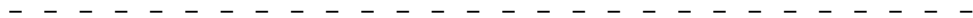


1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2 JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
3 TO SCREEN CANDIDATES
4 FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
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8 S C R E E N I N G S
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10

11 DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
12 TIME: 9:55 a.m.
13 LOCATION: Gressette Building
14 1101 Pendleton Street
Room 209
Columbia, South Carolina

15 REPORTED BY: NISHA GORDON Pages 3 - 119
16 Court Reporter
17 SHERI L. BYERS, RPR Pages 120 - 226
Court Reporter



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1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR HARVEY S. PEELER, JR.

3 SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

4 SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.

5 SENATOR JOHN L. SCOTT, JR.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. "BILL" WHITMIRE

7 REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS J. HENDERSON

8 REPRESENTATIVE MIA S. MCLEOD

9

ALSO PRESENT:

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MARTHA CASTO, Staff

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JULIE PRICE, Staff

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1 PROCEEDING 10:01 a.m.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I'd like to go
3 ahead and get started. I'll call the meeting to order.
4 This is the Joint Legislative Committee to Screen
5 Candidates for College and University Boards of
6 Trustees. I'd like to welcome everyone.

7 We've got some members coming on in. If
8 there's no objection, we'll go ahead and get started for
9 the interest of time.

10 How many candidates do we have, Martha, to
11 screen this week?

12 MS. CASTO: Fifty-two.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: We have 52
14 candidates to screen. As always, any committees that I
15 chair, brevity is a plus.

16 Now, if there's no objection, we have
17 Clemson University. First up will be Ronnie Lee,
18 Dr. Lee, from Aiken, at-large seat, expires 2020. He's
19 an incumbent; been on the board for six years.

20 Dr. Lee, if you would come forward.

21 DR. LEE: (Complying.)

22 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Take a seat, and
23 make sure your light is burning green.

24 DR. LEE: It is green.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good.

1 Good morning.

2 DR. LEE: Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I need to swear
4 you in first.

5 DR. LEE: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to
7 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
8 truth, so help you God?

9 DR. LEE: I do.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Would
11 you like to make a brief statement to the Committee on
12 why you'd like to continue to serve on the Clemson Board
13 of Trustees?

14 DR. LEE: Sure.

15 First of all, I want to thank the
16 legislature for giving me the opportunity to serve for
17 the last six years, probably for the same reasons you
18 serve the state. It is a labor of love to serve
19 Clemson.

20 So I had a wonderful Clemson experience,
21 you know. It was instrumental, and my professional
22 career path prepared me well for post-Clemson degrees.
23 It allowed me to provide for my family, and to be able
24 to afford them an education so they didn't have to
25 graduate with student debt, which they were appreciative

1 of, as I was to my father who worked hard so that I
2 could go to Clemson.

3 So it's a fun job. It takes a good bit of
4 time, but it also allows me to be on campus at a place
5 that I love, and I loved her.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

7 Members, you have a skinny in front of you.
8 Any questions of Dr. Lee?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'll just make a
10 quick statement, if that's all right.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative
12 Whitmire.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Dr. Lee, I just want to thank you and the
16 other trustee candidates here. You've got a wonderful
17 school up in our part of the world. I've got two
18 Clemson graduates here, and, of course, I didn't
19 graduate from Clemson, but I've been a huge fan all my
20 life.

21 You know, how many applications, do you
22 know, that are in?

23 DR. LEE: Over 22,000.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: For what,
25 thirty --

1 DR. LEE: Thirty-four hundred positions.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I was reading
3 that you liked a 65:35 ratio in state and out of state.
4 That's been a concern of mine for Clemson. I mean, they
5 offer such a wonderful education. I know a lot of
6 out-of-state students.

7 How does the administration or the trustees
8 go about ensuring that some of our in-state students
9 won't be left by the wayside?

10 DR. LEE: That's a good question, and it is
11 a widely discussed issue. I think the benefits of the
12 one-third being from out of state is it does help with a
13 more diverse student population, which is, I think, also
14 important for the educational process. Quite frankly,
15 it also helps the business model, obviously, because
16 out-of-state people pay more.

17 At Clemson, our answer in recent years has
18 been the Bridge program, which allows another 850 in
19 this coming class to matriculate to Tri-County Tech, and
20 then upon if they do well there -- and well is like a
21 2.6 -- I think. And they're guaranteed to be a
22 sophomore at Clemson.

23 So that's allowed us to add another 850
24 South Carolina students to be able to graduate from
25 Clemson.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many credits
2 transfer with the Bridge?

3 DR. LEE: All of them.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: All of them.

5 DR. LEE: Right.

6 So they actually -- their on-time
7 graduation rate is actually better than a conventional
8 Clemson student.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So this might be
10 a student who doesn't necessarily score high on the ACT,
11 SAT, but, you know, a good student otherwise. Would
12 that --

13 DR. LEE: That's exactly right.

14 It is actually quite competitive, the
15 Bridge program, because there are 3,000 letters sent out
16 to Bridge students, and they take 850, and it's
17 first-come, first-served. So those letters go out, and
18 they are paying their own line, \$750 deposit
19 immediately, to ensure a spot. So it's quite popular.

20 And, you know, as you might expect, I'm
21 sure there's a lot of getting the same calls from
22 parents who are upset that Little Johnny didn't get in.
23 And it's usually Little Johnny and Little Susie who
24 would get in. But Little Johnny didn't get into
25 Clemson, so the Bridge program is a good option for

1 them, and they do quite well.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, thank you
3 for your service.

4 DR. LEE: And thank you for your loyalty to
5 Clemson.

6 (Representative Henderson enters the room.)

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning,
8 Representative Henderson.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Good morning.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: You're lucky.
11 I'm doing the first ones.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Could I ask --

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
14 Alexander.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
16 Mr. Chairman.

17 And good morning, Dr. Lee. I certainly
18 appreciate your service and echo the comments from the
19 representative about, you know, an outstanding
20 institution for serving South Carolina so well at
21 Clemson University.

22 What is the biggest challenge that you
23 see -- briefly, the biggest challenge you see facing the
24 university today?

25 DR. LEE: For me, it is affordability,

1 maintaining the value of the Clemson degree and with all
2 that goes into making a Clemson degree so valuable and
3 yet being mindful of the financial burden it places on
4 parents and the student.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And if I heard you
6 correctly, roughly, it's two-thirds in-state students
7 and one-third out. Is that --

8 DR. LEE: Correct.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Well, and I do
10 also want to commend the board of trustees for the
11 excellent selection of Dr. Jim Clements as the president
12 of the university. I think he's doing a great job for
13 us, so I appreciate that.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Absolutely.
15 We're pleased with the president. He's doing a great
16 job and has a great eye.

17 DR. LEE: Yeah, and, you know, the hiring
18 the trustees make is hiring the president, and I think
19 we're pretty fortunate, and, Dr. Clements, he's doing a
20 great job.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Dr. Lee, you know
22 my background in agricultural, and, as a matter of fact,
23 people asked me when I was going to college -- they
24 said, "What are you doing going to that cow college?"

25 And I said, "Well, I'm majoring in dairy

1 science."

2 But, as you know, the emphasis on the
3 agricultural of our community is diminishing some. But
4 thank you for your interest in trying to look into the
5 possibility of a vet school at Clemson, and I appreciate
6 you working with us on that. I very much think that we
7 need one in this state, and Clemson makes -- it makes
8 all the sense for it to be at Clemson, I think.

9 DR. LEE: Well, I agree. You know, the
10 will of Thomas Green Clemson talks about educating
11 farmers and mechanics. So we've got the land. I'm not
12 smart enough to understand, I guess, the whole business
13 model and the economics of it, but if, you know,
14 Mississippi can have a vet school, I think Clemson,
15 South Carolina, should find a way to have one.

16 I know I tell people all the time, people
17 spend a lot more money on their dog's teeth than their
18 own teeth. So I think there are plenty of people
19 wanting to be veterinarians.

20 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
21 questions or comments?

22 Now, what's the desire of the Committee?

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
25 favorable report.

1 All in favor, say aye.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
4 the ayes have it.

5 Thank you.

6 DR. LEE: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: We appreciate
8 your willingness to serve.

9 And up next, Louis Lynn from Columbia,
10 incumbent, and on the board since 1988, 28 years.

11 MR. LYNN: Yes, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning,
13 Dr. Lynn.

14 MR. LYNN: Good morning.

15 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to
16 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
17 truth, so help you God?

18 MR. LYNN: I do.

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

21 MR. LYNN: Yes.

22 As you said, I've served on the board for
23 28 years. And like Ronnie and everyone else, it's a
24 labor of love, but for me, as a South Carolina citizen
25 and a Clemson grad, it's a way for me to pay my civic

1 grant to give back to what's given so much to me.

2 And adultly, I'm that dad that my child --
3 I live here in Columbia. My child wanted to go to USC.
4 I'm that dad that said the check is going to Clemson.
5 So she went to Clemson.

6 But I support all the universities in the
7 state, but Clemson has been good for me and my family,
8 and this is what I can pay back.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or
10 comments?

11 Representative Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. I see that you state the diversity of
14 faculty is the biggest weakness. What is the
15 percentages now, and what would you like to see it
16 become?

17 MR. LYNN: Diversity is about 6. It's less
18 than 7 percent.

19 And so I mentioned my daughter going to
20 Clemson. And for my -- there's still classes that don't
21 have minority students, and diversity at Clemson -- I
22 don't know if I could get into Clemson today. We've
23 raised our standards, and smart African-American kids
24 can go a lot of places, and diversity is an issue
25 because of scholarships.

1 You know, in the circles I run in, my
2 church for instance, black youngsters are just given
3 scholarships to go to other schools, and, frankly,
4 parents follow the money. So we just need more
5 scholarships to increase that.

6 Folks love wearing the Clemson ring. For
7 me, as I've been around the world, the Clemson ring has
8 been an asset, but for families, they follow the money.
9 And we just don't have enough scholarship money to be
10 competitive, and we have a very valuable degree.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So you're saying
12 that along with the lottery scholarship money, you would
13 like to have some type of scholarship that would allow
14 them to fully fund their education?

15 MR. LYNN: Right, right. Because we lose a
16 lot of those kids to other schools.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

18 MR. LYNN: We end for South Carolina State
19 University. We're losing them to other states. And
20 once they go, they don't come back many times.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You definitely
22 would like to see minority students from the state stay
23 in the state.

24 MR. LYNN: Correct, yes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
2 Alexander.

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

5 Good morning.

6 MR. LYNN: Good morning, sir.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: These years have gone
8 by in a hurry.

9 MR. LYNN: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: What's the biggest
11 change that you've seen at Clemson University since
12 being on the board of trustees?

13 MR. LYNN: In my 28 years, one is, we speak
14 economic development as a university. You know, we
15 bragged about our academic prowess -- which we have --
16 the research universities have the prowess -- but we
17 speak economic development. So that matters a lot to
18 the state, that we're part of the economic engine and
19 we're part of what attracts businesses to come to
20 Clemson.

21 So, you know, I'm the ad guy, but -- so we
22 sell service to cows and plows guys -- excuse me,
23 Senator -- the cows and plows guys, but we also service
24 industry. And we've attracted from my -- it was almost
25 an embarrassment to talk about business 28 years ago in

1 the university, but now we partner a lot with industry,
2 and we take credit for bringing the BMWs -- for being a
3 part of the BMW's decisions to come to South Carolina.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Keep up the good work.

5 MR. LYNN: Thank you, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative
7 Henderson.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. I appreciate being here. While I do not
10 have -- I do have children in Carolina. I'm wearing my
11 Carolina colors today, Clemson supporter, from
12 Greenville.

13 I want to ask a question --

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: If you're going
15 to like Clemson, you've got to be a Tiger.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yeah, sorry. I
17 also have a Bulldog in my family.

18 Let me ask about the board. How many
19 members are on the board?

20 I should know this, but I don't.

21 MR. LYNN: There are 13 of us, and 6 of us
22 are elected, and 7 are part of the -- are members
23 through like the vote of Thomas Green Clemson. But six
24 of us are elected.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So what about

1 board diversity? What's the makeup of your boards as
2 far as minorities and women and --

3 MR. LYNN: We have two women and I have the
4 best tan of the men. I'm the minority, male minority.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I ask just
6 because it's something that I -- Clemson is actually
7 better than some of the other boards. I'd like to see
8 more women and minorities get involved in all of the
9 boards, but I do appreciate your service. I just wanted
10 to ask you about that.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Dr. Lynn, I saw
13 you shaking your head when I mentioned vet school. What
14 do you think about vet school?

15 MR. LYNN: I think it's a great idea.
16 We're losing -- our kids are having to compete for slots
17 through the Academic Common Market. They're having to
18 compete for slots.

19 And so then that applies to large animals
20 too. I know that the pets -- but the large animals.
21 And as Ronnie said, there's no need for -- you know,
22 there's no need for those kids to have to compete to go
23 to other schools. And, again, once they leave, it's
24 tough to get them back home.

25 And there's a big need, both large animal

1 and small animal. We shouldn't have to try to put our
2 kids off to other states.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Like I mentioned
4 before, don't tell us how we can't; tell us how we
5 can --

6 MR. LYNN: Yes, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: -- do what we
8 need to do. I think we need to do it.

9 MR. LYNN: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And now, you and
11 I and Dick Harpootlian are classmates. Do you remember
12 that?

13 MR. LYNN: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: That was a long,
15 long way to go, but people can't believe that.

16 MR. LYNN: All of our classmates either
17 have gray hair or no hair.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And I appreciate
19 you not bringing up any of your memories. They're all
20 good.

21 MR. LYNN: Let's keep that between
22 ourselves.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: What's the desire
24 of the Committee?

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
2 favorable report.

3 All in favor, say aye.

4 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
6 the ayes have it.

7 Thank you for your service, Doctor.

8 MR. LYNN: Thank you. Go Tigers.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Bob Peeler, incumbent, 13 years' service on
11 the board.

12 MR. PEELER: Good morning.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

14 Does the committee want to swear me in and
15 let me testify on his behalf?

16 MR. PEELER: Can I say something?

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I've got a -- actually,
18 a sheet of questions.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

20 Good morning, Bob. If you would -- do you
21 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
22 but the truth, so help you God?

23 MR. PEELER: I do.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to
25 make a brief statement?

1 MR. PEELER: First of all, thank you for --
2 back in May of 2003, after I had left office as
3 lieutenant governor and served as chairman of my school
4 board in Cherokee County and served as chairman of the
5 State Board of Education and served two terms as
6 lieutenant governor and left the office in January of
7 2003, and then May, within that year, that spring, Allen
8 Wood retired as an active trustee. So we had an open
9 seat, and I think there were 15 of us running for that
10 open seat, and I was fortunate to be elected by you all.
11 And first of all, I want to thank you for that.

12 And I have served over a decade on the
13 Clemson Board of Trustees, and I think I bring a
14 common-sense perspective to the board. I think Ronnie
15 and Louis will tell you maybe too much sometimes.

16 But I graduated from Clemson, my two
17 brothers graduated from Clemson, and my sister graduated
18 from Clemson and my two children have. And I feel like
19 it's a way to give back. We were raised to be involved
20 in public service, and I can't think of a better way to
21 serve the public, to serve the families of South
22 Carolina, than serving my alma mater.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

24 Any questions or comments?

25 Representative Whitmire.

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

3 What challenges do you think Clemson is
4 going to be facing in the near and distant future?

5 MR. PEELER: I think to have an affordable
6 opportunity for a high-quality education in South
7 Carolina, especially to the working families of South
8 Carolina, and we have to keep an eye on that. Tuition
9 has increased. I have probably voted against more
10 increases in tuition over my 12, almost 13 years, than
11 anybody.

12 But Clemson is like a big family, and I
13 think that's one of our attributes. But I think,
14 frankly, sometimes we kind of forget that, and we need
15 to focus on that and do our part to keep it affordable
16 for working families in South Carolina. I think that
17 was Thomas Green Clemson's intent, and I think that's
18 what drives us today and that's what should drive us
19 today.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You know, I --
21 the one thing I think that sets -- I won't say sets them
22 apart, but is a big part of Clemson, is the camaraderie,
23 especially of the older graduating classes. Do we still
24 have that with the new ones since we are so -- got such
25 a wide range of people now coming to Clemson; do you

1 know? You know what I'm talking about.

2 MR. PEELER: I do. It's a good point.

3 It's a challenge sometimes, but I think Clemson does a
4 good job of maintaining that.

5 You mentioned Dr. Clements, our new
6 president. He's doing a very good job. He gets the
7 land grant mission that is our challenge. And I grew up
8 in an agriculture family and am proud of that.

9 And I remind my fellow board members from
10 time to time that we don't need to lose focus of
11 agricultural too, and I think Dr. Clements is doing an
12 outstanding job of focusing and refocusing on that part
13 of our mission.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Last question.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What was the
16 chairman like growing up? Was he a bully to you younger
17 guys?

18 MS. CASTO: That was a good one.

19 MR. PEELER: You can only imagine. With
20 all due respect, the chairman tells people, "Well, I was
21 here last week and somebody thought I was Senator
22 Peeler. And told him that I will tell Senator Peeler
23 that they paid him a compliment."

24 And they said, "Well, how will he take it?"

25 I said, "Not that good."

1 And I have a twin brother, Bill, and
2 Senator Peeler said it took two of us to make one of
3 him.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I've heard that a few
5 times.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for
7 your service.

8 MR. PEELER: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: A true story,
10 when Bob was lieutenant governor, the press asked me and
11 said, "Well, what are you going to do when -- the first
12 time he moves you out of order?"

13 I said, "I'm going to call mama."

14 MR. PEELER: Quickly, I can tell you --
15 it's off the subject, but David Wilkins and I were
16 George W. Bush's co-chairmen in 2000 when he ran for
17 president, and, of course, David and I take full credit
18 for him winning the South Carolina primary.

19 Well, later on, after I left office and
20 president -- then-President Bush came back to address
21 the joint assembly, Harvey was on the escort committee.
22 And from what I understand, President Bush called me
23 Bobby. Not that he and I called each other that often,
24 but he asked Harvey -- he said, "What's Bobby doing?"

25 He said, "Bobby's doing the same thing your

1 brother Jeb's doing."

2 He said, "What's that?"

3 He said, "Wishing they were us."

4 I said, "Can't you picture Harvey saying
5 it?" I said, "I'm afraid I can."

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Well, actually
7 what I said is, "What's your little brother been doing?"

8 I said, "The same thing your little
9 brother's been doing."

10 He said, "What's that?"

11 I said, "Wishing he was his big brother."

12 He said, "I'm going to call mama right
13 after this meeting."

14 MR. PEELER: But I love serving Clemson,
15 and it's a way to give back. And believe me, I don't
16 take it for granted.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
18 questions?

19 Ms. Henderson.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

21 Well, thank you for your service. I think
22 I was actually thinking I probably have an old Peeler,
23 you know, T-shirt somewhere in a drawer somewhere. I
24 saved all those old campaign things.

25 MR. PEELER: Well, that might be worth

1 something one day.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I wanted to ask
3 a question about tuition and scholarships too related to
4 what Dr. Lynn was saying; and that is, one of my
5 concerns about Clemson, not only is the cost, but the
6 fact that so few of our in-state students are actually
7 given scholarships in Clemson. My daughter is a
8 chemical engineering major, actually, here, and one of
9 the reasons is that she received a significant amount of
10 money here and not Clemson. And I remember, you know,
11 when you take the SAT or the ACT, and you put your
12 schools on there, when you get the scores back, on the
13 back of the form are statistics about the universities
14 that you had your scores sent to. And one of the
15 statistics has to do with scholarships: the proportion
16 of students that are awarded scholarships, the portion
17 of students that are awarded merit scholarships.

18 And to my dismay, Clemson is on the very,
19 very low end of giving merit scholarships to students.
20 And I know some of it is very competitive, and you're
21 doing real well, you know, to get in these days, but
22 that's a little of a concern to me because I just feel
23 like you may be losing a lot of in-state kids who are
24 going other places because they're getting more money.

25 MR. PEELER: It concerns me too. We need

1 to do an even better job of that. I know when you look
2 at LIFE scholarships and Palmetto Fellows and others, I
3 think over 90 percent of incoming freshmen qualify for
4 some scholarship. But to look at, not only merit-based
5 scholarships, but more need-based scholarships too, to
6 have a good mixture of that, it's a challenge in the
7 twenty-first century. We need to be very watchful of
8 it.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I agree.

10 Senator Alexander.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 Kind of following up in that area, are you
14 comfortable with where we are from the standpoint of the
15 in state/out of state? I mean, is that a good match?
16 Is that kind of where we've been?

17 And certainly Clemson has, I think, a
18 better track record than many of our state institutions
19 do, but, I mean, I guess it gets back to accepting South
20 Carolina students.

21 MR. PEELER: We have to be very mindful of
22 it. And, again, I'm not a numbers person. I'm not
23 going to sit here and make it look -- I think I'd put --
24 70:30, I think would be, in my mind, a good one.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: A good rule of thumb?

1 MR. PEELER: Right now, I think, overall,
2 it's 69:31. That is something -- one time I remember
3 there was a study done at a major university right after
4 I got on the board at Clemson, and I think they had paid
5 like a-half-a-million dollars to get back a consultant
6 study to tell them that they needed to be more human.
7 And it reminded me, at Clemson, we need to be very
8 mindful. We're plenty human. We need to not fall into
9 the trap of being less human and keep Clemson what it
10 is.

11 And people say all the time there's just
12 something about Clemson you can't quite put your finger
13 on. And if you've ever been on campus, ever attended
14 Clemson, there is something about Clemson. And when all
15 the things that we think about and all the details that
16 we work on, the most important thing, I think, is that
17 we keep Clemson Clemson.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. And one
19 follow-up, one observation, if I would, is -- and it
20 kind of reminds me of what you were saying there just
21 then, the number of Carolina graduates that I hear
22 today, that their children are now students at Clemson
23 University. So I think that the future is bright for
24 the state of South Carolina, that those students realize
25 they're getting a good education at Clemson University.

1 MR. PEELER: And that's good that they've
2 studied real hard and made good grades so they can go to
3 Clemson.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Good morning.

7 MR. PEELER: Good morning, Senator Scott.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: If you'll help me a little
9 bit, what's the African-American ratio?

10 MR. PEELER: It has increased over --
11 that's the 7.4 percent, and I think it's about a 75
12 student increase this year over last year. But we have
13 much work --

14 SENATOR SCOTT: Seventy-five is what you're
15 saying?

16 MR. PEELER: Yes.

17 We have more work to do in that, and one of
18 the things that we are focusing continuously on and
19 should, and it's one thing that our president, Jim
20 Clements, is certainly focused on, Max Allen, the chief
21 of staff, has been working as the interim diversity
22 officer, and we have a new diversity officer coming on
23 board. We're looking at everything from Emerging
24 Scholars to Call Me MISTER, some of the things we can
25 build on and to go into the areas that we need to work

1 on, and we're committed to do that, and we should be.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: I noted that last year we
3 had some real issues with some of the African-American
4 students with some of the building names on campus, and
5 I know that the first response from some of the members
6 of the boards of trustees was kind of harsh. And I
7 noticed it kind of softened up. Can you update me to
8 where we are with that and making sure we get the
9 student body back involved?

10 MR. PEELER: We are. And, again, we've
11 worked on that. We've just completed a task force
12 report. Dr. Lynn and I served on that task force, David
13 Wilkins chaired, with some recommendations that I think
14 are going to make a difference. And as most things that
15 I tend to focus on, we need to look at ways that are
16 actually going to make a difference, not only today, but
17 live longer than we do.

18 And I think we're doing a good job of that.
19 We need to do a better job of that, and I think the
20 recommendations from the task force are going to lead
21 that, not only in the short term and the middle term,
22 but in the long term. And it's not something that --
23 it's not a book that's going to gather dust on the shelf
24 somewhere. We're committed to doing it better.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other

1 questions?

2 Senator Alexander.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I was just recommending
4 that we move to favorable.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Move to a
6 favorable report.

7 All in favor, say aye.

8 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
10 the ayes have it. Thank you, sir. I appreciate your
11 service.

12 MR. PEELER: Yes, sir.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And if someone
14 would please go check in on Nicky McCarter and see where
15 he is, because I can't believe we screened three
16 trustees and he's not here.

17 MR. PEELER: They must need him somewhere.
18 He'll be calling in to the phone.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

20 MR. PEELER: It's a little early yet.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

22 MR. PEELER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you,
24 gentlemen.

25 Next, College of Charleston. First up,

1 Cherry Daniel, Charleston, Seat 2, expires 2020. She's
2 been on the board 20 years. It's hard to believe.

3 MS. DANIEL: I know. You make me feel old.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

5 MS. DANIEL: Good morning. Thank you very
6 much. Pleasure to be here.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you
8 in.

