meeting over that
6 12-year period, nor have I missed a subcommittee meeting
7 over that 12-year period.

8 I've served six years as Chairman of the Board
9 of Trustees, several years as Chair of the Budget Audit
10 Committee. I've been very engaged and active over the
11 last 12 years in community activities that attract and
12 recruit quality students to South Carolina State
13 University.

14 I believe that a strong community presence, K
15 through 12, is very important. I've been active, working
16 with the 1890 Extension Research Division, which is
17 primarily a research and outreach division of the
18 University. We work in various counties throughout the
19 State of South Carolina in school districts.

20 When I was a member of Charleston City Council
21 in the late '90s, I recall working with South Carolina
22 State 1890 Research and Extension Division setting up
23 computer labs in school districts in the Charleston,
24 Lowcountry area. We were the first, in fact, to do a
25 private-public partnership with the Charleston County

1 School Districts, bringing computer labs to truly
2 disadvantaged Charleston District 20 schools, Burke High
3 School, Middleton, Mitchell Elementary School,
4 Sanders-Clyde Elementary School.

5 As a result of that, we were able to connect
6 in appropriate ways with disadvantaged students
7 throughout the Tri-County area. So I think going
8 forward, we have to continue to find ways to support and
9 supplement tuition and fees to our students. We have
10 probably one of the poorest populous student body in the
11 State of South Carolina.

12 Better than 80 percent of our students rely on
13 some form of financial aid, and we have to do creative
14 things to ensure that those who matriculate, have every
15 opportunity to do so. We've done that. I will continue
16 to do it through partnerships, through the private
17 sector, public sector, and my colleagues that are on the
18 board currently.

19 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Have you seen, in your
20 12 years of service to the school, have you seen a change
21 in average GPA or average SAT?

22 MR. WASHINGTON: It fluctuates. I've seen the
23 upswing, as well as the downswing. Right now we are,
24 combined SAT/ACT score, we're at 850. I've seen us at
25 895, 865, 875. Currently, that 850 represents a

1 downswing, but I'm optimistic that we'll turn that
2 around.

3 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: Yes, sir. And as that
4 correlates back to your 12 years, how about in those 12
5 years, how about a change in tuition cost since you
6 started and right now?

7 MR. WASHINGTON: We have had to increase
8 tuition modestly over the 12 years that I've served on
9 the board. Fortunately, over the past two or three
10 years, we've had zero increase in tuition, and we're
11 very, very proud of that.

12 We understand times are hard on parents and
13 households, and given the fact that roughly 76 percent of
14 our students come from households of annualized income of
15 less than \$30,000, it's important that we hold off on
16 tuition and fee increases.

17 REPRESENTATIVE McCOY: That wasn't a trick
18 question. I understand that every school faces increases
19 when it comes to expanding in the population or bringing
20 in new professors or expanding programs. I understand
21 that 110 percent.

22 I appreciate you entertaining my questions.
23 Thank you for that.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: You bet.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Hi, Mr. Washington. What do you see the role
3 of the board members being?

4 MR. WASHINGTON: Without a doubt, policy.
5 That's our role. Policy making. Obviously, we need to
6 engage in fund raising activities as well. We need to
7 engage in the recruitment of students to the University.
8 We have a serious responsibility to make sure that the
9 financial health of the institution is maintained and
10 protected.

11 We do have a role, as well, to ensure that our
12 students are learning, and the quality of our academic
13 programs or degree programs are in line with the job
14 market, the current workforce market. To that extent, I
15 think we play a partnership role with the administration
16 to ensure that the proper fiscal oversight, academic
17 oversight, are in place at South Carolina State
18 University and working effectively in the best interest
19 of our students.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: A lot of complaints that
21 I get -- and this is not directed at you. I'm going to
22 raise this with all incumbents to get a response.

23 I get inundated with e-mails and phone calls,
24 and a lot of folks don't even know I'm on this Commission
25 and I don't respond to e-mails, so as not to cloud my

1 position in terms of handling this, but I get so many
2 e-mails in terms of the board, quote-unquote, running the
3 school, the board talking to staff, the board working to
4 implement things, and it's created so much drama over the
5 years.

6 You ask somebody on the street, name a board
7 member of USC, Clemson, Francis Marion, College of
8 Charleston, Winthrop -- they can't do it. Ask a person
9 on the street to name South Carolina State Board of
10 Trustees -- boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. This side,
11 this side, this is the side I'm on.

12 It relates to so much drama and confusion a lot
13 of times, and I'm wondering your thoughts on a board
14 being able to operate as a board and not itself becoming
15 the news or the item or the thing that people talk about
16 because one of the complaints that I get is sometimes
17 board members talking to staff.

18 And I look at that with the turnover of college
19 presidents so quickly, and we've talked about that, and
20 so many that have left with a bitter taste, and it's been
21 the board. Your response to that.

22 MR. WASHINGTON: The line between policy and
23 administration is a very thin one, and it's difficult,
24 often times, to govern without either the administration
25 crossing over into policy area or sometimes the board of

1 trustees crossing over.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Explain policy the way
3 you see it from the board's perspective.

4 MR. WASHINGTON: I'll give you a couple
5 examples. Several years ago, we wanted to ensure
6 transparency at the University. We also wanted to ensure
7 board integrity, individual board integrity. So working
8 with the Association of Governing Boards, which is the
9 training ground for new and old trustees, we developed a
10 Conflict of Interest Policy. Not one that would govern
11 the activities of the administration and the staff, but
12 one that also governed the activities of the board
13 itself.

14 We wanted to go beyond the Annual State Ethic
15 Form that we complete every year and hold ourselves to a
16 higher standard, so we developed a policy. The
17 administration is responsible for the implementation of
18 the policy.

19 Another example is that we wanted to assess the
20 quality of our academic degree programs at South Carolina
21 State, so we passed a policy requesting that the
22 administration seek logical steps to attract external
23 examiners to come in and do exactly that. We set the
24 policy, you do the implementation, and report the results
25 back to the board of trustees.

1 Same thing with enrollment management. We set
2 the policy. We wanted to ensure that we were safeguarded
3 against sliding enrollment, which would impact our bottom
4 line. We set the policy, they frame it, they apply the
5 implementation, and report the results back to us.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: And those are good
7 things, and those are some of the things the board should
8 do. I've known you a long time and you have a great
9 intellect and great work ethic. Those are the things a
10 board should do.

11 What concerns me is -- and again, from so many
12 folks and reports, there's so much interaction within the
13 school. I'll give you a couple examples of what I'm
14 talking about. If someone is a member of the school
15 board, of course, they have, as anyone, the right to go
16 into a school and talk to a teacher. But just in terms
17 of protocol, they should go by the office and let the
18 principal know that they're going to go in and talk to
19 the teacher.

20 I've served on boards, Coastal Carolina, for
21 example. I would never go in and talk to some of the
22 staff folks without talking to the director and giving
23 him or her a heads up that I plan on coming in. It's
24 just protocol. And this is not directed at you. I'm
25 going to raise this with all the incumbents. I just

1 think that that lends to some of the tension and
2 confusion because I think it is -- I don't think the line
3 is that fine at all. The board sets policy. The
4 president, him or her, does the administration of the
5 school, and the president is to be held accountable by
6 the board at the appropriate time. I think it's a fine
7 line, but I think that that is one of the major concerns.

8 Last question. Your vision for South Carolina
9 State University in the future.

10 MR. WASHINGTON: Can I also respond?

11 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Oh, sure.

12 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you, Representative
13 Mack.

14 Given that I was recently, in a very public
15 way, accused of exactly what you just touched on,
16 interference, or meeting with staff without the knowledge
17 of the president, I think this is an appropriate time to
18 address that.

19 Actually, that never happened. As Chair of the
20 Budget Committee, I had some very deep concerns about our
21 current deficit and our rolling deficit of \$9.2 million,
22 and a current deficit of about 6.4, and I simply asked,
23 during a committee meeting which I chair, that we have
24 our external auditors take an independent look at the
25 numbers. We don't want to wait until the end of the day

1 to deal with this. I was asked by the president and the
2 chief financial officer if I would consider, instead,
3 having this analysis done in house.

4 I reflected on it for several days and agreed
5 to do exactly that, but did so through the Board of
6 Trustees, the University's internal auditor, asked her to
7 arrange for the conference, and I'll see if my schedule
8 permits me to participate.

9 I did not visit the campus of South Carolina
10 State University. The meeting was arranged. I have
11 e-mails to that effect between the internal auditor, the
12 president of the institution, and the vice president of
13 finance. As a matter of fact, I did not attend the
14 meeting physically, but was conference called in on a
15 meeting date and time set by the administration.

16 So I'm very confused and baffled by the current
17 accusation that I did precisely what you referenced, but
18 you did not reference it directly to me, but I wanted you
19 to know that it did not happen.

20 In terms of my vision for South Carolina State
21 University, Representative Mack, I think when you look at
22 the composite financial index of our University, which
23 basically points to the fiscal health of the institution,
24 I think that needs to be a primary concern of all board
25 members.

1 The CFI has a score deposit between one and
2 nine. If you're at one, you're in a serious financial
3 position. And actually, the experts say, it requires
4 that a governing body start looking at ways for
5 potentially shutting the institution down.

6 So going forward, as I reflect on that, coming
7 from the external auditor, I believe that a primary goal
8 and objective of, not just mine but the next president of
9 South Carolina State University, every board member that
10 you appoint to this board must have a laser focus on the
11 fiscal accountability measures at South Carolina State
12 University.

13 You don't run a \$9.2 million deficit and not
14 suffer consequences. You don't run a 9.2 on top of a
15 \$6.4 million, and not suffer dire consequences. So that
16 is a major focus of mine.

17 Secondly, on the academic side, I think we need
18 to ensure that our graduation rate -- it's unacceptable.
19 Our four-year graduation rate, standing at 14 percent;
20 our five-year graduation rate, standing at 29 percent;
21 and our six-year graduation rate, sitting at 34 percent.
22 That is unacceptable. It's an accountability issue, and
23 I believe that folks that we bring into this institution,
24 we have to hold them accountable in the best interest of
25 our students going forward.

1 And lastly, I believe we have to continue to be
2 supportive of the good work that is taking place at South
3 Carolina State. I mentioned earlier that our 1890
4 Research and Extension Program, providing outreach and
5 services throughout the State of South Carolina, I think
6 we need to continue, as the State has done. Support the
7 PSA service part of our 1890. I certainly will.

8 In addition to that, I also believe in the good
9 work that our Honors College program continues to do.
10 Eighty percent of our faculty are degree-holding faculty
11 members. These are things that we need to find ways to
12 continue to support; however, it requires balancing the
13 budget, matching or aligning revenues with expenditure in
14 appropriate ways.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Okay. I just want to
16 respond to let the record show that I was not raising
17 that question as relates to you, but the history of the
18 board, and the information that you gave was voluntary.

19 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: But let me conclude by
21 saying this. When you talk about the deficit and the
22 problems, you know, I'm African-American, I'm a liberal
23 Democrat. I have to get my Republican friends here to
24 get money for South Carolina State University, so some of
25 the situation with the deficit and all the problems,

1 again, to me -- I think the turnovers with the president,
2 the turmoil that existed on the board, and again,
3 perception is reality. I know a lot about the good
4 things. Not too long ago, the nurses school at South
5 Carolina State was turning out nurses that were scoring
6 higher than nurses out of Trident Tech and USC. It
7 wasn't that long ago.

8 So you and I know what's capable of happening,
9 but we have to get the board doing a better job of
10 stabilizing, staying out of the news, having calm and
11 professional board meetings, putting the school first as
12 being the primary interest, and have stability.

13 I think the last three or four presidents, I
14 think have been great. But somehow we've got to -- any
15 corporation, athletic team, or whatever, that has a
16 turnover rate like that, is not going to create stability
17 and go strong in the future. Thank you.

18 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you. I appreciate your
19 questions.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 How many years have you been on the board?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: Twelve years, sir.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I think I heard you say
25 earlier that you've had modest increases in tuition, but

1 none over the last couple years.

2 MR. WASHINGTON: That's correct.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: How would you define modest
4 in those other ten years?

5 MR. WASHINGTON: We kept our tuition increases
6 right at the single digits, between four and a half, five
7 and a half percent.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So is it affordable for
9 students to go to SC State today?

10 MR. WASHINGTON: It's \$9,200 per year for
11 in-state students, and \$18,400 out of state. Given the
12 amount of the loan that our students are -- or debt that
13 they're taking on to matriculate, I would say that the
14 \$9,200 for in-state is still relatively too high.

15 That's one of the reasons that I don't
16 personally accept per diem for my travel to and from
17 South Carolina State University, up until recently that
18 is.

19 My wife and I started a book fund to help
20 defray the cost of students who are matriculating and
21 don't have enough money to purchase study material. So
22 we started this book fund, and I then decided to take the
23 per diem and redirect those funds, in addition to new
24 contribution, into that particular fund. So \$9,200 is
25 less than, I would say, 90 percent of the public schools

1 in the State of South Carolina, but still out of reach,
2 for the most part, of the current students that we serve.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. A couple other
4 questions, if you don't mind.

5 You mentioned the deficit that the University
6 is running. How much of that has occurred during the 12
7 years that you've been at the University?

8 MR. WASHINGTON: Actually, up until 2007, we
9 were actually running an end-year surplus. Right at
10 2008, 2009, 2010, we hit a mark at around ten and a half.

11 And then '12, we got it down to less than nine,
12 and it's beginning to creep again in the wrong direction,
13 so it sits currently at \$9.2 million.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Does the board accept
15 responsibility for that deficit?

16 MR. WASHINGTON: I think ultimate
17 responsibility and accountability rests with the board.
18 I know I do, and that's one of the reasons -- you could
19 pull -- go visit our web site and pull any given minutes
20 from a meeting, and that is a constant issue raised by
21 myself and several other trustees.

22 We have to do better. We can't continue to
23 offer artificial revenues as a means to --

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Artificial revenues?
25 Explain that, please.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: Our core operating budget is
2 derived from what we call E and G activities, tuition and
3 fees, fundraiser activities. And the best example that I
4 can give, if you don't mind --

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Please.

6 MR. WASHINGTON: In June of last year, a
7 tuition and fee revenue budget was presented to the board
8 of, roughly, around \$47 million. Although that was the
9 same dollar amount presented to the board the year
10 before, what concerned me about last year's
11 recommendation was that we were basing the budget on 500
12 less students.

13 Five hundred less students with no tuition and
14 fee increase, but yet, the administration presented to
15 the board a budget revenue recommendation of \$47 million.
16 I couldn't make the math work.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And the board approved
18 that.

