

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

5 PUBLIC HEARINGS
6
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9

10
11 Monday, March 25, 2013
12

13 10:09 a.m.
14

15 Gressette Senate Building
16 1101 Pendleton Street, Room 201
17 Columbia, South Carolina
18

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

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

SENATOR THOMAS C. ALEXANDER

SENATOR J. YANCEY MCGILL

SENATOR ROBERT W. HAYES, JR.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID J. MACK III

REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS J. HENDERSON

STAFF:

MARTHA CASTO

(INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT.)

1 SENATOR PEELER: This is a meeting of the
2 Joint Committee of the Senate and the House to screen
3 and candidates for college and university boards of
4 trustees. And like I say, we're waiting on a couple
5 more. We'll go ahead and get started if there's no
6 objection.

7 Martha Casto staffs the committee.

8 Martha, if you would give us some necessary
9 info.

10 MS. CASTO: Okay. If you open your notebooks
11 on the left-hand side of your notebook -- well,
12 included in your notebook is your travel voucher. So
13 if you'll sign that and give it to Julie, we can put it
14 back here.

15 But there is also the schedule for today and
16 some questions that you may want to ask and also
17 included is a skinny on each person that is on the
18 left-hand side.

19 We have had one to drop out this morning,
20 Sherry Waters -- Walters. She was for the 6th
21 Congressional District and was scheduled to be here at
22 11:15. So she has dropped out. And the one above her,
23 Ann Hurst, who was also the 6th Congressional District,
24 called and she had an emergency and will not be here
25 today.

1 So the rest -- the other six from Lander --
2 well, there's five here. We're still waiting on
3 Mr. Brimmer, the very first one.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Well, you want to go ahead
5 and get stated without Mr. Brimmer. So we'll squeeze
6 him next.

7 When I call your name, if you will stand and
8 remain standing. George Starnes. Linda Donnelly --
9 Dolny?

10 MS. DOLNY: Dolny.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Dolny. That will be the
12 biggest challenge I've got over the next three days is
13 pronouncing these names. Dolny.

14 Jack Lawrence. Anne Walker.

15 And you say Ms. Hurst can't make it today?

16 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir.

17 SENATOR PEELER: And Ms. Walters dropped out.

18 All right. And Ms. Frederick.

19 If you all would please right your right
20 hand.

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

23 (Candidates sworn.)

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. You may be
25 seated.

1 And we will consider you under oath until the
2 completion of the screening, so act accordingly. We
3 have a court stenographer taking minutes.

4 So if there is no objection, we'll go ahead
5 and be under tab B. George Starnes in Columbia, he's
6 an incumbent. The 2nd Congressional District Seat 2.

7 Mr. Starnes, if you would come forward.

8 Good morning, Mr. Starnes.

9 MR. STARNES: Good morning.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to tell the
11 committee why you would like to continue serving the
12 university?

13 MR. STARNES: Well, I've had the privilege of
14 serving since 1992 and during that time we have
15 undergone tremendous challenges in education and
16 funding for education. And in lieu of this, I think
17 Lander has made great strides, and we're continuing to
18 do what is the mission of the school. And I'm glad to
19 be a part of that.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 Any members have any questions or comments of
22 Mr. Starnes?

23 Senator Alexander.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Just two. Thank you for your service. Your

1 attendance record while a board member, what percentage
2 of meetings have you attended as a board member?

3 MR. STARNES: Senator, over the years I have
4 been, I would say, almost at a hundred percent unless
5 I've had some type of conflict where I absolutely could
6 not be there.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And, Martha, did he sign
8 the original -- there's several on, I noticed, who
9 didn't sign on the economic interest, didn't sign the
10 form. I don't know whether --

11 MS. CASTO: He is not a candidate, so he does
12 not have to sign this part.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay.

14 SENATOR PEELER: We'll get into that
15 incumbent versus challenger situation.

16 MS. CASTO: Right. Now, Mr. Starnes is one
17 who on his economic interest, you will see throughout
18 the next three days there's a variety. He does report
19 the per diem and the mileage from his Lander service.
20 Some have and some haven't. So that's something that
21 probably needs to be uniform across colleges and
22 university boards.

23 SENATOR PEELER: And, Martha, if you would
24 remind us when the candidates come up, we could ask
25 that question.

1 MS. CASTO: Okay.

2 SENATOR PEELER: We hear a good bit about
3 tuition, tuition increases. With your experience, how
4 do you try to keep that down to a minimum?

5 MR. STARNES: Senator, as you know, it's a
6 challenge. I mean, we're a small state-supported
7 school and basically we've got two sources of revenue.
8 Either what the state provides or really through
9 tuition. But I can tell you that it is something that
10 we are very sensitive to, and we have tried to minimize
11 that. But it continues to be a challenge for the small
12 schools.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

14 Questions or comments?

15 Representative Whitmire.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Other than
17 finances, what other challenges do you perceive in the
18 future?

19 MR. STARNES: Oh, there a number of
20 challenges.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I see a lot of
22 laughs back there. I'm going to ask them, too.

23 MR. STARNES: There are a number of
24 challenges. I think finance, you know, is the number
25 one challenge because it touches everything we do. It

1 touches the deferred maintenance issues that we all
2 have. We have -- there are no question challenges with
3 enrollment. We compete with the other schools for
4 every student. So it's just any -- any area of the
5 school I think it's been a period of time where we have
6 all had to deal with difficult choices.

7 But, again, finance would have to be number
8 one. Enrollment, I think would have to be number two.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Is your enrollment
10 up or down?

11 MR. STARNES: Our enrollment has been up
12 until the last year or two, and it has been down
13 somewhat.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What do you
15 attribute that to?

16 MR. STARNES: You know, I think there are a
17 number of things. Number one, just competition from
18 other institutions. And I think the other thing is I
19 think as tuition cost goes up, it's pushing more and
20 more people to other alternatives. I think that will
21 continue to be a challenge in the future.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
23 comments?

24 Senator Hayes.

25 SENATOR HAYES: I'm just going to ask as far

1 as your background, what education and work experience
2 do you bring that you think would help the university?

3 MR. STARNES: Okay. First of all, I'm a
4 graduate of Lander in 1981. And -- but I have been in
5 the insurance and the investment business since 1982 in
6 this area. So I would like to think that my business
7 background has certainly helped be a board member as
8 far as understanding finances and the things that go on
9 there.

10 But just a long-term commitment to the
11 school. It's really, as you know, the small schools,
12 it's really a labor of love. There's no real benefit
13 as far as perks to be on the board of trustees. So it
14 is really just a long-term commitment to the school.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Senator.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman --

17 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: -- real quick. You've been
19 on the board it says 20, 21 years?

20 MR. STARNES: Correct.

21 SENATOR MCGILL: And financial adviser. How
22 about federal money, how do you perceive -- do you all
23 go after federal money of any types?

24 MR. STARNES: We have just in the last few
25 years tried to do some stuff there, but that is really

1 a new pocket for us. We have not done it in the past.
2 We're not a research institution, so we really have
3 been somewhat limited there.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Well, I suggest that all
5 board members, trustees should try to attempt to go
6 after some of that federal money. I understand there
7 are federal funds that sit on shelves that are never
8 drawn down.

9 MR. STARNES: Absolutely. And we do have
10 someone actually who works for Lander who at one time
11 was a House member, and he has been actively pursuing
12 those funds that are available.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Is that the Taylor fellow?

14 MR. STARNES: Yes, that's exactly right.
15 Adam Taylor.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
17 comments?

18 What's the desire of the committee?

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Move for a favorable
20 report.

21 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

23 All in favor, raise your right hand.

24 Thank you, Mr. Starnes.

25 MR. STARNES: Thank you.

1 MS. CASTO: Next would be Linda Dolny. She's
2 the 3rd Congressional District. It's behind tab C.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

4 MS. DOLNY: Good morning.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
6 the committee why you would like to continue to serve?

7 MS. DOLNY: Well, I think it's important,
8 first of all, to give back. I, too, am a graduate of
9 Lander and very appreciative of the liberal arts
10 education that I received there.

11 It's -- Lander has -- I've also observed, I
12 guess, and this is something that's not in my
13 statement, but I've observed over time that it's
14 very -- there are a couple of key decisions that board
15 members are involved in: staffing, presidential
16 decisions, who the president is, and hiring that
17 person, and in finance. And I think a lot of things
18 are coming together to say that the next few years are
19 going to be very important to Lander, and I want to be
20 a part of those decisions.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Any questions or
22 comments from members of the committee?

