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JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO SCREEN CANDIDATES
FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Thursday, May 23, 2013

9:10 a.m.

Gressette Senate Building
1101 Pendleton Street, Room 209
Columbia, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: SHERI L. BYERS
Registered Professional Reporter

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1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER, JR., CHAIRMAN

3 SENATOR J. YANCEY MCGILL

4 REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS J. HENDERSON

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7 STAFF:

8 MARTHA CASTO

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14 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT.)

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1 SENATOR PEELER: I would like to call the
2 meeting to order. This is a meeting of the Committee
3 to Screen Candidates for Trustees for Colleges and
4 Universities. I would like to welcome everyone here.

5 First, we have a candidate for the Fifth
6 Congressional District, Seat Five. Charles E. "Chuck"
7 Lewis from Gaffney for Coastal Carolina.

8 Chuck, if you would, please come forward.

9 Is the green light lit?

10 MR. LEWIS: The green light is lit.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

12 MR. LEWIS: I would like to thank you,
13 Senator Peeler, and all the committee for giving me the
14 opportunity to meet with you today.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

16 I'm going to swear you in. Do you swear to
17 tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth,
18 so help you God?

19 MR. LEWIS: I do.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
21 brief statement on why you would like to serve the
22 Coastal Carolina board.

23 MR. LEWIS: Yes, sir. The big reason is my
24 daughter graduated from Coastal Carolina in 1994. She
25 was a basketball player. We lived in Virginia at the

1 time and Gina Markland, who was the coach, came all the
2 way to Virginia to watch her play and offered her a
3 scholarship.

4 And she visited other schools, but fell in
5 love with Coastal Carolina just like her mother and I
6 did. I asked Kim sometime, "Why was it?"

7 She said, "Well, one of the main things, when
8 I looked at the dorms at other schools and then at
9 Coastal Carolina, I had a little bit of room to move
10 around and get some studies done."

11 But we love Coastal Carolina. We ended up
12 buying a little place in Myrtle Beach. We still go
13 back and visit Coastal Carolina and have just been
14 extremely impressed with the growth of Coastal
15 Carolina, the buildings, the way they have maintained
16 and improved everything. And even though I didn't go
17 to Coastal Carolina, I feel a real part of it.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Staff has a few
19 standard questions for you. No?

20 MS. CASTO: We usually don't do that. I can
21 go get the questions we ask for college and university,
22 I mean, but --

23 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. You want to give us
24 some background on him?

25 MS. CASTO: Yes. He's representing the Fifth

1 Congressional District. This term expires in 2017.
2 It's for Seat Five. Like he said, his daughter
3 finished Coastal Carolina. She now is an assistant
4 solicitor --

5 MR. LEWIS: That is correct.

6 MS. CASTO: In the Cherokee-Spartanburg
7 circuit.

8 His driving record is good. There were no
9 speeding tickets and no accidents on his driving
10 report.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Wonderful.

12 MS. CASTO: And his SLED check came back
13 great, and his finances are in order.

14 SENATOR PEELER: This is for the Fifth
15 District seat, and you live in the Fifth District, you
16 live in Gaffney?

17 MR. LEWIS: Yes, I do, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions? Comments?

19 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, let me say
20 this --

21 SENATOR PEELER: Yes.

22 SENATOR MCGILL: -- that it's an honor for
23 anyone to serve on any of these university and college
24 boards and to think of you buying a residency or buying
25 a place down on the coast to go and participate at

1 Coastal Carolina University speaks well of you and your
2 wife, your family.

3 MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: And I can tell you Dave
5 DeCenzo is one of the finest presidents anywhere in
6 this country, and you will enjoy working with him.
7 They're an active board. As you stated, one of the
8 fastest growing universities in South Carolina. You
9 will make a great board member.

10 MR. LEWIS: Well, I appreciate it, and I look
11 forward to serving.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, sir.

13 Ms. Henderson, you all right?

14 What's the will of --

15 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

16 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable
17 report.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Second.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard. All in
20 favor, raise your right hand.

21 Thank you, Chuck.

22 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. Thank all of you.

23 MS. CASTO: Our next candidate is for Medical
24 University, Barbara Johnson-Williams.

25 If you can come forward.

1 Ms. Williams is for the Sixth Congressional
2 District on the MUSC board, the lay seat. The term
3 expires in 2016. She is from Orangeburg, which is in
4 the Sixth Congressional District.

5 SENATOR PEELER: If you would, please raise
6 your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the
7 whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

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

9 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
10 brief statement on why you would like to serve.

11 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you all, too,
12 for having me here today.

13 Well, I think I could bring some perspective
14 to the board and serve as connector between the
15 communities, hopefully, and the university.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

17 MS. CASTO: Has MUSC ever had a board member
18 from Orangeburg? I don't -- we tried to --

19 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: From the county, I
20 believe. Many years ago, I'm thinking, if I'm correct,
21 Mrs. Addison, I think. I think she was.

22 MS. CASTO: Okay. Ms. Williams is an Army
23 reservist, I think.

24 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Army reservist, yes,
25 that's correct.

1 MS. CASTO: Her driving is record is good.
2 She has no speeding tickets and no accidents on her
3 driving record, and her SLED check came back with
4 nothing.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good. I think the age you
6 put on here is wrong. You can't be this age.

7 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Yes, I am. 63.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Now, Chuck looks his age,
9 but you don't. You found that fountain of youth, I
10 think.

11 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or comments?

13 Senator McGill.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me let you know up front
15 that President Greenberg and certainly others that are
16 on the board of trustees, they're excited that you're
17 willing to serve. I've already heard them speaking
18 well. Your background evidently is impeccable because
19 they are bragging on you already and you hadn't got on
20 the board.

21 But what an exciting, historical moment for
22 you, but a historical moment for MUSC to have such an
23 articulate individual that's willing to serve on that
24 MUSC board.

25 And there was a lady who served from

1 Orangeburg years ago. She was a great board member,
2 and but we congratulate you as well.

3 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

5 Ms. Henderson.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you for your
7 willingness to serve. I was just looking, what was
8 your state retirement? Were you a teacher?

9 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Well, I started as a
10 teacher, and I ended up as a special education
11 coordinator. When I left, that's where I was.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you, again,
13 for your willingness to serve.

14 I'll make a motion to screen out Ms. Williams
15 favorably.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Second, Chairman.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Motions heard. All in favor
18 raise your right hand.

19 Thank you. I think we have two fine
20 candidates.

21 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.

22 MS. CASTO: Mr. Chairman, let me tell the
23 candidates, we are trying to have the election before
24 the legislature adjourns. It just depends on their
25 schedule between now and June. We're trying to do it

1 either when they come back for vetoes, which will be
2 the middle of June. But we'll let you know as soon as
3 we have something. And both of these are running
4 unopposed.

5 MS. JOHNSON-WILLIAMS: Thank you all. Have a
6 great day.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Hey, Senator Hayes. You're
8 just in time to make a motion to adjourn.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I make the motion
10 to adjourn.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

12 (The hearing concluded at 9:18 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

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

I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in the events thereof.

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 23rd day of May, 2013, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.

Sheri L Byers



Sheri L. Byers,
Registered Professional Reporter,
Notary Public
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission expires:
January 5, 2014

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