19 MR. WASHINGTON: It was a heavy split on the
20 decision to move forward with that budget recommendation
21 because it was based on 500 less students with no tuition
22 and fee increase and you were building your expenditure,
23 in my judgment, against a false revenue baseline.

24 And today, they try to figure out -- they
25 wonder why we're faced with a 6.2, \$6.3 million deficit.

1 I voted against it, offered an alternative budget, which
2 I didn't see as stepping in on the administration, but a
3 serious fiduciary responsibility of mine and other
4 colleagues of mine.

5 We cannot continue to build a budget on
6 artificial revenue and expect to balance the budget at
7 the end of the year. The implication in the classroom,
8 on operations, and teaching and learning is too great,
9 and we simply cannot tolerate that going forward.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: One final question, if I
11 can. You kind of mentioned the amount that's listed on
12 your economic interest regarding the money under State
13 wages. Is that your wife's salary? Or is that money
14 from the University?

15 MR. WASHINGTON: No. That's my wife's. She's
16 a State employee.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, thank you very
19 much. Mr. Washington, thank you for your service of 12
20 years on the board. It's an honor for anybody to serve,
21 and I want to ask you several quick questions about the
22 budget area itself. You chaired the budget area.

23 Are universities rated with a credit rating?
24 Does South Carolina State have a credit rating?

25 MR. WASHINGTON: We are part of the overall

1 State credit rating. In other words, if we fail to
2 provide accurate financial or late financials by the time
3 the comptroller general's package, the State financials,
4 prepare for Wall Street, it could have an impact on the
5 overall rating of South Carolina. We try to work hard to
6 ensure that when it's due, South Carolina State is
7 represented in the State budget.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me ask you this again.
9 The overall budget total for South Carolina State -- you
10 probably get Federal money, other funds, and State funds.

11 MR. WASHINGTON: That's correct.

12 SENATOR MCGILL: What would the overall budget
13 be for State?

14 MR. WASHINGTON: We're averaging about
15 \$140 million. All Federal, State, grant, you name it.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: What would your Federal money
17 be coming in?

18 MR. WASHINGTON: Approximately, of that, maybe
19 85, 80 to 85 million.

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Today -- the fund balance --
21 do we have a fund balance? You had talked a while ago
22 that that is a deficit, but do we have a fund balance?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir. The end of last
24 year's fund balance is a negative \$9.2 million.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: And that's what your

1 independent auditors -- what type of auditors audit
2 State?

3 MR. WASHINGTON: Independent external auditors.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you very much.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

7 Mr. Washington, I have a comment and a
8 question. The first comment is I live 190 miles from
9 Orangeburg, so I'm not familiar with the day-to-day
10 working of what goes on with the University, but I do
11 talk to my colleagues in the House that I respect that
12 are either graduates or supporters of SC State, and
13 they're telling me they would like to replace the whole
14 board as it is now.

15 There has to be a reason, so my question is,
16 since you've been on the board 12 years and you've been
17 heavily involved with the financing, which we see is \$9
18 million in the red, do you feel like you should shoulder
19 some of the responsibility for the problems that we've
20 had at SC State?

21 MR. WASHINGTON: As it relates to the budget
22 and the deficit, it doesn't matter what position I took
23 ultimately, in terms of voting against several budgets,
24 because it just didn't balance. That still does not
25 remove me as a member of the body total, in terms of

1 being held accountable. So in that respect, I think I
2 very definitely share heavy in the responsibility.

3 In terms of replacing the entire board, the 12
4 years that I've served, I think that position and that
5 issue has been brought before the members of the General
6 Assembly at least two or three previous times. And I
7 think one of our biggest problems is that we, quite
8 frankly, just have external people who believe that they
9 know more about the internal mechanics of the University
10 than the folks sitting around a table who see the numbers
11 and who have to evaluate the performance of a president.

12 I believe, I honestly believe, that it is
13 important for presidents to endear themselves to elected
14 officials and external as well as internal people, but
15 that's only a part of how we, as trustees, should
16 evaluate the performance of a president.

17 We have to look at graduation rates. We have
18 to look at enrollment, whether sliding or rising. We
19 have to look at the fiscal management of the institution.
20 We have to look at whether or not we're graduating
21 students into careers that would support them. We
22 package everything together in terms of how we evaluate a
23 president.

24 Fortunately for our students and fortunately
25 for the taxpayers of this State, simply endearing

1 yourself to external people is not enough. We have high
2 expectations at South Carolina State University of our
3 president. Our students deserve it, taxpayers of this
4 State deserve it, our staff deserve it. High
5 expectations, but reasonable.

6 When we take a vote based on proper evaluation
7 methods and the decision is that we may need to move in
8 another direction and the reaction is we're going to
9 replace trustees because they didn't listen to us -- that
10 mentality has cost us the presence of BMW, on our board
11 of trustees, with Sky Foster, Coca-Cola and Carl Green,
12 Neville Lorick (phonetic) in South Carolina Electric and
13 Gas, Martha Scott Smith with BellSouth. Quality
14 corporate individuals.

15 Going back to the question of moving this
16 institution in the right direction. No year end
17 deficits -- because these were brilliant corporate minds
18 that got in there and worked hard. This is tough work.
19 We have trustees who show up with nothing and who leave
20 with nothing. This is tough work. I stay up hours on
21 end preparing for board meetings. What does that state?
22 Those students that come from many disadvantaged
23 communities and backgrounds, they're relying and counting
24 on us.

25 These are the kinds of things that we do --

1 those of us who care and those of us who apply ourselves
2 and refuse to allow ourselves to be dummed down to the
3 level of colleagues that are refusing to do and carry
4 their fair share. I hope we can work through this, I
5 really do. I think there are common grounds and common
6 interests and I really believe that.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: One last question.
8 Go back 12 years, and if you could do it all over again,
9 would you handle things differently? If so, what?

10 MR. WASHINGTON: If I can go back 12 years, I
11 think -- we once removed a very popular president via a
12 telephone conference call. I think if I had a chance to
13 do that all over again, I think as chair, I would have
14 convened the board at the campus site and handled his
15 dismissal more professionally than the way that
16 particular dismissal was handled.

17 I think, too, I would have stayed away from the
18 elected officials, who refer to themselves as the
19 leadership, that played a role in crafting his exit
20 strategy because I think the two together created a very
21 volatile situation. So, in hindsight, we should have
22 handled that differently, and we should have never
23 allowed external elected officials to step in and direct
24 and dictate to us how we're going to handle the removal
25 of that president.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You mentioned
2 external forces. Do you feel there is undue influence
3 exerted on the board members of SC State by these outside
4 forces?

5 MR. WASHINGTON: I took an oath given by the
6 chair. When you're called upon, as a chair of a board by
7 an elected official, and you're advised that we have
8 changed our mind, we want this current president to stay,
9 and if you don't keep him, corporations with important
10 interests in this State will be heard from by 9:30
11 tomorrow morning -- I think that is undue influence.

12 And they were. Just check with Sky Foster and
13 BMW, or Martha with AT&T, and others that we have lost.
14 Great trustees who worked hard, never missed a meeting.
15 Corporations are contributing to the financial health of
16 the institution, giving our students internship, and
17 because we exercised our fiduciary responsibility and
18 ultimate responsibility to determine whether or not,
19 based on proper assessment and evaluation, a president
20 stays or goes -- we encounter that type of undue
21 pressure.

22 It's unacceptable and at the end of the day,
23 however, it doesn't matter because we don't put whether
24 or not we're going to be reelected ahead of what's right
25 for the institution. It's not a popularity contest. You

1 get in there and you work and you try to deliver in the
2 best interests of the taxpayers of this state.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I have a couple
4 questions, Mr. Washington. Let's go back to the deficit.
5 How much is the present deficit?

6 MR. WASHINGTON: The present deficit that we're
7 trying to bring down is 6.2.

8 SENATOR PEELER: What's your plan of action to
9 bring that down?

10 MR. WASHINGTON: What several of us had
11 proposed, as trustees, let's get rid of the cell phones.
12 That's costing us \$300,000 a year. We pay our employees
13 enough money to buy their own personal cell phones. Did
14 they do it? No. They didn't do it.

15 Let's furlough right now, September, right
16 now -- because we know trend data always indicate that
17 we're going to lose anywhere from five to seven percent
18 of our student population from fall to spring. So let's
19 not budget at the same level for the spring as we did for
20 the fall. They didn't do that. They budgeted for an
21 additional 500 students, and we were 500 short instead.
22 The furlough -- never implemented.

23 Right now we're talking to the state
24 treasurer's office about the possibility of borrowing
25 \$1.1 million from interest rate on state bonds that we

1 have to pay back next year. You can't escape that.
2 That's robbing Peter to pay Paul. That's not a real
3 deficit reduction plan.

4 I would imagine this will be presented to us at
5 the budget committee meeting this Thursday, and I hope my
6 colleagues join me in rejecting that. I think this year
7 is gone. I'm trending the budget -- I'm requesting an
8 update of the budget, literally, every two to three
9 weeks. We have, in my judgment, maxed out at about
10 \$57 million, as opposed to 64 million we initially
11 anticipated bringing in.

12 Our best hope, Mr. Chairman, is to look to the
13 future, in terms of fiscal year 2013-2014. We do a nine
14 to 12 year furlough right off the bat because we can't
15 outrun this problem, and taking \$1.1 million of bond
16 interest is not the solution, nor the answer. We've cut
17 on the operation side, but we've held so true to the
18 employment side.

19 We have to cut employment. We have too many
20 employees. We have to right-size this institution,
21 period. So without stepping into administration -- being
22 respectful of that -- all that we can do is make
23 recommendations and proposals and hope that the
24 administration acts on them and they're logical and
25 sensible to help deal with this debt crisis that we

1 currently face.

2 SENATOR PEELER: How about tuition increase?

3 Do you see that in the near future?

4 MR. WASHINGTON: We have been advised that we
5 will not -- advised by the administration that there will
6 not be a tuition or fee increase. Quite frankly, sir,
7 when you look at our composite financial index score of
8 negative 1.68, that's very bad, that's very critical, in
9 terms of our financial health.

10 We've got a 9.2 million deficit that's rolling
11 over from the previous year, and you're trying to
12 struggle with bringing down another 6.2. I don't know
13 how you do this without the possibility, unfortunately,
14 of a potential tuition and fee increase.

15 SENATOR PEELER: But the downside of that --
16 that may further limit your student applicants.

17 MR. WASHINGTON: You're absolutely correct.
18 It's not a foregone conclusion. I'm just saying that.
19 If you look at all of the options -- you start by looking
20 at all the options and then eliminating from there and
21 going forward, and hopefully that's one of the options
22 that we would eventually eliminate.

23 SENATOR PEELER: I must admit, I've been
24 wanting to visit South Carolina State campus for years,
25 and I haven't. When Willie Jeffries was coaching and

1 when Malcolm Long was quarterbacking, I wish I had gone
2 down there. Pretty much all I know about South Carolina
3 State is what the alumni tell me or people that are
4 interested in South Carolina State. The Transportation
5 Center -- can you speak to that?

6 Well, understanding that the most expensive
7 thing in the world is a free puppy -- somebody gives you
8 a free puppy, it's not free. Somebody gives you a
9 transportation center and South Carolina State can't
10 afford what we have now. How are we going to make that
11 work?

12 MR. WASHINGTON: In the 2012-2013 budget, one
13 of the issues driving this deficit, that you could see a
14 mile away, was the idea of putting \$1.6 million from E
15 and G funds, primarily students' tuition and fees, to
16 apply towards the Transportation Center.

17 I fought against that. My position did not
18 prevail. My point was exactly as you described. It's
19 going to cost us about 90 million new dollars to complete
20 this center. We have lost the transportation center
21 designation.

22 It does not make any sense to take \$1.6 million
23 from students' scholarships and books, and apply to, what
24 I see personally, as a black hole. I think it's -- I
25 don't think we have the plan in place to raise \$90

1 million. I think we're causing ourselves greater
2 financial harm in pursuing that venture. I think there
3 are other things that we can do to make it a viable
4 Transportation Center just through restructuring.

5 Those are policy issues that I've discussed
6 with the president and members of the board, but those
7 policy issues may -- well, obviously, will have to be
8 carried out by the president and the administration. I
9 think we just simply mismanaged the funds that were
10 entrusted to us, and when it came time to present a final
11 product, we just weren't prepared to do so.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Any other
13 questions or comments? Senator McGill.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: One last bite at that.

15 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Washington -- question.
17 How many employees do we have at South Carolina State
18 roughly?

19 MR. WASHINGTON: Roughly about 500, a little
20 over 500 employees.

21 SENATOR MCGILL: We have some housing issues
22 that probably disturb families or some of the children or
23 students on the campus. Either it was substandard or
24 something was wrong. Tell us a little bit about that.
25 Not much, just a little bit.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: We actually lost a student as
2 a result of the substandard housing. South Campus -- one
3 of our students died as a result of deferred maintenance
4 issues. We have since shut that down. That led us to --
5 I was chair of the board at the time -- to make an
6 appearance before the State Budget and Control Board to
7 ask if we can enter into an agreement with a federal
8 government program to construct new housing, state of the
9 art housing for our students.

10 Fortunately, they worked with us. They
11 assigned the State Treasurer's Office to work with us in
12 partnership with the federal government and we attracted
13 about \$43 million and we then built a 700-room facility,
14 a very attractive facility. We then used some additional
15 creative financing.

16 We started a foundation, a real estate
17 foundation, in order to keep additional debt off the
18 books of the University, and we used that foundation to
19 purchase University Village, a complex across the street
20 from the campus, built initially by the Bostick Brothers.
21 I think they both played professional for the Washington
22 Redskins.

23 That housed about -- offered another 450, 500
24 state-of-the-art living quarters for our students.
25 Currently, we have shut down, on campus, about four

1 dormitories. Four on campus dormitories. Our library
2 was built back in the 1960s. I have photos that I've
3 taken over the years of the decrepit conditions of our
4 facilities.

5 We definitely need stronger support from the
6 state, but the only way we'll get out of this -- we can't
7 dwell on what it is. We have to start looking at what it
8 can become, and it's going to require that the State of
9 South Carolina take a serious look at infusing one-time
10 real money into South Carolina State because, in spite of
11 the conditions that our students are learning and our
12 faculty members are teaching and our staff working in,
13 for several years we were ranked number one by Washington
14 Monthly as the most effective social mobility institution
15 among our peers in the nation.

16 What that basically says is, that we do a
17 better job at recruiting and graduating students from
18 disadvantaged communities and households than everyone
19 else in the nation among our peer group.