23 Ms. Henderson.

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

1 Thank you for your service. I appreciate you
2 being here. And one of your comments prompted a
3 question basically in light of what the previous
4 gentleman said, and I know that your enrollment has
5 been down and in finances. What -- and I know you're a
6 newer board member.

7 MS. DOLNY: Correct.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: This is only your
9 second term.

10 What -- how do you see the institution moving
11 forward in dealing with those challenges, which is
12 declining enrollment in light of tuition as well as
13 competition from other schools?

14 I've been on the Lander campus a few times.
15 My daughter played volleyball there. But, you know,
16 just to see the challenge that you have kind of in a
17 rural setting to try to, you know, attract students and
18 retain students, where do strategically you see you all
19 moving over the next few years?

20 MS. DOLNY: I think it's absolutely critical
21 that Lander understand and define its market and know
22 which students we are attracting and can attract.

23 I was representative of what I think is a
24 market for Lander, and that market is the student who
25 is going to stay in the area, who wants to go to

1 college, who can't afford some of the larger
2 institutions, and in many cases is the first generation
3 grad.

4 And I know that when I talk to people about
5 Lander, and I talk about it from the perspective of how
6 many first generation students there are, that is a big
7 draw for people to say, Wow, there are some people now
8 being educated who didn't grow up that way. They just
9 didn't grow up that way. And I think that's a huge
10 market for Lander.

11 I think as George mentioned earlier, we are
12 getting a lot of competition now from lower cost and
13 that is especially I think in the technical schools.
14 Because I do have friends myself who are sending their
15 children to two years in a technical school, and then
16 transferring to a school like Lander. And that's a
17 difficult -- it provides a difficult problem. And I
18 think we're going to have to deal with that at some
19 point.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Very good. Thank
21 you very much.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Representative
23 Henderson.

24 Representative Mack.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, thank

1 you.

2 Again, thank you for your service. I was on
3 Lander's campus once. Beautiful campus, great
4 atmosphere. I was wondering, is the alumni involved
5 and at what level in looking to attract high school
6 students to the school? How involved is the alumni?

7 MS. DOLNY: Well, I think the alumni is very
8 involved. And I think an issue that -- I think any
9 school that doesn't have a football team has, is how do
10 you keep alums active and on the campus? And I think
11 our sports program has done that. I think our new
12 sports complex has done a lot of that. Not only has it
13 involved alums, but it's involved the community. And I
14 think that's an important outreach that Lander has.

15 So, yes, I think alums are involved, and I
16 think it's through sports and through the campus
17 actually reaching into the community to provide a
18 location for meetings and similar things that keeps
19 alums active with Lander. I'd like to say it's more.
20 I would like to think that every alum is going to give
21 a couple thousand dollars every year, but I haven't --
22 that hasn't happened.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: That would be great,
24 wouldn't it?

25 MS. DOLNY: That would be wonderful.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 My observation first, after your last comment
4 is that probably some universities that have football
5 teams would just as soon not have one. So you may want
6 to count your blessings from that standpoint.

7 MS. DOLNY: Oh, we do.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And you mentioned the
9 finances as well and certainly your having served on
10 the federal reserve, if I see correctly.

11 As far as the challenges you mentioned,
12 though, and have been mentioned in your enrollment and
13 things, I mean, are you all looking at cutting costs?
14 I mean, is it all about raising revenue, or are you all
15 looking at redefining briefly, if you would, the --
16 the -- the structure of the university so that you can
17 cut costs to keep your tuition compatible?

18 MS. DOLNY: Well, the short answer to that is
19 yes.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay.

21 MS. DOLNY: In fact, most of our last board
22 meeting was dealing with an issue that Lander is
23 dealing with right now, which is the staff reduction.
24 And dealing with which -- identifying which of the
25 programs that the school offers that are lucrative and

1 which ones are costing money. And are the ones that
2 are costing money there for a strategic reason? And
3 some of them probably are, and some of them probably
4 aren't. But we will know that as this year progresses
5 because we dealt with that in the last board meeting.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

8 SENATOR HAYES: I'm just wondering on Lander
9 graduates, what's their success rate on getting jobs
10 and/or postgraduate work? Do you all keep up with
11 that?

12 MS. DOLNY: I'm sure they keep up with it. I
13 wish I could answer the question, but I can't. I don't
14 know a percentage that I can give you for a success
15 rate. I do know that the school and the administration
16 is especially helpful in letting us know when that
17 happens, so I can talk about isolated incidences of
18 people that I know that have had success.

19 I think the success is pretty high, but I do
20 not have a percentage that I can say, you know, 95
21 percent of our students find jobs. But I can tell you
22 that we have talked about at some of our board meetings
23 how do we proceed in the future with identifying those
24 students that we don't want to leave with a tremendous
25 loan burden, or we want to make sure they get placed

1 and complete their education and don't come for two
2 years and leave and not have a degree and now have a
3 loan burden. So we are discussing those kinds of
4 issues at almost every board meeting.

5 SENATOR HAYES: Okay.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
7 comments?

8 Representative Whitmire.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What percent of
10 your incoming students every year are state residents?

11 MS. DOLNY: Oh, it's very high. It's very
12 high. I would -- I would hazard a guess as 95 percent.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I wish we had a few
14 other schools like that.

15 MS. DOLNY: I mean, it's very high. I know
16 one of the reasons for looking at an honors college at
17 Lander is to be able to expand out from the state a
18 little bit so that we can attract a few more of those.

19 And I think primarily the attraction now for
20 out-of-state students is to -- is through the sports.

21 The -- we had on the staff for several years
22 now a gentlemen from Korea who has really added to our
23 international program. And Lander has a program in the
24 summer that -- last summer was our first program
25 where -- and I can't remember exactly how many, they

1 were all in my house, so it seemed like a lot. But we
2 had about 50 Korean students who came to the U.S. for
3 concentrated English and were able to tour through the
4 Southeast. And it was -- it was a shot in the arm for
5 Lander and for those students to be caught up in that
6 enthusiasm. And reach out into the community and had
7 parents who are -- not just parents but people in the
8 community who were host families for some of these
9 students.

10 So we have a -- you know, you pose an
11 interesting question because the question I'm going to
12 now go back with is, if we're comparing the number of
13 international students we have to the number of
14 out-of-state students, we may have more international
15 than we do out of state because of these various
16 programs.

17 And I'm going to find out the answer to that
18 question because of everything that has been done over
19 the last several years by this gentleman who has come
20 in.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: One more question.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Certainly.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Something that -- I
24 served on the education committee for nine years, and
25 something that concerned me from the beginning is that

1 a lot of our in-state students who receive scholarships
2 do not finish and get a degree.

3 Does Lander address that in any way?
4 Specifically the first year, the freshmen. You know,
5 they get the scholarship help, and then they're done
6 after a year. And to me, that money is wasted.

7 MS. DOLNY: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So have you ever --
9 and I may be asking the wrong person here. Maybe
10 should be asking, you know, somebody in the
11 administration.

12 MS. DOLNY: Well, someone in administration
13 could certainly give you a better answer than I can.
14 But I can also say that it is a source of discussion
15 that we have, and we do routinely talk about the
16 retention rate from the freshman to the sophomore year,
17 and how do we increase that retention rate? Because
18 that's our big -- that's our big gap. I think for all
19 schools, not just Lander. You know, getting them to
20 come back after that freshman year for that sophomore
21 year.

22 But, you know, that -- I look at the issue
23 that you're talking about from a financial perspective.
24 Because now I know that those children, young people
25 are going out into the world with a loan burden and

1 with no degree to back it up and to provide them a
2 source of repaying that loan.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Right.

4 MS. DOLNY: That's my federal reserve
5 training.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Excellent point.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
9 comments?

10 What's the desire of the committee?

11 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
13 report.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

16 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

17 Thank you. We appreciate your willingness to
18 serve.

19 MS. DOLNY: Thank you.

20 MS. CASTO: The next person is Jack Lawrence.

21 Mr. Lawrence is the 4th Congressional
22 District, and he lives in Spartanburg.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
24 the committee why you would like to continue to serve.