9 MS. DANIEL: Sure.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to
11 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
12 truth, so help you God?

13 MS. DANIEL: I do.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Welcome. Would
15 you like to make a brief statement?

16 MS. DANIEL: Yeah.

17 I just -- very briefly, I want to thank the
18 support that y'all have given the College of Charleston
19 over the years that I've served on the board. There's
20 been a lot of tough decisions made by the General
21 Assembly, but you've been very, very supportive of our
22 school in the Lowcountry, and we all very much
23 appreciate the many efforts you've gone to.

24 I've thoroughly enjoyed serving my 20 years
25 on the board. It's been a pleasure. Again, it's giving

1 back. I'm an alum at the College of Charleston, and
2 during my tenure we've added many majors that -- what I
3 would call enhanced workforce development, economic
4 development in our area.

5 There are majors such as professional
6 studies, supply chain management, accounting, literacy
7 education, sports medicine, African-American studies.
8 The list goes on and on. And those majors direct --
9 will be able to place a student, once they finish, into
10 a very nice-paying job. And that's what it's all about,
11 is to educate our workforce, particularly in the
12 Tri-County area because it's booming, as y'all know,
13 with the Boeing, with the Volvo.

14 And really it's enhanced our community a
15 great deal. We're now, I think, a key player in our
16 community.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Daniel, how
18 about the financial health of the College of Charleston?
19 Are you financially healthy?

20 MS. DANIEL: Yeah, very much so. As a
21 matter of fact, we're going through and having some very
22 serious budget second looks to make sure that we're
23 spending their money, the taxpayers' money, wisely.

24 And so we're going through that. As
25 painful as it is, we want to make sure we have no fluff

1 and that we're spending money wisely and reasonable.

2 And so we have to keep our costs down. And
3 I think all the gentlemen from Clemson -- well, I think
4 it's all of -- everybody has a say in the tuition and
5 the health of the school, and that's one way you can
6 look at it, is to make sure that we keep that tuition
7 down and so it's not prohibitively expensive for
8 students to attend there. And we don't want to see the
9 students coming to our school and walking out the door
10 with \$100,000 debt. So we are a lot more aggressive in
11 the areas of development, the scholarships and such.

12 But I think our school is very healthy. I
13 really do. And it's getting healthier.

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

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

17 Having two -- two of my children are
18 graduates --

19 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- of the College
21 of Charleston. I'm very aware of when we tried to move
22 them in, there was no place to park. I mean, it's --

23 MS. DANIEL: And that is a challenge.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- really tough.
25 Tell me something about this North Campus, where it's

1 located and --

2 MS. DANIEL: There again, thank you. Thank
3 you.

4 I serve on the Lowcountry Graduate Center
5 Board, which is two trustees from each school in the
6 Tri-County area. But the College of Charleston North
7 Campus is to serve people in the upper part of the
8 counties, like Colleton County, Berkeley County,
9 Beaufort, or wherever. It is conveniently located off
10 of I-26. 526, actually.

11 And what we aim to do is parking is not a
12 problem. You'd be glad to hear that.

13 And so we have a lot of programs that are
14 being -- particularly for the adult learner, you know,
15 being pushed and being placed on that campus so that we
16 won't have a lot of -- well, mitigate the parking
17 problem a little bit down in Charleston.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many students
19 are at the North Campus?

20 MS. DANIEL: Gosh, I'd say, you know, it
21 depends. It's about maybe 300, but they're
22 nontraditional students. So they're taking up two
23 courses here, two courses there. So we don't have like
24 a -- it's more for the nontraditional programs,
25 continuing ed programs, and some are for teacher ed.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. I think
2 I'm still paying for my son's traffic tickets down
3 there.

4 MS. DANIEL: That is a challenge. No
5 kidding. It's with everybody, you know, and it's tough.
6 It's tough for us as board members to find a parking
7 spot.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You're in a --
9 just a -- I mean, you're just closed in.

10 MS. DANIEL: I know. We're landlocked.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes.

12 MS. DANIEL: And that's -- so that's why we
13 have to, you know, push out to the north area. And I
14 think that, you know, we've been there a couple of
15 years, and I really believe that it's going to explode.
16 That school is really going to help us a good bit with
17 the -- with the grow out, continuing ed programs and
18 these certificate programs, as well as master's degrees
19 for teachers.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yeah. I've sure
21 got a soft spot in my heart. Not only did my kids
22 graduate --

23 MS. DANIEL: Yeah.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- my relative
25 wrote the charter, John Rutledge --

1 MS. DANIEL: Oh.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- back in the
3 1770s, so...

4 MS. DANIEL: I didn't know that.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yeah. So I'm
6 going to vote for whatever you want. Thank you.

7 MS. DANIEL: Thanks. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

9 MS. DANIEL: Senator, yes, sir.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: Dr. Daniel --

11 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: -- I notice your
13 educational career has been in many, many different
14 settings.

15 MS. DANIEL: Yes.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Alma mater to The
17 Citadel to South Carolina State with your doctorate.

18 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

19 SENATOR SCOTT: In going in and dealing
20 with different generations of young people, what did you
21 take away from all of that that really helps your
22 decision-making process --

23 MS. DANIEL: I really think that --

24 SENATOR SCOTT: -- at the College of
25 Charleston?

1 MS. DANIEL: I think all of those
2 institutions that you mentioned have a unique mission.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Correct.

4 MS. DANIEL: And I think the big takeaway
5 is to really get involved and to listen to the students
6 that are enrolled, and I think we do a nice job of that,
7 and that, I think I can say, as a result, we have
8 improved and enhanced several majors. And we've offered
9 some things that, you know, maybe the regular tenured
10 professor isn't real crazy about offering, but I think
11 we've got to better our students and better our
12 community.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: I just made it into the
14 task force --

15 MS. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

16 SENATOR SCOTT: -- and looking at how the
17 college can work within itself in more diversified
18 efforts, and one of the things I picked up was a level
19 that some of the staff was really not comfortable all
20 the way representing; different departments really
21 telling it like it really was on the campus. This was
22 last year. I did not -- couldn't finish the whole
23 process. I was way too busy.

24 That level of comfort -- and you may want
25 to go back and talk to some staff. That level of

1 comfort doesn't help the school to get to where it
2 really needs to be. People were careful in how and what
3 they said rather than kind of laying it on the line for
4 what it is.

5 It's a good school. It's a great school.

6 MS. DANIEL: It's a great school.

7 SENATOR SCOTT: And if it's going to grow,
8 it's got to embrace people of color and allow them to be
9 a part of that process --

10 MS. DANIEL: Exactly.

11 SENATOR SCOTT: -- in growth.

12 What do you think can be done to improve
13 that, and in looking at where the college is in terms of
14 terms of its racial mix, especially with
15 African-American students?

16 MS. DANIEL: Thank you for asking that.

17 Since I've been on the board for 20
18 years -- we were 3 or 4 percent when I got on the board.
19 Now we're 7 or 8. What we're trying to do is, of
20 course, get scholarship money -- you know, scholarship
21 money for the diversity, to increase the diversity, and
22 that is a tough thing. It's a process, not an event, so
23 it's going to take a while.

24 We also have a diversity department. We
25 also have a diversity task force that's working on that

1 right now, and it's going to bring some suggestions,
2 some doable suggestions, to the president and to the
3 board. And I think their report is due -- I believe
4 it's in the summer, if not sooner.

5 But I think that, you know, a big thing is
6 to not only increase the diversity of the student body,
7 which I think is improving, another issue that our
8 president has implemented -- and we will see the fruits
9 of that labor probably this year -- is that if you're in
10 the Tri-County area and if you're at the top 10 percent
11 in your graduating class as a senior, you will
12 automatically become enrolled in the college. And I
13 think that's a big, big step forward, and I do believe
14 that's going to yield some very positive results in
15 helping increase that diversity.

16 But it's not only with students that I'm
17 concerned, our facility, you know, I think that we --
18 you know, it's tough. I mean, you know, it's not like
19 it's a -- they're millionaires down there, I mean, in
20 Charleston. The diversity of the faculty, it's
21 improved. And I see that we can do better, and I think
22 our president -- well, I know our president is very
23 committed to that, very much so.

24 So we're making some -- a lot more progress
25 in the last two years than we've had probably in the

1 last eight.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Let me say, any kid who is
3 in the top 10 of his class is going away; doesn't want
4 to go to the country.

5 And so unless you bring some numbers --

6 MS. DANIEL: Yeah.

7 SENATOR SCOTT: -- within the top --

8 MS. DANIEL: Right.

9 SENATOR SCOTT: -- 10 to the top 25
10 percent, it is almost near that of how the lottery --

11 MS. DANIEL: Right.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: -- is written. When that
13 kid walks in -- or the student walks in with \$5,000
14 upfront in the top 10, you're coming in with 7,500.
15 So --

16 MS. DANIEL: Right, right.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: So in looking at an
18 initiative like that, if you're serious about
19 recruiting, the top 25, those kids are still going to
20 have more than a 3-point.

21 MS. DANIEL: Right, right.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: And now, most of the
23 schools, USC, Clemson -- see, those schools that are
24 looking for kids who are in the top 25 who has a 3-point
25 grade point average and has a good SAT score --

1 MS. DANIEL: Right. Sure.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: -- but this letter was the
3 fiftieth.

4 And so to become really competitive --

5 MS. DANIEL: Right.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: -- if you're really serious
7 about that recruitment -- it still doesn't mean you're
8 going to get those students --

9 MS. DANIEL: Correct.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: -- because they can go just
11 about anywhere they want to go.

12 MS. DANIEL: Right. Exactly.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: But I think if you get a
14 little more serious about really recruiting --

15 MS. DANIEL: Right.

16 Well, you know, we also have a very
17 aggressive campaign going on, the Boundless Campaign --

18 SENATOR SCOTT: Right.

19 MS. DANIEL: -- where we've raised a lot of
20 money. But more importantly, we're very serious about
21 raising money for scholarships to help keep them and
22 recruit them. You have to have money to be able to
23 offer these students or they're going to walk somewhere
24 else. It's very competitive out there, much more so
25 than it was 15 years ago.

1 he's got a lot of common sense, and he's smart. All of
2 his decisions are very strategic, and he listens to the
3 board, and the board listens to him, and he's been a
4 jewel. He's probably one of the best presidents we've
5 had since I've been on the board.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

7 MS. DANIEL: Thank you for asking that
8 about him.

9 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
10 questions or comments?

11 What's the desire of the Committee?

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

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

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

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, say
17 aye.

18 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed no; and
20 the ayes have it.

21 Thank you for your willingness to serve,
22 Cherry.

23 MS. DANIEL: Thank you for having me, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Next, Mr. Brian
25 Stern from Columbia, running for an open seat.

1 Good morning, sir.

2 MR. STERN: Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you
4 in.

5 MR. STERN: Certainly.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to
7 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
8 truth?

9 MR. STERN: I do.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Would
11 you like to make a brief statement on why --

12 MR. STERN: I would.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: -- you would like
14 to be on the College of Charleston Board of Trustees?

15 MR. STERN: I'd first like to thank the --
16 good morning. I'd like to thank the Committee for
17 giving me the opportunity to speak today. It's an honor
18 to be here.

19 Serving on the board of trustees will
20 enable me to give back to my alma mater, which has given
21 so much to me. My parents instilled in me the virtue of
22 working to improve, not only my personal welfare, but
23 also the general welfare of my community. Personally,
24 as an alumnus of the College of Charleston, I cannot
25 think of a form of public service more important to

1 improving my community than to seek the opportunity to
2 make a difference in moving the college forward in a
3 positive direction necessary to improve the future of my
4 state and my community. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

6 Any questions or comments for Mr. Stern?

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm still reading
8 all this.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
11 Alexander.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, if I
13 could -- and thank you for your willingness to serve.
14 If I read this correctly, are you currently -- and just
15 for the record -- at Columbia Planning Commission; is
16 that correct?

17 MR. STERN: Yes, sir.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So if he's elected to
19 this, would that be something --

20 MS. CASTO: The Columbia Planning
21 Commission, you're appointed by whom?

22 MR. STERN: That's --

23 SENATOR SCOTT: City council?

24 MR. STERN: Yes, city council.

25 MS. CASTO: City council.

1 So no, it would not --

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That would be
3 appropriate. So you would -- your job would allow you
4 the opportunity to continue to be engaged.

5 Do you have the time to commit as a member
6 of the board of trustees?

7 MR. STERN: I do. You know, I was told
8 that it would not be a conflict. I have, I believe, a
9 perfect attendance at the planning commission. I've
10 enjoyed serving there, and I definitely will allow the
11 time to serve the College of Charleston as well.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

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

16 Welcome, Mr. Stern.

17 MR. STERN: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I notice you say
19 the biggest weakness is the lack of funding, and a
20 strategic plan has been put in place. Would you expound
21 on what that plan does or is going to be?

22 MR. STERN: Well, sure.

23 You know, I think the first day that, you
24 know, when I answered that question on my application,
25 it was tough for me to find a weakness right off the bat

1 for the College of Charleston. It's somewhere that is
2 dear to my heart, and I have the chance to really dive
3 into, you know, the problems, the pros and cons of the
4 school, to sit down and learn from the other board
5 members and get better acquainted.

6 So when looking at that question, I thought
7 a weakness might be in order to raise funds would be to
8 tap into the younger generation, such as myself, and get
9 them more involved and also to get them more excited
10 about the college and giving back to the college.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's it.

12 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: On that same note, are you
14 an annual giver to the institution? Of the previous
15 board members, that's one of the biggest issues they
16 have, that in raising the funds so they can begin to
17 attract whether young people come to the school. Are
18 you a giver to the institution?

19 MR. STERN: You know, I have never -- I
20 have not given to the College of Charleston before.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

23 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

24 What involvement, if any, have you had with
25 the school since you graduated?

1 MR. STERN: I've been involved as an
2 alumni, and I attend alumni events when I'm in town and
3 able to. I make it an annual tradition that we go to
4 the Charleston Affair, which is in May, which is
5 welcoming the new students each year from the graduating
6 class and then a chance to get together with all the
7 alumni and the past students.

8 I lived in New York City for a brief time,
9 and I was involved with a very small alumni program up
10 there, but, you know, other than attending alumni
11 events, I haven't had the chance to yet, but look
12 forward to the opportunity.

13 SENATOR HAYES: What type of business is
14 Stern & Stern?

15 MR. STERN: We're commercial real estate
16 developers. We primarily do retail development directly
17 in the Southeast.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Do you
19 know a fellow named Bill Stern?

20 MR. STERN: I do. That is my father.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: He's a fellow --
22 a good, fine gentleman.

23 MR. STERN: I appreciate you saying that.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
25 questions?

1 Senator Scott.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: I move -- if there aren't
3 any other questions, a favorable report.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
5 favorable report.

6 All in favor, say aye.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
9 the ayes have it.

10 Thank you for your willingness to serve
11 and --

12 MR. STERN: Thank you for your time.

13 MR. PEELER: -- bringing the youth to the
14 board. It hasn't been that long since you've graduated.

15 MR. STERN: I appreciate your time. Thank
16 you so much.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

19 SENATOR SCOTT: And I hope that since you
20 point out the weaknesses in the funding --

21 MR. STERN: Certainly.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: -- you, along with some of
23 your friends, will get together and change that weakness
24 and start giving.

25 MR. STERN: I'm looking forward to starting

1 that initiative.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. STERN: Thank you. Thank you very
4 much.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Next, Edward L.
6 Thomas Jr. from Anderson, incumbent running unopposed.
7 They say there's only two ways to run: unopposed and
8 scared.

9 DR. THOMAS: Well, I still don't like to
10 get called in front of the class. I remember that in
11 the first grade. I'm still some nervous, but thank you
12 all for being here.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Thomas, I'll
14 swear you in.

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

17 DR. THOMAS: I do.

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

20 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

21 I've enjoyed serving my one time on the
22 board. I had a daughter that went to the college and
23 graduated. I think a lot of the good things that have
24 happened to me in my life are a direct result of the
25 college experience and the education, and I'd just like

1 to give back now and try to preserve the college as I
2 know it. I think there's a lot of pressure on it to
3 change in different ways, but I'd like to preserve it.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you,
5 Dr. Thomas.

6 Any questions?

7 Senator Alexander.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

9 I want to be consistent for any of the
10 trustees on their -- in the standpoint of giving the
11 assessment of characterization of the job that the
12 president at the university is doing.

13 DR. THOMAS: I think he's doing a great
14 job. I had a -- my term is only three years. It was
15 short because of the -- I think the lawsuit with the 7th
16 Congressional District.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Right.

18 DR. THOMAS: And the two years that
19 President McConnell has been there, it's been like night
20 and day. When I first came on, I actually asked the
21 board chair -- I said, "Is this the way the board is
22 supposed to run?"

23 And I think it's actually running a lot
24 better now.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

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

3 I know when ex-Senator McConnell and
4 Lieutenant Governor McConnell was first elected, there
5 was a lot of -- I don't want to say animosity, but there
6 was some anger involved. Has that kind of gone by the
7 wayside now or --

8 DR. THOMAS: I think so. At one of the
9 board meetings -- at all of the board meetings, I stay
10 in a guesthouse, and the guy that was in charge of the
11 guesthouse, six months after President McConnell was on
12 the job, he said that all of the discontent has just
13 quieted down.

14 He does an excellent job of listening to
15 people, and I think that -- and he really focuses on the
16 problem and he handles it. And I can't say in words --
17 anything can be said, but I'll let you know how happy I
18 am with his job. Just consider that said, because it's
19 been great.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, I'm glad
21 the trustee board chose to select him, and --

22 DR. THOMAS: I am too.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- we think a lot
24 of him up this way.

25 DR. THOMAS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Thomas, given the
3 makeup of African Americans on the College of
4 Charleston's campus, what are your plans to help
5 increase African Americans so they begin to attend the
6 school and become a part of the balance as it relates to
7 students remaining in South Carolina wanting to go to
8 South Carolina schools?

9 DR. THOMAS: Well, I don't know what else
10 we have in the pipeline to do. When you were asking
11 that question earlier, there are four things that came
12 to mind that help with that.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

14 DR. THOMAS: There's a Coca-Cola First
15 Generation Scholars. There's a SPECTRA Program, which
16 is sort of a bridge program in the summer for
17 first-generation and minority students. There's a -- I
18 think, it's a SCAMP program, which is for
19 first-generation and minority students majoring in
20 sciences. It's sort of a four-year enrichment program,
21 as they need any help through their time there.

22 And Cherry mentioned the Top Ten Percent
23 Program. I think that's in seven counties. She said
24 the Tri-County area, but I think it includes Orangeburg
25 and Williamsburg and -- I can't think of the others.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: I would hope in your tenure
2 on the board, you would continue to put a little more
3 thought into it. The top 10 students can go anywhere
4 they want to go in the country.

5 DR. THOMAS: Right.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: That's not an issue. If
7 you're a top 10 student and you've got the high SAT
8 scores, everybody's offering you some kind of
9 scholarship to come to their school. You're a South
10 Carolina-based school, and our goal is to pick the best
11 and the brightest here, especially if you plan to
12 increase the teacher pool along with areas of math and
13 science with doctors and others in the state, engineers
14 and others in the state.

15 I didn't ask whether or not that 7 or 8
16 percent or what percentage of that was out-of-state
17 students. I anticipated that probably a good percent of
18 it was out-of-state students. Or do you even know that
19 answer?

20 DR. THOMAS: I don't even know that one.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Well, I'm hoping you
22 can, you know, begin to look at the dynamics of how we
23 make some of those changes.

24 When I hear -- and y'all were the second --
25 Clemson said the same thing. College of Charleston said

1 the same thing. Francis Marion is a little different.
2 Their numbers are a lot larger, but when I hear that, my
3 question is, What are they doing different that the
4 College of Charleston is not doing to be able to keep
5 the students here?

6 Is it SAT scores? Is it what the school
7 offers in terms of curriculum? Is it the way your
8 recruiters recruit them? Are you recruiting in the same
9 places? Is it lack of diversification that relates to
10 staff?

11 I mean, what is the real issues in that we
12 can make some changes so our students begin to look at
13 South Carolina schools, other than athletics?

14 DR. THOMAS: Okay.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17 Senator Hayes.

18 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

19 I understand you're a dentist; is that
20 correct?

21 DR. THOMAS: Yes, sir.

22 SENATOR HAYES: Is there any coordination
23 going on between the College of Charleston and the
24 Medical University as far as doing things, activities in
25 the college?

1 DR. THOMAS: There is, and I can't name
2 exactly what it is. I know when I was in school in the
3 early to mid-'70s, the nursing students were bused over.
4 But there's some collaboration between the research
5 department, different programs, and I can't name what
6 they are. But there is collaboration.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
8 questions or comments?

9 What's the desire of the Committee?

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
12 favorable report.

13 All in favor, say aye.

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
16 the ayes have it.

17 Thank you for your willingness to serve,
18 Doctor.

19 DR. THOMAS: Thank you for being here.

20 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Renee Romberger
21 from Greenville. You've been on the board for three
22 years, it says.

23 MS. ROMBERGER: Good morning.

24 ALL MEMBERS: Good morning.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you

1 in.

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

4 MS. ROMBERGER: I do.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Did you move? I
6 thought you lived in Spartanburg.

7 MS. ROMBERGER: I put my head on the pillow
8 in Greenville, and I live most of my life in
9 Spartanburg.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Sorry to
11 interrupt. Would you like to make a brief statement?

12 MS. ROMBERGER: Yes, I would.

13 I'm a proud graduate of the College of
14 Charleston and a firm believer in the value of public
15 service. And I believe if you're going to serve
16 publicly, then you've got to make sure that you have a
17 passion for the cause. And I have two passions in my
18 life: one is health care, and one is education. And
19 I've been very blessed to have the opportunity to spend
20 my professional career in health care and to spend my
21 volunteer service supporting higher education in South
22 Carolina.

23 I have been a loyal supporter and
24 contributor to the college since I graduated in 1981,
25 both in volunteering from a leadership standpoint and

1 philanthropically in giving to the college.

2 And so I really feel very blessed to have
3 been given the opportunity to serve as a trustee three
4 years ago, and it has been an extremely rewarding
5 experience for me. It's a lot more complicated and
6 complex than I thought it was going to be, to be quite
7 frank, but it has been a great three years, and I look
8 forward to serving a second term if given the
9 opportunity.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions for
11 this incumbent?

12 Mr. Whitmire.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 I notice you say that funding, obviously,
16 is an issue, or lack of. Now, you say, "The college
17 needs to expand its student base to attract the
18 nontraditional student."

19 Give me your definition of the
20 nontraditional student.

21 MS. ROMBERGER: Nontraditional students, to
22 me, are students like adults who maybe didn't finish
23 their college degree, and so now they're out in the
24 working world, but they really want to go back and spend
25 that two years getting that college degree. That's one

1 I would consider a nontraditional student. I think
2 adults who didn't go to college at all and decide that
3 they want to get adult education, senior citizens who
4 want to go back and get an extra degree.

5 I think there's huge potential for the
6 nontraditional student to be able to expand any moment
7 at the College of Charleston without degrading the
8 integrity of our undergraduate program downtown. You
9 mentioned earlier that we're squeezed into the downtown
10 city of Charleston with very little parking.

11 And so one easy answer would be to let's
12 grow undergraduate enrollment, and that will feed the
13 pipeline financially. But I think we need to preserve
14 the integrity of our school, and our school is not meant
15 to be a 40,000-student school. I think we are a liberal
16 arts school, and we need to preserve that, and we need
17 make sure that we give folks the opportunity to have
18 that close-knit relationship that they have with the
19 faculty and the students of a smaller-type campus.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I completely
21 agree. You've got a unique school, and I hope you keep
22 it that way.

23 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How are you
25 working to expand this nontraditional student approach?

1 MS. ROMBERGER: We've hired an incredible
2 dean, Godfrey Gibbison, who is the dean of our North
3 Campus, as Cherry and others have mentioned. And he is
4 leading our School of Professional Studies.

5 And so his focus is really around
6 marketing. In fact, he just introduced a new program
7 for men and women who serve as practice managers in
8 physician practices to go back and get an advanced
9 certificate in practice management, which is huge in my
10 health-care world, and it's a great opportunity. And he
11 has a marketing mind, and I think what he's trying to do
12 is understand what the needs are in our community and in
13 our state and then build programs to match that.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for
15 being open in searching for other ways to serve the
16 people of our state.