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Well, it's evident, what you
21 said in the very beginning, and you talked about the loss
22 of 500 students. Ten thousand times 500 is not hard to
23 understand why a deficit would occur. But the fact
24 remains that we have to live with a balanced budget.

25 If monies aren't there, you have to eliminate

1 personnel or you have to eliminate some program. The
2 1890 program is very successful, but when you started
3 with the transportation -- as a follow-up from the
4 Chairman, if it was a \$90 million project, what I don't
5 understand is, before you start a project, generally you
6 know where the money comes from.

7 So how would you -- unless you have three
8 phases, or four phases, how would you start a program not
9 knowing where the money is coming from? Or did you know
10 where the money is coming from?

11 MR. WASHINGTON: The Transportation Center
12 concept was given birth prior to my arrival. It was
13 around 1997, I believe. I arrived to the board around
14 2001.

15 SENATOR MCGILL: So it was before you got on
16 the board.

17 MR. WASHINGTON: It was before I got on the
18 board. We draw particular interest -- we drew particular
19 interest and attention to the Transportation Center, as a
20 board, right around 2003. Prior to that, folks were, for
21 whatever reason, afraid to tackle issues surrounding the
22 Transportation Center.

23 We decided to take it head on. In fact, it was
24 I that requested the first audit. The Legislative Audit
25 Council ordered the Transportation Center -- proposed it.

1 It was I that also recommended to the State Auditors
2 Office that they allow us to pay for external auditors to
3 come in and take a more comprehensive look at our
4 finances, above and beyond the standard, annual,
5 comprehensive audit report.

6 It was that audit that led to the necessary
7 financial internal changes that took us from running
8 deficits to fund balances in the positive -- right
9 through or up until 2007. And again, 2008, it started
10 sliding back and we are where we are right now. I
11 believe we can turn this around.

12 It's going to be painful, but you can't have a
13 9.2 running deficit and employees walking around with
14 cellphones, at the tune of \$300,000 a year, in terms of
15 costs to the taxpayers. That's unacceptable.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: One last thing. You mentioned
17 earlier about external influences. It's one thing to
18 have board members trying to influence the process on a
19 daily basis, but it's another thing to have political
20 people trying to influence. Do you mind sharing with us
21 who those people are?

22 MR. WASHINGTON: I am under oath. I don't mind
23 at all, sir.

24 SENATOR MCGILL: If you would share with us who
25 those are that interfere with State.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: Senator John Mathews,
2 Representative Jerry Govan, primarily.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Primarily Jerry Govan?

4 MR. WASHINGTON: Primarily.

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Are there any others?

6 MR. WASHINGTON: Their influence in the House
7 and in Senate creates an environment where others join
8 them, and they wreak havoc on trustees. You asked a
9 question and I'm answering it, sir. It's not good.
10 Folks want to know what's wrong with our board, what's
11 wrong with this institution. I think it starts right
12 there. If you elect us and trust us to do the job that
13 you've elected us to do, I guarantee you, we'll do it.

14 And we were doing it between 2001 and 2007 when
15 we attracted an additional \$100 million to South Carolina
16 State. That's how we were able to build New Guinea
17 Suites. That's how we were able to purchase University
18 Village. That's how we were able to structure a bond
19 that brought in another \$30 million to build a new
20 engineering facility, expand our science facility, expand
21 and renovate our dining facilities, and everything else.

22 But we had good, solid, corporate people
23 working with us that were, basically, for the most part,
24 ran off as a result of those kinds of undue influence.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: When you went to the Budget

1 Control Board, you were turned down for New Guinea; is
2 that right? The first time.

3 MR. WASHINGTON: We were turned down because,
4 as Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom said at the time,
5 we had, approximately, maybe 30 pages of audited
6 exceptions, and that was unacceptable. He challenged us
7 to tackle that issue head-on, and we did.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: When you came back, they
9 approved you getting that housing.

10 MR. WASHINGTON: They approved the housing.

11 SENATOR MCGILL: That was a big issue in loss
12 of students. I think the housing was a big issue on
13 campus. All right, Mr. Chairman.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Any other -- Senator Hayes.

15 SENATOR HAYES: I move for favorable report.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard. Let's
18 discuss that a little bit. You know there is great
19 concern about South Carolina State.

20 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir. I do.

21 SENATOR PEELER: With rank, comes
22 responsibility, and you have great rank with that
23 institution, and former chairman, great reputation as a
24 man.

25 Our mission as a Joint Committee to Screen

1 Candidates for University Board of Trustees is to find
2 whether that candidate is qualified or not, and that's
3 what we must vote on today.

4 I think you're qualified. I think you're very
5 capable, but I don't want you to take my vote as a vote
6 of confidence of the governess of the South Carolina
7 State in the recent past. We will all reserve our rights
8 at the proper time, and I've been struggling as you've
9 been talking, on how to respond to this because I have
10 heard concern of all incumbents, and you will hear it
11 from here on out, but I wanted to verbalize that,
12 Mr. Washington.

13 Any other comments? Representative Whitmire.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: As Vice-Chairman, I'm
15 echoing your comment, so I would want to vote you out. I
16 have a wealth of concerns about what happened in your 12
17 years as a trustee.

18 MR. WASHINGTON: I understand, sir. I accept
19 that.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

21 SENATOR HAYES: I want to put his name forward,
22 and I think he is qualified, but I share your concerns as
23 well. Not just with him, but with the incumbents as a
24 group, but I do think he's qualified.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: While we're on that point,
2 and I certainly don't disagree with any of the comments
3 that have been made by the members, but I think it's also
4 our concern about the future of SC State and making sure
5 that -- it has had a tremendous impact on our State.

6 It's a tremendous resource for us, and it's our
7 concern for that opportunity for this University to move
8 forward. And, certainly, I heard your comments earlier
9 that while you made different proposals, and I assume
10 those were voted down, obviously, the incumbent board
11 members do have ultimate responsibility from that
12 standpoint, so I share the concerns and will be voting to
13 move forward based on the understanding that he is
14 qualified.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other comments? Being
16 none, we'll proceed to a vote. All in favor, raise your
17 right hand. Thank you for your service. I know it's
18 been a tough time for you today, but it's time well
19 spent, I think.

20 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you for your questions
21 and your time.

22 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, please put me
23 down as voting in favor of William Small's favorable
24 report.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. That completes the

1 District 6 candidates. The District 5 candidate is here
2 now, Linda Edwards Duncan. I'd like to take her at this
3 time. Ms. Duncan, please come forward.

4 MS. DUNCAN: Good afternoon.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon.

6 MS. DUNCAN: I apologize for my tardiness, but
7 there were problems on 26 that I encountered, and it
8 caused me not to get here at the appointed time.

9 SENATOR PEELER: For the benefit of my
10 colleagues, if we could widen 85 and 26, maybe we'd --

11 MS. DUNCAN: I wish.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Duncan, please raise your
13 right hand.

14 (Linda Edwards Duncan was duly sworn, after
15 which testimony commenced at 4:15 p.m.)

16 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
17 the Committee why you would like to continue to serve on
18 the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees?

19 MS. DUNCAN: I am an incumbent, serving on the
20 board since 2004. I'm an educator, and I believe in
21 South Carolina State. In fact, I feel that I owe my
22 success, as a 35-plus year educator in Cherokee County,
23 from South Carolina State University.

24 As I've shared many times, when I first started
25 teaching, some of my instructors traveled to Gaffney to

1 make sure that I was ready for my first year of teaching,
2 and that's nurturing. I think as part of that, that's
3 the kind of educator that I am -- nurturing and dedicated
4 to my profession.

5 Also, we are faced with many, many challenges,
6 but in spite of that, we have faculty, staff,
7 administration, alumni, and board members that are
8 dedicated to serving our students. My resolve is to help
9 South Carolina State reach the prominence that I knew it
10 to have, and what attracted me in 1972, when I started my
11 educational path there.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any questions or
13 comments? Representative Whitmire.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for your
15 service on the board. Since you have no opposition,
16 maybe you could fill me in.

17 What went wrong at SC State in the last ten or
18 12 years?

19 MS. DUNCAN: I'm not real sure, but I know
20 leadership. I know we've had many, many problems with
21 leadership, and when you continue to start over, that's
22 what you're always doing. Starting over.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Is this from the
24 administration side or the board or a combination?

25 MS. DUNCAN: A combination of problems with the

1 board, as well as, you know, being in agreement as to
2 what the needs need to be. I think we're all passionate
3 about seeing South Carolina State be all that it can be.

4 However, our votes are split in the way that we
5 need to head in the right direction.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: In the case that new
7 members are elected to the State Board, do you see
8 yourself being able to work with them to move South
9 Carolina State forward in a positive way?

10 MS. DUNCAN: I do. And that's kind of been,
11 you know, what I've had to do as a teacher. Each year
12 you get a new group of students, the movement of
13 teachers, parents -- a new group of people that you have
14 to find a way to reach some common ground and to work
15 with.

16 I think I'm pretty honest in saying that I've
17 been able to do that with my fellow board members as
18 well.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Representative
21 Mack.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 Ms. Duncan, can you elaborate on -- you said
24 you'd seen some problems that relate to the board and the
25 administration. Can you elaborate on each one where

1 you've seen the breakdown between -- from your
2 perspective between each one.

3 MS. DUNCAN: Well, it just seems that in a few
4 cases, that the relationship has gone past being
5 professional and become more personal, and it seems, when
6 it gets to that point that maybe that's where you lose
7 your common ground.

8 And then it was mentioned that a lot of times
9 that faculty and staff become involved, you know, giving
10 information to trustees that I think probably should not
11 be given, and that seems to also play a part in decisions
12 being made, in my opinion.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: So, again, from your
14 perspective because we're trying to gain -- I think all
15 of us are trying to gain a perspective here.

16 From the way you see it, when you use the word
17 unprofessional on both sides, the exchange of
18 information, you don't think there's a professional line
19 there. And I think Mr. Washington said it well, that
20 this policy -- the board sets policy. The administration
21 runs the school.

22 MS. DUNCAN: Exactly.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Have you seen that line
24 blurred, and in what way?

25 MS. DUNCAN: I have seen it blurred where you

1 will get calls, letters, e-mails, from faculty and staff
2 about the particulars that are going on on campus, that
3 really is not our business, as far as the day-to-day.

4 And maybe it's felt that something needs to be
5 done, since you have been contacted, and, of course, the
6 contacts have been made to several board members and
7 that's where it starts to cloud. In fact, to the point
8 where SACS even questioned, you know, how we were -- our
9 performance.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: I'm familiar with that
11 report.

12 MS. DUNCAN: Yes. So it wasn't just something
13 perceived. It was something that SACS also addressed.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: And what do you think
15 needs to be done in order to satisfy that?

16 MS. DUNCAN: That we stick with being
17 policymakers and ambassadors of the students for the
18 school.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: So in terms -- you can't
20 stop getting e-mails or letters or contact from staff.
21 Some are going to do that.

22 MS. DUNCAN: Exactly.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: From your standpoint,
24 what is the appropriate action, if you're contacted by
25 staff members?

1 MS. DUNCAN: Since our voice is through the
2 chair, usually that's how I handle it. I thank that
3 person for their concerns and for making me aware, and at
4 a later time, when it is appropriate, our chair will
5 address, you know, the situation, if there is a need to.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

9 Briefly, if I could, we heard from Mr.
10 Washington about the deficit at the University.

11 MS. DUNCAN: Yes.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: What kind of vote did you
13 have when the reduction was put forth, the proposal that
14 he mentioned? I assume that you were listening to his
15 testimony.

16 MS. DUNCAN: I was. I'm not real sure at that
17 time because the budget was presented to us several times
18 in many different ways, and at one point we decided that
19 we needed to make some decisions so that things could
20 move forward.

21 That required that we give a yes vote to what
22 was there, what had been presented to us, with continued
23 work on making the numbers work.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Let me ask it in a
25 different way. Did you support the budgets that provided

1 a deficit that has gone up to over \$9 million?

2 MS. DUNCAN: No. I did not.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Did you all have a vote to
4 eliminate the cell phones?

5 MS. DUNCAN: I don't think we really had a
6 vote. We talked about --

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: What would be your
8 position?

9 MS. DUNCAN: My position would be that we need
10 to eliminate that kind of spending because we can't
11 afford it.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: My final question. What
13 kind of attendance have you had at the board as a member?

14 MS. DUNCAN: I've been on the board nine years,
15 and I have only missed two meetings, I think, and that
16 was due to death in my family.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes has a question.

19 SENATOR HAYES: There was an issue on the
20 leadership that I've been asking about, and I
21 understand -- are you all in the position of hiring one
22 recently, as far as a president of the University?

23 MS. DUNCAN: Yes. In fact, I'm serving on the
24 Presidential Search Committee.

25 SENATOR HAYES: Do you think it's appropriate,

1 with the potential of the turnover that we're going to
2 have on the board, to go forward prior to the election?

3 Do you anticipate a choice being made before
4 the election or after the election?

5 MS. DUNCAN: I would hope that it's made after
6 the election, but also I would hope that we could, sort
7 of, put it on hold because with new leadership, that
8 means bringing in new people, starting fresh, and it just
9 seems that we continue to lose ground.

10 SENATOR HAYES: So on hold for how long?

11 MS. DUNCAN: Well, until we just see as a board
12 that there is a need to go further, especially with our
13 financial picture looking as it does. I don't see how
14 we'll be able to attract the kind of president that we
15 need to have in the face of our finances.

16 SENATOR HAYES: So you have an interim
17 president now.

18 MS. DUNCAN: Yes, sir.

19 SENATOR HAYES: So you think we should stay
20 with an interim president for a while, until you get a
21 handle on what needs to be done, before trying to bring a
22 new, full time president in?

23 MS. DUNCAN: Yes, sir.

24 SENATOR HAYES: What is the time frame now, on
25 the committee, as far as participating in a vote on the

1 new president?

2 MS. DUNCAN: We have not really set a date, an
3 exact date on that. We have chosen some finalists that
4 are now being vetted through, you know, searching more
5 with their applications. So it's still not a set time
6 frame for bringing them in for the interviews and then
7 making a final announcement.

8 SENATOR HAYES: How many finalists do you have?

9 MS. DUNCAN: Three.

10 SENATOR HAYES: So it is down to three
11 finalists.

12 MS. DUNCAN: Well, three people were chosen,
13 but we're not sure yet until their applications are
14 finalized.

15 SENATOR HAYES: So you would be in a position
16 that, although you've narrowed it down to three, that the
17 whole thing should be put on hold for a while before
18 moving forward with that.

19 MS. DUNCAN: I think so.

20 SENATOR HAYES: No further questions.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Senator Hayes.

22 Senator McGill.

23 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Real brief. Of course, that's what's so great
25 about diversity. Always have the men talk about it, and

1 the ladies get the job done.