25 MR. LAWRENCE: Well, my service, as you will

1 note, I've been on the board eight years. But I have a
2 personal connection to Lander in that I grew up in
3 Greenwood and, of course, know a lot about it that way.
4 My mother was a student there. My father was a
5 businessman in Greenwood, and he had a very strong
6 connection with Lander. Particularly when Larry
7 Jackson was the president, when it was our president.
8 My niece graduated, and I have family members there.
9 So I have a service connection, plus a family
10 connection.

11 And we are -- I mean, you noticed -- you
12 folks know the challenges that higher education is
13 going to be facing. And Lander, of course, is a part
14 of that, and you've already talked about some of the
15 things. And I want to be a part of it.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or comments?

17 Representative Henderson.

18 The further we go down the list, the luckier
19 you are.

20 (Laughter)

21 Representative Henderson.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I held out one
23 question, so I would have something to ask.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, first of

1 all, thank you for your service. And I am impressed
2 that you would serve. You know, most people are
3 graduates of the institution and feel a way to give
4 back, and I feel -- thank you for serving just because
5 of your commitment to Lander and to Greenwood and all
6 of that. And I think that's great.

7 I wanted to ask the previous applicant, but I
8 figured I would hold out. We were talking about
9 tuition. What is your current tuition?

10 MR. LAWRENCE: We have -- I can't give you
11 the exact figures, but we're in the middle ground of
12 the state-supported schools. I think we are around
13 Francis Marion's. But our tuition has gone up.
14 Fortunately, it has not gone up as high as some of the
15 students of the schools have, and we try to keep it
16 down. But that is a problem.

17 Ms. Dolny, who was here prior to me, we
18 have -- I've got lots of concerns about the borrowing
19 of our students. And she is heading an ad hoc
20 committee looking into that because that concerns us,
21 that our students are borrowing money. Because that's
22 a problem nationwide. But it's a problem for our
23 students. So we're trying to look at that
24 independently.

25 We've also talked about how we can cut costs,

1 how we can get more money for our students to come.
2 And we are starting another fundraising event now to
3 try to bring in scholarship monies so that we can lower
4 the cost that our students have to pay individually for
5 our services. That is a constant concern for us.
6 We -- we're meeting four times a year. We concluded at
7 our last meeting that that might not be enough,
8 particularly with the challenges that higher education
9 is facing.

10 So we don't have many answers right now.
11 We've got huge concerns, and our board, I think, has
12 been very, very diligent about trying to solve these
13 problems. So I can't answer your question directly,
14 unfortunately.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

17 Any other questions or comments?

18 Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Are you getting good support from the greater
21 Greenwood community in this challenge and financially?
22 I mean, obviously, it means a lot to that community.

23 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes. And that's -- we are
24 constantly working on our relationships with the county
25 and the city because that is the source --

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: In the private sector --

2 MR. LAWRENCE: Right, and we've got to
3 work --

4 SENATOR ALEXANDER: -- Self Foundation and
5 different folks?

6 MR. LAWRENCE: We have the Self Foundation
7 with us. It's one of the members of our board is on
8 the Self Foundation, Mamie Nicholson. Senator
9 Nicholson's wife. But -- so, yes, we are working not
10 only with the private community, business community,
11 but with the foundation community in the area.

12 And, actually, most of our students are from
13 the Lakeland area. And one of the things that has
14 concerned me as being from Spartanburg, we ought to
15 have more Spartanburg people going there. And
16 personally, I've given a scholarship for Spartanburg
17 High School for many years. And this year I'm trying
18 to redirect that so that the person from Spartanburg
19 High School that gets a little bit of money from my
20 family goes to Lander. We just need to expand our
21 student body to others than just the Lakeland's area.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. And one other
23 comment. I just appreciate your work with the Charles
24 Lea Center there in Spartanburg for all those years.
25 It does a great job, and I do appreciate your

1 commitment there as well.

2 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you, sir.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Yes, sir, Chairman.

6 How many students at Lander?

7 MR. LAWRENCE: 3200, 3100.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: 3,000?

9 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me ask you, on the SAT
11 score or whatever it's called now, what is the average
12 that comes in to Lander?

13 MR. LAWRENCE: About a thousand, and I'm
14 guessing. About a thousand. But we are not -- one of
15 the things that we've done, and I'm -- I guess I'm
16 anticipating a question, we're trying to determine
17 where we fit with this. Should we be addressing folks
18 that don't happen to have the higher SATs that other
19 schools, other private schools may have, or should we
20 be addressing a student body that we're trying to raise
21 from a particular level to a higher degree? So that is
22 a conversation we're having right now, too.

23 And we have -- we're discussing it. We've
24 started an honors college or in the process of starting
25 an honors college with the idea of getting more people

1 in to Lander that have a higher SAT score and,
2 therefore, will have higher grades. But we do have --
3 we have an obligation to people that don't have those
4 higher SAT scores.

5 SENATOR MCGILL: Good for you. I think
6 that's wonderful.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you, Senator
9 Peeler.

10 On that same note, I would say that that's a
11 very important discussion for you all because I have
12 kids in college. They are Palmetto Fellows. They've
13 been very fortunate. You know, they have lots of
14 opportunities, even within -- and I've had them in
15 state and out of state.

16 But the kids now that can't get a 1200 SAT
17 even to go to Clemson anymore, who, you know, grew up
18 in a family that they've always worn the Clemson
19 sweatshirt and they always thought they were going to
20 go to Clemson only to find out now that the rules have
21 changed. Not anybody's fault, but they can't get into
22 Clemson now.

23 And so what are their choices? Their choices
24 where I'm at is Greenville Tech and a transfer or, you
25 know, a number of remedial programs that Clemson has.

1 But my point is that somebody, and, you know, I applaud
2 you, needs to be addressing those mid level students.
3 They are not stupid. They are very, very smart
4 students. And, you know, everybody wants the honors
5 college, the high students, the high achieving, you
6 know, 1400 SAT kids. But, you know, someone in our
7 state needs to be addressing those kids that are above
8 average and great students and just can't -- you know,
9 they're just not at that level.

10 So I think that's definitely a very good
11 place for you to have discussions about, you know,
12 where you all need to be as an institution. And I
13 applaud that. I just wanted to second that.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

15 Representative Mack.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, thank
17 you.

18 I don't have a question, I just wanted to
19 make a comment. Just wanted to say that I really
20 appreciate your business model, if you will, as a
21 trustee member of one of our colleges here in
22 South Carolina. The fact that you personally are
23 taking your time out of your business to go after
24 resources and also to go after students. And I think
25 that in this world of marketing and branding a person

1 like yourself and what you're doing I think is a great
2 model for all of our colleges. So I just wanted to say
3 how much I appreciate that.

4 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you, sir.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Well said.

6 SENATOR MCGILL: Let me ask one other
7 question.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Certainly, Senator McGill.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Have you all invited Senator
10 Graham or Senator --

11 MR. LAWRENCE: Senator Graham came and was
12 our commencement speaker one year.

13 SENATOR MCGILL: There you go.

14 MR. LAWRENCE: So was Senator DeMint when he
15 was in the Senate.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: How about your congressional
17 people?

18 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes. We have a -- is Trace --
19 no, no, no. We have had one of the congressional
20 members that is no longer elected, but now our new one
21 is from Anderson. Gresham Barrett. And we -- we
22 have -- I don't know if we brought him -- I think we
23 may have brought him on campus. I'm certain we have,
24 as a matter of fact, when he was running. But he has
25 not been invited yet to be a speaker, but we'll get

1 him.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: The more you can get your
3 federal people on campus and your state people, Senator
4 O'Dell, Senator Nicholson, the better off Lander is
5 going to be. The federal people, it is an open pot of
6 money that you're missing out on.

7 MR. LAWRENCE: If we're missing.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: I'm speaking for the group.

9 MR. LAWRENCE: If we're missing out on it,
10 Senator, we're going to close that gap.

11 SENATOR MCGILL: I can't wait to hear four
12 years from now what you did.

13 MR. LAWRENCE: We will have it by then, I
14 guarantee you.

15 SENATOR PEELER: I saw that light bulb going
16 on in Jack's head.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: You're talking to the pro
18 of that.