17 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you for
19 your service.

20 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
22 Alexander.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 Good morning.

1 MS. ROMBERGER: Good morning.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: It's good to see you.

3 Thank you for your work that you also do in health care.
4 You do a fantastic job, and I appreciate your service in
5 that regard.

6 Again, being consistent, I know there were
7 some -- as Representative Whitmire said earlier, I mean,
8 the concern of a new president coming on board. Would
9 you give me your assessment of the job that your
10 president is doing?

11 MS. ROMBERGER: Absolutely.

12 I had the opportunity to chair the
13 Institutional Advancement Committee for the college.
14 And so I serve on the foundation board as well as on the
15 board of trustees. And I was asked to speak to what the
16 president was doing at the college because there was
17 some unrest when he was elected. And the comment I made
18 to them as to, you know, what I think about the
19 president, I think 3 "L's."

20 Number one, he loves the college. And when
21 you have a president who loves the university -- he's a
22 graduate; he's loves it -- it shows through in his work.

23 Secondly, I think what he did when he came
24 in day one was listen, and that was really important
25 because we had a lot of people who had issues and

1 concerns and fears. And what he did was spent his
2 initial time as president of the college listening to
3 not only staff, but students and faculty, community
4 leaders, around what are the biggest needs for the
5 College of Charleston. He met with each of us
6 individually as board of trustees members and said, "You
7 tell me what your biggest concerns are and what your
8 biggest goals are." And he took notes, and he allowed
9 us as long as each one of us wanted individually to
10 express that to him, and I appreciate that.

11 And then, lastly, I think he's been a very
12 visible leader, and we needed a leader. I think those
13 of you who have seen the college over the past ten years
14 maybe have commented or sensed a little lack of
15 direction at the college, and we needed somebody to come
16 in and be a strong leader, and he's done exactly that.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So being a graduate of
18 the College of Charleston, you're seen as an asset and
19 not a liability for it.

20 MS. ROMBERGER: Absolutely.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay.

22 MS. ROMBERGER: Absolutely.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

24 SENATOR HAYES: Well, I noted you worked
25 with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

1 MS. ROMBERGER: Yes, sir.

2 SENATOR HAYES: My daughter graduated from
3 the College of Charleston, and she is now an
4 occupational therapist.

5 MS. ROMBERGER: Wow.

6 SENATOR HAYES: So I have a special place
7 for the health-care training that -- she had the
8 undergraduate that helped her, obviously, go on to
9 graduate school for that.

10 What's going on in the health-care area as
11 far as the College of Charleston?

12 MS. ROMBERGER: One of the fastest-growing
13 majors we have at the College of Charleston is in the
14 School of Education, Health, and Human Performance.
15 It's in the area of public health. I've had the
16 opportunity to go down and speak to some of the classes
17 down there, and it is really exciting to see kids who
18 understand that if you're going to have a healthy South
19 Carolina and a South Carolina that is driven by economic
20 development, that the health very much intersects with
21 education.

22 And so we have a lot of kids in college
23 right now majoring in public health and health and human
24 performance, and our dean, Fran Welch, is doing a great
25 job advancing that program and leading those efforts.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Good morning.

3 MS. ROMBERGER: Good morning.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: I want to go back and ask
5 you the same question I've asked the other board
6 members.

7 MS. ROMBERGER: I'm so glad.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: I saw you kind of move your
9 head in the back. It sounds like you've put a lot of
10 thought into this question.

11 The question again, Your plans for
12 increasing both African-American students, as well as
13 the staff ratio there at the college? Since you're 7 --
14 7, 8 means there's about 7.4 or 7.2 when they hear the 7
15 or 7, 8. They always push the ratio up a little more
16 than --

17 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah.

18 So the numbers I have show that we're at 8
19 percent, and that's not nearly what it needs to be.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Right.

21 MS. ROMBERGER: In South Carolina, 28
22 percent of our population is African American, and we
23 need -- I believe that as a public institution, the
24 student body of the College of Charleston needs to
25 represent the demographic in which we live, and we're

1 not there yet. Interestingly enough, if you look at
2 where we were with African-American students three years
3 ago when I came on the board and where we are now, we've
4 actually increased 32 percent in three years. Three
5 years ago, we were at -- four years ago we were at 600
6 African-American students, and now we're up over 800.

7 So I think it is because there was an
8 understanding and a commitment, because once you
9 identify something as being an issue and something you
10 want to make improvement on, then I think you're going
11 to see movement. And I think it is very much a
12 commitment at the college, and we've got to continue to
13 stay --

14 SENATOR SCOTT: What's the population of
15 the college?

16 MS. ROMBERGER: The population of the
17 college, there are about 10,500 undergraduate students.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: You know, as I indicated
19 earlier, everybody wants the best and brightest
20 students.

21 MS. ROMBERGER: Yep.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: There are some other
23 students that are not the best and brightest --

24 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: -- who can develop to be

1 great students. What efforts are being made to recruit
2 some of -- average students?

3 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: And not every student is an
5 honor student.

6 MS. ROMBERGER: No.

7 SENATOR SCOTT: So what efforts are being
8 made to do that?

9 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah.

10 And I think that's -- as a public
11 institution, I think we have a responsibility to educate
12 people in South Carolina.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Right.

14 MS. ROMBERGER: And you're right.

15 Everybody can't be a Rhodes Scholar.

16 And so I think -- twofold. One is, we've
17 got to increase our recruitment efforts throughout the
18 state. And secondly, we've got to focus on soaring
19 retention. I'm equally concerned.

20 I had the opportunity last year to mentor a
21 young lady, an African-American first-generation student
22 in business. And she was a Schottland Scholar, first
23 African-American Schottland Scholar that we've had at
24 the College of Charleston.

25 And so I spent a lot of time with her just

1 listening. "Tell me the struggles that you're facing at
2 the College of Charleston as an African-American
3 student." And she talked not only about increasing the
4 number of African-American students, but also building a
5 network where it's safe and exciting for African
6 Americans to want to be on that campus.

7 And so it does require us to increase our
8 recruitment efforts. I like your opportunity of going
9 from top 10 percent to 25 percent --

10 SENATOR SCOTT: Right.

11 MS. ROMBERGER: -- but I also think we've
12 got to make sure that the culture on your campus is an
13 acceptable culture that allows people to want to be at
14 the college and want to stay at the college, because
15 I'm deeply concerned about the ones who come and then
16 transfer.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: I think the culture and
18 diversity starts with the staff --

19 MS. ROMBERGER: It absolutely does.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: -- and where you get your
21 staff from. If you're recruiting in the North, you get
22 a northern type of behavior with the southern --

23 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: -- professors and you get a
25 different mix. But the beauty of that, you get to

1 attract other students out of the southern region who
2 would be interested in coming to your school.

3 The other part is the 600-or-so-odd
4 students. With that group moving from 6- to 800,
5 whatever your number is now, it's most likely other
6 members of the family will attend the school.

7 MS. ROMBERGER: Right.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: And so if you don't ever
9 open the door and take some chances with your ratios,
10 you'll never recruit.

11 MS. ROMBERGER: I agree. And I think we've
12 got to increase the diversity of our faculty, but also,
13 I mean, I was concerned to hear your concern about staff
14 and feeling like they don't have that welcoming
15 environment. I think we've got to make sure -- I shadow
16 every semester. I shadow a faculty member, and I shadow
17 a student.

18 I shadowed an African-American young lady
19 last year, and I shadowed an African-American professor
20 this past fall. We need to make sure that we're talking
21 to staff too, because as trustees, we don't always hear
22 what's going on on the frontlines.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: The staff you shadow, do
24 you think they were honest about all with you in telling
25 you what the college wants?

1 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah. It was really
2 interesting.

3 I mean, I've not had anybody that I've --
4 and I've shadowed every single year, both semesters, but
5 I have not had anybody who wasn't -- who didn't feel
6 comfortable being honest. And I'll be honest with them.
7 They ask open questions about trustees, because
8 oftentimes when you're elected to an office, there's
9 this wall that seems to exist between you and everybody
10 else.

11 And so I'm an open book. Ask me any
12 question. And so we've had really good conversation,
13 and I think that's important for us as trustees. We've
14 got to be listening.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Did you walk away with
16 something that gave you a point to begin a building
17 block for staff overall?

18 MS. ROMBERGER: So with staff, I don't
19 know. I think we've got to make sure we stay focused on
20 that. I've shadowed faculty members and students. I
21 haven't shadowed a staff member yet.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: Even faculty.

23 MS. ROMBERGER: Yeah. We --

24 SENATOR SCOTT: Because I think it starts
25 there anyway.

1 MS. ROMBERGER: It absolutely does. It
2 absolutely does.

3 With the Avery Institute, they are doing an
4 awesome job and with the school of diversity -- I mean,
5 the program, the diversity office increasing the number
6 of programs, the conversations that we have, and we just
7 have to stay focused on it.

8 I think Cherry mentioned that we do have a
9 diversity committee. The board of trustees right now is
10 looking at what we need to do to expand diversity, and
11 they're going to be coming out with recommendations.

12 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Henderson.

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

15 Thank you, Ms. Romberger, for your service.

16 Ms. Romberger is actually a constituent and
17 a friend of mine. So I really appreciate all of her
18 input and work. She works very hard.

19 Let me ask you a question going back to the
20 conversation earlier about, you know, some of the issues
21 last year and the year before when y'all chose a new
22 president. And I know that there was a lot of concern
23 that there would be an impact on fundraising and the
24 endowment and all that. Has any of that really actually
25 come to, you know, really -- has there been an impact in

1 that regard?

2 MS. ROMBERGER: Short term, there was.

3 There were some folks who really felt strongly that they
4 wanted a particular candidate to be selected.

5 And so we had a couple of folks who dropped
6 off the foundation board, and we had some folks who
7 retracted their commitments to the college. But now
8 we're back to where we were before and even beyond that,
9 and I think that's important.

10 You know, it's not easy. I mean, you're in
11 the same position. You've got to do the right thing,
12 and you've got to make the right decisions, and
13 sometimes 100 percent of the people aren't going to
14 support that. And I think the foundation has grown
15 beyond that.

16 We've got great leadership in the
17 foundation right now, and we just capped off a \$125
18 million capital campaign and have exceeded that goal.
19 So I think that is -- and President McConnell and
20 Bill -- I mean, Steve Swanson co-chaired that capital
21 campaign, and I think it really speaks to the fact that
22 people believe in the leadership of the college right
23 now.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So you have 16
25 seats on the board of trustees?

1 MS. ROMBERGER: We have 20.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Twenty.

3 MS. ROMBERGER: We're up to 20.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: And speaking
5 of -- going back to the diversity question, how many --
6 do you have African Americans on the board?

7 MS. ROMBERGER: Demetria Clemons has been
8 on the board for quite some time. Pansy King-Reid is
9 also on the board, although I received word this morning
10 that she's not going to be running for reelection. So
11 without Pansy, that leaves us with only one
12 African-American female. We're pretty diverse when it
13 comes to male/female. I think we're pretty diverse from
14 a religious standpoint, but not from an ethnic
15 standpoint.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I just think
17 overall for all our boards, it's really important --

18 MS. ROMBERGER: Absolutely.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: -- not only to
20 seek for diversity male/female, black/white, all -- you
21 know, with student population, but also on our
22 commissions too.

23 But thanks for your service.

24 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: And at the

1 appropriate time, I would like to make a motion for her
2 to be given a favorable report.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: There's no other
4 questions?

5 Motion is a favorable report.

6 All in favor, say aye.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
9 the ayes have it.

10 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you so
12 much.

13 MS. ROMBERGER: Thank you.

14 MS. CASTO: Mr. Chairman, the next one we
15 had under schedule was Pansy King-Reid. We received an
16 e-mail Friday, late Friday afternoon, from her that she
17 was withdrawing. So that's a vacancy that we'll have to
18 post and hopefully we can get elected before y'all leave
19 in June.

20 SENATOR HAYES: I'd hate to see the northern
21 counties not have a 5th District representative, but we'll have to
22 work on that.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: All right. Next,
24 Ricci Land Welch, incumbent running unopposed, been on
25 the board for three years.

1 MS. WELCH: Good morning.

2 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

3 Let me swear you in.

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

6 MS. WELCH: I do.

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

9 MS. WELCH: I would.

10 Good morning, everyone. Thank you for all
11 that you do. I know it's a Monday and y'all are here,
12 so we do recognize the hard work that you put into this,
13 screening all the candidates for all state institutions.

14 And my background is in law, but I also
15 have a real desire and an interest in education because
16 I believe that is the answer to many of our culture's
17 problems. And I've enjoyed my three years on the
18 College of Charleston board.

19 Before that, I was on the Lander board for
20 eight years, and I really did enjoy that. But it's very
21 difficult to get from Manning to Greenwood. It was a
22 lot of zigzagging and time involved.

23 And so I always wanted to get back to the
24 College of Charleston, and when my mother retired from
25 this seat that she had held there, I had the

1 opportunity, and thankfully you all elected me. So it
2 is my desire and it would be my honor to be reelected in
3 this position.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. A question
5 or comments?

6 Senator Hayes.

7 SENATOR HAYES: I want to support you in
8 spite of the fact I know your dad and your mom, but your
9 mom was a huge asset. Your dad --

10 MS. WELCH: Not so much.

11 SENATOR HAYES: No, no. No, no. No, no.
12 I think the world of both of them, and the both of them
13 loved the college.

14 And I know you're going a great job, so I
15 just wanted to poke a little fun at you. But give my
16 regards to both of them, if you would.

17 MS. WELCH: I will. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Scott.

19 SENATOR SCOTT: Ms. Land Welch --

20 MS. WELCH: Yes, sir.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: -- you represent the
22 largest portion of the African American --

23 MS. WELCH: I do, don't I?

24 SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, you do, the 6th
25 Congressional District.

1 Tell me about your plans for the College of
2 Charleston. You've been there three years.

3 MS. WELCH: I have.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: You've had a chance to
5 really take a look at what's going on.

6 MS. WELCH: I will speak to that. The Top
7 Ten Program, I just wanted to say a few more things
8 about it. I believe it is six or seven counties, two of
9 which are Clarendon and Williamsburg, so I think that's
10 very important to mention.

11 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

12 MS. WELCH: But those two, by counties, are
13 in that. It is a little bit more than just an
14 acceptance program. It is automatic acceptance. They
15 still need to apply, just as any other student would,
16 but it is a streamlined system.

17 That's wonderful. That's great. You're
18 right, because those kids could basically go anywhere.
19 But the other thing that is part of that pilot program
20 that will just start in this fall -- so the application
21 process is going on now, but the acceptance process and
22 all that. The students would come in in the fall.

23 There is a large mentorship portion program
24 of that pilot program, so it's not just to get the
25 minority African-American students there. It is to get

1 them there and keep them there. Because what we have
2 discussed -- I don't know that there's been a study on
3 it, but several of the board members have had the
4 opportunity to get to know young African-American high
5 school students and really try to promote the college to
6 them and do things and make calls and try to get
7 additional funds for them. But even when you get maybe
8 even more money for them, they're still going to choose
9 to go to Carolina or other schools where there are more
10 African Americans there because it stands to reason,
11 they want to be with other people who are of their same
12 race.

13 And so that is something we need to address
14 hoping that this program will allow us to move up from,
15 I think, a 7.7 percent. We're rounding it up to 8. But
16 that will allow more students to come and then more
17 students to come and more students to come.

18 The same is true for staff and faculty. I
19 think we're at 33 percent African American for
20 faculty -- I'm sorry. I mean staff. And 13 percent for
21 faculty. Those numbers need to rise so the
22 African-American students and the minority students that
23 come in to the college are taught by people who they are
24 familiar with.

25 So it is something that we are definitely

1 looking into. One of our board members, John Bush, is
2 the chairman of a new committee that we have that is
3 looking into diversity, not just African American, but
4 the whole gamut. He had the opportunity to go to the
5 Furman Diversity Initiative program. I have done that
6 and also has Trustee Romberger.

7 It is a really enlightening program. It's
8 a really neat program that Furman does, and we are
9 focused on that. It is discussed at every board
10 meeting. He has a report at every board meeting.

11 But as one of the board members mentioned
12 earlier, it's not something that is going to happen
13 overnight. It's is going to be a gradual thing where
14 minorities feel welcome and want to come.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: I'm just hoping y'all move
16 from that 10 percent --

17 MS. WELCH: I know.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: -- to 25 percent, because
19 what you're asking for is larger than what the state
20 actually offers for scholarships. And that's basically
21 that you've got a student who comes in the top 10
22 percent. No matter what program that they have to
23 follow, they're going to excel. These are exceptional
24 children.

25 And so I'm hoping you guys just kind of

1 rethink this process if you're really serious about
2 recruiting and getting some students in there. Thank
3 you so much.

4 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
5 Alexander.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Good morning.

9 MS. WELCH: Good morning.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I appreciate your
11 service.

12 Two things. I'm going to go with, first,
13 having been on the Lander Board and now at the college
14 of Charleston, what is the biggest takeaway, or has
15 there been anything that you've been able to bring to
16 that experience from that experience at Lander?

17 MS. WELCH: There are many things. One of
18 the first things about --

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Brevity, I know we
20 used --

21 MS. WELCH: I know.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Earlier when the
23 chairman mentioned it, brevity is --

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: It's a plus.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: -- a plus.

1 MS. WELCH: That's right. I'll just
2 mention the one. When I was at the --

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And will someone
4 remind Senator Scott of that?

5 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you're doing
6 well. It's not 12 o'clock. We're still doing good.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Sorry for the
8 interruption, Senator.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That's all right.

10 MS. WELCH: When I was on the Lander Board,
11 Dan Ball was our president. He just retired a couple of
12 years ago. And he was a very strong person who really
13 had all of the information of the school in his head.
14 And that is what I expected when I came to the College
15 of Charleston. And not to speak ill of the former
16 president, the leadership was different.

17 And so that was something that took me a
18 while to get used to, and now we're back with a strong
19 leadership in Governor McConnell. President McConnell
20 came in. It was not the easiest thing for the board,
21 but sometimes the best thing is not the easiest thing to
22 do.

23 He has come in and worked very hard to
24 establish relationships, because nothing is going to
25 happen unless you establish relationships. And that's

1 what he's worked very hard to do. So we're back where
2 it was just like at Lander.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I guess to my
4 second question, as far as your assessment -- and you
5 mentioned there is some disharmony with -- how would you
6 characterize that aspect in working with the president?

7 MS. WELCH: We have actually had a very
8 good relationship. I think we were worried for him when
9 he first became president. He certainly did not come
10 with full open arms from every part of the campus.

11 One of the opportunities I've had is to
12 shadow a faculty member who was a female faculty member
13 in the education department. And she was one of the
14 most vocal critics of the president and wrote several
15 editorials that were -- while well-written, they were
16 rather harsh.

17 And so I worried so that that would never
18 come to have a relationship between the two of them.
19 Now they're great friends. They have open lines of
20 communication, and she's one of his supporters.

21 So, like I said, when you listen and you
22 have an open mind, good things will come from that.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The fall

1 enrollment has dipped; is that correct?

2 MS. WELCH: We did have a dip in
3 enrollment, and especially with out-of-state students.
4 And as our tuition for in state is around ten-nine, the
5 out of state is 28,000. So we use a lot of the
6 out-of-state money to support the school, and I think we
7 had just 38 or 39 students from out of state who said
8 they would come, and they didn't come, which that
9 resulted in us having to make an adjustment to our
10 budget.

11 We have a really well-thought-through
12 budget. It was less than a 1 percent change, but 38 or
13 39 out-of-state students that don't come when they say
14 they're going to come makes it difficult for us to make
15 our figures work.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Cost prohibitive,
17 is that the reason they gave, or do we know?

18 MS. WELCH: I believe that the amount that
19 is required to save your spot was lower than what the
20 typical northern out-of-state students saw.

21 And so they probably posted those larger --
22 what I believe is a large deposit at several schools and
23 then chose to go to other schools.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
25 questions or comments?

1 What's the desire --

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
4 favorable report.

5 All in favor, say aye.

6 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
8 the ayes have it.

9 Please give my regards to your mother and
10 your father.

11 MS. WELCH: I will do so. Thank you very
12 much for the opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Next one up must
14 be Penny Rosner.

15 MS. ROSNER: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let's call you
17 Penny.

18 MS. ROSNER: That's perfect.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: From Myrtle Beach
20 and unopposed for an open seat.

21 MS. ROSNER: I am a South Carolinian and my
22 mother gave me a lot of names, a lot of syllables.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you
24 in.

25 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole

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

2 MS. ROSNER: (Nodding head.)

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Would
4 you like to make a brief statement on why you'd like to
5 serve?

6 MS. ROSNER: Yes.

7 I am so honored to be here and to be given
8 this chance to be on the board for the College of
9 Charleston. My first passion is education. I have
10 taught college English for 22 years.

11 I started teaching at Trident Technical
12 College in Charleston, and I had the nontraditional
13 student. And I also taught at The Citadel. I'm not
14 quite sure what we say about the cadets, but it was a
15 good experience. And then we moved to Horry County,
16 where I taught for 19 years.

17 My passion, like I said, is education. It
18 is helping students. And I find that I am in Charleston
19 a lot more. So I'm very thrilled at this opportunity.

20 I also grew up -- my father and grandfather
21 were dairy farmers on the Stono River on the Church
22 Flats right around the corner from where Dixie is. So
23 I'm very thrilled that the college has that property.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Did y'all produce
25 for Coburg?

1 MS. ROSNER: Yes, he did. Yes, he did. My
2 father died when I was five years old in 1969. Mother
3 never remarried.

4 So I understand how -- the importance of
5 hard work, and I understand how difficult it can be for
6 students to go to school and to come from rural areas.
7 Even though I consider myself a Charlestonian, I'm a
8 country girl, and I understand how difficult that is.

9 I had a professor tell me right when I
10 started teaching that if you can get a postadolescence,
11 a high school student to an early college student -- and
12 they don't have to be a Rhodes Scholar, as we discussed,
13 but if you have confidence in them and a relationship
14 and encourage them, that student will soar. And that
15 has been my philosophy for 22 years with teaching.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

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

19 Welcome. I noticed just about every one of
20 the trustees mentioned being landlocked is pretty much a
21 major problem, and I certainly understand that when I
22 was getting my two children enrolled.

23 MS. ROSNER: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What are the
25 trustees doing to try to address the lack of parking, if

1 anything? I mean, have they considered building a type
2 of parking garage or --

3 MS. ROSNER: I'm not sure what the trustees
4 are considering since I'm new, but that is something
5 that we will have to work on definitely.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What would you
7 do?

8 MS. ROSNERI: What would I do? There has
9 to be a situation of more -- I believe the city is
10 building -- they're building more garages, and that will
11 be a help discouraging -- and part of the problem too --
12 well, it's a great problem, because we're educating
13 South Carolinians.

14 But when the student is from South
15 Carolina, they want their car. More northern students
16 don't bring their cars down. At least that's what I
17 found when I taught at Coastal. So that makes for a
18 bigger problem.

19 There is parking on the Battery, which is
20 free parking for students. And I know that that
21 neighborhood tried to stop the parking there because
22 it's -- you know, it's cars that are constantly there,
23 but Mayor Riley didn't allow that. So there is free
24 parking there; otherwise, it's a garage.

25 And street parking is a problem. I have a

1 house in downtown Charleston, and I pay parking tickets
2 too.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I don't see any
4 real solution.

5 MS. ROSNER: And I don't either, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So you just don't
7 have any access, and I'm sure the college doesn't want
8 to go to the costly -- of condemning other land.

9 MS. ROSNER: It is very expensive. The
10 north end of Charleston is expanding. What I mean by
11 that, north towards King Street, and there is land
12 there. And I do know that -- I believe -- I won't say I
13 know. But I believe there will be some parking garages
14 there.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
17 Alexander.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 And good morning and thank you for your
21 willingness to serve.

22 Two things that you've mentioned here on
23 your -- why you'd like to serve on the board. And one
24 of -- the second one you referred to is the importance
25 of a positive relationship between the school and the

1 surrounding communities, and you've talked about owning
2 property there. Is there not now a good working
3 relationship or positive relationship between the
4 community property owners and the college?

5 MS. ROSNER: I've seen a massive
6 improvement. I moved to Horry County, to Myrtle Beach,
7 20 years ago, and I lived more in the Harleston
8 neighborhood, if you're familiar with that. It's still
9 closer. It's really where the college is.