2 Now, let me say this. I'd like to ask you very
3 quickly -- the reduction of students. What is your
4 opinion why there's a reduction of students?

5 MS. DUNCAN: Well, some students that I've
6 worked with, it has been finances. Their families have
7 not been able to finance their coming back to campus.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Well said.

9 MS. DUNCAN: Finances.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

11 Ms. Duncan, would you like to speak to the
12 Transportation Center? What do you think about that?
13 What did you think about it when it went forward?

14 MS. DUNCAN: Well, that all had -- as Mr.
15 Washington mentioned, that had started long before my
16 time. When I came on the board, I think maybe a few
17 months later, we did our first groundbreaking for the
18 first phase of that. So I wasn't real sure about how
19 that all would come together, since it did seem to be a
20 major, major project that, at the time, we were not ready
21 for financially.

22 So I'm not real sure about that because of it
23 already being in gear prior to me coming to the board.

24 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, ma'am.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or

1 comments?

2 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Motion to move forward, second
5 was heard. All in favor, please raise your right hand.
6 Thank you. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

7 MS. DUNCAN: Thank you very much.

8 MS. CASTO: Our next two candidates are vying
9 for the 7th Congressional District Seat. This is a new
10 seat. Neither one of these are incumbents. Ronald
11 Henegan, Sr, he is from Bennettsville.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon. Please raise
13 your right hand.

14 (Ronald B. Henegan, Sr. was duly sworn, after
15 which testimony commenced at 4:30 p.m.)

16 SENATOR PEELER: Would you give us a brief
17 explanation why you would like to serve on the South
18 Carolina State Board?

19 MR. HENEGAN: Yes, sir.

20 SENATOR PEELER: And after what you've heard so
21 far, you may want to reconsider.

22 MR. HENEGAN: Let me say that I have a vested
23 interest in the school. My mother, my son, and myself,
24 all of us graduated from South Carolina State; therefore,
25 we have a great deal of respect for our alma mater.

1 As such, I would consider it an honor and a
2 pleasure to serve the University and its students. I've
3 served in leadership roles for about 42 years, throughout
4 my educational career in the public schools. I've served
5 as Chairman of the Marlboro County Board of Education for
6 eight years, and I've seen these kinds of boards in
7 operation.

8 I'm very much interested in the board and
9 making sure that we communicate effectively with board
10 members and making sure that we understand our role and
11 making sure that we understand the role of the University
12 and of the administrators. I'm very much concerned about
13 that, and I do believe, with my training and background,
14 that I could offer some sound insight into the operations
15 of a school of this type.

16 I just want to play a vital role in the
17 continued growth and development of South Carolina State
18 University.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir.

20 Questions or comments from members of the
21 committee? Representative Whitmire.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
23 Mr. Henegan for your willingness to step up and serve SC
24 State. I'm a former educator myself, so I appreciate the
25 role that you've served in our state.

1 What would you do to fix this problem, if you
2 were elected?

3 MR. HENEGAN: Well, there are several things I
4 think we ought to look at. First of all, I think we need
5 to make sure that we all understand our roles. I think
6 South Carolina State has gotten a lot of negative
7 publicity in recent years, and I think we can fix that if
8 everybody understands to stay in their lanes.

9 The board operates governing and making
10 policies, and the day-to-day operation of the program
11 would be for the administration to take care of. Once we
12 separate and delineate between the two and make sure
13 everybody understands their role, I think we can dispense
14 with a lot of the negative publicity we're getting at
15 this time.

16 I believe we have to step-up our recruitment
17 efforts to get more students at South Carolina State.
18 You can do that through interacting and the involvement
19 of guidance counselors and principals and communities --
20 ensuring that we are going to do the right thing, we are
21 fiscally responsible, and we're going to see to it that
22 we provide a safe environment for all students to attend
23 South Carolina State.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It seemed to me, you
25 know, talking about losing so many students, you know,

1 State's got so much to offer. It's a beautiful campus,
2 great sports programs, and a lot of other things. You
3 shouldn't even have to worry about such a reduction in
4 the enrollment. That's just coming from a different
5 perspective.

6 As an educator, do you see the role of the
7 college is serving the purposes of the young people
8 trying to go out and get a job in the real world?

9 MR. HENEGAN: Yes. I think South Carolina
10 State has a number of programs that serve our students
11 very well. I think some of the major problems that we
12 have, of course with the students, deal with the price.

13 Some of them just can't afford to go to college
14 and don't have the necessary means and resources to get
15 there. So I believe that we could work around keeping
16 our tuition constant and low, and I'm not sure how we can
17 do that exactly, but I do feel like if we had an
18 opportunity to network with foundations, write grants,
19 network throughout the community with our business and
20 our leaders in the community, that we could work with
21 this. Not necessarily solve it, but I think we could
22 improve on it.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, I wish our
24 higher ed had gotten more support from the Assembly.
25 That's obviously one of the problems all our colleges are

1 facing right now. Unfortunately, what you're going to
2 get is what you're going to get, so you're going to have
3 to be creative. I wish you luck. Thank you very much.

4 MR. HENEGAN: Thank you.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Questions or
6 comments? Senator McGill.

7 SENATOR MCGILL: Briefly. Very impressive
8 individual.

9 MR. HENEGAN: Excuse me?

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Very impressive.

11 MR. HENEGAN: Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

12 SENATOR MCGILL: Motion for favorable.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for second?

14 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

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

17 Thank you, sir. Appreciate your willingness to
18 serve.

19 MR. HENEGAN: Thank you very much.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

21 MS. CASTO: The next candidate for the 7th
22 Congressional District Seat is Myers Rollings from
23 Conway.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

25 MR. ROLLINS: Good afternoon.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right hand.

2 (Myers Rollins Jr. was duly sworn, after which
3 testimony commenced at 4:35 p.m.)

4 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a brief
5 statement or maybe why you'd like to serve?

6 MR. ROLLINS: Absolutely. I'd like to begin by
7 saying that I've listened very attentively over the
8 course of the past couple of hours, and I've learned a
9 great deal. I've also attempted to do my due diligence
10 by researching some of the issues and problems that have
11 contributed to the challenges that the University
12 currently is faced with.

13 I'd like to begin by saying that, based on the
14 totality of the research that I have conducted, I simply
15 think that it's time for a fresh set of eyes. I equate
16 that by my personal experience over the last nine years
17 in South Carolina. In many ways, what the University is
18 experiencing mirrors my experience when I transitioned to
19 Horry County, in particular, City of Conway specifically.

20 I feel blessed and privileged to be an
21 African-American male; however, I'm deeply concerned
22 about the future of African-American females and males as
23 relates to their opportunities for higher education.
24 While statistics show that 45 percent of African-American
25 males enroll in college, presently only 16 percent of

1 them ever graduate from college. So I feel that I have
2 an ethical and fiduciary responsibility, as an
3 African-American male who has enjoyed some degree of
4 professional success, to reach back and help the next
5 generation of leaders.

6 South Carolina State University has an
7 extremely rich heritage and proud tradition, and my sole
8 and exclusive interest is in using the skills, the
9 knowledge, and the ability that I've acquired to help
10 advance the goals and objectives of the University.

11 I can tell you that I took over an agency that
12 was, in many ways, similar to what I'm witnessing at that
13 college. When I took over the company that I'm currently
14 the CEO of, it was facing a million dollar deficit. The
15 former CEO was under indictment, and subsequently, went
16 to prison.

17 We had totally lost the trust and confidence
18 of, not only the community, but the stakeholders and the
19 funders that we relied on to advance our goals and
20 objectives.

21 I looked at that eight years ago as not only a
22 challenge but an opportunity, and I rolled up my sleeves
23 and I dug in my heels and I began to try and make
24 improvements. The first thing that I did, working with a
25 nine-member board of directors appointed by the Horry

1 County delegation, as well as the municipal governments
2 in two counties that we serve, Horry and Georgetown, was
3 to manage the organization like a for profit enterprise.

4 Now, we understood that we didn't have a
5 Standard & Poor's or Moody's rating. We understood that
6 we were not a for profit agency, but using that
7 philosophy really set the stage for us to work as a
8 cooperative team, both administration and board. I think
9 that we have to go back and look at the core mission of
10 the organization and ask ourselves, as a board, what are
11 we here to accomplish?

12 That mission statement has to align with the
13 vision of the organization. I also think that the board
14 would be well-served to establish, as we did, key
15 strategic priorities. In other words, key priorities
16 that everything that cascades down into the organization
17 must align with. Based on what I've witnessed, that
18 doesn't exist.

19 I also think that it would be in the
20 University's interest, in keeping with approaching the
21 organization like a for profit business, to develop both
22 a long range and a short range strategic business plan.
23 We incorporated those things in our organization, and I
24 can tell you, while we still have challenges, we have had
25 six years of a balanced budget. We have had six years of

1 an unqualified external audit, and we meet our core
2 mission, which is to enhance the quality of life for
3 residents of Horry and Georgetown County.

4 I think I bring a business acumen to the
5 organization, and I also think that I bring a can-do,
6 glass, not half full, but three-fourths full approach to
7 problem solving.

8 One of the things that we learned early on in
9 our development as a board and as administration is, that
10 there has to be a firewall. On one side of the firewall
11 is policy, which is the purview exclusively of the board
12 of directors, and on the other side is day-to-day
13 administration. The extent to which we enjoy success was
14 largely driven by our ability and willingness to accept
15 those roles, and I think I can help shape that type of
16 philosophy and willingness to work as a team
17 collaboratively to the board of trustees.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Mr. Rollins. I
19 have a few questions here. I'd like to take them one at
20 a time and let you respond to them.

21 You have a law degree.

22 MR. ROLLINS: Yes.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Where did you go to law
24 school?

25 MR. ROLLINS: John Marshall Law School in

1 Cleveland, Ohio.

2 SENATOR PEELER: You're in the transportation
3 field. What do you think about the Transportation Center
4 at SC State?

5 MR. ROLLINS: I think it's like a big piece of
6 clay that has unlimited potential but simply has not been
7 effectively molded.

8 SENATOR PEELER: I want you to clear these up
9 for me. The former finance director filed Economic
10 Interest Statements for '09, '10, and '11, fined by the
11 Ethics Commission, paid the fine. Can you speak to that?

12 MR. ROLLINS: Absolutely.

13 My experience has been, in any organization --
14 and we heard some of that earlier today. Two to five
15 percent of the work force creates 75 to 80 percent of the
16 problems.

17 Our experience was that while we were a
18 systems-driven organization, my finance director chose,
19 and this is verified in e-mails, not to file the Economic
20 Statements of Interest. That was brought to my
21 attention. That employee was terminated.

22 I went before the Ethics Commission. I brought
23 clear and convincing evidence to support what transpired.
24 And just one point of clarification. The fine wasn't
25 paid, and for one of the few times in the history of the

1 South Carolina Ethics Commission, the fine was dismissed
2 and all charges were dismissed as well.

3 SENATOR PEELER: It shows here that you were
4 suspended by the bar for failure to appear at a hearing.
5 Would you like to speak to that?

6 MR. ROLLINS: Yes. In 1994, I had a very
7 successful law practice, and two attorneys in my firm
8 failed to attend hearings. As a result, I appeared
9 before the Bar Association. I made the decision to
10 accept responsibility for that, even though those weren't
11 cases that I worked, and accepted that suspension.

12 SENATOR PEELER: And we look at everyone's
13 driving record. It looks like you have a problem paying
14 your traffic tickets. Can you speak to that?

15 MR. ROLLINS: Can you cite an example?

16 SENATOR PEELER: You currently have no points,
17 but you have six speeding tickets and license was
18 suspended for failure to pay a traffic ticket. Two
19 served concurrently, ended July '09, and another ended
20 April of '09.

21 I'm just getting a pattern here. And then on
22 your credit report there are 11 unpaid medical bills and
23 three liens.

24 It just seems to me like, if you took this
25 history, it kind of reflects the history of South

1 Carolina State. I just want to give you the opportunity
2 to respond.

3 MR. ROLLINS: Absolutely.

4 Like many of us, I went through a divorce. I
5 accepted responsibility for the expenses as part of that.
6 Those were things that happen during that divorce.

7 Those have all been paid, and those debts are
8 no longer in existence.

9 SENATOR PEELER: So you have a clean record
10 now --

11 MR. ROLLINS: That's correct.

12 SENATOR PEELER: -- of driving and credit.

13 MR. ROLLINS: Absolutely.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir.

15 Representative Whitmire.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. On that same type of thing. The three liens,
18 what were they for? I'm reading right here, it says you
19 have three liens against you.

20 Was that from your nonpayment of medical?

21 MR. ROLLINS: Yes, sir. During the period of
22 the divorce.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And you have paid all
24 11 medical bills.

25 MR. ROLLINS: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I agree with the
2 Chairman. This is not a good pattern to me. We're
3 trying to clean-up South Carolina State, and one of their
4 biggest problems is that they're running a huge deficit.

5 I'm looking at a person who didn't pay his
6 bills, who was suspended from the South Carolina Bar, who
7 has had a number of speeding tickets, and three license
8 suspensions for failure to pay those traffic tickets.

9 I'm sorry, but that's just not what I think
10 South Carolina State needs. I'm not sure I'm going to be
11 able to vote you out.

12 SENATOR PEELER: It's before us, and I wanted
13 to give you an opportunity to speak to it. Any other
14 questions or comments? Senator Hayes.

15 SENATOR HAYES: I was looking at the Statement
16 of Economic Interest. What's the salary -- is it on
17 here?

18 MS. CASTO: There are two Statements of
19 Economic Interest that he filed. One was the handwritten
20 one that we did, and then he has a Statement of Economic
21 Interest on file, because of his job, that lists his
22 salary.

23 SENATOR HAYES: According to this, it looks
24 like the salary is \$134,550 with benefits of \$33,000. Is
25 that accurate?

1 MR. ROLLINS: Yes, sir.

2 SENATOR HAYES: When was your divorce?

3 MR. ROLLINS: 2009.

4 SENATOR HAYES: Just looking at this, it says,
5 11 unpaid medical bills between August of '07 and
6 February 2013.

7 Looks like some of these debts, you know, as
8 well as suspensions for failure to pay traffic tickets,
9 weren't necessarily tied to the time frame of you getting
10 divorced.

11 How would you respond to that?

12 MR. ROLLINS: Well, they actually were. And
13 what I took responsibility for is sitting down with each
14 of the medical centers and making sure that each of those
15 bills were paid in full.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Chairman.