19 SENATOR PEELER: You might want to invite
20 Senator McGill, too. That's an excellent idea.

21 Any other questions or comments?

22 What is the desire of the committee?

23 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.
2 All in favor, please raise your right hand.
3 Unanimous.
4 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you, sir.
5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.
6 Next.
7 MS. CASTO: The next one is Anne Walker. She
8 is from Sumter. She's the 5th Congressional District
9 and is an incumbent.
10 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.
11 MS. WALKER: I had some major reconstructive
12 foot surgery, so please forgive my special ride here,
13 but I'm most blessed to have it.
14 SENATOR PEELER: Well, now, full disclosure,
15 she shared with me earlier that she dated a fraternity
16 brother of mine at Clemson, and she went to some
17 parties with me and Dick Harpootlian. Dick and I
18 have --
19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Statute of limitations
20 may apply.
21 SENATOR PEELER: So we will release you from
22 the oath.
23 (Laughter.)
24 Just teasing you. You're still under oath.
25 MS. WALKER: I will just say we had a good

1 time.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, goodness.

3 If you would share with the committee why you
4 would like to continue to serve on this board.

5 MS. WALKER: Well, I would like to continue
6 to serve. I've been serving -- I'm a Lander graduate,
7 and I've been serving on the board since the
8 legislation was changed when Lander and Francis Marion
9 and College of Charleston all got our own board. So I
10 know you probably think I'm 30 -- I look 35 but I'm
11 really 63 years young and have an incredible high
12 energy level and absolutely love Lander.

13 I am a third generation of Lander. I have
14 about eight family members that I can name, including
15 daughter and niece and sister-in-law and all kind of
16 folks that are Lander graduates. It's a tradition in
17 our family that we go to Lander.

18 And so I'm very proud of Lander. The
19 question was asked earlier about the number of students
20 around the state. And I was with Dan Ball last week,
21 our president. He was making the presentation to the
22 budget committee, and 93 percent of the students that
23 come to Lander are from South Carolina. So that Linda
24 had it pretty close when she said 95 percent.

25 And I'm just very proud of Lander. I'm very

1 proud of our board. We understand what it means to
2 serve on a board. You can figure that out by the fact
3 that we have good, strong people who understand their
4 role. And at the same time, and when I say understand
5 their role, we're not a rubber stamp board. We discuss
6 issues. We have a retreat every year. We don't go off
7 to some exotic place for that retreat, but we do have
8 some good discussions. So as you can tell, I could
9 talk about Lander forever, so I'll hush and let you ask
10 questions.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

12 Any questions, comments?

13 SENATOR MCGILL: The lady has been active, I
14 can tell you that.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

16 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is favorable
17 report.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

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

21 MS. WALKER: Thank you so much.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

23 Ms. Hurst, she's the one that is going to
24 come later?

25 MS. CASTO: Ms. Hurst will come either later

1 this week or when we do some of the others later.

2 Sherry Walters withdrew.

3 Catherine Frederick.

4 Ms. Frederick is from Florence. She was
5 representing the 6th Congressional District, and this
6 is the first candidate you all will see for the new 7th
7 Congressional District on any college boards. She's
8 running for the 7th District.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Welcome.

10 MS. FREDERICK: Thank you very much.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
12 us why you would like to continue to serve.

13 MS. FREDERICK: Well, actually, it's somewhat
14 to some extent follows the theme that Jack talked
15 about. I grew up in a family that never experienced
16 college. My dad had a tenth grade education, and so
17 I'm a first generation college-educated individual.

18 And one of my great loves became higher
19 education in the process of pursuing my degree. And so
20 I have always stayed actively involved, not only in the
21 schools that I attended, I finished at Francis Marion
22 University and at the University of South Carolina.
23 Remaining active there caused me to just develop a
24 certain level of knowledge and understanding of how
25 Francis Marion worked. It gave me the opportunity then

1 to apply that knowledge at Lander University on behalf
2 of Florence and the region in that area.

3 Additionally, my other interests first and
4 foremost are Margaret and R.J. They are my two small
5 children. And I have a sense of responsibility not
6 just for them but for other children like them that by
7 the time they get to school, that there are still
8 universities that are accessible for them.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Any questions or comments?

11 Representative Henderson.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

13 I wanted to ask you the same question I asked
14 before and since your husband teaches at Clemson, maybe
15 you know this.

16 MS. FREDERICK: Yeah.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Do you know what
18 the tuition is at Lander?

19 MS. FREDERICK: A little over \$6,000. I know
20 because my stepson, we pay that full tuition. He is
21 not a scholarship child, much to our chagrin. And so,
22 yes, at Clemson -- my husband actually is a research
23 professor at the Pee Dee REC outside of Florence where
24 he researches biofuel. So he's not a teacher, he's
25 just a real well-educated farmer. And what he does

1 is --

2 SENATOR PEELER: I think we all are.

3 MS. FREDERICK: That's right. That's right.

4 I say that. But so his Clemson -- you know, comparing
5 to Clemson, I understand Clemson is really at the top
6 of the heap pricewise. Here at Lander, it's a little
7 over \$6,000 per semester.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Per semester.

9 MS. FREDERICK: Yeah. We spend -- my husband
10 and I spend between 17- and \$18,000 a year for full
11 room, board, books and tuition at Lander. And I will
12 tell you, my son is one of those that actually fits the
13 mold of what we talked about earlier, Representative
14 Henderson.

15 College wasn't on his radar until the last
16 minute, so he did not prepare himself to be a college
17 student. He's an outstanding college student at
18 Lander, in part because of what they do with the first-
19 year students. They made a big program available to
20 him in which he could go and get tutoring in every
21 class so that he could remain viable. And he is now a
22 straight A/B student. But that's because of that
23 first-year program.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Great. Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes and Senator --

1 SENATOR HAYES: Question. You got your MBA
2 from South Carolina?

3 MS. FREDERICK: I did.

4 SENATOR HAYES: Okay. And you work for the
5 McLeod Health System. In the health field at Lander,
6 do they have any programs there such as a nursing
7 program and other things? I know that's somewhat your
8 specialty.

9 MS. FREDERICK: Yes. Actually health care is
10 where my career has landed, and I work in
11 administration at McLeod. I'm associate vice president
12 there. And I will tell you that Lander's nursing
13 program is one of the top first -- how do I describe
14 this? When they get out of school and take their
15 nursing boards, they have bounce arounds almost every
16 year, the highest graduation and first-time pass rate
17 of the nurses at Lander University.

18 I can tell you our nursing program actively
19 seeks to try to recruit in that area from Lander for
20 our nurses because they inevitably have very high,
21 high, high performance. Part of that is through their
22 relationship that Lander has with Self Regional and
23 that relationship really prepares their nurses well.

24 The other thing I would comment, if I may, is
25 that higher education and health care are very much

1 alike in that they are extremely complex in their
2 design. They also rely a great deal on state and
3 federal funding, and they have multiple audiences. Not
4 only does health care have patients and higher ed have
5 students, but health care has this extra body of
6 participants in the delivery which are physicians. So
7 it's a different group that helps us govern what we do.

8 In a like way, the university setting has
9 faculty that helps us govern and design what we do.
10 And so it's a very similar design. And so I can apply
11 that knowledge in that way.

12 I will tell you, our relationship with our
13 faculty is very strong. We have our faculty
14 representative at our board meeting every time, and he
15 is actively involved.

16 It's more than you asked. I apologize.

17 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Brief question. Thank
20 you, Mr. Chairman.

21 You say you pay the full freight?

22 MS. FREDERICK: Yes.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Is the value there? I
24 mean, what do you think -- I mean what should that be?

25 MS. FREDERICK: You know, I would love for it

1 to be less out of our pocket, I admit. But the reality
2 is, I'll tell you what my son and any child that goes
3 to a Lander or a Francis Marion or a school like that
4 receives. They receive a college education in a
5 setting that prepares them more than just academically.
6 It prepares them for a level of independence,
7 independent living, you know, somewhat. But they're
8 having to learn how to make their own decisions.

9 I think one of your greatest challenges in
10 higher ed, state-supported higher ed is the competition
11 we have with a degree that you can get with no
12 face-to-face interaction with a professor. I think
13 that lends for us 10 years from now or 20 years from
14 now a huge deficit in skills. They may have it on
15 paper, but there are skills that my son is receiving,
16 for example, at Lander University because of the
17 relationships he has to learn to have with professors
18 and other students in that setting.