10 And there were issues. I've been back in
11 Charleston part-time for about three years, and I think
12 it is much improved.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And then, too, I see,
14 in your career, you've taught college English for 22
15 years. Are you teaching now?

16 MS. ROSNER: No, sir. Believe it or not,
17 I'm doing a little farming. I'm helping my mother with
18 the farm --

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Oh, okay.

20 MS. ROSNER: -- so I can keep my
21 84-year-old mother off the John Deere.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Well, good luck on
23 that.

24 So where did you teach college English?

25 MS. ROSNER: I taught at Trident Technical

1 College when I first graduated --

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: You started at Trident,
3 right.

4 MS. ROSNER: -- and at The Citadel.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: At The Citadel.

6 MS. ROSNER: And then for 19 years at
7 Coastal Carolina University.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Coastal.

9 Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that work
10 as well.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 I notice some of my colleagues don't quite
14 understand important diversity as it relates to colleges
15 and universities and what it does overall just outside
16 of just the college itself when young people go into the
17 world of work and how easy it is to get them to adjust
18 quickly.

19 The area of English, math, and science is
20 always an issue as it relates to recruitment. What do
21 you think you bring to the table to really help the real
22 discussion at the school to improve diversity, as well
23 as recruiting new students to come to your campus?

24 MS. ROSNER: I think the most important
25 part, and particularly when we talk about the Ten

1 Percent Program, which I am very much a fan of, I think
2 is to have a personal-type relationship with those
3 students. They have to feel comfortable. They have to
4 understand and their parents need to know what is there.
5 They need to understand the first-year programs. They
6 need to understand mentoring and what the college can do
7 to make them comfortable.

8 And that comes with openness and making
9 them feel a part of it by encouragement, like I said,
10 giving them confidence that they will succeed there.

11 SENATOR SCOTT: Do you think that takes the
12 top 10 students, or can that ratio be extended to the
13 top 25 students?

14 MS. ROSNER: I believe it can be extended.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Congratulations,
17 Senator.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: You learn. You learn.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
20 questions?

21 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: I do have one
22 question.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative
24 McLeod.

25 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Mr. Rosner, thank

1 you so much.

2 Just to kind of expound on what Senator
3 Scott just asked about diversity, one of the things that
4 Ms. Land Welch also mentioned was the Riley Institute
5 and the DLI program, which I have also been a part of.
6 And I'm just curious about the number. I'm not sure if
7 she mentioned that other board members have also gone
8 through that program, I think. Have you?

9 MS. ROSNER: No, I haven't, but I am very
10 open to it. I would look forward to doing that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Okay. And is that
12 something that you think would be beneficial to the
13 majority, if not all, members of your board
14 considering --

15 MS. ROSNER: I think in time you can learn
16 and can be introduced if -- you know, and we open our
17 minds and we learn. I think absolutely, yes.

18 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Thank you. I
19 appreciate that.

20 MS. ROSNER: I have a liberal arts degree,
21 and, of course, I think it's very important, but we also
22 have to be able to put the liberal arts degree into the
23 business world, and we need to improve South Carolina.

24 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Absolutely.

25 And I believe --

1 MS. ROSNER: Educationally.

2 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Right.

3 And I'm a firm believer that diversity is
4 key when it comes to improving South Carolina. So I
5 appreciate that.

6 And is that something that you would be
7 willing to recommend, that your colleagues on the board
8 kind of go through that program and experience that
9 process? I think it would be beneficial.

10 MS. ROSNER: Yes, I would. So I would like
11 to do it first, and then I can be excited about it.

12 REPRESENTATIVE McLEOD: Right.

13 Okay. All right. Thank you.

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

16 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a
18 favorable report.

19 All in favor, say aye.

20 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
22 the ayes have it.

23 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

24 MS. ROSNER: Thank you so much for being
25 here. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: David Mikell Hay.

2 MR. HAY: Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning,

4 sir.

5 I'm going to swear you in.

6 MR. HAY: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to

8 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the

9 truth, so help you God?

10 MR. HAY: I do.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to

12 make a brief statement on why you'd like to serve?

13 MR. HAY: Sure.

14 I don't know if y'all have this

15 circumstance in your life, but I had a very strong

16 mother-in-law who was an alumn of the College of

17 Charleston, as I am, my wife, and two of my brothers are

18 all alumns. And she, my mother-in-law, volunteered me

19 many years ago to serve on the alumni board, and I was

20 grateful that she did. So I served on the alumni board,

21 eventually served as president, and I served several

22 terms on the foundation board. I was vice president

23 when I resigned to serve on the board of trustees.

24 Now I serve on the board of trustees. So

25 I've seen a lot of what's going on at the College of

1 Charleston. A lot of my success in life is directly
2 attributable to my experience at the college, and I am
3 very fortunate to be able to serve and give back to our
4 community, as well as to my alma mater.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions or
6 comments?

7 Senator Scott.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: I noticed that of all
9 trustees thus far interviewed, most of y'all are from
10 Charleston.

11 MR. HAY: Well, I'm running for an at-large
12 seat, but I am --

13 SENATOR SCOTT: But from Charleston.

14 MR. HAY: Yes, sir.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Is a major problem in
16 recruiting students from Charleston -- since most of the
17 three, at least three of the members we've interviewed
18 thus far have been from Charleston that -- how is your
19 Charleston recruiting? Let me rephrase the question.

20 In terms of recruiting, Charleston has a
21 tremendous African-American population --

22 MR. HAY: Sure.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: -- which means those
24 students can commute to school and save on meal tickets
25 and room and board. What efforts are being made to

1 recruit more students from Charleston and the
2 surrounding area? Y'all have got one of the better mass
3 transit systems in Charleston.

4 MR. HAY: Wando and West Ashley High School
5 are two of our biggest percentage of students. So my
6 feeling is that in our community, we recruit very well.
7 To answer your question as well as Representative
8 Whitmire's, we do have a transportation program where
9 all students, with their College of Charleston ID, as
10 well as faculty and staff, are allowed free rides on
11 their CARTA system. I'm chair of the facility's
12 committee, and one of the things I'm very interested in
13 is expanding on a program I heard about on Your Day on
14 public radio a couple of years ago that Clemson is
15 doing, where they have a very aggressive Park-N-Ride
16 system. Their whole transportation program is very
17 forward-thinking.

18 And we, for example, two weeks ago, the
19 College of Charleston bid on property near Tecklenburg.
20 It opened up property underneath the overpasses that
21 would allow us to park under there. We haven't heard
22 the results of that bid yet, but that would be another
23 opportunity where we would be able to relieve the
24 pressure on parking, which if there is an issue in the
25 community that I live and work in, it probably is

1 parking.

2 Our relationship with the citizens of
3 Charleston has improved tremendously over the years. I
4 believe that a large part of that can be further
5 improved through a Park-N-Ride system.

6 I was a day student when I went to the
7 college. I worked in the afternoons. I drove in every
8 day. If I had the ability to park at Patriots Point and
9 ride a bus to work and probably do my homework on the
10 way there, I think that's a great program that we can
11 expand on and do very well.

12 We have remote sites in Summerville and
13 West Ashley. So it's a program that's working but could
14 be expanded on.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Well, Charleston is the
16 third largest county in South Carolina and probably the
17 largest alumni association for the colleges in
18 Charleston as well, and Charleston has more than two
19 high schools. And with 6- to 7-, 6- to 800 students,
20 African-American students, my question again, what do
21 you think the Charleston group can do to further expand
22 the recruitment ranking in Charleston since you have
23 that large population to be able to pull from and bring
24 those students in?

25 MR. HAY: You know, the real answer, I

1 believe, starting with President Benson -- and really
2 having President McConnell has really ramped up. I
3 believe that although we did not have a great minority
4 representation on campus, and that includes faculty,
5 staff, and students, I do believe that we have
6 demonstrated very good success. Renee Romberger
7 mentioned a percentage from 600 to 800 students,
8 African-American only, but if you look at total
9 minority, which is really what we're serving, the total
10 population, our total minority representation in the
11 last four years has gone from 13.6 to 18.3 percent of
12 our student body.

13 So that's a demonstrated consistent line of
14 improvement, and I think everything that you've heard my
15 fellow trustees speak about, coupled with really
16 aggressive effort by President McConnell, I believe we
17 are making great strides. We're committed to it. I
18 mean, you've heard it from all of us.

19 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Alexander.

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

23 Good morning, sir.

24 MR. HAY: Good morning.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: A couple of things.

1 One observation on the parking and stuff in having, I
2 think, dare I say, that every probably college and
3 university, even with Clemson with the good track record
4 it has with the CAT system, still has its challenge with
5 parking. So it's not unique to y'all at the College of
6 Charleston.

7 Again, your assessment, having been there,
8 and the opportunity to have to work with basically your
9 relatively new president in the job and assessment of
10 his work for the students and the board?

11 MR. HAY: I was on the foundation board
12 when President Benson announced he was retiring, and I
13 served on the foundation board with a Harvard Business
14 School professor, Jody Encarnation. And I supported him
15 as candidate for president. I knew him, and I was very
16 impressed with his work ethic.

17 So from the start I was supporting
18 Dr. Encarnation. Eventually we elected President
19 McConnell, and many, many people told me during the
20 process, "Please elect him. You'll be so amazed at what
21 a great job he'll do for y'all." And he truly has.

22 I have met with him, as we all did, and
23 told him of my support for Dr. Encarnation so there
24 wouldn't be any kind of confusion. I said, "You're the
25 man now, and I'm willing to work with the man." And

1 I've been very pleased.

2 And he really has been open and committed
3 not only to diversity, but also bringing a small
4 businessman's approach to the finances of higher
5 education. We do have challenges with enrollment and
6 budgetary challenges, but he is approaching it as a
7 businessman would and realizing sometimes cuts have to
8 be made that can be painful. But a small cut is not too
9 big a price to pay when you're looking at the
10 institution at a whole.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: The impact of his
12 interaction with the students, I mean, do you get
13 feedback from that standpoint as far as his ability
14 to -- with the student body?

15 MR. HAY: One of the trustees also spoke
16 about that, and, you know, I do see dramatic
17 improvement. We talk to students. We've actually
18 employed a fair number of students over the years as
19 runners at our small business, so we get to get that
20 perspective from them. And they're impressed with the
21 leadership of President McConnell.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: One final question.
23 And you mentioned students that you hire as runners. I
24 notice too that I think you -- just for the record, that
25 you sell tires through the Fleet Management; is that

1 correct?

2 MR. HAY: Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And that's a bid
4 process, or there's prices that are established so that
5 you comply? I mean, that's within the confines from
6 that standpoint?

7 MR. HAY: That's correct. We respond to
8 the bid that's put out probably every three or four
9 years. It's a competitive bid. And if you're
10 successful and you are able to do work, we do that on a
11 set price schedule.

12 State Fleet manages the vehicles and -- for
13 the College of Charleston. So whether it's The Citadel,
14 College of Charleston, MUSC, and countless other
15 agencies, we do work for them.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Basically, as long as
17 you're willing to accept that rate that's been
18 established, then certainly you're a provider that they
19 can utilize.

20 MR. HAY: That's correct.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

22 MR. HAY: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Hay, what's
24 the difference between the College of Charleston and the
25 University of Charleston? What is that?

1 MR. HAY: Well, the number 8 on my personal
2 data questions asked about what I think is one of the
3 biggest challenges that the college faces, and certainly
4 enrollment, budget, those are challenges. But one of
5 the unique challenges that I think we're dealing with is
6 the ability to respond to the changing demands of our
7 students or potential students and whether we're able to
8 offer programs in computer science and logistics and
9 supply chain management. Those are programs within the
10 College of Charleston, but there are examples where, you
11 know, we may need to offer programs at a university
12 level.

13 We had the founder of PeopleMatter speak at
14 our Rotary Club a while back and he said he could take
15 200 computer science graduates a year. Again, this is
16 within our regular college, and at the time we were only
17 producing I think 23 or 24. And the ability to
18 recognize needs within our community and respond to that
19 by adding professors, adding classes, demonstrates a
20 flexibility that I wish we had more of, and within the
21 university, the ability to offer graduate degrees that
22 are -- sometimes we may not even know about them yet,
23 but there's a changing demand, and I think that allows
24 us to respond to that demand.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: All right.

1 There's some talk about keeping the College of
2 Charleston liberal arts, but then there's also -- it
3 seemed like that most would turn it into a research
4 university. There's some talk of a law school and
5 there's some chatter about that. Do you see a -- what's
6 the future?

7 MR. HAY: I don't ever see us leaving
8 liberal arts. I mean, that's our core. That is what
9 we're founded on, and I do believe that that is our
10 future, demonstrating that commitment to liberal arts.

11 The law school would make sense if it made
12 sense for all parties. If the legislature said we need
13 y'all to do this for us, if the law school said we need
14 a partner, and then if the College of Charleston said we
15 need that, then I think that's an interesting thing to
16 consider. It didn't come to pass.

17 But, you know, when you have the Medical
18 University, you have the College of Charleston, you have
19 The Citadel, all great institutions, it seems to me that
20 there should be more opportunities for synergy and
21 cooperation. And those would be the kind of areas that
22 I think we should really expand the study to see, you
23 know, how can we cooperate better to provide a better
24 quality education for the citizens of South Carolina.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: You aren't

1 involved in the discussion about the possibility of
2 merging or taking on Charleston School of Law?

3 MR. HAY: No, sir. I know lots of the
4 professors and faculty, and it seems like it would have
5 been a logical thing if we needed it, but it didn't come
6 to pass.

7 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
8 questions?

9 Senator Scott.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: You chair the board of
11 faculty committee?

12 MR. HAY: Facilities.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Facilities?

14 MR. HAY: Yes, sir.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. No questions. I'm
16 good.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
18 questions?

19 What's the desire of the Committee?

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a
22 favorable report.

23 All in favor, say aye.

24 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and

1 the eyes have it.

2 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

3 MR. HAY: Thank you, sir.

4 (Discussion off the record.)

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: We'll crank back
6 up.

7 Now we have Winthrop. Janet Smalley from
8 Walhalla.

9 MS. SMALLEY: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Come up. Are you
11 coming? Come on in.

12 MS. SMALLEY: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Make sure your
14 light is burning green. Is it burning?

15 MS. SMALLEY: Excuse me?

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The light right
17 in front of you, is it burning green?

18 MS. SMALLEY: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. That
20 speaker is on.

21 I'd like to swear you in. Will you please
22 raise your right hand.

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

25 MS. SMALLEY: I do.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you very
2 much.

3 Would you like to make a brief statement on
4 why you would like to serve on the Winthrop board?

5 MS. SMALLEY: Well, I take the job very
6 seriously. I have since I was fortunate enough to be
7 elected by the legislative body running for my first
8 term.

9 I'm deeply committed to public education.
10 I was a public educator for 35 years and then did
11 consulting for the Department of Education here and for
12 the U.S. Department of Education.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or
14 comments from members of the Committee?

15 Mr. Whitmire.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Welcome,
17 Ms. Smalley.

18 I'd just like to say that I have personal
19 knowledge that Ms. Smalley has done an outstanding job
20 as trustee. My eldest daughter graduated from there, as
21 did my mother. It's an outstanding school, and thank
22 you for your service.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other
24 questions or comments?

25 Senator Scott.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: I'll give you a chance to
2 kind of breathe again because I think we kind of caught
3 you off guard. Are you okay?

4 MS. SMALLEY: Well, I am fine. Because I
5 was here early --

6 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

7 MS. SMALLEY: So...

8 SENATOR SCOTT: We appreciate that.

9 MS. SMALLEY: The only thing I was doing
10 when I got a call from Julie was getting some more coins
11 for the meters.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Let me ask a
13 little -- a couple of questions about Winthrop.

14 MS. SMALLEY: Yes, sir.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: What is its
16 African-American population there?

17 MS. SMALLEY: Our minority population is
18 around 30 percent, the largest percentage of that is
19 African American. We are dedicated to serving a diverse
20 student body and working real hard to find a diverse
21 faculty and staff.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: What are y'all doing that
23 you think that some of the other schools are not doing?
24 All I've heard all morning is 7 percent, 8 percent, and
25 we've got all these plans. It appears they've had plans

1 for a long time, but they're just kind of just plans.

2 What are y'all doing that the other schools
3 are not doing to attract students who want to come to
4 Winthrop?

5 MS. SMALLEY: That's a great question, but
6 I truly think quality wins, and Winthrop University is a
7 quality institution. And under the leadership of
8 President DiGiorgio, who led our university for 24
9 years, that was one of his goals, and that's one he
10 achieved at a remarkable level. One of the chief
11 questions we asked the new president, Dr. Dan Mahoney,
12 during the presidential search was for him to share
13 ideas about how do you recruit diversity. And one of
14 the first things he did was to establish working groups,
15 and one of those working groups is the Working Group on
16 Diversity.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Is scholarships the answer
18 or just better recruiting? I've heard we want the top
19 10. We're going to give them a full ride. But a top 10
20 student can go anywhere they want to go in the country.

21 When you look at scholarship and spreading
22 the scholarships among those students that's coming to
23 Winthrop, has scholarships been the big issue or just
24 recruiting good students who want to come to Winthrop?

25 MS. SMALLEY: Most answers to any questions

1 are a blend, different tactics, different strategies,
2 and I would certainly say this one is no different. In
3 terms of financial aid, Winthrop is very, very
4 aggressive in that capacity. Winthrop is a very
5 family-oriented university, and I think that appeals to
6 minority students who tend to be first-generation
7 students.

8 And so I think that's another part of it.
9 So that's a recruitment and retention issue in that
10 particular task.

11 But we do have a lot of need-based
12 scholarships. In fact, I have one that is geared toward
13 first-generation students, which I am, and to students
14 with financial need, which I certainly did.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you so much.

16 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17 Senator Alexander.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

19 Good morning.

20 MS. SMALLEY: Good morning.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good to see you and
22 appreciate your outstanding service to Winthrop.

23 I've noticed here you're talking about the
24 biggest weakness is the blending, I guess you would call
25 that, of the liberal arts education versus the career

1 market economy. Are you making strides in that regard?
2 Have y'all had a lot of economic development up in the
3 Winthrop area? Are y'all partnering with those
4 opportunities?

5 MS. SMALLEY: That's a great question,
6 Senator Alexander. It is a great challenge if you have
7 a traditional liberal arts identity to be able to
8 transform yourself to address current economic issues,
9 job market demands, those sort of things. As early as
10 my first term during 2008, Dr. DiGiorgio was already
11 doing some of that. He was looking at blended majors,
12 for example, and I'll give you art as an example of
13 that.

14 Traditionally Winthrop has been a strong
15 art school, but with the rise in digital media, he saw
16 the need for a blended major in media arts. And that
17 was one of the first ones that I had the privilege of,
18 you know, being a part of and working with and having
19 some oversight into.

20 Since that time, Winthrop has expanded its
21 science program tremendously. Winthrop does more
22 undergraduate research than any university in the
23 Southeast, and truly that was one of the reasons that
24 Dan Mahoney was interested in Winthrop when he applied.
25 The amount of undergraduate research is unbelievable

1 down in Sims Science Building.

2 Business, the same thing. We have a
3 trading floor, an actual trading floor, in the business
4 building at Winthrop University. We recently, at the
5 last board meeting, which was Friday, passed a
6 consortium agreement with some of the area universities
7 that are in the bordering area of South Carolina into
8 North Carolina to be more collaborative about what we do
9 so that we can address the economic needs of that
10 immediately area.

11 And then the last thing I would say, that
12 another strategic working group that Dr. Mahoney
13 established was called a Program Mix working group, and
14 what they're looking at is exactly -- pointed to your
15 question, they're looking at what are the economic needs
16 of South Carolina, what kind of jobs are available, how
17 can we link with community colleges and community-based
18 needs to respond to those needs.

19 And, again, that group ended up with about
20 seven recommendations of programs for Winthrop to look
21 at that we already have the facility for that we would
22 have to not do a great deal of financial investment in
23 to be able to put forth programs that are cutting edge
24 and kind of things that really will prepare our
25 graduates for the future.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. Keep up the
2 good work.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: With closeness to
4 Charlotte, I've heard comments about the desire of so
5 many students around the Charlotte area that having to
6 pay the out-of-state tuition seemed to be a problem.
7 Have y'all looked into that and if that really is a
8 challenge for you, or is that just a myth?

9 MS. SMALLEY: No. That conversation has
10 been going on. It's a blessing and a curse, perhaps.
11 You know, there's positives and negatives to be able to
12 look at, being able to step across that state line in
13 terms of tuition and recruitment and that kind of thing
14 and still protect the taxpayer interest of South
15 Carolina. But the consortium agreement that I just
16 referenced is a little bit of putting the toes in the
17 water and seeing how collaborative we can be as public
18 universities, to that degree.

19 We do have a lot of students, you know, who
20 are so close to the state line of North Carolina. We do
21 have a lot of students who come in for -- an example is
22 Winthrop has a collaborative agreement with ROTC at
23 UNCA -- or UNCC. Excuse me. Those students do some
24 work on our campus and back, you know, in the other
25 direction as well.

1 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Kind of along
2 that same line, I've heard some people around my area
3 who would like to see Winthrop get into the football
4 program. Are y'all looking into that? Because the
5 closeness of Charlotte, that draw would help. How far
6 down the road are you with that?

7 I know Coastal Carolina is doing a great
8 job with it.

9 MS. SMALLEY: That is --

10 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you have an
11 opinion?

12 MS. SMALLEY: You know, we still have the
13 T-shirt, "Winthrop Football, Still Undefeated."

14 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

15 MS. SMALLEY: Our previous president,
16 Dr. DiGiorgio, actually did a study that was kind of a
17 first glance at that and looking at facilities and
18 whether or not there were facilities in the area that we
19 would share or purchase for not a big investment. That
20 was about as far as that study went.

21 And then, Jamie, our president who is no
22 longer at our university, she did a full-blown study on
23 that. That was the charge of our athletic director, and
24 it was: What's the cost if you go scholarship? What's
25 the cost if you go non-scholarship? What's the cost of

1 salary, and what's the cost of uniforms? I mean, it was
2 very, very detailed.

3 That study is ongoing. We have recently
4 learned that one of our issues will be -- if Winthrop
5 started football next year, it would be Title IX,
6 because we have about 65:35 female to male. If we
7 instituted a football program, we would be out of
8 alignment with Title IX guidelines.

9 So it's not quite as simple as it might
10 seem. There's a lot of things that impact on this.

11 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: It never is. It
12 never is.

13 MS. SMALLEY: And if anyone anywhere that
14 you know or any of you would like to step forward with
15 several million dollars to help us, you know, look at
16 that and institute other programs, we would love that.
17 I do think it's something that the students are always
18 interested in, and I can see it as, in these days of
19 recruitment, an important issue in a lot of ways. So...

20 But these days the latest thing we've
21 looked at that is problematic is that Title IX issue.

22 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

23 Senator Scott, do you want to offer a
24 couple million?

25 SENATOR SCOTT: No, but I think the program

1 is probably about \$10 million probably because of all of
2 the scholarships that you have to give to get that
3 going. And I look at tuition, you know, about 7,000.
4 Clemson's at 14. The College of Charleston is at 10. I
5 think that's probably why Winthrop is so affordable in
6 allowing you a larger opportunity as well to be able to
7 recruit.

8 I would say to you the most important thing
9 is to educate, and I think y'all are doing a good job
10 looking at what your percentages are. And to walk in
11 this room and say you're doing 33 percent when the other
12 schools are much, much, much larger than you and their
13 percentage is for recruiting a faculty, staff, and
14 students so low, you guys are just being commended for
15 what you're doing.

16 MS. SMALLEY: Thank you. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

18 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

19 You know, you're very dear to my heart, and
20 I appreciate the good work you're doing, literally.

21 MS. SMALLEY: You're very dear to
22 Winthrop's heart.

23 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

24 How do you think Dr. Mahoney is doing, the
25 new president, at Winthrop?

1 MS. SMALLEY: I should have brought a
2 letter of the Johnsonian that was just put out. This
3 was an open letter to the student body about
4 Dr. Mahoney, about how transparent he is, about how
5 active he is on campus, about how he has calmed our
6 campus and how he is building relationships among
7 students, faculty, staff, the community, all those sorts
8 of things. Really, he's a very measured individual.

9 During his interview, one of the most
10 impressive statements he made was that it was always his
11 goal to be the calmest person in the room, and I loved
12 that. I thought, you know, that's exactly what we need.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: That's my goal
14 too.

15 SENATOR HAYES: That feels like Senator
16 Peeler over here.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Sorry to
18 interrupt.