18 Let me say this. You know, there's been a lot
19 of answers today and some have been perfectly honest, Mr.
20 Rollins. Certainly a lot of individuals with diversity
21 want to serve on this board as board of trustee members,
22 and there's no question that a lot of these individuals
23 came clear, with no records, no speeding tickets, no
24 liens, no delinquent Economic Interest forms.

25 I can say this, that Myers, in Horry County is

1 well-respected. I don't know about his personal, I don't
2 know about his past, but I know about his bringing an
3 agency back in the last two or three years -- I don't
4 know who could have done it.

5 So when you hear him speak, and he talks about
6 what he has done with this transportation company, he's
7 probably the greatest business miracle that you can have
8 with the transportation company. A lot of these
9 transportation units all over the state are in a lot of
10 financial trouble. I have to give it to you, Myers,
11 you've really brought it back.

12 I learned a lot today that I didn't know about
13 your private life, but I know this. As far as business
14 is concerned and as far as an individual, everybody
15 should be afforded an opportunity. I think to deny
16 anybody an opportunity to run for this board of trustees,
17 would be an injustice.

18 I think we should allow him to run. If he is
19 not elected, that will be by the 170 members. If he is
20 elected, that will be by the 170 members.

21 With that, I'd like to move forward with
22 favorable report.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for favorable report.
24 Is there a second?

25 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard. Let's have a
2 little more discussion. You heard what I said were my
3 concerns. You heard what Representative Whitmire said,
4 and you've heard what Senator McGill said.

5 I would tend to not vote you out also, except
6 for the fact that you've proven your managerial skills
7 and your financial skills, according to the Senator from
8 Williamsburg, as general manager of Waccamaw Regional
9 Transportation Authority.

10 I'm reluctant. Quite frankly, I'm reluctant
11 because if a man can't handle his personal finances, I
12 just was curious to know how he would handle the finances
13 of South Carolina State. But hearing what the Senator
14 from Williamsburg said, and with the understanding that
15 you have a personal past with your personal finances --
16 yet you have a record of managerial skills at Waccamaw.

17 And then if we vote you not-qualified -- it's
18 tough. I've got a very high bar with that. You almost
19 made it. You almost made that bar.

20 Representative Whitmire, how do you feel?

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm still going to
22 vote no. I'm sorry. I feel like South Carolina State
23 deserves people with no prior record, but obviously, I'm
24 going to be in the minority.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Well, I don't want us to be

1 split on something like this. I don't know if we want to
2 carry this one over and talk about it, or are you all
3 ready to vote now?

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, the only thing
5 I'm going by, talking about a bar, there are probably a
6 lot of individuals that I would have voted against
7 yesterday and today, and we've let a lot of opportunity
8 slide because we afford individuals the right to run.

9 And I'm going to tell you, I'm one not to deny
10 that. He will have to stand on his record. He may not
11 get past the General Assembly, but the fact remains that
12 I'm of the opinion that we've let some individuals go
13 through that had some risky problems over the years.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

15 SENATOR HAYES: If we go to a vote today, I'm
16 not going to vote to confirm. I don't mind carrying it
17 over, if we want to discuss it further.

18 I haven't seen one yet that has been disbarred
19 for a year, had three liens, 11 unpaid medical bills.
20 Granted, he said he's paid them now. He has a problem
21 paying traffic tickets.

22 You know, granted, he may have turned a
23 business around, but that -- I think we've got, you know,
24 it's not like -- well, you know, if we're just going to
25 rubber stamp everybody, what's our job here?

1 So I'm a little concerned about that, and I'm
2 not prepared to vote him out at this point, but I
3 certainly wouldn't object if you want to carry it.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion
5 to carry it over.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is to carry over this
7 candidate. All in favor, please raise your right hand.
8 Thank you.

9 We'll be back in touch with you, sir. Thank
10 you. Next candidate.

11 MS. CASTO: The next one is -- there are three
12 candidates for the At-Large Seat, Number 9. Pearl Ascue
13 from Awendaw. This is a seat that expires in 2017.

14 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, ma'am?

15 MS. ASCUE: Good evening.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right hand.

17 (Pearly V. Ascue was duly sworn, after which
18 testimony commenced at 4:55 p.m.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share the
20 reason why you would like to serve on the South Carolina
21 University Board?

22 MS. ASCUE: Yes, I would. I just want to say
23 thank you to the Chairperson and the Committee members
24 for accepting my letter of intent.

25 I have a tiny cold, but under the

1 circumstances, I come with a fresh perspective, from my
2 point of view, meaning that I'm not a graduate of South
3 Carolina State University, but I have a vested interest
4 because I have two children that graduated from South
5 Carolina State University. One son graduated in 1996,
6 our daughter in 2002, and also my daughter-in-law as well
7 as my son-in-law.

8 During those years we came to South Carolina
9 State when our children was here and still have a vested
10 interest here just by knowing that, I, myself, want to do
11 what's best for South Carolina State University and for
12 the children, for the students who attend here, and for
13 the fact that this is a historically black university,
14 one of the oldest here in the State of South Carolina.

15 I just want to come and bring my experiences
16 from a service standpoint and also from a business
17 standpoint.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any questions or
19 comments? Representative Mack.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 I just want to say, for the record, I know
22 Ms. Ascue and her family extremely well. They are
23 incredible givers to the community and have been involved
24 in many, many positive things, and I think just her
25 caliber would be a tremendous asset to the board.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I would like to thank
3 you, Ms. Ascue, for being willing to serve.

4 If you're elected, what will you do to try to
5 change the perception that South Carolina State is having
6 trouble, you know, with their finances and they're losing
7 their -- you know, student population is dropping, and
8 board problems. Obviously, according to one candidate,
9 there's external pressure from the legislature.

10 How would you handle those things, if you're
11 elected?

12 MS. ASCUE: As a board member, I would
13 definitely work in collaboration with the board. From
14 what I've heard this afternoon and from what I know for
15 sure, that board members are in-tuned to policies and
16 giving that responsibility of those policies to the
17 administrators, letting them handle it, being responsible
18 and accountable, bringing the information back to the
19 board, and being accountable with the information that
20 they're given, based on policies. And also, you have to
21 have a working communication with the board.

22 I believe I'm skilled in doing that, working
23 with all levels of people, all types of backgrounds. You
24 have to come to a compromise, to a reasonable
25 understanding and compromising on issues, and just

1 keeping board information within the board and not
2 outside of the boardroom. That's a beginning and I
3 believe that I'm skilled at that.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You had two children
5 graduate from State. What years did they graduate?

6 MS. ASCUE: Yes. Craig in 1996, and our
7 daughter, Christy, is 2002. And also our son-in-law, as
8 well as our daughter-in-law.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So you have a vested
10 interest.

11 MS. ASCUE: Absolutely. Yes, sir.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, you have a very
13 impressive resume, so I wish you luck.

14 MS. ASCUE: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Representative
16 Mack.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 One other thing. They have a son that does an
19 outstanding job on the Charleston County School Board.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Speaking of that, do you serve
21 on the County Zoning Appeals Board? Or you have in the
22 past?

23 MS. ASCUE: In the past. Yes.

24 SENATOR PEELER: And how about the
25 Transportation Advisory Board?

1 MS. ASCUE: That's correct.

2 SENATOR PEELER: And presently, now? Or in the
3 past?

4 MS. ASCUE: Presently.

5 SENATOR PEELER: If you were successful, are
6 you ready to resign from that board?

7 MS. ASCUE: Yes. I am.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
9 questions? Senator McGill.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I would just
11 like to say that 47 years of marriage is very positive,
12 wonderful, refreshing.

13 MS. ASCUE: Thank you.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
15 comments? Staff?

16 MS. CASTO: Ms. Ascue, on your Personal Data
17 Questionnaire you answered yes to elected and appointed
18 offices held.

19 I assume that's the zoning board and the
20 transportation advisory. Have you served on any others?

21 MS. ASCUE: That's all.

22 MS. CASTO: Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable report.
24 Second?

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

1 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
2 hand. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

3 MS. ASCUE: Thank you for giving me the
4 opportunity.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

6 MS. CASTO: Our next candidate for the At-Large
7 Seat 9 is Jacquelyn Cunningham, and she's from Columbia.

8 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, ma'am?

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Great, thank you. How are
10 you?

11 SENATOR PEELER: Fine.

12 Would you please raise your right hand?

13 (Jacquelyn Cunningham was duly sworn, after
14 which testimony commenced at 5:00 p.m.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to give us a
16 brief statement on why you would like to serve?

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. I'd like to serve Seat 9
18 on the Board of Trustees of South Carolina State
19 University because I love this University.

20 I'm a product of this University. I am an
21 example of the ingenuity of the University. I came to
22 the University as a farm girl from Berkeley County, with
23 lots of possibilities.

24 My parents, my neighborhood, my church, my
25 school -- all could see what I could feel. When I

1 arrived at South Carolina State University, I met a
2 president there, Maceo Nance, who spoke the same words of
3 motivation that I left at home.

4 That day, when I checked into my dorm room and
5 there was a convocation at Dr. Martin Luther King
6 Auditorium, Dr. Nance said, when your parents leave
7 today, I will be your father. You will have rules and
8 regulations to adhere to. And he introduced us to the
9 resourceful people at the University.

10 I submit to you today that I would like to
11 serve this University by bringing to this board more than
12 30 years of experience and innovations, in particular,
13 higher education innovations for more than 25 years.

14 You see, the relationship that Dr. Nance
15 formulated that day, in those words, were the driving --
16 the drivers, the motivation -- everything that instilled
17 in this former student from Berkeley County, what was
18 necessary to make sure that I achieved the goals that
19 were set before me.

20 I think this board underestimates greatly the
21 relationship between the president and the students. I
22 would love to see this board embrace innovations. The
23 problems that we've heard throughout this afternoon, and
24 you've undoubtedly heard many others in speaking to
25 candidates for other universities, but the problems and

1 the challenges for South Carolina State University are
2 not uncommon to colleges and universities.

3 In fact, many of the solutions to these
4 problems exist. Some of the solutions are three, four,
5 five generations old. The challenge that we're dealing
6 with at South Carolina State is the delay in getting the
7 solutions to the institution.

8 We need innovations, and I want to be the voice
9 of innovations on this board.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Questions or
11 comments? Senator Alexander.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
13 do appreciate your willingness to serve and appreciate
14 your comments.

15 You've heard this afternoon that dealing with
16 the deficit --

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Please give me, briefly,
19 what you see as the solution to that, if you were elected
20 to the board.

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Back in the 1990s -- and I
22 must say that I've worked with many colleges and
23 universities and I've coached many leaders -- but back in
24 the 1990s, many of these challenges presented themselves
25 across the country.

1 In the research done at that time, it was quite
2 clear that an institution's greatest asset is its
3 reputation. We have to get back to the business of
4 building the reputation. Eliminating this deficit and
5 reputation building. Relationship building with those
6 who have private dollars who would invest in innovations,
7 will help us eliminate that deficit.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

9 A couple other questions, if I could. I see
10 that you are employed with the Budget and Control Board;
11 is that correct?

12 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. I am.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I've heard a lot about the
14 SCEIS system.

15 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Well, it hasn't all been
17 good. I'm still waiting to hear something good about
18 that system.

19 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

20 SENATOR PEELER: I think you're seeing it.

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 As far as your job and ability to serve, if
24 elected to the board, those requirements and
25 responsibilities -- and I've been asking this, not only

1 about SC State but other university boards, how would
2 your job have the ability to impact your being able to
3 serve?

4 MS. CUNNINGHAM: How does my job have the
5 ability?

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: As far as time-wise,
7 commitments, board meetings, is that something that you
8 can work within your --

9 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Yes. Yes, I can.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Ms.

13 Cunningham. Another impressive resume.

14 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Who was the physicist
16 with the Nobel Prize?

17 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Leon Lederman was the
18 physicist.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: All right. I'm
20 showing my ignorance. What did he do?

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: At South Carolina State, I was
22 selected as the top mathematics student my junior year.
23 The top engineering student and I were selected to spend
24 the summer internship at Fermi Lab in Batavia, Illinois,
25 and Dr. Lederman was just appointed director at that

1 laboratory.

2 In that summer, we spent a lot of time with
3 physicists and scientists around the world, smashing
4 atoms and neutrons, and out of that work, Dr. Lederman
5 and others won the Nobel Prize in physics.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I know that had to be
7 a special time.

8 MS. CUNNINGHAM: It was awesome.

9 Now, just imagine, coming from a farm in
10 Berkeley County and encountering that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Talk about the
12 position that you want to be elected to. You get
13 elected, how are you going to get more kids to enroll at
14 State?

15 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Sir, I'm also the president of
16 the Greater Columbia Chapter of South Carolina State
17 University National Alumni Association.

18 Many of the comments that Representative Mack
19 has made -- I've heard them firsthand. I've spoken with
20 parents and students, I've mentored parents and students,
21 I've visited the University, I've held private
22 fund raising for students.

23 The challenges that we're dealing with stem
24 from the erosion of the University's reputation, the
25 erosion of the reputation. Perception is reality.

1 People believe that the problems are at the institution,
2 when we can see now, more clearly, that the problems have
3 been more at the board level.

4 We also have challenges with finances.
5 Students tend to be within \$1,500 of paying that balance.
6 Alumni and I will step-up and help them cover that
7 balance. So, economics on one side and the reputation on
8 the other side.

9 I don't believe, from what I've seen over the
10 years, that the University has difficulty in recruiting
11 students. It has difficulty in retaining students
12 because of financial challenges, or parents will come to
13 the University and say, I've had enough of the bad press.
14 My child deserves better.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for your
16 explanation.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Ma'am, with all due respect.
18 You don't need to be a candidate for the board of
19 trustees. You need to be candidate for the president of
20 the University. Any other questions or comments?

21 MS. CUNNINGHAM: May I comment?

22 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Sir, as I said earlier, I've
24 coached many university presidents, boards of trustees,
25 leaders, deans, faculty, staff, and students, and I can

1 say that my greatest award has been from the Student
2 Senate of the University of South Carolina who commended
3 me on my work with the students. Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: You make me almost want to
5 attend a class.

6 MS. CUNNINGHAM: I did serve at the University
7 of South Carolina, but I am as South Carolina State
8 University alumni.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for favorable and
12 seconded. All in favor, please raise your right hand.

13 Thank you so much for your willingness to
14 serve.

15 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

17 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is Jackie Epps.
18 Mr. Epps is from Columbia. He is the incumbent. This is
19 a new seat, but he currently sits on the board.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir. Please
21 raise your right hand.

22 (Jackie Epps was duly sworn, after which
23 testimony commenced at 5:10 p.m.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to give us a
25 brief opening statement of why you would like to continue

1 to serve on the board of South Carolina State University?