19 So, yes, I'm getting my money's worth. And I
20 will tell you, it's challenging because the portion of
21 the cost of higher ed that the parents are paying makes
22 it less and less accessible for someone like my parents
23 would have been.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, ma'am.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

1 Any other questions?

2 Representative Mack.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 What is -- what's your game plan or goals for
6 personally marketing the school? I love your passion,
7 by the way. Just wanted to kind of get your game plan
8 for that.

9 MS. FREDERICK: Well, on a personal level, I
10 have a lot I can do in Florence. Because one of the
11 things I think that South Carolina's been very wise to
12 do is to have statewide representation on every board.
13 Every university board. That is extremely valuable.

14 In Florence -- for one thing, I don't know if
15 you're aware, Lander University sends our staff out to
16 all of the outlining counties, Florence included. I
17 participate in our -- although I'm not alumni, I
18 participate in our alumni events that we have there.
19 I'm also, as I mentioned before, actively involved in
20 putting Lander in the forefront in our medical
21 community.

22 Those are just a few of the ways that I
23 personally got involved. Of course, our board is 100
24 percent participating in our financial support as
25 members of the foundation as well, and I think that's

1 valuable.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I share your pain,
4 or I did share your pain at one time with some of my
5 children.

6 You said that he didn't apply himself or
7 didn't --

8 MS. FREDERICK: Not beforehand.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Not beforehand.
10 But he's doing very well now?

11 MS. FREDERICK: Yes. He's in his second
12 year, and he is an A/B student in their environmental
13 science program.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Does he get any
15 scholarship help at all?

16 MS. FREDERICK: He got the first year
17 scholarship. Not the highest one, but the second one
18 down. The Palmetto -- the Palmetto Fellowship. And at
19 this point, his school -- I think he had a few small
20 scholarships associated with the science program. And
21 he is now just a very, as Representative Henderson put
22 it, an above-average student without scholarships.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I guess I'm just
24 kind of talking about something that is very
25 interesting to me is that it seems when you have a

1 student who is actually doing the work and excelling --

2 MS. FREDERICK: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- but they don't
4 get the benefit of the full scholarship --

5 MS. FREDERICK: The top-of-the-heap kids.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: -- and that
7 concerns me because we're losing it some in the
8 freshman year, and then we have students who go on who
9 are doing -- and probably going to graduate and do very
10 well.

11 MS. FREDERICK: Yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I don't know. It
13 just seems like we're wasting money one place and not
14 spending it wisely in another place as far as
15 scholarships.

16 MS. FREDERICK: I agree with you in general.
17 What I will tell you is specifically I was most
18 impressed with Lander's focus on the freshman. And the
19 extend to which they could have lost mine was probably
20 a strong likelihood because he went at the last minute
21 deciding college was an interest. And he did have kind
22 of that B student level state scholarship, which is a
23 one-year thing.

24 Yes, I agree with you completely that that is
25 a challenge our entire state has and with the design of

1 our higher ed program and the way we reward at the very
2 top of the heap.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

4 Senator Warren Geise, when he served here, he
5 used to love to look at the driving records. He would
6 just challenge driving records. He would fuss at you a
7 little bit. Are you driving better now?

8 MS. FREDERICK: I drive really fast to get to
9 that Lander board meeting. No, just kidding.

10 Yes, sir. It's funny.

11 SENATOR PEELER: I can't picture you not
12 talking your way out of a ticket.

13 MS. FREDERICK: I've had success, and I have
14 failed in the effort. I'd be 50/50 about that.

15 SENATOR PEELER: He would really fuss at you.

16 Any other questions or comments?

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Favorable report.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
19 report. Is there a second?

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

22 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. FREDERICK: Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you so very much.

1 Mr. Robert Brimmer, I think you are here now.

2 Mr. Brimmer, I'll need to swear you in, so if
3 you would please raise your right hand.

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

6 MR. BRIMMER: I do.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

8 Would you like to share with the committee
9 why you would like to continue to serve on the board?

10 MR. BRIMMER: Yes. First I want to start off
11 and apologize for my late arrival. It took longer
12 getting out of town than usual this morning.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Coming from Mount Pleasant,
14 we'll give you a pass.

15 MR. BRIMMER: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: You didn't get a speeding
17 ticket, did you?

18 MR. BRIMMER: I did not.

19 I would like to start off and say -- just to
20 share my appreciation for the eight years I've been
21 able to serve on the board so far. I am a proud Lander
22 graduate. I graduated in 1988. And I was actually one
23 of those out-of-state students that came to
24 South Carolina to attend Lander back then as part of an
25 athletic team. And it was really one of the best

1 decisions of my life. I owe a lot of what I have today
2 to the folks at Lander, to the programs at Lander.

3 After Lander, I went on to graduate school at
4 James Madison University in Virginia, where I got a
5 master's degree in higher education administration.

6 So that is also a reason why I want to serve
7 on the board. Number one, I love Lander, and I just
8 want to see it be the best institution it can be and be
9 a part of that and give back to what's been given to
10 me.

11 But also having an education in higher
12 education, I do have an understanding of higher
13 education institutions and want to share that, as well,
14 as a board member.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

16 Any questions or comments?

17 You were lucky. You went from first to last,
18 and you got the lucky spot.

19 MR. BRIMMER: Thank you to my colleagues as
20 well.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

22 SENATOR HAYES: I notice you work for DSS.
23 Do they have any type of social work training there at
24 Lander that maybe feeds into some of that type of work?

25 MR. BRIMMER: They don't have any social work

1 program there, but I can tell you that I have
2 introduced to the board and asked the board for their
3 support of foster children who want to attend college
4 as well, and they are very supportive of that. But
5 academically, nothing directly tied to social work.

6 SENATOR HAYES: Okay.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Maybe this question needs to
8 be directed at staff, but I notice where you serve on
9 the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission.

10 MR. BRIMMER: Yes.

11 SENATOR PEELER: That wouldn't be dual office
12 holding, would it?

13 MS. CASTO: No, sir. You are appointed
14 probably by county council.

15 MR. BRIMMER: By town council.

16 MS. CASTO: By town council. So, no, as long
17 as he is appointed and is not elected and there's no
18 conflict.

19 MR. BRIMMER: And I've actually been in
20 contact with the ethics board to ask that very
21 question, and they are fine.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Very good.

23 Any other questions or comments?

24 What's the desire of the committee?

25 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

1 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for favorable report
3 and seconded.

4 All in favor, please your right hand.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BRIMMER: Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: So we'll need to wait on
8 Ms. Hurst.

9 MS. CASTO: We may reschedule her either
10 today or tomorrow or later when you all screen Wil Lou
11 Gray.

12 SENATOR PEELER: All right.

13 MS. WALKER: I will let you know that Ann
14 Hurst is a veterinarian. And so I don't know what her
15 emergency was, but I just saw her yesterday. But she
16 may have an animal that's in distress. I don't know.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Well, I think we are very
18 fortunate to have this cadre of trustees at Lander.
19 The state is very fortunate that you folks are willing
20 -- your willingness to serve on this board.

21 And Senator Alexander.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, just
23 following up on your comment there. I think, too, that
24 from what we heard from your comments about their
25 willingness to tackle those challenges and understand

1 that there's some things that maybe have to go be
2 changed, I commend them for their being proactive in
3 that regard as well.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Sure.

5 All right. Well, you all can leave. We
6 haven't settled on times and dates for commitment. Of
7 course, they're incumbents and running unopposed.

8 MS. CASTO: No, sir. What we're looking at
9 right now is to get the screening report done hopefully
10 by the time you all come back from the two-week break.
11 But the election will be on Tuesday the 7th of May. So
12 we need to back it up probably by the third or fourth
13 week of April you will be able to get commitments.

14 SENATOR PEELER: We'll notify the candidates
15 at the specific time.

16 MS. CASTO: Yeah. We decided -- calculated
17 that it will probably take four hours for these
18 elections, so they will be on Tuesday the 7th.

19 SENATOR PEELER: All right. You all have a
20 safe trip home and don't drive fast.

21 (Off the record.)

22 MS. CASTO: Mr. Pinson is behind tab N.

23 SENATOR PEELER: We're skipping over to The
24 Citadel. It's an at-large seat. Gene Pinson from
25 Greenwood. Term expires 2019.

1 Gene, if you would please raise your right
2 hand.

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

5 MR. PINSON: I do.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

7 You want to share with the committee why you
8 would like to continue to serve on the board at The
9 Citadel?

10 MR. PINSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm
11 presently not on the board at The Citadel.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, okay.