19 MS. SMALLEY: We do. We do. We're very,
20 very pleased.

21 He's very, very -- his background is
22 accounting and then education. He was Dean of the
23 College of Education at Penn State. The college that he
24 managed there is actually larger than Winthrop, 8,000
25 versus 6,000. So he's well versed, and we're very, very

1 pleased.

2 He's very, very methodical, analytical, and
3 positive about what he's doing. Thank you.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

5 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative
6 Whitmire has a --

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's kind of
8 important, Mr. Chairman.

9 Concerning your Winthrop Eagle football
10 team, it's never going to fly because USC is against --
11 we're already behind The Citadel, and they're not going
12 to fall behind Winthrop also and --

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: You can put that
14 in Gaffanese for me.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That's it.

16 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a
18 favorable report.

19 Seconded.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Seconded by me.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: All in favor, say
22 aye.

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
25 the ayes have it.

1 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

2 MS. SMALLEY: Thank you, Senator Peeler.

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Shane Neil

4 Duncan.

5 MR. DUNCAN: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

7 MR. DUNCAN: The green light is still on.

8 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: It's still on.

9 Let me swear you in. Do you swear to tell
10 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
11 so help you God?

12 MR. DUNCAN: I do. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: You learn from --
14 that it says we're kind of -- how to handle these
15 questions and --

16 MR. DUNCAN: I think so.

17 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

18 MR. DUNCAN: It's my first time in here, so
19 I appreciate you guys having me.

20 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a
21 brief statement?

22 MR. DUNCAN: Yes. Serving on the board,
23 this is new for me. I was asked to step forward, and
24 currently I serve on the executive board for the alumni
25 association. So a little bit of a step below the board

1 of trustees. The second vice president there is in line
2 for that presidency in a couple of years as we progress
3 through our normal routine.

4 In addition to that, I serve as the
5 president of our alumni association for a fraternity
6 there. We have about 850 alumni. So my major value, or
7 what I'd like to bring to the board in general is, one,
8 my alumni engagement. My feelers, my tentacles, and my
9 reach is on the alumni side and getting those folks.

10 Senator Scott asked a question about, you
11 know, recruitment of diversity and whatnot. I think
12 Winthrop's brand and that each student becomes an
13 ambassador, I think, that tells our story. And I think
14 our alumni, our undergraduates, enjoy telling their
15 Winthrop story.

16 And so we're just looking forward to
17 getting that brand in front of more people and through
18 that invest students.

19 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator
20 Alexander.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Well, just thank you
22 for your willingness to serve. I was just wondering
23 with your work that you've been doing with the alumni
24 association board, what would be the greatest ability
25 that that experience will help transform you into a

1 member of the board?

2 MR. DUNCAN: That's a great question,
3 Senator Alexander.

4 I don't have all the answers. To be
5 honest, I'm a little bit new to this process of the
6 board of trustees, but I can tell you that the alumni
7 engagement for the university, good or bad, is low. I
8 think we had about a 4 percent engagement when we
9 measured that, and we need to get more people under the
10 tent and have more events.

11 And Dr. Mahoney's been great. Jamie
12 Comstock did a similar tour, but getting the president
13 out in front of people and allowing him to engage with
14 parents and alumni and students in general will bring
15 more people into the circle. He's coming to an event we
16 have in about three weeks at the City Club of Rock Hill.
17 Senator Hayes knows where that is, surely, from Rock
18 Hill.

19 He's committed to attend that, and we're
20 going to have a hundred parents, probably 40 or 50
21 alumni that are some of your more influential alumni who
22 sit on our board of trustees, Scott Middleton and Jimmie
23 Williamson and some others that are part of our alumni
24 group. And I think the recent experience that I have
25 there engaging and getting people collected and getting

1 to a central area, an essential gathering spot, will
2 allow the university to bring in key leadership, like
3 Dr. Mahoney in the development office and Danny
4 Nicholson, that group, who get those guys in front of
5 the right people to engage the right alumni.

6 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

7 Any other questions or comments?

8 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

9 MR. DUNCAN: I'm standing between you guys
10 and lunch, right?

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

13 All in favor, say aye.

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no; and
16 the ayes have it.

17 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

18 Thank you for your patience.

19 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, guys. I appreciate
20 you inviting me down.

21 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

22 That takes us to our lunch break. If y'all
23 show up around 2:00, we'll try to get the thing done
24 early enough and hopefully get out of here on time.

25 (The lunch recess transpired at 12:13 p.m.)

1 SENATOR PEELER: All right. We have everyone
2 back. This is the afternoon session of the Joint
3 Legislative Committee to Screen Candidates for the
4 College and Universities Board of Trustees.

5 Starting off with the Board of Trustees for
6 Francis Marion University. Mr. William W. Coleman Jr.
7 from Florence. Come forward. Make sure your light is
8 burning green.

9 Have a seat and get comfortable.

10 Let me swear you in first.

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

13 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir.

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

16 MR. COLEMAN: I'm just -- my name is William
17 W. Coleman. I'm from Florence. Originally from
18 Pamplico. I'm a graduate of Francis Marion. The first
19 graduating class. And been on board since 1988.

20 SENATOR PEELER: You've seen a lot.

21 MR. COLEMAN: A lot.

22 SENATOR PEELER: All right. Any questions or
23 comments for Mr. Coleman?

24 Senator Scott.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Coleman, good to have you

1 today.

2 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me a little bit about
4 Francis Marion and what we're doing to recruit minority
5 students, the number of student population we have
6 there, a little bit about minority faculty and staff.

7 MR. COLEMAN: All right. I just got a few
8 notes. I figured that would be a question. We have --

9 SENATOR SCOTT: That's experience for you.

10 MR. COLEMAN: We have about almost a 50/50
11 ratio of minorities. And I think the -- I do not have
12 the breakdown of the faculty and staff as far as
13 ratios, but I can assure you that it's very equitable.
14 That's one thing that our president is very conscious
15 of and does a real good job.

16 SENATOR SCOTT: Give the president my
17 regards.

18 MR. COLEMAN: I sure will. Yes, sir. Thank
19 you.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: What's the total population
21 there now?

22 MR. COLEMAN: It's a little over -- we
23 fluctuate around 4,000 students. I think we have
24 probably 33-, 3400 undergraduate and 3- or 400 graduate
25 students and a good many part-time students. But it's

1 around 4,000.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: What do you think contributes
3 to the success of Francis Marion being able to recruit
4 that many minority students? I've heard a lot of
5 schools who the board of trustee members come in and
6 say they're struggling to get students. They've got 7
7 percent and some say as high as 8 percent. I'm trying
8 to figure out how to make it work. What's working for
9 Francis Marion?

10 MR. COLEMAN: I think it has a lot to do with
11 our location, being rural and in the Pee Dee. And I
12 think it's a lot of hard work on the faculty and
13 trustees and the recruiting in the high schools.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: You think a lot of your
15 students come from your immediate area?

16 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Senator
19 Alexander.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Good afternoon. Thank you for your service.
22 As far as -- and you've been on the board for a while,
23 so I appreciate that -- your involvement with the
24 board, attendance of meetings, how would you classify,
25 are you a hundred percenter? 90 percenter?

1 MR. COLEMAN: I'd like to say a hundred
2 percenter. If I had to miss, it's been for an illness.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

5 SENATOR HAYES: I think I probably know the
6 answer to this one, but I thought I would just check.
7 How is the leadership at the college, the president, is
8 he doing a good job with that?

9 MR. COLEMAN: Absolutely, Senator Hayes.
10 We're very lucky. That's all I can tell you. He's for
11 the student first, and he's -- he's just fantastic.

12 SENATOR HAYES: Any new initiatives going on
13 with the college that you're taking on?

14 MR. COLEMAN: In the last couple of years
15 we've added an engineering degree that we're working
16 with Florence-Darlington Technical, in conjunction with
17 them. We've got one of the best nursing programs in
18 the state that's fairly new. Fixing to implement the
19 nurse practitioner degree and physician's assistant.
20 Some other health-related fields. And thanks to the
21 state, we've got a new \$15 million health sciences
22 building.

23 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
25 comments?

1 You've been on the board, what, 25 years?

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: 28.

3 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir.

4 SENATOR PEELER: All right. Mr. Coleman,
5 anything else you want to -- you feel like we need to
6 know?

7 MR. COLEMAN: We just appreciate your support
8 for our university.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable.

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

13 All in favor say "aye."

14 (Members respond.)

15 Opposed, no.

16 And the ayes have it.

17 Thank you so much for your continued support
18 of the school.

19 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 Next is Patricia Hartung. Help me with that
22 pronunciation.

23 MS. HARTUNG: Good afternoon, sir.

24 SENATOR PEELER: How do you pronounce your
25 name?

1 MS. HARTUNG: Hartung.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Hartung. Okay.

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

5 MS. HARTUNG: I do.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a brief
7 statement for the committee?

8 MS. HARTUNG: It's been my pleasure to serve
9 on the board since 1999. I represent the Third
10 District, Seat Number 3. I'm based out of Greenwood,
11 South Carolina. I think I have a general understanding
12 of the workforce needs in that area, and I would like
13 to believe that that's the contribution I bring to the
14 university. Understanding the career choices available
15 to students and how we can develop the curriculums to
16 meet those careers in the future.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions?

18 Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. Appreciate
20 your service in both capacities.

21 And talking about workforce development, do
22 you -- are you seeing the university meet that mission
23 of preparing the students, the ability of them having
24 employment once they get that outstanding education at
25 Francis Marion?

1 MS. HARTUNG: I do, Senator. As you know,
2 Council of Governments, where I work, we run the
3 Six-County Workforce Development Program in that area.
4 And that region is very similar to the other span of
5 region based around Greenwood, South Carolina, in that
6 probably the major employer is the hospital system. I
7 think they have some diversification in other
8 industries as well.

9 But we see the health sciences field as
10 the -- probably the fastest growing area for jobs in
11 the future. And our board of trustees, under the
12 direction and leadership of Fred Carter, has seen the
13 same thing and has moved diligently to meet those needs
14 in that region.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And one final question,
16 if I could, Mr. Chairman.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Sure.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: As far as your attendance
19 at meetings and things, are you a hundred percenter?
20 What -- how would you classify your attendance and
21 participation?

22 MS. HARTUNG: I, like Mr. Coleman, like to
23 think I'm a hundred percenter. The only time I've
24 missed, not because it was my illnesses, but I have
25 seven-year-old twins and they catch everything that

1 goes around. So I try my best, and I would say
2 probably at 90, 95 percent.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Hayes.

5 SENATOR HAYES: On the health sciences,
6 what -- you mentioned some -- what degrees do you all
7 plan to offer?

8 MS. HARTUNG: Well, when the new building
9 opens, I believe right now it's scheduled for August of
10 this year, there will be three masters programs. A
11 master in nursing, in nursing administration, and
12 applied psychology, I believe; a nurse practitioner;
13 and then there's a physician's assistant program that's
14 going to be coming on board as well. Very relevant for
15 that area.

16 SENATOR HAYES: My daughter is an
17 occupational therapist, and the only program in that in
18 South Carolina is at MUSC and she had to go down to
19 St. Augustine to find a school to get that. It would
20 be nice for her to be able to stay in the state.

21 MS. HARTUNG: That's right.

22 SENATOR HAYES: But that's the only program
23 they have. There's some other states that have them,
24 but I just didn't know if that's something that you all
25 had in mind.

1 MS. HARTUNG: In fact, they are looking at
2 partnering. They are partnering with -- under the
3 physician's assistant program with the Medical
4 University and the University of South Carolina, so
5 they're looking at other things as well. That will be
6 coming up in the future.

7 SENATOR PEELER: All right. That's a new
8 center or something?

9 MS. HARTUNG: It's actually not that new.
10 It's about seven years old. And I have worked with
11 the individuals at that center for quite some time.
12 That's a passion of mine. We run a revolving loan
13 program in our area, and we help small businesses. And
14 it seems as they all have great ideas. A lot of them
15 lack capital, but they lack the expertise in actually
16 making a business thrive.

17 And to my knowledge, there are the SBDC
18 programs around the state, but that's the only center
19 for entrepreneurship. And I've asked Fred to let me
20 borrow some of the people and come down to my region
21 and do a dog-and-pony show to try and at least expand
22 the reach of their -- the services that they offer into
23 other parts of South Carolina as well.

24 SENATOR PEELER: How long have you been on
25 the Upper Savannah COG?

1 MS. HARTUNG: As a director since 1990, and
2 before that since '76.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me a little bit about
5 the program that you all are working with the tech
6 school. I thought I heard a comment about that.

7 MS. HARTUNG: The bridge program.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: The bridge program.

9 MS. HARTUNG: The bridge program? That's
10 actually an excellent program for graduates from high
11 school who may not be quite mature enough to enter a
12 four-year curriculum or maybe not have the correct
13 enough or sufficient GPA to get into the university.
14 So they, in their freshman year, attend a technical
15 college. And I think there's six or seven regional
16 technical college systems that -- or programs that
17 partner with the university.

18 And they have to declare a major in the first
19 year and they work and they have access -- full access
20 to the campus. And they work with guidance counselors
21 and professors in helping prepare them to enter as a
22 freshman in their -- after they complete their first
23 year.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: So most of that first year is
25 with you all?

1 MS. HARTUNG: No. The first year is with the
2 technical school, and then they transfer in. And it
3 can be two years as well.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: Do you all offer an
5 engineering program?

6 MS. HARTUNG: We offer an engineering
7 technology program, but not under that program.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

11 I may have missed it, what is your percentage
12 of in state versus out of state?

13 MS. HARTUNG: Right now it's 94 percent in --
14 94 percent in South Carolina; 6 percent out of state;
15 and 85 percent, I believe, in the Pee Dee region.
16 That's pretty strong.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I commend you for
18 reaching out to South Carolinians. I wish we had some
19 other schools that were so committed.

20 And I like what you answered to
21 Chairman Peeler about entrepreneurship. That's
22 something that seems to be missing in a lot of other
23 schools. I had two daughters who got a wonderful
24 liberal arts education and had to go wait tables for a
25 couple of years to try to find a job. So it's good

1 that you're emphasizing that.

2 My last question, I notice you're from
3 Greenwood.

4 MS. HARTUNG: Yes, sir.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you happen to
6 know Gene Pinson?

7 MS. HARTUNG: Yes, sir. Who doesn't know
8 Gene Pinson?

9 In fact, talking about entrepreneurship, he
10 came to us under our revolving loan program, he's
11 working with somebody to do a new project in Abbeville
12 County right now.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, even though
14 you know him, I'll still vote you favorably.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: One last question.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: I noticed you're from Munich,
18 Germany.

19 MS. HARTUNG: I was born there. My mother is
20 from there as well.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Have you expanded your
22 international connections back to the school for
23 recruiting international students?

24 MS. HARTUNG: Actually, that's a long, long
25 answer. Yes, sir, we have. And that's how my

1 relationship with Fred Carter first began. And we do
2 have partner schools. We have a sister state
3 relationship, and many of you have participated in
4 programs in the past, with Rhineland-Palatinate.
5 Started out with the state of Brandenburg. But we have
6 a number of schools in Rhineland-Palatinate partnered.
7 Not in Bavaria because interestingly enough, Munich and
8 Bavaria prefer California. I can't imagine why from
9 South Carolina.

10 But we partner with the state that has the
11 highest percentage of retired U.S. military in Germany.
12 And we have three schools right now that are partners
13 there.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
16 comments?

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Move favorable.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Favorable report.

19 All in favor say "aye."

20 (Members respond.)

21 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

22 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

23 SENATOR HAYES: Good to see you.

24 MS. HARTUNG: Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Next, Mr. George McIntyre.

1 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, sir.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

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

5 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, sir.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a brief opening
7 statement?

8 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, sir. It's good to be
9 back with you. I've been a member of the Board of
10 Trustees at Francis Marion since 1999 as well.

11 SENATOR PEELER: We can't get rid of you all.

12 MR. MCINTYRE: You got a good thing going,
13 it's hard to get rid of it.

14 But I graduated from there in 1978. It's
15 been a pleasure and an honor for me to be back as a
16 trustee and see that school grow as opposed to the
17 early days when I was there. It was a small, you know,
18 regional university and college. And to be a part of
19 it now for the last 10 or 15 years and see the things
20 that have been able to be accomplished were the things
21 we dreamed of back in the 1970s. So it's been very
22 exciting. I've enjoyed it. It's been a good ride, as
23 you said, and we just look forward to the future.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Questions or
25 comments?

1 Senator Alexander.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 To be consistent here, as far as your attendance at
4 board meetings, how would you --

5 MR. MCINTYRE: I've missed one meeting in 17
6 years.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Did I read this
8 correctly, you used to serve in an elective capacity?

9 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes, sir. I hope that's a
10 positive.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: It is. I was just
12 wondering. Made me think, what type of support
13 relationship does Francis Marion have there with the
14 counties that are surrounding there? Are they
15 supportive --

16 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: -- of you all?

18 MR. MCINTYRE: Yes. The answer is yes. And
19 the part of the mission statement of Francis Marion is
20 outreach programs and to get out into the communities
21 and offer expertise and personnel to bring programs out
22 in the community. So we've had a very good
23 relationship with pretty much all the counties in the
24 Pee Dee region. And in particular Florence County.
25 Just recently, Florence County budgeted us money.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: That's kind of where I
2 was going.

3 MR. MCINTYRE: Yeah.

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So you get from financial
5 help from them?

6 MR. MCINTYRE: We do. Yes, sir.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

9 Senator Scott.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

11 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is favorable
12 report.

13 All in favor say "aye."
14 (Members respond.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

16 And the ayes have it.

17 MR. MCINTYRE: Thank you very much, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Seriously, thank you for
19 your willingness to serve.

20 MR. MCINTYRE: Thank you, sir. I appreciate
21 it.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Benjamin Duncan.

23 Good afternoon, sir.

24 MR. DUNCAN: Good afternoon to you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: I'll swear you in.

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

3 MR. DUNCAN: I do.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

5 Do you have a brief statement you would like
6 to make?

7 MR. DUNCAN: Just a brief statement about my
8 background. I was born in Barnwell, South Carolina. I
9 grew up in Sumter. A graduate of Benedict College and
10 received my masters in public administration at the
11 University of South Carolina, and work for various
12 state agencies in -- for the state of South Carolina.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Some of those state
14 agencies, I think you worked with Dr. Carter, didn't
15 you?

16 MR. DUNCAN: Briefly, yes, sir.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Is he as rough as
18 they say he is sometimes when he needs to be?

19 MR. DUNCAN: Well --

20 SENATOR PEELER: I see a lot of shaking
21 heads.

22 MR. DUNCAN: This is off the record, right?

23 SENATOR PEELER: No. No. You're on the
24 record. Better hush.

25 Senator Scott.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: I don't have any questions.
2 I know him quite well.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you, Senator.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: We thank you for your
6 service. So you said that -- who is your current
7 employer?

8 MR. DUNCAN: South Carolina Department of
9 Insurance.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So would there be any
11 issues with your ability to attend the meetings and
12 things of that nature from a time constraint, or do you
13 envision being able to be involved as a member of the
14 board?

15 MR. DUNCAN: This should not have any
16 conflicts with what I'm doing now, sir.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: I have a comment.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McLeod.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Mr. Duncan, I have
22 known you for many years and have had an opportunity to
23 work with you over the course of a few of those years.

24 MR. DUNCAN: You don't want to say how many
25 years.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: We won't talk about
2 that. But I just want to thank you for your
3 willingness to serve and look forward to giving you a
4 favorable report.

5 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: Go ahead.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: I move for a
8 favorable report.

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

10 Opposed, no.

11 And the ayes have it.

12 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

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

15 Next, Karen A. Leatherman, Florence,
16 At-Large, Seat 9.

17 Good afternoon. I'll swear you in.

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

20 MS. LEATHERMAN: Yes.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
22 brief statement?

23 MS. LEATHERMAN: Yeah. My name is Karen
24 Leatherman. I'm from Florence. I've been there my
25 entire life pretty much. I am a Francis Marion grad.

1 I graduated in 1980 with a biology degree and I came on
2 to the great University of South Carolina to get my
3 masters.

4 SENATOR PEELER: That would be Clemson,
5 wouldn't it?

6 MS. LEATHERMAN: I threw that in for that
7 reason. I knew I couldn't offend everybody.

8 SENATOR PEELER: That would be a great one.

9 MS. LEATHERMAN: That's right. I knew when I
10 did that, I would be okay.

11 I've been involved with Francis Marion from
12 that point forward. I actually played basketball
13 there. I continue to support the athletic programs
14 that are there, as well.

15 I am a business owner in downtown Florence.
16 For six years I was on the Florence Downtown
17 Development Corporation Board and chaired the last
18 three years that I was there. So I've seen Francis
19 Marion's direction of moving downtown, investing in
20 downtown, being a partner in downtown and growing their
21 programs there.

22 In fact, you mentioned earlier the
23 entrepreneur program. A committee off of the FDDC,
24 Florence Downtown Development Corporation, was a
25 North Dargan incubation -- or Innovation Center. And

1 we utilized Francis Marion's Entrepreneurial Program to
2 be there to help with those resources. And, in fact,
3 it worked out so well, Francis Marion has taken over
4 operating that facility for Florence downtown.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: That's excellent.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Fitness Forum, is that like
7 a gym?

8 MS. LEATHERMAN: Yeah. I opened that
9 facility with the hospital. Bruce Hospital it was at
10 that time in 1984. I came in and opened that facility.
11 I started cardiac coronary rehab programs. I worked
12 for the hospital administration.

13 I never lost my love for the fitness
14 business. I bought the business from the hospital in
15 the year 2000. We do other things, as well. We do the
16 occupational testing services throughout the state.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Can I follow up on that?

18 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So you do occupational
20 services throughout the state, is that where you're
21 tied in with the annual firefighter test?

22 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right. Firefighters are
23 required to get annual testing. One of the state
24 schools and I put that in my answer so there wouldn't
25 be anything that's not apparent there. But that's one

1 of my clients, the great University of South Carolina,
2 Clemson University --

3 SENATOR SCOTT: There you go.

4 MS. LEATHERMAN: -- is one of my clients.
5 And we annually go up there, take a physician, someone
6 to draw blood, and I do the stress testing,
7 exercise/phys part of it.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So you stay busy. I
9 guess you wouldn't have any issues with meetings?

10 MS. LEATHERMAN: No. I'm at a point in my
11 life where I feel like I can -- we've grown that aspect
12 of the business, as well. And the reason I really
13 started looking at this and joining this board was I
14 was approached by a board member at the College of
15 Charleston about three or four years ago. And I
16 seriously gave it some thought and never went through
17 this process, obviously. And we had several
18 conversations back and forth. But I was chair the
19 Florence Downtown Development Corporation. This other
20 aspect of my business was growing more and more. So I
21 didn't feel I honestly could give them -- traveling to
22 Charleston especially.

23 But in my mind I said, I wouldn't mind being
24 on Francis Marion's board. I never really thought
25 about it until that person approached me and talked to

1 me a little bit about it. So that's why I feel like
2 I'm at a point now that I could make that commitment.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: All right.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

6 Question 8, the biggest weakness, I'm looking
7 at that 15 percent four-year graduation rate. That's
8 very concerning to me. If you're on the board or
9 elected to the board, how would you address that
10 because we need to get that up obviously.

11 MS. LEATHERMAN: Yeah. And it's hard for me
12 to give you a specific answer on that. As I said,
13 that's also a strength in that Francis Marion does have
14 a very large minority background, low-income group of
15 students that come in there. 40 percent of all the
16 students that come in there are first-year college for
17 their families.

18 So, you know, it's a regional university.
19 There's addressing the needs of kids who no longer --
20 who couldn't get in anywhere else possibly. So it's a
21 tough crowd from that standpoint.

22 So, you know, without kind of knowing the ins
23 and out of everything that's going on, it's hard to say
24 how I would address that specifically or how we would
25 address that specifically other than trying to maybe --

1 you know, you don't want to necessarily screen a reason
2 it's low compared to others is because they're not
3 addressing and they have -- College of Charleston has
4 37 percent of the students from out of state. Francis
5 Marion has more like 5 or 6, I think.

6 So, again, we're addressing that need in that
7 region where kids would no longer be able to go to
8 school. So it's hard. You want to up that up, but
9 it's not as easy as it sounds, so ...

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It kind of mirrors
11 our education issues we have, you know, throughout the
12 state almost.

13 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right. Right.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I wish I had known
15 this, I would have asked the other trustee candidates
16 beforehand on this percentage. Thank you for bringing
17 this up. Because you're right. You know, you bring in
18 a lot more in-state people who have maybe less -- not
19 as high SAT and ACT and maybe they didn't do as well in
20 high school, they're not going to be as successful in
21 college.