2 MR. EPPS: Yes. First, let me say thanks to
3 all of you as members of this Committee, and thanks for
4 the opportunity to participate in the screening process.

5 Let me begin by saying, I'm a 1969 graduate
6 from South Carolina State University. Let me also say
7 that I grew up in the red hills of South Carolina, in a
8 small town, on a small farm, located in Newberry County.
9 A town called Whitmire.

10 We grew-up on a small farm, and we were
11 dirt-poor, but I was able to attend South Carolina State
12 University on an athletic scholarship. While there, I
13 matriculated, and I participated in the outstanding ROTC
14 Program.

15 I served in Vietnam as a First Lieutenant. I
16 returned and I used my GI Bill to get my advance degree
17 at Rutgers State University and I spent 33 years in the
18 food industry. I retired from Kraft Foods as director of
19 research and development after 33 years.

20 I have several patents. I have a binder that
21 is full of intellectual property, that is Kraft, and I
22 really had a very rewarding career. I've developed
23 hundreds of new products, many of which you've purchased
24 in the retail stores today.

25 So I've had a very outstanding career and I

1 feel very proud of that career and I owe it to the
2 University that provided me with a solid foundation in
3 education.

4 That allowed me to compete in corporate America
5 on a fairly high level. When I retired, I felt compelled
6 to give back to the University and to encourage students
7 and young adults to dream big about what they were going
8 to accomplish in life and to use education as a pathway
9 to achieving those dreams and realities.

10 So that's what I did. I returned to South
11 Carolina State University after retiring from Kraft Foods
12 in 2005. I returned as a director of the Career Center,
13 and during those two or three years, I was director of
14 the Career Center. We had record years in job placement
15 for our students, our seniors that were graduated, in
16 internship programs. The president moved me to the
17 Interim Vice-President of Institutional Advancement.

18 During those years, we had record years of
19 fund raising for the University. After five years, I
20 decided that I had given back, and I was ready to go into
21 full retirement again. But then Governor Sanford
22 appointed me to serve on the board to finish out the term
23 for a trustee that had resigned. I served that, I think,
24 about six months on the board.

25 Most recently, Governor Haley appointed me to

1 serve out the term of another trustee, whose term had
2 expired, and I'm now in about the fourth month of that
3 process which will expire in June.

4 So I've been on the board. This is my second
5 time. This is the first time going through this process.
6 This is the first time I'm running for this position. My
7 wife asked the same question, why do you want to do that?
8 But I just believe that I'm well-positioned. I have a
9 good understanding of the University.

10 I've been in and out of the University for the
11 last eight years in one role or another. I understand
12 the strength, the weaknesses, and the opportunities of
13 the University, so I feel I'm well-prepared to make a
14 major contribution to support the University.

15 I was a student at the University during the
16 glory days, during the '60s. At that time, there was a
17 lot of pride, and we had a swagger back then. I played
18 football, and I came from a small town, Whitmire, and I
19 was a role model for a lot of students and the youth
20 around the city.

21 They also wanted to come to South Carolina
22 State University. I was a role model for Donnie Shell,
23 who played for South Carolina State and Pittsburgh
24 Steelers. I'm saying that to say this. At that time, we
25 had a swagger, and we didn't worry about recruiting.

1 Students were our greatest ambassadors. They represented
2 the University. High school kids wanted to be like them
3 and attend South Carolina State University.

4 So my long story cut short, we need to get our
5 swagger back at South Carolina State University. I think
6 we can do that. It starts with good leadership, and
7 we're in the process of doing just that.

8 So I look forward to serving the University on
9 a continuous basis as a member of the board and carry out
10 the pathway that we've set. I think we're on a good
11 pathway now, trying to clean-up and restore our public
12 image and restore our public trust.

13 There are some things that we know we need to
14 do, and we're in the process of doing that and restoring
15 the integrity in the University. So I thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir.

17 Representative Mack.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 First of all, Mr. Epps, I appreciate your
20 service to the board. You have an incredible background.
21 You haven't been an incumbent that long, but being on the
22 board, I noticed that your comments on some of your
23 information, quoting here, you said, South Carolina Board
24 of Trustees is not good due to board leadership engaging
25 in unethical and legal actions.

1 We know that some folks on the board and on
2 staff is being dealt with legally. That notwithstanding,
3 what are some of the things that you think needs to be
4 done with the school, as far as leadership is concerned,
5 and from the board's standpoint, or administrative
6 standpoint, or both?

7 MR. EPPS: Well, let me -- we're in a situation
8 now -- we coming out of a situation. We were engaged in
9 a situation where we had poor leadership. We had a
10 president removed from office last year, and we had the
11 chairman of our trustee board was removed -- indicted for
12 a situation unbecoming of his leadership.

13 So those are two --

14 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Let me stop you. The
15 president resigned. The president was not removed.

16 MR. EPPS: Well --

17 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: The president resigned.

18 MR. EPPS: Well, okay. I may want to differ
19 with you on that because there was a fee that was paid
20 for him to be removed. There was a compensation paid for
21 him to leave the University. I'm not sure what you call
22 that.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: What was the charge for
24 the past president to leave?

25 MR. EPPS: Poor performance. I wasn't on the

1 board at the time, but from what I read in the paper, his
2 evaluation was poor. That's my take on it. I was not on
3 the board at the time, but the board voted to bring in an
4 interim president and to begin a search for a new
5 president and that's what this current board is acting
6 upon at this time.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

8 SENATOR HAYES: Just to follow-up on that.

9 I understand they've pared it down to three
10 finalists on the president now. Do you think they should
11 go forward with the selection of a new president before
12 the new board takes over in July?

13 Or should they wait for the new board to make
14 that final decision? There may be substantial change on
15 the board.

16 MR. EPPS: Well, I heard that today. I'm not
17 on the Search Committee. That was the first time I heard
18 that, that it was down to three. I support moving
19 forward with the process that's been laid out.

20 I don't think -- turnover is going to happen
21 all the time. Legislative -- they vote people in and
22 out, and we have to do our business. We were elected to
23 govern, and I think we need to continue to govern. I
24 keep hearing that the board will turn over, but they may
25 be reelected, also.

1 So I think full steam ahead with the direction
2 outlined by the board of trustees a year ago. I think we
3 should continue that process.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Mr. Epps, thank you
6 for your willingness to serve previously, and if you get
7 reelected in the future.

8 I go back to what Representative Mack was
9 talking about -- perception on the State's board of
10 trustees. Not you -- board leadership engaging in
11 unethical and illegal actions.

12 Without naming names, are there, in your
13 opinion, still members --

14 MR. EPPS: Not to my knowledge.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So that's been wiped
16 clean.

17 MR. EPPS: To my knowledge. Exactly.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What are you going to
19 do about getting rid of this huge deficit?

20 MR. EPPS: Well, it's all connected together.
21 Enrollment did not help the deficit. We need to get our
22 enrollment back, we need to increase our fund raising, and
23 we need to be selective about the programs that we have.
24 We need to take an inventory and assessment of our
25 programs. We need to energize those and those that are

1 not, we need to eliminate. There are hard decisions that
2 need to be made.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: If you get your
4 enrollment up that will help, which goes to recruitment.
5 I would think that that's something you need to look at.

6 MR. EPPS: Absolutely.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'll end with this.
8 You were talking about your football, and I know Whitmire
9 had some excellent teams over the years, but I was also
10 in a marching band, and I thought I was pretty good until
11 I happened, one time, to see South Carolina State's --
12 the Marching 101.

13 That's got to be the best band I've ever seen
14 in my life. They are outstanding. That's another good
15 point that the University has to sell is their music
16 program. Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
18 comments? Mr. Epps, I was looking at your credit report.
19 It shows three outstanding medical bills. One for 106,
20 25, and 138. Would that be like your insurance --

21 MR. EPPS: Yeah. We were waiting for them to
22 resolve that with insurance. My wife had surgery last
23 year, and we're waiting for that to go through all the
24 processes.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Clear that up as soon as you

1 can. It's a small amount to have that on your credit
2 report, but I understand with insurance. Dealing with
3 that, it's tough.

4 Any other questions or comments?

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Motion for favorable
6 report.

7 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

8 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
9 hand. Thank you. Thank you for your service and your
10 willingness to continue serving.

11 MR. EPPS: Thank you.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

13 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is for At-Large,
14 Seat 11, Willar Hightower from Aiken.

15 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, sir? Please
16 raise your right hand.

17 (Willar Hightower Jr. was duly sworn, after
18 which testimony commenced at 5:25 p.m.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a brief
20 statement? And at this point in the day, brevity is a
21 plus.

22 MR. HIGHTOWER: I'd just like to say, education
23 has been a priority in our family. My mother and father
24 each were school teachers. Also, my wife and I have two
25 daughters, who are professionally employed.

1 I have seen the difference between having an
2 education and not having an education. The quality of
3 life is -- just a very, very wide difference. Also, as
4 far as my qualifications are concerned, I started out
5 being a computer programmer, a manager of computer
6 operations.

7 Then I started buying computers, and then I
8 became a procurement officer. All of that, of course,
9 helps me to understand some of the workings of a large
10 organization. One of the other things that I've done was
11 to serve on many boards. United Way Board and also I am
12 presently on Aiken County Council. I've been on that
13 board -- I guess I shouldn't call it a board, but I've
14 been in that position for 26 years.

15 Before that I was on city council for five
16 years. Before that I was appointed to various committees
17 on city council. So I think this qualifies me. Puts me
18 in a position to have a perspective and try to understand
19 the workings of board trustees and how that relates to
20 the school and the president.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. You presently
22 serve on Aiken County Council.

23 MR. HIGHTOWER: Yes.

24 SENATOR PEELER: You do understand that if you
25 are successful with this, you would have to resign that

1 position.

2 MR. HIGHTOWER: It wouldn't be a problem. I
3 put South Carolina State first. Number one, it's my
4 love. It's the school I graduated from. It's a good
5 school. It's done me well, and I would like to see it
6 restored.

7 SENATOR PEELER: I see where you hold a Master
8 of Divinity Degree. Where did you receive that?

9 MR. HIGHTOWER: Interdenomination Theological
10 Center in Atlanta.

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

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I want to thank you
14 for your service to our country. In the military, you
15 were a lieutenant colonel; is that right?

16 MR. HIGHTOWER: Yes, sir.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for that.
18 Will you be able to work with the other board members?

19 MR. HIGHTOWER: I feel like I could. I don't
20 know that much about many of the board members, but I'm
21 very familiar with how a board should work and that kind
22 of thing, so I think I could blend in with whatever is
23 going on there.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How would you attempt
25 to get rid of this deficit they're facing now?

1 MR. HIGHTOWER: Well, if you have a deficit --
2 some kind of way, you have to cut back on what you're
3 trying to do. And that may mean laying off people. That
4 may mean not having some procurement that you've planned
5 to do, and things of that nature. You have to cut
6 somewhere.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you think you
8 could make those tough decisions if need be?

9 MR. HIGHTOWER: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Quick comment. Your military service, five
14 years on city council, 26 years on county council -- I
15 believe you're battle-tested.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
17 comments?

18 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable report.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

20 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, raise your right
21 hand. Thank you. Thank you for your willingness to
22 serve. Next candidate.

23 MS. CASTO: The next candidate to be screened
24 is for the At-Large Seat, Number 12. Katon Dawson from
25 Columbia.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

2 MR. DAWSON: Good afternoon.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right hand.

4 (Katon E. Dawson was duly sworn, after which
5 testimony commenced at 5:28 p.m.)

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

8 MR. DAWSON: Sure. In my letter to you, the
9 University founded in 1896 has a legacy of preparing
10 highly skilled, competent graduates contributing to the
11 economic development of the local community, state, and
12 our nation.

13 I'm in hopes that I can contribute to the
14 future successes of South Carolina State University.
15 South Carolina State has, and should continue, its
16 national reputation of educating young men and women, and
17 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you
18 for your service to the State of South Carolina and being
19 here all day today in these marvelously comfortable seats
20 we have.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or comments?
22 Senator Hayes.

23 SENATOR HAYES: Just by way of background,
24 where did you graduate?

25 MR. DAWSON: I went to Clemson University for a

1 year and a half and graduated from the University of
2 South Carolina in 1979 with a degree in management.

3 SENATOR HAYES: Saw the light. Went to Clemson
4 and saw the light. Is that right, Mr. Chairman?

5 SENATOR PEELER: You don't have to answer that.
6 Representative Whitmire.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you. Welcome,
8 Mr. Dawson. Good to see you again. Have you spent any
9 time at SC State?

10 MR. DAWSON: Let me give you some background.
11 There are 3,493 students there today. There are 74-plus
12 active student organizations there today. I bring in no
13 prejudices or preconceived notions to this committee
14 today. I saw a need to serve. Some people said, why? I
15 said, why not?

16 This is a University that has an outstanding
17 history in our state and a great college that has served
18 our state and our nation well. In my journeys all across
19 the country, running my public affairs business, I run
20 into one consistent thing.

21 I find successful people who care greatly about
22 this institution. I've heard the most heartwarming
23 stories, and I've also felt the pain in this room today.
24 I'm not single handedly going to be able to solve all the
25 problems, but I think I can give it a real fresh look.

1 In my lifetime of 57 years, I have tackled some
2 pretty tough things. Senator Peeler convinced me to
3 tackle one tough one in 2002. It's not something that
4 can be fixed overnight, but the perception is reality of
5 what's going on, and rising tides does lift all boats. I
6 felt the pain in the room today, and I'll feel good about
7 this when we're through.

8 There's a lot of work to be done there, and a
9 fresh look, without prejudice and preconceived notions,
10 is what I think is necessary. I've read the minutes from
11 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Read them all. Couldn't see
12 what happened in executive session, but it didn't take a
13 rocket scientist to see there was a lot of different
14 opinions on the board of where the University was going.

15 I read the mission statement to you to start
16 that, and the strategic plan -- I have not found and
17 cannot see, but I think that the University's historic
18 place there and the need for an outside look and one that
19 is not bringing any of the former problems -- because the
20 problems are going to be handled by the IRS, the FBI,
21 South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and Department
22 of Interior -- those problems are going to be handled,
23 and the University is going to move forward.

24 To go to Senator Alexander's question. You
25 just can't spend money you don't have. We don't do it at

1 home. The General Assembly doesn't do it. The
2 University can't do it. So when you start to address
3 those problems, you also look at the good things that
4 happen, like the Marching 101. You look at the football
5 team, you look at the basketball team, you look at 76
6 active student things on campus that are going on. You
7 see the happiness that's there.