13 MR. PINSON: But I am seeking one of the
14 legislative seats. Ben Legare is stepping down this
15 year, and I just feel obligated at this particular
16 point in time to offer my services to The Citadel, what
17 I think is the greatest institution in the state.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Good. When did you
19 graduate?

20 MR. PINSON: '72.

21 SENATOR PEELER: I knew you were a young man.

22 Any questions, comments of Mr. Pinson?

23 Representative Whitmire.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm not going to
25 say what I really want to say, Mr. Chairman, but I'm

1 going to ask him a couple of questions.

2 Mr. Pinson --

3 MR. PINSON: Yes, Mr. Whitmire.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: We asked this of
5 some of the Lander folks, what's your vision for The
6 Citadel in the future? I know military school, it's a
7 lot different than most of our state colleges,
8 obviously.

9 MR. PINSON: Well, it's a lot different than
10 most institutions in this country, Mr. Whitmire. The
11 vision for The Citadel, we're going to be faced with
12 problems not a whole lot different from other
13 institutions in this state. Number one is we're in
14 dire need of parking at The Citadel. That is a
15 predominant problem we are having now.

16 Also Capers Hall needs to be torn down and
17 rebuilt. That's one of the last buildings on campus
18 that needs to go down.

19 Now, the Fifth Battalion at The Citadel was
20 scheduled to be torn down about eight years ago. Now,
21 due to the enrollment going up and expanding, Fifth
22 Battalion is staying open. Presently it's in bad
23 shape. I just hope and pray it's going to continue to
24 be where it is today.

25 But the vision is going to be finances and

1 buildings, projects. The other one is the reduction of
2 federal monies. The Citadel relies a lot on military
3 scholarships, and those seem to be starting to dwindle
4 due down due to sequestration and some other things.

5 So, you know, federal money that comes in for
6 scholarships is going to be curtailed. That's another
7 challenge.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Do you want to see
9 The Citadel remain as it is as far as no changes, the
10 way --

11 MR. PINSON: I think it still needs to be the
12 Military College of South Carolina. But changes are
13 going to have to come. Changes I've seen since my dad
14 walked in the gates of the second battalion in 1927,
15 I've seen an awful lot of changes over the years. I
16 just got through reading Shannon Faulkner's book, "In
17 Glory's Shadow." It has defined a number of changes
18 that has occurred at The Citadel over the years. So
19 the Citadel continues to change every year.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Shannon Faulkner,
21 that was the young lady enrolled back in the --

22 MR. PINSON: 1995, uh-huh.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Didn't work out too
24 well for her.

25 MR. PINSON: Well, anyway, it set a pace for

1 things to come.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many females --

3 MR. PINSON: 8 percent of the corps of cadets
4 are female.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's pretty good.

6 MR. PINSON: It's probably not where we
7 should be. We need a lot of them on scholarship to
8 play sports under Title IX programs, which we have to
9 furnish now.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. I'm good.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Great to see you.

15 MR. PINSON: Great to see you, too, David.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: There's been a couple
17 of problems over the last few years that I wanted to
18 know your thoughts of how a board member, how you as a
19 board member might help to correct or improve a culture
20 because The Citadel has had -- it was on a really great
21 plan. It had a couple of black eyes. One was the camp
22 counselor, inappropriate activity with children. The
23 other the recent sexual harassment situation that also
24 had racial overtones to it.

25 And, again, you know, society is different,

1 so you are going to have --

2 MR. PINSON: It is.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: It's impossible, I
4 know, to control everything, but it can be a black eye
5 that can be a PR nightmare for the institution. Your
6 thoughts on how as a board member you might be able to
7 positively impact that.

8 MR. PINSON: Well, number one, it should not
9 happen. I'm all about transparency, as most of us are.
10 A lot of things that happen at The Citadel are handled
11 sort of behind closed doors, historically. And I think
12 you need to open it up from right off the bat. Because
13 you're not going to keep these things undercover
14 forever. So we address it as it hits.

15 The Board of Visitors I have supported for
16 years and years and years. They are a great bunch of
17 alumni. The problem with The Citadel Board of Visitors
18 is I love every one of them. But address it head on,
19 just don't hold back. And let the chips fall where
20 they may. Do your investigation and reach your
21 conclusions and go from there.

22 But the further you try to push something
23 away, it's not going to go away in the world we live
24 today. It's having to eventually pop up.

25 I think you just need to attack it head on.

1 That's what The Citadel is about, is training leaders.
2 Not to make more followers but to train more leaders.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Good question. Good answer.

4 MR. PINSON: You're going to have these
5 problems. We're 2,156 in the corps of cadets, you're
6 going to have some issues of, you know, just typical
7 human interaction.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Yes. As I said,
9 society has changed.

10 MR. PINSON: Yes, it has.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: All the colleges have
12 issues, some are publicized, some are not. So it's
13 something that I think someone of your integrity being
14 on the board of trustees can help, again, change a
15 culture more to the better.

16 MR. PINSON: Thank you, Representative Mack.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

18 Senator Alexander.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 And good morning.

21 MR. PINSON: Good morning.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Are all your cadets, do
23 they have some type of a scholarship?

24 MR. PINSON: No. I can speak personally. My
25 two sons, one graduated in '01, one graduated in '04.

1 I graduated in '72. We were all on the Pinson
2 scholarship.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So what is that level
4 of -- what is that tuition?

5 MR. PINSON: About \$2,400 per year. Out of
6 States -- 2400.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: \$2,400?

8 MR. PINSON: 24,000.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

10 MR. PINSON: Out-of-state tuition is
11 approaching \$40,000 per year. It's sad when you rely
12 on out-of-state students to raise revenue.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And what is that ratio of
14 out-of-state students that The Citadel is --

15 MR. PINSON: About -- well, 52 percent in
16 state.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: 52. So you're knocking
18 right at about 50?

19 MR. PINSON: Historically, The Citadel has
20 hovered around the 50 percent mark.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Are there -- are there
22 other South Carolina students that you're aware of that
23 want to go to The Citadel that are not being accepted
24 because of the number of out of state?

25 MR. PINSON: None that I know of. If a kid

1 wants to go to the Citadel, and I do a lot of
2 recruiting in the Greenwood area. If a kid wants to go
3 to The Citadel and he meets the criteria, we're going
4 to get him in The Citadel.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And if the tuition is
6 24,000, two questions, is that something that you all
7 need to -- would that be something, if you are on the
8 board, needs to be addressed, and then I guess the
9 other is how much debt are most of these students on
10 average leaving when they get their graduation, are you
11 aware?

12 MR. PINSON: The average debt, I don't know
13 about The Citadel per se, but the average debt of a kid
14 leaving school now is approaching \$27,000.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Which isn't a bad
16 investment.

17 MR. PINSON: It's not a bad investment, but
18 you hate to lasso kids with all this debt when they're
19 getting started in life.

20 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Yeah.

21 MR. PINSON: And it's something that needs to
22 be addressed. Oh, yeah, cost. We want to make it
23 accessible to all.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So are there some
25 programs at The Citadel -- would you be in favor of the

1 review of the programs to see what's being received as
2 far as degrees where people are -- you know, are
3 wanting to get their education versus some that maybe
4 need -- have seen their usefulness expire.

5 MR. PINSON: Oh, I hope that's a continual
6 process that's going on now. But I'm totally in favor
7 of that. If a program is not warranted, it doesn't
8 need to be there.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

11 Representative Henderson.

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

14 Mr. Pinson, my former suite mate.

15 MR. PINSON: Good to see you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Always glad to see
17 you. And you know that I love you, and I have to ask
18 you this because if you were running for Statehouse
19 again and came ringing on my door bell and asked for my
20 support, which I know I can't commit, but I just --
21 I've heard a lot of good things about the incumbent
22 member that you are running against. Okay. And
23 nothing but good. I don't know him. But without
24 probably leading you to a place maybe you don't want to
25 go, but how would you compare yourself? In other

1 words, why -- you know, why are you -- would you ask us
2 when it's our time to come and commit? You know,
3 what's the difference -- your difference in style
4 between you and the incumbent that you're running
5 against?

6 MR. PINSON: Well, I know Fred Price very
7 well, and he is a great guy. I just want the
8 opportunity to serve. My whole family has attended The
9 Citadel. Even my daughter and my son-in-law, which I
10 did not list on this information, attended graduate
11 school.

