

## **REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT**

February 18-20, 2011

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1. The open Board meeting was very short and consisted of approval of various sets of minutes (committees and full board) from the November meeting and approval of a resolution to honor Thomas Pope for meritorious service to the Board.
2. The rest of the retreat was conducted in Executive Session. Both the faculty representative and the student representative were included in almost all of the sessions during the weekend.

The following comments summarize selected portions of the discussions.

- a. Mike Shealy from the SC Senate Finance Committee gave an excellent presentation on the State Budget Outlook titled "Era of Austerity". Need I say more?
- b. The Board was updated on campus facilities since their last retreat. Items such as the Hardin Family Garden, Owens Hall, the DiGiorgio Campus Center, softball field improvements, and Tillman Hall upgrades were included. An update on the College Town Action Plan was also briefly presented.
- c. Funding current and future capital projects through debt service was thoroughly reviewed. Some projects are underway (Phelps Hall and softball complex renovations, for instance), some projects are in the investigation stage (the future of Roddey Hall, for instance), and others will begin soon (conversion of former Bookworm into Archive space, major scientific instrument investments, for instance). There is also a long list of unfunded capital needs totaling more than \$10 million. This does not include the need for a new library since it is too expensive for us to self fund and no bond bill is likely in the near future.
- d. Change seems to be the constant at all levels: national, state, university. At the national and state level the conversation focused on funding of higher education. Proposals to reduce Pell grants, health care provisions, and what Governor Haley and the SC legislature will likely do are examples. At the university level, the University Level Competencies and a new structure for the Council of Student Leaders were discussed. Some additional topics included a review of grant funding received over the last year as well as Banner conversion.
- e. The Readiness Winthrop planning grid dated 15 Feb. 2011 was reviewed and discussed in fair detail with the Board. Various items in the categories of retention, recruitment, program development (revisions and new), revenue enhancement, operational efficiencies, and investment areas were briefly described; the Board has been provided with separate analyses written by individuals closest to the item in their retreat preparation materials.
- f. A preliminary 2011-2012 allocation status report was reviewed by the Board. The report included, among other things, no stimulus dollars, a small reserve carried forward from this year, savings carried forward from the 2010-2011 academic year, use of large vacancy savings, and projected health care cost increases. The report assumed flat enrollment and an aggressive decrease in funding from state appropriations.