22 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right. But you gave them
23 that opportunity, which is really what it's about.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What a lot of other
25 schools don't do.

1 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

3 MS. LEATHERMAN: Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: So in essence, a lot of those
6 students have to take remedial courses to get ready for
7 the regular curriculum. I trust that some of your
8 curriculum as well as the things they -- some of their
9 majors require five-year programs anyway.

10 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right.

11 SENATOR SCOTT: The field of accountants, you
12 want to get them through it in four years.

13 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: I know it's a five-year
15 program.

16 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right.

17 SENATOR PEELER: So with that weighting in,
18 you will have that.

19 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: 50 percent is not great, but
21 it's not as bad as I've seen some of the schools who
22 take in first-generation students coming to the school.

23 MS. LEATHERMAN: Right. Thank you, Senator.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
25 comments?

1 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

2 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable

3 report.

4 All in favor say "aye."

5 (Members respond.)

6 Opposed, no.

7 And the ayes have it.

8 MS. LEATHERMAN: Thank you.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Mary Finklea, Florence.

11 MS. FINLEA: Good afternoon.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon.

13 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole

14 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

15 MS. FINKLEA: I do.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a

17 brief statement?

18 MS. FINKLEA: I will be glad to.

19 Good afternoon. My name is Mary Finklea.

20 And as you've gathered, I do serve as the pastor of

21 Cross and Crown Lutheran Church there in Florence. I

22 grew up in Charleston and have been the pastor of Cross

23 and Crown for just at 11 years and have enjoyed calling

24 Florence my new home.

25 I know you might sit there and think, well,

1 there's just a young preacher girl sitting there, but
2 my previous board service was on behalf of Lutheran
3 Services - Carolina, a nonprofit with an annual budget
4 over a hundred million dollars and 900 employees. So I
5 hope to bring some of that experience.

6 And Francis Marion, of course, does work very
7 well with the nonprofit community. We've got several
8 different programs, including World Leadership and
9 things like that to help others that are involved in
10 community agencies. And I try to serve as a link
11 between the university and the local community.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Questions or
13 comments?

14 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me about your education
15 experience in London.

16 MS. FINKLEA: Oh, sure. Okay. So I was a
17 graduate of Winthrop University, and I participated in
18 the study abroad program and did a semester overseas.
19 And actually after I graduated from Winthrop, I moved
20 back to London and worked there on behalf of the
21 Lutheran church doing youth and family work. And it
22 was from there that I received a call and applied to
23 seminary back here in the United States.

24 You mentioned with Patricia the international
25 program, one of the things we're excited about is

1 hopefully a new honor center, which will house both the
2 international program as well as the honors as well as
3 the McNair Scholarship recipients. So that's a real
4 exciting possibility.

5 You know, obviously we've got a range of
6 students with a lot of experiences. But we also have
7 some really wonderful students with bright minds that
8 are really doing a lot of good work right here in
9 Florence.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Good afternoon. How are you?

14 MS. FINKLEA: Fine. Thank you.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Your attendance at
16 meetings or involvement with the university since being
17 on the board, could you share that with us?

18 MS. FINKLEA: Certainly. I'm, of course, one
19 of the newest and definitely one of the youngest. So
20 I've just been doing this for just at two years. I
21 don't quite have the experience as some of my brothers
22 and sisters up here. But in the past two years, I've
23 made every meeting. I did miss part of one retreat
24 activity, but have been every single meeting.

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

1 MS. FINKLEA: But eight doesn't sound as
2 impressive as some of the rest of them. But it's been
3 a joy. I look forward to attending them. It's really
4 remarkable to hear and share in the good work of the
5 university. I think people sometimes think of it as
6 just a little local, regional, small town, you know,
7 outreach, but it really is living up to its mission of
8 producing good quality graduates for the state of
9 South Carolina.

10 So many of our alumni remain right here in
11 South Carolina. So many of our alumni are right there
12 in the Pee Dee. So we really do get the benefit of
13 providing a reasonable cost education that's high
14 quality.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Mr. Whitmire.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

18 Just going off what you were just saying, I
19 was noticing 82 percent of your alumni who live in
20 South Carolina. Do you know the percent that lives in
21 the Pee Dee area?

22 MS. FINKLEA: I think it's 60.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Wow.

24 MS. FINKLEA: It's really a lot. And that's,
25 like I say, I mean, I hope 50 years from now when I'm

1 going into a nursing home, you know, that whoever is my
2 speech pathologist who's helping me recover from that
3 stroke has been trained had been given resources
4 through Francis Marion.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes.

6 MS. FINKLEA: These are folks that are right
7 here in our community.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Right. They're
9 giving back and then their work and their tax dollars
10 also.

11 MS. FINKLEA: That's right.

12 And to your question earlier about the
13 graduation rate, I would also like to lift up that one
14 of the things we struggle with is having students stay
15 on campus. Right? So many of them are from the area,
16 they're all going home on the weekend and they're doing
17 other things. But so many of our students are actually
18 employed, you know. This is -- they have to work.
19 They're taking care of their parents. They're taking
20 care of children. So for many of these students, their
21 extracurricular activities is work. You know, they're
22 having to work to be able to get this degree.

23 So sometimes it's a real tension between what
24 can we do to strengthen the on-campus community, but so
25 many of them are also working. Of course, some on

1 campus, but many of them out in the community are back
2 home in Dillon or Marion or what have you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And I would imagine
4 a large percentage are first -- are first in their
5 families too.

6 MS. FINKLEA: That's right. And that's the
7 37 percent that you heard earlier. That's right.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's really serving
9 a good purpose in the Pee Dee. So thank you.

10 MS. FINKLEA: And over 70 percent of our
11 students are women, are female. And statistics have
12 shown once you have a college-educated mama in the
13 family, that statistic shows that that raises the
14 educational opportunities for the whole family. So we
15 really are doing some good work, and I'm proud to be
16 associated with it.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Favorable report.

20 All in favor say "aye."

21 (Members respond.)

22 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

23 And the ayes have it.

24 MS. FINKLEA: Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: I must point out, I think

1 this is the first contested race we have today. So
2 Senator Leatherman's daughter and a pastor. Our job
3 never gets easier, does it?

4 Thank you both for your willingness to serve.

5 Next, Randall Dozier.

6 Good afternoon, sir.

7 MR. DOZIER: Good afternoon.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to tell the
9 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
10 help you God?

11 MR. DOZIER: I do.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a brief
13 statement you would like to make?

14 MR. DOZIER: Thank you, Senator. Members of
15 the committee, thank you for taking time out of your
16 busy schedule today. I'm a 1977 graduate of Francis
17 Marion University. I guess W and I are, like, the
18 oldest of the group.

19 I've served on the board of trustees since
20 1991 when I was appointed by Governor Campbell. I
21 served consecutively until I moved to Georgetown in
22 2000. At that point I resigned due to change in
23 congressional districts. I was reelected and have
24 served on the board since that time.

25 I'd love to continue the work we've started

1 with the medical program, nursing program, and other
2 programs. A long-time involvement of Francis Marion, I
3 have an endowed scholarship in the family name that I
4 would like to continue to increase.

5 Presently, I serve as superintendent of
6 Georgetown County School District, which helps me
7 direct students toward Francis Marion University.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments?

9 Senator Alexander.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Just for the record, as far as how could you
12 describe your attendance and involvement as a member of
13 the board and with your other duties?

14 MR. DOZIER: Thank you, sir.

15 You ask that question, I can't remember
16 missing a meeting. I guess my age. I was chairman for
17 three years. Certainly when you have a responsibility,
18 you can't miss. I've been chairman of the finance
19 committee. But it's not just attending meetings, as
20 you well know. Being within an hour of the university,
21 I go to awards, dinners, graduations, homecoming. I
22 went to the Pee Dee Fiction Festival this year. Staff
23 awards luncheon. Just a variety of activities. I try
24 to attend one or two a month to make sure that I'm
25 there and accessible and all to the faculty and staff

1 and the students that I've sent to that university or
2 directed to that university.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Superintendent, how many
6 of your students do you send to Francis Marion every
7 year?

8 MR. DOZIER: You know, I don't take a
9 headcount, but I want to say a few years ago one of the
10 top students from Andrews High School, was a graduate
11 of Georgetown County School System was a top graduate
12 of Francis Marion. We are very proud of that.

13 Presently, I've had a number of students that
14 I network with and send. And I would say also many of
15 those are minority students, too, sir.

16 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

18 SENATOR HAYES: As the superintendent, you
19 probably are aware, do they have a teaching program on
20 how to teach in poverty schools and things of that sort
21 or nature at Francis Marion?

22 MR. DOZIER: They do. The Pee Dee consortium
23 certainly works with a variety of school districts in
24 that area. For some reason, Georgetown wasn't included
25 in the Pee Dee. I still would be able -- I to try to

1 push my way in there. I think we're part of the
2 Pee Dee.

3 They do. They have workshops, in-services
4 for our teachers that we send and network with. And
5 Francis Marion provides a continuing education for
6 Georgetown and some of my teachers and its in close
7 proximity for our staff, less than an hour for them to
8 go to.

9 And presently I have to tell you from a
10 personal standpoint, my son is enrolled in the MBA
11 program where I can keep tabs on him a little better.
12 He's working on his second masters since he didn't
13 finish his first. That's a whole other story.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Anyone else?

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Let me ask you, how long
17 have you been with Georgetown County schools?

18 MR. DOZIER: Actually, I was with Greenville
19 for almost 21 and a half years. Made a lot of good
20 friend up there. I'm actually from Marion County and
21 Horry County, grew up in that area. Francis Marion was
22 an opportunity for me. I probably wouldn't have gone
23 to school otherwise. I moved back in 1999 as deputy
24 superintendent. I've been superintendent since 2003.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Were you the superintendent

1 of schools at Greenville?

2 MR. DOZIER: No, sir. I was -- started
3 deputy assistant associate and executive director,
4 principal. Somebody said I couldn't hold a job, but I
5 had a lot of opportunity there because the largeness of
6 the school district, 60-something thousand students,
7 7,000 employees. It was a big job.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
9 report.

10 All in favor say "aye."

11 (Members respond.)

12 Opposed, no.

13 And the ayes have it.

14 MR. DOZIER: Thank you.

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

17 That completes Francis Marion.

18 MS. CASTO: Can we have a break?

19 (A recess transpired.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: I call the meeting back to
21 record.

22 Dylan Goff from Columbia. At-Large seat for
23 The Citadel.

24 MR. GOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Take a seat and let me swear

1 you in.

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

4 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir, I do.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
6 brief statement on why you would like to continue to
7 serve on The Citadel?

8 MR. GOFF: I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I've served now six years on The Citadel
10 Board of Visitors. It's been a singular pleasure and
11 honor. I certainly got to know some of the best people
12 I've met in my life, and I've really enjoyed every
13 minute of it. And it's a way to give back to the
14 college that I feel like I owe a lifetime's worth of
15 debt and gratitude to.

16 I was the first generation in my family to
17 attend college. My father is a cabinetmaker in
18 Lexington County. Very important to me that The
19 Citadel treat you the same no matter who your father
20 is, who your mother is. I roomed with a young man from
21 New Jersey whose family owned all the Buffalo Wild
22 Wings chains, and we got treated just the same.

23 It's an exciting time to be on The Citadel
24 board. The Citadel is doing very, very well. U.S.
25 News and World Report's number one college in the South

1 for the fifth year running. We just received our SACS
2 reaccreditation with no recommendations for
3 improvement. Which, as we're told, is pretty
4 unprecedented. So SACS has actually been sending
5 colleges who are going through reaccreditation this
6 cycle down to The Citadel to see what right looks like.

7 We've been bumped out of our first place
8 four-year graduation rate by I think a tenth of a
9 percent or some small percent and we're fighting to get
10 back. We're still leading the state. I think Clemson
11 edged us out. I think it was Clemson. I can't say for
12 certain. But I know for many, many years we were
13 number one four-year graduation rate in the state. We
14 got edged out very narrowly.

15 Our engineering program is ranked number 22
16 in the nation. That's something we are very proud of
17 for a school our size to have an engineering program of
18 that caliber. We have roughly 2700 young people in the
19 corps. Most of our engineering students are in the
20 corps of cadets. We do have some active duty Marine,
21 Navy that attend class at The Citadel as well as some
22 veteran students. But engineering is taking up a
23 larger and larger percentage of our undergraduate
24 program. We think that's happening for two reasons:
25 One, the kids know they can get a job as an engineer.

1 I was a history major, but that was different times.
2 And I think it's meeting an economic need at that the
3 state has.

4 We're -- we also continue to be a leader in
5 commissioning Army officers and officers for all the
6 services, in particular Army officers. We commission
7 more Army officers than anybody else except for West
8 Point.

9 It's a great time to be a bulldog. It's been
10 an incredible six years, and I look forward to
11 hopefully continuing for another six.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. You are a combat
13 veteran. Where were you stationed?

14 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir. From 2007, 2008, I was
15 attached to the Seventh and Third Special Forces groups
16 in Helmand Province in Kandahar, Afghanistan, along
17 with Representative Smith. We left South Carolina as
18 National Guardsmen and got to do a mission that I don't
19 think either one of us ever imagined we would get to do
20 as guardsmen. I know the two of you spent some time
21 doing that. We had an incredible time. We are very
22 lucky to have had the opportunity.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Were you at his law firm
24 then?

25 MR. GOFF: No, sir. I was actually in my

1 last year of law school when we got the orders to go to
2 Afghanistan. So I finished my first semester, and USC
3 was very gracious to me and they let me lock in that
4 year's tuition rate before they hiked it 14 percent.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your service.

6 Senator Hayes.

7 SENATOR HAYES: I appreciate it as well.

8 Are you still with the guard?

9 MR. GOFF: Yes, I am. I'm the executive
10 officer for -- excuse me. I'm now the S3 operations
11 officer for combined arms battalion in Union, South
12 Carolina.

13 Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR HAYES: It used to be the Fourth
15 Battalion up in Union, but now it's the Combined Arms
16 up there in Union?

17 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir. It's actually the
18 Fourth Battalion again. When we came back from
19 Afghanistan, the separate brigade went away and we
20 retained the lighter battalion on the fourth -- the
21 fourth battalion became the combined arms battalion.
22 We lost the armored battalion. So we have two armor
23 companies, two entry companies, and they're right there
24 in Union. And they are once again the Fourth
25 Battalion.

1 SENATOR HAYES: I got you. The brigade
2 headquarters in Charleston doesn't exist any longer?

3 MR. GOFF: The brigade headquarters exist.
4 It's a maneuver enhancement brigade. They don't have
5 any combat arms soldiers. We, as I understand it, will
6 very shortly align with the 30th brigade out of
7 North Carolina.

8 SENATOR HAYES: Getting a little far afield
9 from The Citadel. I did want to say that four-year
10 graduation rate, The Citadel has a little bit advantage
11 on that because nobody wants to go that fifth year at
12 The Citadel whereas at Clemson sometimes they do want
13 to get that additional football season. So I know at
14 the academy, nobody stayed for a fifth year unless they
15 flunked out or they had to.

16 MR. GOFF: That's right.

17 SENATOR HAYES: We used to count the days
18 till graduation. I don't know if you all counted those
19 days or not.

20 MR. GOFF: Oh, absolutely.

21 SENATOR HAYES: I would have to point that
22 out, Mr. Chairman. That gives them an advantage.

23 MR. GOFF: I certainly wouldn't dispute with
24 you that it is a feature of the system. We don't
25 intentionally make them uncomfortable, but there is a

1 lot of pressure to want to graduate and finish with
2 those young men and women that you started with.

3 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

5 SENATOR SCOTT: First, it's good to have you
6 here.

7 MR. GOFF: Thank you, sir.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me a little bit about
9 your recruitment program for African-American students
10 coming to The Citadel. I know it has improved a lot.
11 Tell me a little about it, what you're doing and what
12 your percentages are.

13 MR. GOFF: You know, really, we've tried a
14 number of things over the years. We had recently James
15 McQuillan was on our board and it started out right
16 after graduation as a minority recruiting officer and
17 he's going into unrepresented schools in state of
18 South Carolina and doing that. And we continue to grow
19 that program.

20 We've gotten a lot -- we've been able to
21 leverage technology in order to be a lot more targeted
22 in our marketing overall. And that's doing two things:
23 One it is allowing us to target minorities, target
24 women. Both are --

25 SENATOR SCOTT: ROTC programs?

1 MR. GOFF: For the ROTC programs, we've got a
2 proposal up before the CHE to staff the nursing
3 program, which we believe would help recruit a group of
4 minorities and women.

5 The marketing program enabled us to increase
6 our yield rates. That means we're spending -- we're
7 not spending any less money, but we're able to get a
8 higher yield and be smarter about, you know, who we
9 recruit and how we recruit them and those that we
10 recruit. And those we have down at the campus and
11 invite to attend The Citadel, we're getting much higher
12 yield rate.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: What's your minority
14 percentage for students and also for women?

15 MR. GOFF: I've got my little smart card
16 right here.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: I figured you would.

18 MR. GOFF: I want to stay it's 12 percent off
19 the top of my head.

20 Women make up 7 percent of the corps.
21 Minorities make up 22 percent of the corps. Now, if
22 Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter was here today, she
23 would dispute with me those numbers.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: 7.7 percent of the corps are
25 women?

1 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: 22 percent --

3 MR. GOFF: 22 are minorities.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: We thought you
5 said 77.

6 MR. GOFF: No. No. No. 7 percent. 7
7 percent. So in interest of full disclosure,
8 Representative Cobb-Hunter would dispute with me about
9 that 22 percent.

10 We count, I think she would say it was only
11 non-Asian minorities. So I believe that 22 percent
12 includes Asian minorities. I know it includes native
13 Americans, includes Hispanics and African-Americans.
14 It also includes international students. So if you
15 look at our diversity reporting numbers, you'll see
16 both African-American and black. We have the African
17 students. We had -- in my time there, we had a young
18 man from Malawi. Well, we have students from all over
19 the world, 22 countries. So our reporting is a little
20 bit different.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: But your African-American
22 percentage is about how much?

23 MR. GOFF: I would say 12 percent, if you
24 broke it out. And that's not on my card. That's just
25 off the top of my head.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: I'm hoping that you're
2 developing a bigger plan. I think most of the high
3 schools down across South Carolina are larger and
4 larger opportunities for you to recruit.

5 MR. GOFF: Yeah.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: I hope we're taking advantage
7 of that so you can get some students. Thank you, sir.

8 MR. GOFF: Thank you.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Representative McLeod.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Thank you,
11 Chairman Peeler.

12 Mr. Goff, thank you for your willingness to
13 serve. I just have a couple of quick questions. In
14 light of some of the recent -- more recent developments
15 and incidents that have occurred at The Citadel with
16 the students in costume and with the confederate flag,
17 what efforts is the board making to focus more on
18 diversity? And I've got some other questions after you
19 answer that one.

20 MR. GOFF: All right. Well, I think first
21 and foremost, because my position is vice chair, I sit
22 as a liaison to the Commandant and somewhat involved in
23 those disciplinary reviews and disciplinary proceedings
24 more than a lot of board members would be. I don't
25 have a vote. I don't sit at the table. I don't sit on

1 Commandant's boards, but I do liaise with the
2 Commandant's office and kind of go through the report.

3 What I understand about that particular
4 incident is -- and when I heard it, I found it somewhat
5 incredulous. But as I read the cadet's testimony, as I
6 talked with the officers who were conducting the
7 interviews, I came to believe that they were telling
8 the truth. I think that those young men simply did not
9 realize what that -- what image that was portraying.

10 That is, that the intent really was they were
11 dressing up as ghosts to sing carols. That there is a
12 tradition in Charlie Company that they do "twelve
13 nights of Christmas" and they sing different carols and
14 dress up in different costumes. And those kids thought
15 they looked like ghosts.

16 Of course, in hindsight they were punished
17 for very poor judgment because they should have
18 realized that, hey, this could be taken as something
19 else. And certainly in this day where everything we
20 do, there's no such thing as private. And you can't
21 put everything in context. You don't get to choose the
22 context with an image sometimes. It was very
23 unfortunate.

24 But I do believe those young men, that they
25 did not appreciate and that certainly was not their

1 intent to look like they were clansmen. They were
2 supposed to be ghosts.

3 You know, the issue with the flag, I think,
4 is an issue that the board has addressed. The
5 Citadel's position on that is that we, as an
6 institution, don't get to pick and choose what laws we
7 follow. It is solely within this body to address that
8 flag or not address that flag. We, as The Citadel,
9 have taken a position on it and we took the position on
10 it at the time. And it was a very charged -- charged
11 issue with everything that was going on with the flag
12 here on these grounds.

13 And I think ultimately -- well, I know
14 ultimately our position is we had to follow the law.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Right. More than --
16 more than the specifics --

17 MR. GOFF: Yeah.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: -- as it relates to
19 those particular incidents, I am more concerned about
20 the board's vision and direction when it comes to
21 diversity and sensitivity, university inclusion and of
22 course sensitivity.

23 MR. GOFF: You know, I'm very comfortable
24 with what we're doing down there. I would invite you
25 to come down to campus and see what we're doing. We

1 have a diversity officer, chief diversity officer. She
2 holds a J.D., very sharp lady. We conduct an immense
3 amount of training, not just diversity training but
4 it's part of our leadership curriculum for all four
5 years.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Are you doing that in
7 conjunction with, say, I'm a graduate of the Diversity
8 Leaders Initiative through Furman -- through the Riley
9 Institute at Furman, are you working in tandem with
10 them, or are you guys doing something in-house?

11 MR. GOFF: Both. Both. And I don't want to
12 say specifically we're working with the Riley
13 initiative at Riley Institute because I don't know that
14 that's the case. Although, of course, you know
15 Governor Riley or Mayor Riley now on our staff, but --

16 SENATOR SCOTT: It's Dick Riley. He works
17 at --

18 MR. GOFF: Dick Riley. I'm sorry,
19 Governor Riley. Not Mayor Riley.

20 But we do things both in-house as part of
21 their four-year training. Those young men and women go
22 every Tuesday for an hour -- an hour class on
23 leadership and whatever topic it may be that week. And
24 that's a heavy portion of that topic. That's a heavy
25 portion of that training.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Is it limited to just
2 them, or are you talking about the greater student
3 population that would be included in that training?

4 MR. GOFF: You mean including graduate
5 students and ...

6 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: No. Just undergrad.
7 I mean, just your entire student population. I'm
8 asking is it limited to the students who were involved
9 in those incidents?

10 MR. GOFF: Oh, no, no, no. I'm sorry. Yeah.
11 And that's -- we have several populations. Right? We
12 have the corps of cadets, we have veteran students, we
13 have active duty students, and we have graduate
14 students.

15 But you were asking me, is it limited just to
16 the cadets that were involved in the incident, and the
17 answer to that is, no, absolutely no. That's part of
18 the four-year leadership model from day one all the way
19 through when they graduate as seniors.

20 And we have to be -- you know, those
21 individuals that were involved have had some regional
22 training. I think there's going to be some regional
23 training for the entire corps of cadets. We're going
24 to be briefed on that at our April meeting by the
25 president. But that certainly was our understanding in

1 the aftermath report from the incident in December.

2 But, you know, one thing we do have to be
3 very careful about is we ask a lot of these young men
4 and women on a 24-hour schedule. We're always very
5 cognizant when we start filling the plate up with
6 another -- another requirement. I think the intent is
7 to include that as part of the leadership instruction
8 that occurs on Tuesdays before lunch. It's an hour
9 structure.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: First off, thank
13 you, Mr. Goff, for your service to our state and our
14 country.

15 MR. GOFF: Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: We are very
17 fortunate to have you.

18 One quick thing on the guard, do you still
19 have your summer camps two weeks?

20 MR. GOFF: We do, but we're not allowed to
21 call them summer camps anymore. We have to call them
22 annual trainings. It's very serious these days.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I got you.

24 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir, we do.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. I remember

1 those, maybe not so fondly. But always at Fort Jackson
2 and about 118 degrees when I was up there.

3 MR. GOFF: Ours are generally at
4 Fort Stewart and they're --

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's no better.

6 MR. GOFF: It's even worse. Camp Soggy. So
7 yeah.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I noticed you're
9 saying greatest weakness is a perception that military
10 education value based is outdated. Where is that
11 perception coming from? Have you heard that from
12 outside sources or what?