12 Fred has done a great job. I have no
13 problems with the present Board of Visitors at all. I
14 just want my opportunity to serve and willing to serve
15 and pay back to the school which I owe so much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, I know you
17 love the institution, and I just wanted to ask. I
18 didn't know if there was an issue, some kind of
19 problem.

20 MR. PINSON: No, no issue at all.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Okay. All right.
22 Thank you.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
24 questions?

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: You're absolutely right.

3 Fred Price is a wonderful person, but you are a
4 wonderful person, too. Both will make good members of
5 The Citadel Board of Visitors.

6 What company were you in?

7 MR. PINSON: I was in Romeo, Fourth Battalion
8 staff my senior year.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: In a family of Citadel
10 graduates --

11 MR. PINSON: Yes, sir.

12 SENATOR MCGILL: -- two sons --

13 MR. PINSON: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: -- I listened closely to
15 what you're saying. General Rosa, you get along fine
16 with him?

17 MR. PINSON: Wonderful man. Know him very
18 well.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: Okay. What would you --
20 first three months sitting on the board of trustees,
21 what would you do going into those meetings?

22 MR. PINSON: Well, going into those meetings
23 like I've done in most new situations I've been in, and
24 from a deacon at a Baptist church to serving on the
25 school board in Greenwood to serving on the county

1 council to serving in the state legislature, keep my
2 eyes and ears open and get a feel for the board itself
3 and what their tendencies are. And everything I've
4 ever gone into, I can tell you right off the bat, I
5 don't know it all. But I'm willing to learn. Every
6 board has its own flavor.

7 SENATOR MCGILL: The biggest controversial
8 thing in the last ten years of The Citadel, what would
9 it be?

10 MR. PINSON: Probably The Citadel summer camp
11 episode. In the last ten years --

12 SENATOR MCGILL: You would be right.

13 MR. PINSON: -- I think that's probably it.
14 I know the recent issue with the sexual, racial
15 harassment issue, but that's come out pretty open right
16 off the bat. These other things that's sort of drifted
17 in to the limelight recently.

18 But to answer your question, I'm going to be
19 open and keep my eyes and ears open and ready to go.

20 SENATOR MCGILL: And I think the issue with
21 that controversy, legally they probably were restrained
22 from saying things that they probably wanted to say.

23 MR. PINSON: Right.

24 SENATOR MCGILL: How about single gender
25 education, do you think it's working at The Citadel?

1 MR. PINSON: Single gender?

2 SENATOR MCGILL: Yeah. Did you think it
3 worked before?

4 MR. PINSON: Did I think it worked before?
5 From the products I've seen, and there were over 50,000
6 Citadel graduates that have come out of that
7 institution. When you look at the list of leadership
8 in manufacturing, industry, government, public service,
9 philanthropy, journalism, the number of Citadel
10 graduates that have done well -- and The Citadel
11 doesn't teach you how to make money, it teaches you to
12 do your best in whatever field you go into.

13 And the system has worked, but times change,
14 trends change, and The Citadel has adapted well to
15 that. I still think we have room to go.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: And so bottom line is single
17 gender is on its way out. As Senator Hollings said, we
18 fought like the devil to get the women in The Citadel
19 years ago, and why won't you let them in there now?
20 The thing is, Senator Hollings was right.

21 But I'll just tell you this, that my cousin,
22 Nancy Mace, was one of the first female graduates, and
23 I can tell you that I, too, have family members that
24 graduated from The Citadel. And we need the best of
25 the best on that Board of Visitors.

1 MR. PINSON: Yes, we do.

2 SENATOR MCGILL: Yes, we do. You would be
3 well qualified.

4 MR. PINSON: Well, I appreciate that. And,
5 again, one other issue that I hate to bring up, but you
6 asked me why. We have one board member from the
7 upstate of South Carolina presently serving on that
8 board, and that's Tee Hooper from Greenville.
9 Historically, the upstate has been underrepresented on
10 The Citadel Board of Visitors. And we have looked at
11 that even when I was in the legislature, the
12 possibility of going to some type of congressional
13 districts or changing that format. But that's just the
14 history of the board. Very difficult for upstate
15 folks.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, what he's
17 saying is right. We asked years ago that let's quit
18 packing the Charleston area or having people from
19 Richland move into Charleston as soon as they got
20 elected. And it's a fact. Senator O'Dell, a lot of
21 members of the Senate and House have raised that issue
22 multiple times saying we've got to spread opportunities
23 all over the state for all boards in all commission.

24 That may be your defining point with Fred.

25 SENATOR PEELER: I'm impressed with the

1 institutional knowledge you have about The Citadel
2 having not served on the board before.

3 MR. PINSON: Well, I'm very close to that
4 place. It's a place that I love.

5 SENATOR PEELER: That's obvious. And you may
6 or may not know this. I was curious, how many Citadel
7 graduates go on and serve in the military now?

8 MR. PINSON: About 45 percent is the last
9 figures. It fluctuates year to year depending on the
10 need.

11 When I graduated, we were commissioning about
12 55 percent of the graduating class. That has ebbed and
13 flowed many, many times since then. As I say, one of
14 our major concerns is the cutback on scholarship and
15 military contract. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
16 Corps, Coast Guard, they are all cutting programs back.
17 And that's going to hurt us.

18 SENATOR PEELER: And kind of on a side note,
19 have you seen the series House of Cards -- the movie
20 House of Cards, a Netflix movie?

21 MR. PINSON: No, I haven't.

22 SENATOR PEELER: It's about a Congressman
23 from Gaffney.

24 MR. PINSON: I know what you're talking
25 about, but I haven't seen it.

1 SENATOR PEELER: They have a Sentinel, not
2 The Citadel, but The Sentinel. And they had a seen
3 from The Sentinel. I was curious, why does The Citadel
4 not allow their name to be used in the movies and that
5 kind of thing, do you know?

6 MR. PINSON: Well, I don't really know. The
7 Citadel has had many books and many movies about them
8 written over the years. I don't really know. You
9 know, Columbo had one filmed down there in 1973. "By
10 Dawn's Early Light." The "End as a Man," Ben Gazzara,
11 was in it. On and on and on, The Citadel is a
12 well-documented institution. And anything that stands
13 for something normally is well-documented.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Kind of like our peach water
15 tank. We had an episode about the peach water tank and
16 an episode about The Citadel, Sentinel. I was just
17 curious about that.

18 MR. PINSON: I don't -- I don't really know,
19 but I'm associated with Gaffney, I'm sure that couldn't
20 have been anything but positive.

21 SENATOR PEELER: It should be mandatory
22 viewing. It should be mandatory viewing.

23 Any other questions or comments? Now hearing
24 none, what is the desire of the committee?

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable report
3 and seconded. All in favor, please raise your right
4 hand.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. PINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 appreciate the opportunity.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Appreciate your willingness
9 to serve.

10 MS. CASTO: We have two members from the
11 Winthrop board that are here, if you would like to take
12 them up at this time. Mr. Sease and Bigham. And that
13 would be tab I and tab J.

14 Mr. Timothy B. Sease, Mount Pleasant,
15 incumbent, 1st Congressional District, Seat 1.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Sease you want to come
17 forward. I normally let ladies first, but since you're
18 Seat 1, Congressional District 1, we'll take you first.

19 Mr. Sease, if you would, please raise your
20 right hand.

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

23 MR. SEASE: Yes.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 Would you like to share with the committee

1 why you would like to serve on the Winthrop board?

2 MR. SEASE: Yes. Thank you, sir.

3 Good morning, everyone. My name is Tim Sease
4 from Mount Pleasant. And I'm happy to be here today.

5 To answer your question, really the reason I
6 want to serve is to continue to be involved in Winthrop
7 University. I guess started my involvement with
8 Winthrop as a student and graduated there in 1987.
9 Since 1987 have been fortunate enough to really stay
10 involved with Winthrop over the last 25 years or so, I
11 guess, with the alumni board, the annual fund, class
12 agent for 1987 class. I had an opportunity to serve as
13 president of the alumni association as well for a few
14 years. And just in the last few years, obviously been
15 involved with the Winthrop board.

16 And as you all know, these are exciting times
17 for Winthrop. We are on the cusp of installing a new
18 president at Winthrop, and these are exciting times. A
19 lot of great things going on. So to answer your
20 question, we just -- we want to continue to be involved
21 with Winthrop. And I can't think of a better way to be
22 involved than to have the opportunity to hopefully
23 serve again on the Winthrop Board of Trustees.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any questions or
25 comments?