8 Certainly 3,493 students is not acceptable. We
9 need more. We need to get to 5,000. We need to make
10 sure that that tuition stays where it is, if not reduced.
11 We need to afford people the education there that they
12 need and want and desire. But there are people in this
13 room that care greatly about that University. You can
14 see it when they testify. You can feel it when they
15 testify. And I want to be a small part of the successes.
16 The failures will take care of themselves.

17 Being a responsible and conservative citizen of
18 this state means our fiduciary responsibility for you all
19 here and for the members and trustees to understand that
20 the word trustee means that you've been entrusted to the
21 students of that University and trusted by the General
22 Assembly, if they award you that vote.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, other than not
24 finishing at Clemson, you're certainly well-qualified.

25 MR. DAWSON: Thank you. I loved Clemson so

1 much, I had to leave. The fun level there was way up on
2 the fun meter. My dad told me I could go anyplace in the
3 Unites States of America but Clemson University -- only
4 place I applied and went.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Dawson, on the information
6 here it says voter registration number was left blank.
7 Please tell me you're registered to vote.

8 MR. DAWSON: That's the only thing that I don't
9 have memorized, but I have never missed a cycle in my
10 life.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Well, if you can update that
12 on your application.

13 MR. DAWSON: Yes, sir. I must have missed
14 that.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Representative
16 Mack.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you.

18 Mr. Dawson, you said that you read the minutes
19 from all those years. Besides your insight on the budget
20 issue, what other things rang out to you that, from your
21 perspective, needs to be done?

22 MR. DAWSON: Well, there are a lot of
23 personalities involved in any board, any company, any non
24 profit. You can see from an outsider who didn't know all
25 the personalities, I'm familiar with several on the board

1 and helped several attain board positions when I was
2 chairman of a party. You could see the discord and the
3 lack of focus and, pardon, a tremendous amount of ego
4 when you read those and people's positions.

5 Unlike the General Assembly, at times there
6 didn't seem to be much consensus being formed. It was
7 one side and this side, and sometimes the membership
8 would change. You couldn't see executive session and a
9 lot of times you'd see decisions coming out. But what I
10 did see was that all had the best interest of the
11 positions they were standing -- it's what they thought,
12 but there wasn't a lot of bipartisanship.

13 It's a pretty tough board, and they dug in
14 pretty hard. You could see that the personalities were,
15 in my opinion, getting in the way of what I thought would
16 be real good decisions. But I wasn't there,
17 Representative Mack, and I bring a fresh look to it of
18 somebody who, as I told someone, I wasn't in love with
19 the Republican Party. I was in love with America and
20 South Carolina. I chose that vehicle to put my talents
21 there.

22 I was a little kid who sold auto parts in my
23 family's auto part store, and I fought all the big chains
24 and I was successful and I sold most all of it last year
25 and opened a public relations company that does business

1 all over the country and has no conflicts here.

2 I've always fought the bigger fight and did
3 stuff that people didn't think was possible and have
4 tackled things that everybody said, no, and don't do it.
5 I've had e-mails from all over the country about this
6 decision. Some think I'm crazy. Some graduates from
7 South Carolina State have committed me for putting up,
8 and then some, when you're in a political position,
9 having raised \$21 million and been in the General
10 Assembly, and this is the longest I've ever been in the
11 State House.

12 You tend to say, why not? You tend to say why
13 not try to help? If I'm afforded a seat, I'm not going
14 there to get press. I'm not going there for any personal
15 attribute. I'm going there because I saw the history of
16 this University all over the country. I saw people whose
17 success wouldn't be there, if it wasn't for that
18 institution. I saw people who had no place else to go
19 but there.

20 An individual who graduated in 1954 told me
21 this story. He came from Madison, Wisconsin, and I
22 asked, why didn't he go to Howard? Why didn't he go to
23 some other university? You know what his answer was?
24 His answer was I went there because it was the safest
25 place in the country, in 1954, for me to get an

1 education. He said, I got off the bus in Columbia and
2 went to Orangeburg.

3 This individual is one of the wealthiest
4 persons that I ever met and he said that was the place
5 that I hold in high regard and he was just confused,
6 Representative Mack. He was just confused on what is
7 happening and what went on and I assured him this great
8 State and these people who desire for this board, will
9 right that ship very quickly.

10 People here have tried to put fingers on who
11 did what or whatever. It's time to move on, and this
12 General Assembly is getting ready to make that decision.
13 It's time to move on and move forward and I trust that
14 the 170 members are going to make the right picks and I
15 hope that I'm one of them.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Senator
17 Alexander.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I do appreciate your
19 comments and explaining your interest. With your work,
20 would your ability to serve on the board and attend
21 meetings and things be within your purview of the work?

22 MR. DAWSON: Absolutely, sir. I've sold all my
23 businesses and I run a business now. But as you
24 remember, when I was the Volunteer Chairman of the
25 Republican Party, I didn't miss many. I've traveled

1 around 90,000 miles of South Carolina roads every year as
2 a volunteer. I've been in just about every cafeteria and
3 street corner in this entire state and met citizens on
4 both sides of the aisle.

5 When I make that commitment that I'll be at
6 every meeting, I'll do what I'm supposed to do, and I
7 will be harmonious on the board. There is a job to be
8 done and there are a lot of things here that have been
9 brought up. Such things as a strategic plan. I don't
10 know what that is. I'm sure somebody can answer that.

11 I heard 47 million, 62 million, 92 million, 142
12 million. I heard a lot of figures and a lot of money
13 thrown out here, and, folks, that's a lot of money for a
14 little old boy from Columbia, South Carolina. There's a
15 responsibility to the citizens of this state, the
16 taxpayers, the Interior Department, and the University.

17 The biggest responsibility is to the 3,493
18 students who deserve everything they get when they
19 sign-up to go there. What we need is, we need 5,500
20 students, and we start solving our problems. We need a
21 national championship in basketball. We got the Marching
22 101, which is the finest asset we have, and students come
23 from all over the world to go to that school to be in
24 that band. We got assets there that encourage me. I
25 watched the 2011 band competition before I came here

1 today, where the Marching 101 comes out and blows
2 everybody off the fields.

3 We've got great things. We've talked about the
4 problems, and I think that is a responsibility. You're
5 elected by the people to make a good choice. But I think
6 a fresh look with new board members, a new mission, and a
7 serious look at the finances. Senator, just like us, in
8 your business we couldn't spend money that we don't have.
9 We just can't do it anymore, and there's not a sense that
10 I get in the General Assembly that until they see some
11 improvement, that this is going to be a lonely trip.

12 I look forward to making a trip down here with
13 fellow board members to be able to make that case.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
16 comments?

17 SENATOR HAYES: Move for favorable.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Second favorable report?

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard. Any other
21 discussion? Hearing none, please raise your right hand.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, sir. Does that mean
24 that we can ask for commitments now?

25 SENATOR PEELER: No.

1 MR. DAWSON: I just wanted to check on that.
2 This is my first rodeo. Thank you.

3 SENATOR HAYES: Mr. Chairman, when can you
4 actually take commitments?

5 SENATOR PEELER: Staff, could you --

6 MS. CASTO: What the plan is, is to have the
7 election for the board when the legislature comes back.

8 A concurrent resolution has to be adopted, but
9 the tentative date of the election will be Tuesday, May
10 7th. That's the date that works with the House schedule
11 and the Senate schedule.

12 A screening report will be released probably
13 two and a half weeks prior to that, and you will have 48
14 hours after the report before you can seek commitments.
15 So as soon as we know the exact date for the screening
16 report and the commitment date, we will notify every
17 candidate.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Next candidate.

19 MS. CASTO: The next candidate is Elden Nelson
20 from Orangeburg.

21 SENATOR PEELER: How do you do, sir?

22 MR. NELSON: Good evening.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right hand.

24 (Elden E. Nelson was duly sworn, after which
25 testimony commenced at 5:42 p.m.)

1 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to give a brief
2 statement on why you would like to serve?

3 MR. NELSON: Yes, I would. I'm a 40-year
4 resident of Orangeburg County, and 30 years of that has
5 been spent in the City of Orangeburg.

6 I'm concerned about the ability of South
7 Carolina to continue to be a respected University.
8 Declining enrollment, increasing deficit, and loss of
9 accreditation, in some programs, raises many questions
10 about how this University is being operated and watched
11 over.

12 I've seen a decline in the reputation of the
13 University over the past few years. When I first came to
14 Orangeburg, I can remember Dr. Maceo Nance as the
15 president of South Carolina State, and it was a
16 well-respected University. Willie Jeffries was the
17 football coach, and it was above reproach. As a
18 historically black college, SCSU has played an important
19 part in the advancement of many prominent
20 African-Americans, and that history should not be
21 forgotten.

22 But in order for it to survive, it is important
23 for diversity, and that should not be ignored but should
24 be embraced. In today's integrated world, it is even
25 more difficult for a black university to receive

1 government funding and public support. It is important
2 to make it attractive and affordable for everyone to
3 attend. As the larger universities have opened their
4 doors and recruited more black students, the best young
5 minds have been tempted away from historically black
6 colleges into the bigger schools.

7 I understand that being a historically black
8 college, their focus has been to black experience, and
9 that history must never be forgotten. But to be
10 successful in this day and age, there must be more
11 openness in recruitment for the total community. This is
12 one area that I believe is lacking in the administration.

13 The current board members have shown a lack of
14 ability to work together for the betterment of the
15 institution. The current board has done nothing but
16 oversee the decline of South Carolina State. Current
17 board members continue to bicker among themselves, and it
18 seems as if they are oblivious to the financial
19 mismanagement and corruption that has occurred.

20 From all news reports, it appears that many
21 board members have their own agendas and their positions
22 for their own purposes and not for the good of the
23 University. With this current environment, this body
24 should take the opportunity to replace as many trustees
25 as possible.

1 This will send a message that you are, indeed,
2 searching for change and are truly interested in saving
3 South Carolina State University. South Carolina State
4 sits as a separate entity within the City of Orangeburg.
5 The campus is surrounded by a six-foot fence. Are we
6 keeping the students in or the community out?

7 The University and the city have not worked in
8 partnership to improve the relationship with the
9 community. The responsibility, however, does not lie
10 totally with SCSU. The Orangeburg community must also
11 bear responsibility with the lack of support for the
12 University. If you look at the property surrounding most
13 major, successful universities, you will see a prosperous
14 neighborhood of businesses serving the cultural and
15 entertainment with the university and the community as a
16 whole.

17 If you look at South Carolina State, you see a
18 University surrounded by poverty and decay. As the city
19 continues with the streetscape project, the next phase is
20 to bring it to Magnolia Street and the railroad corner.
21 The railroad corner brings us business operating in
22 buildings that should be condemned. There was once a
23 plan to improve that area, but investors got wind of it
24 and they wanted to use the property and bought it up,
25 hoping to make a quick buck. Greed killed that project.

1 As far as I know, there are no plans between
2 the City and the University to improve in these areas at
3 this time. There was a \$40 million project for the
4 Transportation Center. It consisted of four or five
5 buildings along the Russell Street side of the campus.

6 As a building official in 2006, I worked with
7 the engineer on laying out that plan and working on
8 addressing for those new buildings. At that time, he
9 indicated to me that there was \$40 million available and
10 this project was going to go ahead. One building has
11 been built, and the last I heard, the rest of the money
12 has disappeared.

13 Claflin University is another historical black
14 college. It sits next to South Carolina State. On the
15 other hand, it has become a strong and respected
16 university because of its strong leadership and support
17 of its alumni. It has a strong partnership with the
18 city, with the city's department of public safety in the
19 field of criminal science.

20 Through my position on the board and my
21 position -- because I still work part time for the City,
22 I hope with those connections and my connections with the
23 community leaders that I can try to bring a better
24 partnership between the University and the City.

25 Having watched this process unfold today, I

1 must confess that you have a difficult task to select
2 trustees for this job, that being, you're given only a
3 ten-minute conversation with each candidate, except in a
4 few circumstances. When the selections are announced,
5 the faculty, staff, students, and community need to know
6 that you have the best interest of this University at
7 heart and you are not just rubber-stamping another
8 political agenda.

9 I challenge you to give South Carolina State a
10 chance to succeed, making the right choices. Let's take
11 this institution in a new direction and regain the
12 respect of the State and the Orangeburg community.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. I see
14 where you're retired. What was your occupation prior to
15 retirement?

16 MR. NELSON: I was the city building official
17 and zoning administrator. I have a little background. I
18 didn't include my resume, but I can give you a little bit
19 of background.

20 I was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. I
21 studied accounting for two years at Grandview College
22 before joining the U.S. Navy in 1966 at the height of the
23 Vietnam conflict. I served four years in the U.S. Navy
24 and became lead yeoman aboard a Polaris submarine.

25 My financial experience includes -- I was a

1 loan closer for Des Moines Savings and a branch manager
2 and officer at the Bank of Elery.

3 In 1979, I completed two associate degrees in
4 accounting tech and in the engineering field. I then
5 became project coordinator and designer at Applied
6 Engineering in Orangeburg. I spent 11 years with the
7 U.S. Postal Service and ten years operating my own
8 antique and art gallery in Orangeburg.

9 After I sold my business, I went to work for
10 the City of Orangeburg, first as a public safety officer
11 and then taking a position of building official and
12 zoning administrator. I retired in 2009 but continued to
13 work for the City part time as a code enforcement
14 officer.

15 As you can see, I have a very diverse
16 background, and that vast experience will serve me well
17 in taking on the trustees you are about to appoint. My
18 friends think I'm crazy for seeking this position, and I
19 should avoid jumping into this hornist's net. That doubt
20 just makes me more determined to meet this challenge, and
21 prove that SCSU can be a respected University once again.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Any questions
23 or comments? Senator Alexander.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Just one. You mentioned
25 that the deficit, if you were elected to the board, you

1 would want to take care of that situation.

2 MR. NELSON: Most definitely. I'm a
3 businessman, not an educator. A lot of people here are
4 educators. I'm a businessman. I bring a different
5 perspective of things. One thing that I have -- I don't
6 think that the University has tapped the resources within
7 the community of Orangeburg.

8 I think there's a lot right there that, if we
9 pursue some of the businesses, some of the bigger
10 manufacturers and the community itself, we should be able
11 to get some funding there. They have not pursued, in my
12 mind, and a lot of people feel -- the students right
13 there in Orangeburg. I mean, there's a good opportunity
14 for all the students in Orangeburg to attend South
15 Carolina State University, not have to pay room and
16 board.

17 They can drive back and forth from home. It
18 can be a cheaper education. So I think, first of all, we
19 need to try and work with the community that the
20 University is located in, and that will be a start.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Other questions or
22 comments? Representative Whitmire.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for your
24 willingness to serve. Why is Claflin able to have such a
25 good relationship with the City, and State can't or

1 chooses not to?