13 MR. GOFF: I think we get that in some of our
14 feedback. From, you know, Senator Scott's question
15 earlier about our recruiting efforts, you know, we --
16 when we sit down with people who we admitted, that
17 chose not to attend The Citadel, we send out a
18 questionnaire asking them why they chose not to attend
19 The Citadel, a very small portion of them actually take
20 the time to answer that. But that's one of the answers
21 we get.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's not for
23 everybody, obviously.

24 MR. GOFF: That's right. It isn't for
25 everybody, and can't be. If it were for everybody, it

1 would be a completely different program. When you're
2 competing against something like USC, it's a beautiful
3 campus with a lot of wonderful amenities and great, fun
4 city and all that kind of stuff, and you're saying,
5 "Hey, you come out to The Citadel and live in these
6 barracks and live a very a Spartan lifestyle."

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: All the drill and
8 everything else.

9 MR. GOFF: They say, "Well, why would I want
10 to do that?"

11 And that's when you have to explain, Look,
12 this is a model to deliver a certain model of
13 education. And we believe it is something that's
14 sorely needed in today's world is a values-based
15 education. And quite frankly, that also means that
16 sometimes we discipline young people for things that
17 they would not be disciplined for at other colleges.
18 And that's part and parcel, Representative McLeod, of
19 the package.

20 You know, I think unfortunately had some of
21 these instances occurred at some of these other
22 schools, they wouldn't have even been disciplined. At
23 The Citadel, it's very clear and we have three corps
24 values: honor, duty, and respect. And if you're going
25 through the ranks, you want to graduate and be a

1 Citadel graduate, then you're going to be held to that
2 mold.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Because of men like
4 you and women who serve us, we're able to have, you
5 know, discourse, disagree or agree in the political
6 arena or anywhere else, so we are very fortunate.

7 I do want one -- the last thing,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, sir, Mr. Whitmire.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I want to
11 congratulate you on your football season. Basically,
12 one win was very pleasing to me.

13 MR. GOFF: It was very.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I wish you luck
15 again.

16 MR. GOFF: Thank you, sir.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
19 comments?

20 Senator Scott.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: Back on the recruiting part.
22 An average student who will go for an ROTC program has
23 some intent to be involved in the military or some type
24 of military training, advance or just enlisted.

25 MR. GOFF: Yes, sir.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: I just think your flying the
2 flag, those issues at the institution, in particular
3 Dixie, I think creates more harm than anything else
4 especially when you're talking about a school that's
5 supposed to represent training of men who are going
6 into the military.

7 MR. GOFF: Yes.

8 SENATOR SCOTT: I think it's a major issue.
9 I think it -- I really and truly think it hurts your
10 recruitment. How we fix those issues, I mean, it
11 challenges whether or not what we do in this state
12 affect what the military says under the section 600.
13 Tells us exactly what we're doing. Even deals with it
14 as militia.

15 And so those are some of the concerns I would
16 say to you. You may want to get something back from
17 the military department that may give you clearance
18 because you guys are set getting some -- getting the
19 bulk of military support as well as the commission and
20 whether or not that goes against -- goes against code.
21 And so I would strongly encourage you to do that.

22 I think once we solve some of that, I think
23 you may see your enrollment go up. It is a military
24 institution.

25 MR. GOFF: That's right.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: It's not a college or
2 university. It's a military training institution.

3 MR. GOFF: That's right. And I certainly
4 wouldn't disagree with you. I think that is part of
5 our -- remains part of our recruiting problem. I think
6 VMI has the same problem. To some degree you are bound
7 to -- you are bound to your record on that. But we --
8 one of the struggles we're having right now is with our
9 recruiting -- not with our recruiting, with our
10 contracts is we only have as many contracts as the Army
11 gives us.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Correct.

13 MR. GOFF: And we're currently experiencing a
14 drawdown. So people say, "Well, I see last year you
15 only commissioned 30 percent of your graduating class."

16 I say, "Look, we commission --" "We meet the
17 goals the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force gave us."

18 That raises some very interesting ideas
19 about ...

20 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Chairman.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
22 comments?

23 Being none, what is the desire of the
24 committee?

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

1 SENATOR PEELER: There's a favorable report.

2 All in favor say "aye."

3 (Members respond.)

4 Opposed, no.

5 And the ayes have it.

6 Thank you again for your service.

7 MR. GOFF: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

8 I appreciate it.

9 MS. CASTO: Cary Corbitt.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Corbitt, you want to
11 come forward. Lander University. Cary C. Corbitt,
12 Hilton Head, First Congressional District.

13 MS. CASTO: We just screened him two years
14 ago.

15 MR. CORBITT: Yes, you did.

16 MS. CASTO: He's filling an unexpired seat.

17 MR. CORBITT: That's right.

18 SENATOR PEELER: I'll swear you in.

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

21 MR. CORBITT: I do.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
23 brief statement?

24 MR. CORBITT: Well, like it has been said, I
25 have been on the board for, I guess, getting close to

1 two years now. Learned a lot. We have some exciting
2 times going on at Lander University with the upcoming
3 inauguration of our new President, Rich Cosentino,
4 which is going to be a very dynamic new president with
5 a lot of initiatives and energy. And which our
6 university is -- needs to concentrate a little bit more
7 on enrollment. And we are certainly are doing that
8 with the appointment of a new vice president for
9 enrollment that -- enrollment and management, which has
10 really helped with gaining some additional students.

11 I've enjoyed being on the board, and it's
12 certainly very different than what I do every day. So
13 it's been interesting.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments?

15 Do you remember what we asked you three years
16 ago?

17 MR. CORBITT: I'm sorry?

18 SENATOR PEELER: Do you remember what we
19 asked you two years ago? When you came here two years
20 ago?

21 MR. CORBITT: Well, the -- I know that --

22 SENATOR PEELER: You want to change your
23 answers between then and now?

24 MR. CORBITT: No. No. I think everything is
25 probably about -- what I put down is about correct.

1 The school is a very affordable school for the
2 residents of South Carolina. And my son -- I went
3 there, of course, and then my son went there. Granted,
4 he's got one more year left. But it's a great school,
5 and it's improving all the time.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire has a question.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What's the
8 percentage of in-state versus out-of-state students?

9 MR. CORBITT: I can tell you that in just a
10 second here. In state, we have 91 percent of our
11 students are in state.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Very good.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's all I've
15 got.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

17 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you. Thank you for
18 coming and thank you for serving.

19 MR. CORBITT: Yes.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: What's your percentage of
21 minority students in that you serve in I guess we call
22 "Green's country" over there?

23 MR. CORBITT: That question was asked last
24 time I was here. It was about 80/20. 20 percent with
25 minorities. And I think that is growing each year, and

1 we're certainly looking at increasing that. When I
2 walk the campus, I certainly see a great diversity of
3 students. And so I think it's a ...

4 SENATOR SCOTT: What's your total student
5 population?

6 MR. CORBITT: We are right now at 2,703
7 students, and that is down by 85 students from last
8 year. That's why we really need to start concentrating
9 on additional students. We'd love to be around 3,700.
10 Our new goals are trying to look about 15 years out to
11 get to around 5,000. That's a lofty goal. But we
12 certainly feel that we have the capacity, the acreage
13 and so forth to accommodate and support that many
14 students.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: What's the largest student
16 body you've had, 2700, reaching for 2700?

17 MR. CORBITT: I think 3500 might have been
18 maybe the tops, but I could be a little bit lofty on
19 that.

20 SENATOR SCOTT: How long ago was that? Do
21 you remember?

22 MR. CORBITT: I do not.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

25 SENATOR HAYES: I just wanted to kind of get

1 this for comparison purpose. What is your four-year
2 graduation rate? Do you have any idea on that?

3 MR. CORBITT: Enrollment, I do not.

4 SENATOR HAYES: I want to kind of see how it
5 stacked up with some of the other schools.

6 MR. CORBITT: I understand. Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

8 Any other questions or comments?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: No. Move for
10 favorable.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
12 report. All in favor say "aye."

13 (Members respond.)

14 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

15 And the ayes have it.

16 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

17 MR. CORBITT: Thank you very much. Thank you
18 all.

19 (Off the record.)

20 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Sabalis, you want to
21 come forward and we'll take you out of order. A little
22 ahead of schedule, but we'll go ahead and get you, if
23 you like. Crank back up.

24 Robert Sabalis.

25 MR. SABALIS: That's right.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Robert Sabalis from
2 Orangeburg, Sixth Congressional District, Seat 6.

3 Let me swear you in.

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

6 MR. SABALIS: I do.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a brief
8 statement you would like to make to the committee?

9 MR. SABALIS: I've been on the Lander
10 University board now for about seven months. I was
11 elected to fill a one-year term from the vacancy that
12 had come available when a prior board member died. And
13 I have been impressed -- as impressed with the school
14 as I expected to be.

15 We have a new president, who I think is going
16 to lead us in good directions. He understands the
17 challenges facing the institution. He's already taking
18 steps -- taken steps to expand the roles of people
19 associated with student retention and graduation rates.
20 And I'm optimistic for the institution, and I hopefully
21 will have the opportunity to continue to provide some
22 leadership.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott, do you have a
24 question?

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, sir.

1 Thank you for your service and thank you for
2 taking time to come and visit and talk with us.

3 Tell me about your plan to help Lander
4 increase in its minority students given the dynamics of
5 its location geographically in multiple small counties.

6 MR. SABALIS: A similar question was asked at
7 the budget hearings in the House by Representative
8 Cobb-Hunter, my representative.

9 I think that Lander already does a reasonable
10 job. They are accepting students who may need
11 assistance in college, but the school has put forward a
12 significant effort in its retention programs to ensure
13 that the students that it does accept prosper and are
14 able to graduate. The school has just recently hired a
15 enrollment -- an enrollment management person and
16 admissions person. And enhancing diversity is part of
17 her role and part of her responsibilities.

18 SENATOR SCOTT: When I look at it, what's the
19 size of the school? The population size of Lander.
20 Student life size.

21 MR. SABALIS: Full-time students is about
22 3,000 students.

23 SENATOR SCOTT: Looking at schools like
24 Francis Marion, 50/50. Looking at other schools that
25 have come in 33 percent, 20, 20 percent. Not bad but

1 still more room for improvement.

2 MR. SABALIS: Uh-huh.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: Given the geographical
4 location, you are kind out there by yourself with a
5 good size population to be able to choose from here as
6 well as bringing in out-of-state students from Georgia,
7 which is pretty close to you as well, and
8 North Carolina when you get, I guess, around Jackson
9 and on the north side of Clemson.

10 Do you anticipate some of those students to
11 include -- to increase your out-of-state students
12 becoming an issue, or do you think it's far better for
13 Lander to focus on recruiting more in-state students,
14 especially minority students to bring those up?

15 MR. SABALIS: The discussions that I've been
16 a part of over the last seven months have kind of
17 continued to focus on in-state students. Especially
18 students who would be helped to make the transition
19 from technical colleges to a four-year institution as
20 they complete their associate's degrees.

21 We have already a good relationship with the
22 technical college in Greenwood, and we're developing
23 relationships with other technical colleges so that
24 students know about the advantage of coming to a place
25 like Lander. But there is no significant intention of

1 increasing the enrollment of out-of-state students.

2 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
4 comments?

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Move favorable.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

7 All in favor say "aye."

8 (Members respond.)

9 SENATOR PEELER: Oppose, no.

10 And the ayes have it.

11 MR. SABALIS: Thank you very much.

12 SENATOR PEELER: When did we screen you
13 before? 15 months ago?

14 MR. SABALIS: Actually, it was just about a
15 year ago.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. All right.

17 MR. SABALIS: I was on I-26 at the farmer's
18 market 25 minutes ago, and I got a call that said "Come
19 now."

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 MR. SABALIS: I didn't know how you all were
22 going to do with staying till 7:00 this evening, so
23 good luck.

24 MS. CASTO: Thank you.

25 MR. SABALIS: Thank you very much. I

1 appreciate it.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Have a safe trip back.

3 Appreciate your service.

4 (Off the record.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon.

6 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Good afternoon,

7 Mr. Chairman.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Is your speaker working?

9 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Can you hear me?

10 SENATOR PEELER: Pull it to you just a little
11 bit.

12 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: I apologize. I'm a
13 little short.

14 SENATOR PEELER: That's okay. Let me swear
15 you in.

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

18 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: I do.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

20 Would you like to make a brief statement to
21 the committee?

22 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

23 My name is Lauren Fleming-Melton. I was born
24 in Bamberg, South Carolina, and I've had the privilege
25 of living across the state. I grew up with a nurse as

1 a mother and a professor as a father, so my interest in
2 higher education as well as my passion for serving
3 others has been engrained in me my entire life.

4 I attended The Citadel on athletic and
5 academic scholarships and immediately found myself in
6 love with the institution. As a senior, I was the
7 highest ranking female in the corps. I'm sorry --
8 second highest ranking in the corps and served as the
9 captain of the track team. I was also the first female
10 in school history to receive the Wade Hampton Saber,
11 which is an award given to the senior cadet who
12 demonstrates outstanding leadership and who makes the
13 greatest contribution to The Citadel while a cadet.

14 Following my graduation, I moved to Dallas,
15 Texas, and developed a startup durable medical
16 equipment company there. We achieved early
17 accreditation and the business has since flourished.

18 In the fall of 2014, after the birth of our
19 first child, I decided that I should take time away
20 from my professional career for her while we also made
21 plans to return back to South Carolina.

22 Never in The Citadel's history has a female
23 graduate from the corps of cadets served on its board
24 of visitors. Consequently, this perspective has never
25 been represented on the schools board, and I feel as if

1 this can impede the school from reaching its true
2 potential.

3 While I received an award in my senior year
4 for my contribution to the school, it is my hope that
5 my contribution does not end there. The Citadel has
6 enhanced my life in many ways, and it's time for me to
7 give back. I want to serve the institution and not
8 have the institution serve me.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Questions? Comments?

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'll start.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Very impressive
14 resume.

15 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Thank you, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And we do need more
17 female and minorities on our boards throughout not only
18 The Citadel but throughout the state.

19 I'm just now getting to your biggest
20 weakness. You're talking about the enrollment has
21 decreased by 60 percent. Do you have any thoughts on
22 why that has happened?

23 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: This is on the graduate
24 level.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Right.

1 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, sir. I know that
2 we've put a lot of our resources towards improving the
3 undergraduate population, both in the corps and then
4 outside of the corps as well. While I haven't been
5 serving on the board, I don't know the reason for why
6 this sharp decrease in enrollment has occurred at the
7 graduate level; however, I feel as though maybe that's
8 where we have been spending most of our resources. And
9 if we start using those resources towards the graduate
10 school, I think we can benefit greatly.

11 We don't need to lose our market share
12 towards competing institutions. And at this point, I
13 feel as though that's the biggest problem for us as far
14 as a revenue generation.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Being a female, do
16 you think you were treated fairly at The Citadel?

17 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Absolutely. I had a
18 great experience at The Citadel. You know, it's a
19 microcosm so there were individuals who may not have
20 treated me as fairly. But when it all comes down to
21 it, if you prove yourself worthy, you earn the respect
22 that you deserve. And I feel as though I received that
23 treatment while I was there.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What year did you
25 matriculate there?

1 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: That was in the fall of
2 2006.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: We remember the
4 Shannon Faulkner of 1994, I believe. So we've come a
5 long way in about 12 years.

6 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, sir.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Once, again, just
8 very impressive resume. Thank you for being willing to
9 serve.

10 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Thank you very much,
11 sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Scott.

13 SENATOR SCOTT: Two very important issues.
14 All colleges and universities -- I don't want you to
15 think I'm treating you any different than anybody
16 else -- and that is enrollment of both minority
17 students, in this case women at The Citadel will be
18 considered to be minority population. What plans do
19 you have to increase female minorities -- females at
20 The Citadel as well as recruiting minority students to
21 come to The Citadel?

22 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: I think one of the
23 biggest things that we can do is -- actually, Harvard
24 released a report in January, so just a couple of
25 months ago, regarding the admissions process in

1 colleges across the country. And this report indicates
2 that our admissions process is dated. We ask students
3 who are applying to our schools to simply list out the
4 quantity of clubs and organizations that they're
5 participating in. We're not giving them the ability to
6 write a narrative to fully describe the quality of the
7 experiences that they are engaging in during those high
8 school years.

9 So we're missing a lot of students from
10 different socioeconomic backgrounds in that regard.
11 Because there's plenty of students in high school that
12 they're not able to participate in, say, the Key Club
13 because they have to go to work after school to help
14 supplement their family's income or maybe they have to
15 take care of their grandmother who is living at home
16 with them.

17 These are valuable experiences that they are
18 participating in, but they don't qualify very well on
19 college applications. So one thing that we can easily
20 do is revamp our admissions application so that we can
21 gain access and insight as to who these students are
22 and help them by letting them attend The Citadel
23 because The Citadel has a lot to offer these students.
24 And if we're missing them at the admissions process,
25 you know --

1 SENATOR SCOTT: Talk a little bit about how
2 we get more females interested in being a part of The
3 Citadel experience.

4 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Well, currently, we have
5 our female student application rate has increased
6 greatly. My biggest concern at this point is the
7 yield. So currently about 20 to 30 percent of females
8 that are accepted to The Citadel then enroll.

9 So that's a big concern for me because I want
10 to know why are these students interested in attending
11 The Citadel, we accept them because we want them to
12 come, and then they choose not to. So I think we need
13 to help support them in their decision.

14 SENATOR SCOTT: You think it's because of the
15 lateness of the letter sending out telling them they
16 are accepted and they've already gone someplace else?
17 What do you think might be the barrier?

18 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: The Citadel is a unique
19 institution, obviously, for many reasons. You're
20 always going to miss some students because they decide
21 that that's not the environment they want to attend.
22 So I'm certainly not expecting a hundred percent of the
23 females to then enroll. It is quite intimidating.
24 I've had that personal experience myself.

25 With that being said, I think that if we help

1 support them, give them -- I would like to evaluate the
2 process on their end. What are they receiving from us
3 to give them that support? Certainly we have, you
4 know, more alumni, more female alumni than ever who
5 can -- who are living across the state who can also
6 support them in that. So we have a lot of alumni who
7 want to do something for The Citadel, they just don't
8 quite know what to do. We need to be employing our
9 resources on the alumni front as well.

10 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

11 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: I'm sure you do your
13 homework, and it's been asked of me, before I noticed
14 you're running against an incumbent, and more times
15 than not an incumbent board of trustee, especially,
16 very seldom has opposition and just asked of me just
17 recently about people that are running unopposed,
18 people that challenge an incumbent. What went through
19 your thought process, did you -- obviously going to The
20 Citadel, you don't mind competition.

21 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, sir.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Can you share with us your
23 thought process about offering for this position
24 knowing there's an incumbent that's obviously doing a
25 good job.

1 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Well, one of the reasons
2 that this year was the year that I decided to, you
3 know, do this was because this is my first year back
4 from Texas and you have to be a South Carolina resident
5 in order to run for the board. This has been something
6 I've been considering for years but wasn't able to do
7 prior.

8 With that being said, I think that board
9 diversity is essential to an organization's success and
10 while I appreciate all the members' efforts, I feel as
11 though a different perspective being offered can
12 encourage the development and improvements to the
13 school. And I'd like to help in that initiative.

14 SENATOR PEELER: So it's nothing against the
15 incumbent?

16 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Absolutely not. We
17 don't have a personal relationship at all. This is
18 simply just I want to do what's best for the school,
19 and I have the ability right now to serve the school.
20 And that's what I would like to do.

21 SENATOR PEELER: We were just talking earlier
22 about at one time we had a husband and wife team
23 running against each other, so I don't think it gets
24 any more unique than that one.

25 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: No, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

2 Any other questions?

3 Ms. Henderson.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 I appreciate your application and really in
7 your written narrative that you included was very well
8 done and I could tell that you spent a lot of time on
9 it. I really appreciate that.

10 I just wanted to ask you, and it is
11 difficult, I know as the Senator said because both of
12 you are fantastic. And we talk about we have so many
13 seats that are left either open, nobody applies or, you
14 know, it's the same people for 30 or 40 years. You
15 know, we never get any new people and then we have two
16 really great people running for one seat.

17 But so are there any women on the board right
18 now?

19 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: There is currently one
20 female member of the board, and she graduated from the
21 graduate college.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Okay. And that's
23 it?

24 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Yes, ma'am.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Out of how many --

1 do you know how many there are total?

2 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: How many board members?

3 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes.

4 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: 11.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Are there any
6 minorities on the board?

7 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: There's one. So big
8 reason for why I'm doing this is to, once again,
9 increase board diversity, which has been proven to
10 improve organization success.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you very
12 much. I appreciate you.

13 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Thank you.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?
15 Comments?

16 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: I have a comment.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. McLeod.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Ms. Fleming-Melton, I
20 have been looking at your application, and I, too, am
21 very impressed with the time that you took and your
22 reasons for wanting to run. And I just want to thank
23 you for your willingness to serve.

24 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Thank you for your
25 service to the state, Representative McLeod.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Motion is favorable
2 report.

3 All in favor say "aye."

4 (Members respond.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

6 And the ayes have it.

7 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Good luck.

9 MS. FLEMING-MELTON: Thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: That completes The Citadel.

11 MS. CASTO: Angela Strickland is from -- this
12 is the Lander board. She is behind tab Y in your
13 notebooks in the Second Congressional District.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Welcome.

15 MS. STRICKLAND: Hello.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in.

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

19 MS. STRICKLAND: I do.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 Would you like to make a brief statement to
22 the committee on why you would like to serve?

23 MS. STRICKLAND: Sure. I would be happy to.

24 As she mentioned, my name is Angela

25 Strickland. I graduated from Lander University in

1 2002. Lander was a huge important part of my life, not
2 only whenever I was there as a student, but afterwards
3 when I went to law school and then throughout my time
4 since being a student there.

5 I have participated in alumni events on the
6 alumni board, our local chapter. I met my husband at
7 Lander. I have lifelong friends from that institution.
8 And it's just very close to my heart. It's just a
9 place that's, you know, just held to such a
10 significance to me.

11 And now that I'm a partner in my firm, I
12 don't want to say I have more free time, because I
13 definitely don't have more free time, but I feel like
14 I'm at a place in my life where I can now look to doing
15 something like this type of service on the board and
16 hopefully give back with my talents to Lander
17 University.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Questions or comments for
19 the committee?

20 What did you major in at Lander?

21 MS. STRICKLAND: Political science and a
22 business minor and law school. So prelaw as well.

23 SENATOR PEELER: I see where you were born in
24 Panama City. What made you choose Lander?

25 MS. STRICKLAND: Well, we moved to

1 South Carolina when I was in middle school. So my
2 family still lives in Wagner in Aiken County. So I
3 went to a very small high school. I graduated with
4 about 62 students. And part of it, it obviously was
5 nice to get a full scholarship to Lander. And that's
6 one of the things I try to give back is the scholarship
7 funds. But it was the size of the school that made me
8 want to go to Lander. I didn't want to go to a huge
9 school. I really enjoyed being at a smaller -- like in
10 high school, I was able to be the head of a lot of
11 different organizations, really work on my leadership
12 skills. And I wanted to do the same thing at Lander.

13 When I went to Lander, that's what I did. I
14 made sure I worked on campus. And I served in
15 different leadership roles in different organizations.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Was your scholarship for
17 athletic or academic?

18 MS. STRICKLAND: It was academic. I had the
19 Palmetto Fellow Scholarship and then Lander matched
20 that with full tuition, as well. So I had a completely
21 full academic scholarship at Lander. All four years.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Mr. Whitmire.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I see your
24 husband's a English soccer player?

25 MS. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Yeah.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Your kids play
2 soccer, obviously.

3 MS. STRICKLAND: They do. I have a
4 four-year-old and a six-year-old, and they both play
5 soccer. My youngest, my daughter, actually looks like
6 she may be the one with the real talent. But my son is
7 good, as well.

8 But my husband came over from England,
9 actually went to Lynn University in Florida for one
10 year and then transferred to Lander and stayed there
11 the rest of his soccer career and graduated from Lander
12 a semester after I did.

13 SENATOR PEELER: They have a very good soccer
14 program.

15 MS. STRICKLAND: They do have a very good --
16 a very good international athletic sort of population
17 at the school. So we ended up with friends from just
18 about every country you could think of.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Now you're talking
20 about the biggest weakness is it's small, but isn't
21 that really a strength?

22 MS. STRICKLAND: Yes. I would say the small
23 is a -- is definitely a strength. I think it's a big
24 strength. I think the small recognition that the
25 school has in the state, I feel like a lot of students

1 don't really know about Lander. And so whenever I said
2 that, that's really what I mean is that I feel like its
3 reputation doesn't go as far as I wish it would.

4 I know whenever I was looking at colleges, it
5 was definitely one that at my smaller high school was
6 mentioned to us, but I don't know at some of the bigger
7 high schools if it's one of the top schools that is
8 mentioned to students as a potential. And I think it's
9 a great university.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, you know,
11 Lander also, like Francis Marion, serve the people of
12 South Carolina much better than some of our, quote,
13 larger institutions.

14 MS. STRICKLAND: I agree.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So that's very
16 good. Anyway, good luck to you.

17 MS. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Questions? Comments?

19 Ms. Henderson.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
21 Ms. Strickland, for your application. I meant to ask
22 some of the other Lander folks if -- I might be wrong
23 in this, but I recall last year, maybe year before when
24 we were screening, one of the challenges that Lander
25 was having was a declining enrollment and really kind

1 of a trying to define how they fit into the whole, you
2 know -- I mean higher education offerings in the state.

3 What do you think are some of the things that
4 the institution can do to try -- well, with Francis
5 Marion, we have heard them talk about they have created
6 this whole niche market with health care and nurse
7 practitioners and PAs and specialized degrees that are
8 helping them boost their enrollment.

9 What do you think are some things that the
10 school could do to kind of define their special area,
11 you know, within the state and attract more students?

12 MS. STRICKLAND: Sure. This is actually
13 something I've thought about for a long time. When I
14 was a student at Lander, in my second year I was
15 actually on a committee that was trying to look at why
16 Lander was having a problem with retention. So not
17 only getting students there, but then they were having
18 students after the freshman year were leaving a lot.

19 And I think one of the things that Lander has
20 done that I think has helped a lot actually revolves
21 around some of their athletics programs. They have the
22 wonderful new sports athletic center. Because a big
23 problem with Lander was it was always referred to as a
24 suitcase college and everyone would go home on the
25 weekends. And I think a lot of times when students go

1 to a college and then leave every single weekend,
2 sometimes after that first year they decide not to come
3 back at all. But I think that was a move in the right
4 direction.

5 Also, Lander has, I guess like Francis
6 Marion, they've also had a wonderful nursing program
7 for many years. And I know we still get a lot of
8 students that are coming there for education and for
9 nursing. So I think that's already a strong area.

10 I think to the extent that Lander can work to
11 sort of raise up some of the other subject areas, I
12 think would be a very positive development. I don't
13 think by any means it would be, you know, somebody
14 would say, "Oh, I'm going to major in political
15 science," like I did, "I have to go the Lander." They
16 may think, "I have to go to Furman," or somewhere like
17 that. But it would be nice for people to start
18 thinking of it in that way.

19 Because I do know the students that have gone
20 through other programs at Lander, the business program,
21 political science, that sort of thing, have come out of
22 it feeling like they had a wonderful education. And in
23 particular, prepare them beyond for medical school or
24 graduate school, MBA, law degrees, that sort of thing.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you very

1 much.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, sir. Comments?

3 What's the desire of the committee?

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable report.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Favorable report.

6 All in favor say "aye."

7 (Members respond.)

8 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

9 And the ayes have it.

10 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

11 MS. STRICKLAND: Thank you so much.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Lawrence, you want to
13 come forward?

14 MS. CASTO: His information is behind tab 1
15 in the back of your notebook.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

17 MR. LAWRENCE: Good afternoon, Senator.

18 Can you hear me?

19 SENATOR PEELER: I do. Let me swear you in.

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

22 MR. LAWRENCE: I do.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

24 Would you like to make a brief statement?

25 MR. LAWRENCE: Just briefly. And from what

1 the questions I heard you ask of Ms. Strickland, we are
2 doing some things -- Representative Henderson brought
3 up. We have recently changed presidents as of July,
4 and Lander is going to be taking a new path. We are
5 going to be zeroing in on the students. Everything we
6 do is going to be student oriented.

7 Ms. Strickland talked about Lander being a
8 suitcase school. We've already started working on
9 that. We started a Habitat program to have Lander
10 students build a Habitat house on campus, and then we
11 are moving it to a Habitat location in Greenwood.

12 I just talked to the president,
13 President Cosentino today. There's a building on
14 campus known as the Sproles Building. We are turning
15 that into a students center. We've already got pretty
16 much a student center, but we're going to have a
17 separate student center where we put in pool tables and
18 ping pong tables, those kind of things to try to keep
19 the students on campus on the weekends. So we -- that,
20 of course, is what we are zeroing in on.

21 And I can answer questions, but we are also
22 looking at the financial side. We want to figure out a
23 way that we can make this education affordable. We are
24 affordable right now, but we want to make it even more
25 affordable. Student debt scares us, and we want to try

1 to figure out a way to take care of the --
2 President Cosentino called it the gap -- the gap
3 between loans, scholarships, endowments, and the cost
4 of going to Lander. It's about 4,000, \$4,400 right
5 now. That's what the students have been coming out of
6 their pockets and their parents have been coming out of
7 their pockets to go there. We've got to figure out a
8 way to do that.

9 Ms. Strickland was able to get a full
10 scholarship. We would love it if we could give every
11 one of our students a similar kind of arrangement we
12 started an honors program about two or three years ago.
13 And it's our effort right now to try to make sure every
14 student that's in that honors program doesn't pay to go
15 to school at Lander. We're working on that right now.

16 So we are incrementally trying to take care
17 of some of things that we have expressed to you in the
18 past that were of concern to us.

19 We've got an exciting president, and he's
20 making a lot of contacts in the community and in the
21 state. He's come to know Fred Carter very, very well.
22 And I think he's gotten a lot of guidance from
23 President Carter. I think he's got a budgetary mind.
24 He comes from that kind of background, so he can help
25 the Board of Trustees understand some of the figures

1 that we are speaking and try to use those figures to
2 help push Lander forward. So we're really excited
3 about Lander's future.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

5 Yes, sir, Senator Scott.

6 SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

7 Would you elaborate a little bit on the plan
8 that you all have put together for recruiting of
9 minority students to come to Lander. What are you all
10 at, about 20 percent?

11 MR. LAWRENCE: We're at 30 percent, I
12 believe, now, Senator Scott. I believe that's -- I
13 talked to Cosentino the other day, and I believe that's
14 the figure.

15 We believe that we match with the population
16 of South Carolina with our minority and majority
17 students. The women there, I think it's about 60
18 percent female and 40 percent male. That doesn't
19 particularly concern us, but we want to make sure we
20 keep our minority ratios high. So I'm not sure if that
21 fully answers your question.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: But your percentages do sound
23 reasonable.

24 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir. We try -- that
25 started with Larry Jackson who was president there

1 years ago, and he really did a fantastic job moving
2 Lander forward in that area.

3 SENATOR SCOTT: What about your military
4 student life? See you're former military person,
5 served in the U.S. Army, served in Vietnam.

6 MR. LAWRENCE: Oh, me?

7 SENATOR SCOTT: You have a large percentage
8 of military students, military families because we made
9 some -- we made some exceptions for some of them to be
10 able to go to school in South Carolina which may take
11 care of some of the concerns that you've had with ...

12 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, sir. And under President
13 Ball, we started a program for vets in the area. And
14 we established an office to try to make sure that
15 returning vets could come to Lander because of this
16 program that you folks passed.

17 And that is going to be enhanced by our new
18 president. We want to make sure that those veterans --
19 I mean, first off, look what they've done for our
20 country, but secondly, we want to make sure that we
21 provide the education and it's available at Lander. I
22 mean, that would be a great draw for us. So, yes,
23 we're enhancing that program.

24 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Lawrence, I understand you're the current
2 chair. Do you all rotate that chairmanship?

3 MR. LAWRENCE: Sure. It's a two-year
4 elected. Every two years the offices are. You can
5 only repeat yourself once. So I'm in my third year and
6 if reelected by you folks, I will serve one more year,
7 be gone July of 2017.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
9 comments?

10 What's the desire of the committee?

11 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

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

13 (Members respond.)

14 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

15 And the ayes have it.

16 Thank you, sir.

17 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you, sir.

18 SENATOR PEELER: We have Ms. Anne Walker from
19 Sumter, Congressional District, Seat 5.

20 Ms. Walker, is your light burning? Is it
21 green?

22 MS. WALKER: Yes, sir, it is.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in.

24 MS. WALKER: Yes, sir.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Do you swear to tell the

1 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
2 help you God?

3 MS. WALKER: I do.

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

6 MS. WALKER: First of all, I thank you all
7 for spending the time that you all are spending. I
8 appreciate it.

9 Secondly, I've been on the Lander board since
10 the legislation was changed some years back. As you
11 know, it used to be one board for Lander, Francis
12 Marion, College of Charleston. And so I've been on the
13 board since then. I think in that time I might have
14 missed two meetings when I was out of the country at
15 different times.

16 I'm a Lander graduate. I'm a member of a
17 family that has a number of Lander graduates in it. I
18 have a real commitment not only to Lander but to higher
19 education in the state and would love to have the
20 opportunity to continue to serve. And I think anything
21 I would say is already on here, so I don't need to
22 repeat myself.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Thank you.

24 Any questions, comments for the committee?

25 Senator Scott.

1 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Ms. Walker, for
2 coming.

3 MS. WALKER: Yes, sir.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: Tell me a little bit about
5 your tenure on the board, what you've done to help with
6 the recruitment of the minority students and especially
7 students within the area of the college.

8 MS. WALKER: Well, for the time I've been on
9 the board, I've chaired academic affairs. I've
10 chaired -- I think I've chaired every committee. I'm a
11 past chair of the board.

12 And so far as recruitment, I talked to all
13 students that I run into. And I have -- I don't --
14 just depends on who I come in to contact with. For me
15 personally, I'm always recruiting for Lander. We pay
16 attention, I think we have about a 30 percent minority
17 student body at Lander. And so we have paid attention
18 to the fact that we want to educate as many citizens as
19 we can, not only in the state but, of course, out of
20 state. The majority of our students are in state.

21 I hope that answer your questions.

22 SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Henderson.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
25 Ms. Walker, for your service for the number of years.

1 MS. WALKER: Yes, ma'am.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I'm just
3 curious -- this is really totally unrelated to the
4 board. I'm not familiar with the Alston Wilkes
5 Society. I wanted to ask you.

6 MS. WALKER: Okay. We were started in 1962
7 by a methodist minister, Reverend Eli Alston Wilkes.
8 And he started taking care of -- trying to help folks
9 who were coming out of state prison. And he died about
10 a year and a half after he started the South Carolina
11 Therapeutic Association. And volunteers kept it going
12 to '66, and then they hired Parker Evatt.

13 Parker was a member of the House for 13
14 years, and he was named Commissioner of Corrections in
15 '87. And that's when I had the opportunity to apply
16 for the position and come back. And we have -- we work
17 with adult and youth offenders, former offenders,
18 homeless veterans and children at risk.

19 So we have competitive contracts with the
20 Federal Bureau of Prisons for reentry services for
21 people in the federal prisons. We had our first
22 facility in South Carolina. We have those in Columbia;
23 Charleston; Florence; Fayetteville, North Carolina.
24 And we opened the first facility specifically for
25 formerly homeless veterans in South Carolina in '97.

1 We also have a children's division, a youth
2 division, where we have a high management group home
3 and we have a clinical day school in concert with
4 Richland One. And then we also have people that go
5 into the state prisons and local jails and do what I
6 call the hard work. Helping people get their lives
7 back together. We're not the bleeding hearts of
8 South Carolina.

9 In fact, I'm on this because someone tried to
10 rob me in 2002. So we believe you commit a crime, you
11 should do some form of time. But we believe that folks
12 are willing to head in the right direction, and we want
13 to try to help them become tax-paying citizens.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Very good. I have
15 learned something new today.

16 Thank you for that service also.

17 MS. WALKER: Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Whitmire.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What would you say
20 is the biggest problem facing returning veterans? We
21 read about this all the time.

22 MS. WALKER: Returning veterans?

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes.

24 MS. WALKER: You know, we run into so many --
25 there are so many that are homeless and alcohol and

1 drug addiction issues that lead to homelessness. And
2 mental health issues. A lot of mental health issues.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So they just have a
4 hard time readjusting to ...

5 MS. WALKER: Yes, sir. They might come back
6 and then they're out of the military and then they're
7 home. It may be a man or a woman with their spouse and
8 children, and it all goes -- excuse me -- to hell in a
9 handbasket so far as their mental health or there might
10 be an addiction issue. And some -- you've got somebody
11 that's out on the street looking for a place to live.
12 Or we actually have outreach people that go underneath
13 bridges and there are people that don't want to come
14 out from underneath the bridges.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's what some
16 people, including me, find rather unique. You know,
17 you want to help these people, and they really don't
18 want to be helped.

19 MS. WALKER: And it's related to mental
20 health issues and addiction issues. Those are your
21 two. And years ago we did away with all the mental
22 health facilities and now we have people that are in
23 prisons that probably should be in mental health
24 facilities.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Right. That is one

1 of our major problems here in South Carolina.

2 MS. WALKER: Yes, sir. And I am a born and
3 bred South Carolinian, so I believe in the state. But
4 I know -- but I'm aware of the history. I know I only
5 look 45, but I'm not.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

7 MS. WALKER: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

9 Comments?

10 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Favorable report.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is for favorable.

12 All in favor say "aye."

13 (Members respond.)

14 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

15 And the ayes have it.

16 I sure appreciate your willingness to serve
17 the state.

18 MS. WALKER: Thank you. I appreciate it.

19 And, Senator, you might not remember, the guy I dated
20 in college you all were in the same fraternity.

21 SENATOR PEELER: I wasn't going to bring that
22 up.

23 MS. WALKER: I know --

24 SENATOR PEELER: I notice you didn't until
25 after we confirmed you.

1 MS. WALKER: Thank you. Thank you all.

2 MS. CASTO: Go back to tab Z. Linda Dolny.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon.

4 MS. DOLNY: Good afternoon.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in.

6 This is Linda Dolny from Greenwood. Third
7 Congressional District, Seat 3.

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

10 MS. DOLNY: Yes, I do.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
12 brief statement?

13 MS. DOLNY: I think I've said it all, that I
14 would add, I think the first thing I'd say is just as
15 Anne, thank you and thank all of you for your time and
16 attention.

17 And I guess the statement that I would like
18 to say is I think it's a very exciting time for Lander.
19 You know, any time leadership changes, there are
20 exciting things. And I think that for me, at least,
21 increases my desire to be on the board and part of this
22 change process that we're under.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Questions? Comments?

24 Ms. Henderson.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you for your

1 service.

2 How long have you served on the board?

3 MS. DOLNY: Six years. Seven years.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Very good. Thank
5 you. It wasn't on here.

6 What do you think is the -- you know, I
7 haven't had a chance to read, pardon me, all of our
8 written material here. What are the biggest challenges
9 Lander faces from your perspective?

10 MS. DOLNY: Well, I think recruiting is a
11 large challenge. That we got to make sure that we have
12 adequate students. We have -- we provide good
13 opportunity for those students. We help our students
14 to meet their personal goals and their educational
15 goals. So I think that's a challenge for Lander. I
16 also think it's a challenge for us to keep moving
17 forward, to adapt to the changes that we need to
18 incorporate and yet at the same time stay true to our
19 traditions.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

22 Comments?

23 You served on the Federal Reserve Board?

24 MS. DOLNY: Yes, sir.

25 SENATOR PEELER: That's impressive.

1 MS. DOLNY: It was the Charlotte Bank, which
2 is close. And it was a wonderful service. It was
3 wonderful. One of the most pleasurable experiences
4 I've had, especially since I was there at the same time
5 Ben Bernanke was there. So it was kind of interesting
6 to have a South Carolina person there and to be a part
7 of that.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. McLeod.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Thank you,
10 Chairman Peeler.

11 Ms. Dolny, I think I read that you said that
12 one of the challenges that Lander has is that
13 enrollment is not on track. Can you expand on that and
14 tell me what you mean.

15 MS. DOLNY: We need more students, of course.
16 We need to focus on creating the kind of university
17 that students want to be at, that prepares them for a
18 life of work, of service, of citizenship. And that's
19 something that I think we're doing. That we are
20 accepting that challenge, I guess, to become better at
21 doing those things.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. And your brief
23 time on the board, I think you said you've been on the
24 board for six years?

25 MS. DOLNY: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: What -- can you give
2 me an example of specific things that you guys are
3 doing to change that?

4 MS. DOLNY: Well, I think there's a lot of
5 work with identifying student needs. Meetings with
6 students. I, myself, was part of a team that did a
7 SWOT analysis immediately prior to our current
8 president coming on board. And on that committee we
9 had student representation. We tried to represent all
10 stakeholders in the area, to give him the information
11 that he needed to help him sort of know where we were
12 and what people's opinions were. What were our
13 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a
14 broad-based committee of people understood them to be.

15 And that also included professors and
16 administrative people, but we made sure that we had
17 students on there. In fact, on the committee, the
18 search committee, we had student representation on that
19 committee as well.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MCLEOD: Okay. Thank you.

21 SENATOR SCOTT: When you say you had students
22 on the search committee, that's all aspects of the
23 search committee or that's just --

24 MS. DOLNY: What do you mean all aspects?

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Well, you've got screening of

1 applications. You've got the screening of the
2 individuals who are going to be running for the
3 presidency. You've got the presentation back to the
4 board. I mean, the whole process. When you said you
5 had them on the committee, what role did they actually
6 play?

7 MS. DOLNY: Well, they were as active on the
8 committee and exposed to the same things we were. We
9 used a search firm to do the initial screening of
10 applications and speaking with candidates and helping
11 us narrow down the list of candidates. So once -- and
12 they were certainly involved in the interview process
13 and in the process to bring them to the campus. But
14 they were as involved as I was as a board member.

15 SENATOR SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Is this information correct?
17 You graduated from seminary since the last time we
18 screened you?

19 MS. DOLNY: Yes.

20 SENATOR PEELER: What happened?

21 MS. DOLNY: I'd like to know what happened.
22 That would be a real good question.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Federal Reserve Bank and
24 then Lander Trustee.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Yeah, before I get started.

2 Favorable report.

3 All in favor say "aye."

4 (Members respond.)

5 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

6 And the ayes have it.

7 I sure appreciate your service. It's a
8 pleasure meeting you.

9 MS. DOLNY: Thank you. It's a pleasure being
10 here.

11 MS. CASTO: Next we'll go --

12 Catherine Frederick, she's the last tab in
13 your notebook. Catherine Frederick from Florence.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Catherine Frederick from
15 Florence. Seventh Congressional District, Seat 7.

16 MS. FREDERICK: Good afternoon.

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

20 MS. FREDERICK: I do.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a
22 brief statement?

23 MS. FREDERICK: I guess briefly I would say
24 it's been an honor and a privilege to serve to this
25 extent with Lander University on the Board of Trustees.

1 Representing the Florence area has allowed me
2 to actually really kind of help Florence and my people
3 there understand what Lander brings to the table. Fred
4 Carter and I are good friends, and he knows that these
5 universities, the smaller universities play an
6 important role in our state. So it's been a real
7 privilege to get that opportunity.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Questions or
9 comments?

10 You've been on the board for eight years?

11 MS. FREDERICK: Yes, sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: And what do you do with
13 McLeod Health?

14 MS. FREDERICK: Vice president for patient
15 experience. And basically that means I help oversee
16 the design of the experience so that it is patient
17 centered.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Do you interact with the
19 Francis Marion's efforts with their health initiative
20 and all?

21 MS. FREDERICK: You mean as a McLeod person?

22 SENATOR PEELER: Yes.

23 MS. FREDERICK: Yes. We have a relationship
24 with Francis Marion. Although I'm not personally
25 involved in that, we provide services there. Also,

1 very heavily involved in their -- in learning -- in
2 engaging in their learning, bringing their students on
3 to our campus, things of that nature.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Lander has a reputation for
5 a pretty good nursing school.

6 MS. FREDERICK: Absolutely. In fact, we --

7 SENATOR PEELER: Isn't that kind of your --

8 MS. FREDERICK: At McLeod we are eager to get
9 Lander graduates. It's a star in our cap when we have
10 a Lander graduate come to us.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Questions? Comments?

12 Ms. Henderson.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Favorable report.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I don't have any
15 questions.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Favorable report.

17 All in favor say "aye."

18 (Members respond.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

20 And the ayes have it.

21 MS. FREDERICK: Thank you.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

23 (A recess transpired.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Hester L. Booker from Union.

25 MS. BOOKER: Yes, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Congressional District, Seat
2 5. New candidate running for the Lander Board, Fifth
3 Congressional District.

4 And, Ms. Booker, if you would, let me swear
5 you in.

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

8 MS. BOOKER: I do.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Would you like to make a brief statement on
11 why you would like to serve on the board?

12 MS. BOOKER: Well, I'm retired. I'm not
13 doing much of anything right now. I used to substitute
14 in the school system, but I decided not to do that
15 anymore. So when I saw this ad in the paper, I decided
16 to send in a letter of intent.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. That's why we put ads
18 in the paper.

19 MS. BOOKER: That's why I luckily read it
20 that day.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Henderson.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Ms. Booker, thank
24 you so much. And I don't count myself in this
25 category, but this is a pretty heavily Clemson

1 dominated group here. Am I right that your sons
2 Trevor, and what is his name, Devin?

3 MS. BOOKER: No, they are not. They're
4 cousins, but ...

5 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Okay. Because I
6 knew they were from Union. My kids went to Eastside
7 High School, so I used to remember watching them play
8 when they were in high school.

9 MS. BOOKER: All right.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Very good. Thank
11 you for your offer to serve.

12 MS. BOOKER: Thank you.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a question?

14 Mr. Whitmire.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Welcome,
16 Ms. Booker.

17 MS. BOOKER: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I appreciate, as
19 Ms. Henderson said, your willingness to serve. We need
20 more folks willing to come out.

21 Have you ever thought about the location as a
22 weakness of the university? To me, that seems like we
23 need to have schools in these type of locations. I
24 know you don't consider Greenwood small, but, you know,
25 it does serve many outlining areas in there.

1 That, to me, is I think one of their
2 strengths where they're located. Do you have a
3 different opinion on that or what?

4 MS. BOOKER: No, I don't once I -- well,
5 looking at the map in Union, you see Union, Laurens,
6 Greenwood, which made me assume that it was backwoods,
7 you know. If you've never been there. But when I came
8 to Greenwood, hey, this is the city compared to Union,
9 you know.

10 But I talked to some of the kids in Union or
11 in that area, "I don't want to go to Lander, that's the
12 country," you know. But I tell them now it's not the
13 country. And if it is the country, you can get what
14 you need there.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. All right.
16 Thank you.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Scott.

18 MS. BOOKER: I graduated from USC Union, so
19 it's kind of backwoodsy, too, but I got what I needed
20 there.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Actually, Union is
22 large compared to where I'm from.

23 MS. BOOKER: Where is that?

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Walhalla.

25 MS. BOOKER: Walhalla? Where is that?

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's so far out
2 that way, it's almost in Georgia and North Carolina.

3 MS. BOOKER: Okay.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Union's got a real good
5 senator, don't they?

6 MS. BOOKER: Yes, sir. There's no conceit in
7 that remark. I'm pleased to meet you, Mr. Peeler.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

9 Any other questions or comments for
10 Ms. Booker?

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Move for favorable.

12 SENATOR SCOTT: Favorable report.

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

14 (Members respond.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Opposed, no.

16 The ayes have it.

17 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

18 Thank you for your willingness to come in here this
19 quick. I knew we had you scheduled for later.

20 MS. BOOKER: Yes, sir.

21 SENATOR PEELER: I know you had to --

22 MS. BOOKER: But I put on my application, I'm
23 qualified and available. So my availability had to
24 show up today.

25 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you so much.

1 MS. BOOKER: All right. I'm finished.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. BOOKER: Thank you all very much. Been
4 my pleasure.

5 SENATOR PEELER: That's the agenda for today.

6 We will be back tomorrow at 9:00.

7 (The hearing adjourned at 5:13 p.m.)

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2 I, Nisha Gordon, Court Reporter and Notary
3 Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do
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5 That the foregoing screenings were taken before
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7 the title page of this transcript; that the candidates
8 were duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth
9 and nothing but the truth by the Chairman; that the
10 testimony of the candidates and all comments made at the
11 time of the screenings were recorded stenographically by
12 me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing
13 screenings as typed is a true, accurate and complete
14 record of the hearing to the best of my ability.

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

18 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my
19 official seal this 31st day of March, 2016, at
20 Simpsonville, Greenville County, South Carolina.

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Nisha Gordon
Notary Public
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission Expires:
June 14, 2022

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

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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 1st day of April, 2015, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.

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