2 MR. NELSON: I don't know.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Like you say, they're
4 right next to each other.

5 MR. NELSON: They're right next to each other,
6 and Claflin is continuing to build. They've got a new
7 dormitory they're getting ready to built.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you know the size?
9 The number of students they have? I know it's smaller.

10 MR. NELSON: No. I don't. I know the tuition
11 is about ten times higher, but they get a tremendous
12 amount of support from their alumni. They really step-up
13 and supply a lot of funds.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: They're private. Are
15 they affiliated with a particular church?

16 MR. NELSON: They are affiliated with a church.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you know which
18 one?

19 MS. CASTO: A Methodist church.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's what I wanted
21 to hear.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
23 comments?

24 SENATOR HAYES: Motion for favorable.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Second?

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

2 SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, please raise
3 your right hand. Thank you. Appreciate your willingness
4 to serve. Next candidate.

5 MS. CASTO: The next candidate for the same
6 seat is Walter Tobin from Columbia. He is the incumbent
7 -- does not hold this particular seat, but currently sits
8 on the board.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Good evening, sir.

10 MR. TOBIN: Good evening.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you please raise your
12 right hand.

13 (Walter L. Tobin was duly sworn, after which
14 testimony commenced at 5:55 p.m.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a brief
16 statement to the Committee on why you would like to
17 continue to serve?

18 MR. TOBIN: My name is Walter Tobin. I
19 currently serve on the board of trustees for four and a
20 half years. I'm currently the Chairman of the Board,
21 graduate of South Carolina State University in 1964.

22 All Tobins have been to South Carolina State
23 University. My daughter and I are graduates. My wife
24 has a master's there and my son needed one course from an
25 Upstate university and they allowed him to take that

1 course at SC State. So we're ingrained in the
2 University.

3 I have been active with the University over a
4 period of years, even before I got on the board. I'm
5 retired. I'm a founding member of the State Club, which
6 supports the athletic program. I've been called on, to
7 the University, on several occasions and have always
8 responded. I'm a retired educator. I've been retired
9 since 1999, and I've worked every year since.

10 I go to the school districts as a consultant,
11 usually where there's a crisis, and I try to mend those
12 relationships. My idea is to try to do that at South
13 Carolina State University. We've been working very
14 diligently to do that. The board of trustees is
15 responsible for three things, I think.

16 One is to hire a president, second is to make
17 policy, and third is to ask the hard decisions and make
18 sure that you get the answers that you need to get and
19 they have a fiduciary responsibility. South Carolina
20 State University has distinguished itself in many areas.
21 In the nuclear engineering program, ROTC, speech program,
22 and a number of minority teachers that we produced at
23 South Carolina State University. We're proud of that
24 legacy, proud of that history. We're working hard to
25 regain that. Thank you.

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

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Mr. Tobin, how are you?

5 MR. TOBIN: I'm doing great, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: You mentioned one of the
7 things that has come up constantly is the constant
8 turnover of presidents there, and, you know, Claflin was
9 just mentioned. Claflin has had stability with the
10 college president, with the board, and so many of the
11 other institutions.

12 You've been there. What's your perspective as
13 to that particular problem? Why do we keep turning over
14 presidents so often?

15 MR. TOBIN: I've been part of one change, the
16 last president. I think we have to do it to get it
17 right. I think we've been remiss in finding the right
18 leader for our institution since I've been there.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: But why is that? It
20 seems like the other boards can do the due diligence and
21 get the information and get somebody and get it working
22 and we constantly have that revolving door at South
23 Carolina State.

24 MR. TOBIN: Well, some of those are interims.
25 We certainly have an interim right now. Our intent is to

1 find a permanent president of the University. We're in
2 the midst of the search, and we're proceeding with that
3 search.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Well, but you still
5 haven't answered the question in terms of what do you
6 think the problem is of finding someone that can get in
7 there, add stability, and for a significant amount of
8 time, properly run the school?

9 MR. TOBIN: I can only answer for one president
10 that I was part of the change made. That president was
11 not effective, did provide the type of leadership that we
12 need.

13 One of the problems that we had, in terms of
14 our finances and some of our other issues, were not
15 addressed, in my opinion, and sometimes you have to make
16 a decision whether you want to bring a close to something
17 that's not effective or let it go down a slippery slope.

18 We chose, the last time -- the president
19 resigned, by his choice. But that's -- we did not
20 dismiss the president, but it was a change, and it was
21 probably the appropriate change.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Again, I'm asking this of
23 the incumbents and probably the more entrenched ones, the
24 more powerful ones there. The problem with the line
25 between policy and administration -- again, I've gotten

1 so many e-mails, so many contacts about the board,
2 quote-unquote, running the day-to-day operation of the
3 school and not setting policy. Your answer to that.

4 MR. TOBIN: I don't think that's the case. I
5 think when you get information, you have to pursue it. I
6 was very concerned.

7 To give you a prime example of that, we have a
8 gentleman on our campus who laid out a nuclear engineer
9 program. He produced students to go to Oakridge and Los
10 Alamos and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They work
11 at SCE&G. We removed that person.

12 So you have to ask the question, why do these
13 things take place? And I think sometimes you have to ask
14 those hard questions to make the University effective. I
15 don't personally get into policy, but when you get
16 information, you have to follow-up on it.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Last thing I want you to
18 respond to, and I said it early at the beginning of this
19 process. The board has stayed in the news -- a lot of
20 drama, this side, that side, for years before you got
21 there. And it's just created a culture, a perception,
22 and I get so many parents who graduated from South
23 Carolina State that don't want to send their children or
24 their grandchildren.

25 And their answer is because of the board, not

1 of the administration, not the instruction, not the
2 curriculum. It's because of the board and, again, all
3 the drama, the back and forth, that type of thing. How
4 would you respond to that?

5 MR. TOBIN: Representative Mack, I wish that
6 was not the case, but it is. But I can guarantee you,
7 the students at South Carolina State are getting a good
8 education, and we hope we can convince people that that
9 is the case.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: I believe they are
11 getting a good education. I've been on the campus. I
12 walk through. They don't know who I am -- good evening,
13 sir. How are you doing? Very polite, very courteous. A
14 lot of good things.

15 I know some of the instructors. I know a lot
16 of good things are going on but, again, perception is
17 reality. If people perceive the school a certain way --
18 we all are emotional about our children and
19 grandchildren. They're not going to send their children
20 there.

21 MR. TOBIN: Sir, we're working on that. I
22 served as an interim in ten school districts in South
23 Carolina, and most of them are in crisis. One of the
24 things that I think I do very well is, I bring people
25 together, and I've been trying very hard to make that

1 happen.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Senator Hayes.

3 SENATOR HAYES: I understand that they've
4 narrowed it down to three finalists. Do you think the
5 current board should go ahead and pick the president
6 before July when there may be a turnover on the board.

7 MR. TOBIN: In my opinion, yes.

8 SENATOR HAYES: Why is that?

9 MR. TOBIN: I think we are ready now for
10 permanent leadership, and I think we can get that.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
13 and appreciate you being here with us. I think I just
14 heard you say a while ago that -- you talked about making
15 the University effective.

16 It's my understand that you're down to less
17 than 4,000 students at the University. So how is that
18 making the University effective, if you've seen over the
19 last four years, a decline in the number of students at
20 the University?

21 MR. TOBIN: I think a board is only as good as
22 the leadership of the presidency and the information that
23 the presidency gives. I think we've not had the kind of
24 leadership to recruitment, to getting good information,
25 to being upfront. I think if we can provide strong,

1 permanent leadership at the University, we can get to
2 that point.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I assume you've taken
4 some votes of the deficit at the University.

5 MR. TOBIN: Yes. We have.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: What has been your policy
7 and your type of vote on expanding the deficit?

8 MR. TOBIN: I have, at some times, voted for
9 the budget because I wanted to give the administration an
10 opportunity to provide us with the leadership they needed
11 to provide at that level. I have trust in the
12 administration until such time that they provide me
13 information that breaches that trust.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So during your tenure of
15 the last four years, have you voted against any of those?
16 Have you given them opportunity and they did not respond
17 and you voted no?

18 MR. TOBIN: On occasion, I have.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: On occasion. Is that one
20 out of ten?

21 MR. TOBIN: I'm not sure. I couldn't tell you,
22 but I have voted, in most instances, to support the
23 recommendations from the administration.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That has led to the
25 significant deficit that the University has today.

1 MR. TOBIN: Because sometimes we were not
2 getting good information.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Whose responsibility is
4 that for you to get good information?

5 MR. TOBIN: That's the responsibility of the
6 administration to provide it for you. We have a
7 fiduciary responsibility to ask the hard questions, and
8 we have done that. When we've done it, we've gotten
9 better information.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: If you don't get the
11 information -- is it my understanding that you chair the
12 board?

13 MR. TOBIN: Yes.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: How long have you chaired
15 the board?

16 MR. TOBIN: Since April.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Of 2012?

18 MR. TOBIN: No. I'm sorry. It's February.
19 About two months.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Whitmire.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Appreciate you coming
23 today. One of your sitting board members testified
24 previously today -- I don't know if you were here or not.
25 It was his opinion that the board members that were the

1 problem have now been either -- for whatever reason,
2 they're gone from the board. Is that an opinion you
3 share? Or do you think there wasn't any problem to start
4 with?

5 MR. TOBIN: We've had some issues with some of
6 our board members. I've been concerned about that for a
7 while. I didn't know what the reason -- I didn't have
8 good sound reason for thinking that, but there were
9 concerns that I had early on. I think those folks are no
10 longer with us.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: As chairman, what
12 would you do to promote harmony?

13 MR. TOBIN: I try to be fair and deliberate in
14 my decisions, try to give everybody an opportunity to say
15 their piece and to make their decision and to respect the
16 majority and I've done that in the past.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I heard you say that
18 you prefer to vote for president before the next board is
19 seated. Why would you want to do that?

20 MR. TOBIN: Because I think the timing is
21 right. We need permanent leadership on our campus, and I
22 think we can do that with this process.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, you're not
24 worried that a whole new board might not agree and want
25 to --

1 MR. TOBIN: Representative Whitmire, I present
2 myself forward because I have a strong belief in the
3 betterment of the University. I would be willing to
4 acquiesce my position for the University. That's my only
5 concern. That's all I have.

6 I think that I have not missed a board meeting.
7 I have missed only one graduation. Whenever there's an
8 affair on the campus, I try to make myself present when
9 it's appropriate. So I have a real interest in the
10 University. That's my only interest.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

13 SENATOR MCGILL: Dr. Tobin, you've been only
14 four years on the board.

15 MR. TOBIN: Yeah. I've been -- my time has
16 been four and a half years. My term ended last spring
17 when they had the screening. I was approved, and that
18 vote did not take place.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: So really, you've only served
20 four years. When is the last time State had a balanced
21 budget?

22 MR. TOBIN: Probably about -- don't tie me
23 down. About three years. I think we had a little bit of
24 a fund balance.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Three years ago? I can't help

1 but think --

2 MR. TOBIN: Three or four years, maybe.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: I can't help but think, if you
4 had been on that board three years, a lot of this
5 recurrence was coming into the beginning of your new
6 term, and the thing is this -- let me ask you the right
7 question.

8 With the transportation plan, if it was 90
9 million or 100 million, whatever it was once the board
10 voted for this plan -- when did they actually vote for
11 the plan?

12 MR. TOBIN: This was done before I was on the
13 board, but I was real excited about the opportunity for
14 the transportation, and I thought it has real
15 possibilities.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Where was the money going to
17 come from? The Federal side?

18 MR. TOBIN: I think it may have been some
19 matching monies, as I understand it. That maybe we had
20 some responsibility for doing that. But I was not --
21 that was before I came on the board. But when I knew
22 about it, I was very excited about the possibilities.

23 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

25 SENATOR HAYES: I want to follow-up very

1 briefly on that election of the new president.

2 I think timing is important. Do you think it
3 would have any impact on the quality of candidates, for
4 the candidates to know that, come July 1st, there's going
5 to be a new board, different than the one that selected
6 them, that they're going to have to deal with?

7 Do you think that might discourage some good
8 candidates from wanting to come -- looking at the history
9 of South Carolina State, wanting to come into an
10 environment where they have, potentially, a lot of change
11 on that board?

12 MR. TOBIN: Senator Hayes, we had 28 applicants
13 for that position. I would say 20 of them were
14 high-quality candidates. Some former presidents, some
15 people who were in high positions at the University. So
16 I do think we had a good group of candidates who applied
17 for the job.

18 SENATOR HAYES: And the reason that you want to
19 move before July 1st is that you might lose some of those
20 candidates? Or the new board may not agree with the
21 current board on who the best candidate is?

22 MR. TOBIN: Senator Hayes, I hope I'm one of
23 the board members, but I think if the timing is right, in
24 my opinion, this University needs permanent leadership
25 moving forward.

1 SENATOR HAYES: And it cannot wait until July.

2 MR. TOBIN: I would rather not. That's my
3 opinion.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
5 comments? I just -- as follow-up from Senator Hayes. A
6 few months -- I don't think it would hurt to wait a few
7 months. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

8 There could be a wholesale change in the board,
9 and if there was a wholesale change in the board and it
10 wouldn't change until July 1st, it could potentially be a
11 lame-duck hiring of the president and it could create
12 other problems.

13 I wish you'd re-think your position on that.
14 That's just me thinking. Any other questions or
15 comments? What's the desire of the committee?

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for favorable report.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Is there a second?

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

19 SENATOR PEELER: With the caveat about what we
20 said before about the incumbents, all in favor, raise
21 your right hand. Thank you.

22 Thank you so very much. This completes our
23 list of candidates for today. I appreciate your kind
24 attention and your attendance. I think the time has been
25 well-spent, and I appreciate your attendance and your

1 participation.

2 I'd like to ask the committee to stay here
3 after the other folks have left. And Mr. Rollins, if you
4 would stick around. Thank you.

5 (The hearing was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 I, Lisa A. Garson, Court Reporter and Notary
3 Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do
4 hereby certify:

5 That the foregoing transcript was taken before
6 me on the date and at the time and location stated on the
7 1st page of this transcript; that all statements made on
8 the record at the time of the proceeding were recorded
9 stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed;
10 that the foregoing transcript as typed is a true,
11 accurate and complete record of the proceeding to the
12 best of my ability.

13 I further certify that I am neither related to
14 nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or
15 interested in the events thereof.

16 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my
17 official seal this 11th day of April, 2013, at
18 Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina.

19 _____
20 Lisa A. Garson,
21 Court Reporter
22 Notary Public
23 State of South Carolina
24 My Commission Expires:
25 December 19, 2019

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