1 Senator from Rock Hill, Senator Hayes.

2 SENATOR HAYES: How long have you been on the
3 board?

4 MR. SEASE: I've been on the board about
5 three years.

6 SENATOR HAYES: Are you from Rock Hill
7 originally?

8 MR. SEASE: No, Senator Hayes. I'm actually
9 from Lexington.

10 SENATOR HAYES: Lexington.

11 MR. SEASE: Springdale, if you know where
12 that is. But I went to -- I attended Winthrop, as I
13 mentioned, and lived in Rock Hill for a few years after
14 graduation. My wife is from Rock Hill. And we left
15 Rock Hill and moved to the Charleston area in 1995.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander, do you
17 have a question?

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

20 A couple of things. Attendance at the
21 meetings, how -- have you had the ability to attend
22 most of the meetings?

23 MR. SEASE: Most of the meetings, yes, sir.
24 There's been a couple where for various reasons
25 primarily --

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: 80 percent, 90 percent?

2 MR. SEASE: I'm not sure the exact
3 percentage. But I would say of events, board meetings,
4 probably in the 75 percent range.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And how about the tuition
6 at Winthrop?

7 MR. SEASE: Yes, sir. I mean, obviously
8 we're all, you know, intimately involved in that. Not
9 just at Winthrop but obviously statewide. All of us,
10 you know, are concerned about it. We have -- my wife
11 and I have twin boys that are college age right now, so
12 we can certainly appreciate that. They are freshman in
13 school.

14 Winthrop, you know, we definitely are aware
15 of it. We certainly tried to manage that process. We
16 feel like we've done a pretty good job over the last
17 couple of years. I think our increase last year was
18 slightly below kind of the guidelines that were maybe
19 put down through Senator Leatherman and his committee.
20 So we're aware of it.

21 But we also know in these economic times,
22 it's a challenge. And we're sensitive to that. So we
23 see it kind of from both perspectives.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So if you are able to
25 continue to serve on the board, you're going to be

1 aware of that and sensitive to that for these students
2 to have the ability to get a good education?

3 MR. SEASE: Absolutely. Yes, sir. That's a
4 fact.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 On that note, because it's just one of my
10 things, did you know that Winthrop actually is the
11 highest tuition of any in-state school? I mean, I
12 thought Clemson, no offense, I've got to watch out what
13 I say about Clemson with Senator Peeler here. But, you
14 know, I knew Clemson --

15 SENATOR PEELER: Especially with that orange
16 hair.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, that's right.
18 See, I can't wear orange, so nobody in my family would
19 ever go there.

20 No, anyway, I know Clemson is high, but I did
21 a little research before because I was curious, since
22 we're all asking about tuition, I thought I would look
23 it up. Winthrop actually is more expensive than
24 Clemson. So I'm just trying to figure out how you -- I
25 mean not to say that Clemson is not too high, I'm just

1 saying how you explain the fact that your tuition is,
2 you know, it's 3-, \$4,000 a year more than the middle
3 range schools.

4 MR. SEASE: Yes. It's a great question. You
5 know, there's a lot of -- there's a lot of variables to
6 that certainly. Size of the enrollment. As you know,
7 we're roughly about 6,000 or so students. The
8 experience, I think, you know, if -- and believe me,
9 I'm intimately familiar with Clemson as well because
10 that's where our other twin son attends, Clemson. And
11 I think it's just a few hundred dollars maybe
12 difference in the semester tuition.

13 But we're aware of it and we certainly have
14 worked really hard in the last few years to address
15 that. You know, it's -- it's a challenge. I don't
16 know how else to answer that question other than to say
17 we certainly understand the cost and what means to
18 families here in South Carolina and other states as
19 well.

20 But I think obviously, you know, value is
21 something that's important. And we feel like the
22 Winthrop University value proposition is a really,
23 really strong statement to what we're trying to do in
24 Rock Hill with the Winthrop experience.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

2 Senator McGill.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, real quick.

4 We realize a lot of changes have come over
5 the years. What percent of men and ladies at Winthrop?

6 MR. SEASE: Well, it's -- I think it's
7 roughly 60 -- 68. Thank you. Roughly about 68 percent
8 female. Our minority enrollment is roughly about 29
9 percent.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: The thing is -- of course,
11 the reason I'm interested in Winthrop, my wife
12 graduated from Winthrop many years ago, and it was all
13 female. Well, time has gone by. Many years ago, but I
14 can tell you that Winthrop has value, major value. And
15 I know back then a lot of the men went to Clemson and
16 went to The Citadel. A lot of the ladies went to
17 Winthrop.

18 But I also know this, we hate that your
19 president is retiring. He's a wonderful person. But
20 also we realize that Winthrop has made a major impact,
21 not just academia, but it has made a major impact
22 socially all over this country. So we are proud of
23 what the Board of Trustees have done at Winthrop.

24 MR. SEASE: Thank you very much.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

1 SENATOR HAYES: Just one final question. You
2 know, Winthrop, of course, for years has been known for
3 its teaching excellence as far as putting a lot of
4 excellent teachers out there. What other schools would
5 you say are on the same caliber of outstanding programs
6 at Winthrop?

7 MR. SEASE: Yes, Senator Hayes, I would say
8 first of all, the school of business is absolutely
9 incredibly well-respected around the region. And I
10 know you've had an opportunity to visit our school of
11 business. And if all of you have an opportunity, I'd
12 love to invite you by there. We have, for instance, in
13 the school of business, kind of a mock trading floor of
14 the New York Stock Exchange. And it's extremely
15 impressive. In fact, we took some folks up there from
16 Charleston, and they were surprised. Pleasantly
17 surprised.

18 The school of communications is another fine
19 example of what's going on. The school of performing
20 arts is absolutely, in our opinion, in my opinion, one
21 of the best in the region as well.

22 So you're right. We kind of have a
23 reputation as kind of a teaching school. And my
24 grandmother attended there, and, you know, I -- my kids
25 went to Wando High School, if you know where that is

1 down in Charleston. And it's interesting talking to
2 the teachers that went to Winthrop in a school like
3 Wando or in the Mount Pleasant area, but I can tell
4 you, the opportunities and the accreditations that
5 we've received across the line, whether it be the
6 school of business school, whether it be the school of
7 communications, performing arts, the science program
8 there is fantastic.

9 So we're making progress. We're making
10 progress. And the momentum, and certainly you
11 mentioned Dr. DiGiorgio. I think all of us -- you're
12 going to hear from a few of us here, I see. I think
13 all of us would recognize the last 24 years have been
14 incredible, and the momentum as been incredible. But
15 we can tell you all, if we're fortunate enough to
16 serve, we're going not to lose that momentum. And you
17 know that quest from what you've seen so far with what
18 we're doing.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 Just wanted to say again on a personal note,
23 we have a son graduating -- graduated from Winthrop,
24 enjoyed the experience immensely. He's now studying
25 international law in Scotland.

1 MR. SEASE: Wow.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Needless to say, he has
3 his mother's brains. Anyway, we enjoyed the experience
4 at Winthrop. He did and we did.

5 MR. SEASE: That's great. Thank you.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
7 comments?

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
10 report. Is there a second?

11 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Second is certain. All in
13 favor, please raise your right hand.

14 Thank you everyone here.

15 MR. SEASE: Thank you.

16 SENATOR PEELER: We appreciate the job you
17 do.

18 MR. SEASE: Yes, sir.

19 MS. CASTO: Next would be Kathy Bigham. She
20 is from Rock Hill. She's the 5th Congressional
21 District and is an incumbent.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

23 MS. BIGHAM: Good morning.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right
25 hand.

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

3 MS. BIGHAM: I do.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
5 us why you enjoy serving on the Winthrop board.

6 MS. BIGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 It has been a special privilege for me to
8 serve on the board of trustees. Of course, I'm a
9 Winthrop alum. And our youngest daughter is a graduate
10 of Winthrop, and I currently have a four-year-old
11 grandson in the preschool program at Winthrop. So a
12 lot of ties in that regard.

13 But also the fact that I am from Rock Hill
14 and privileged to have the university as part of our
15 hometown and realize what a wonderful partner Winthrop
16 is to our community and how much it means to so many
17 beyond the walls of the campus into our community.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

19 Any questions?

20 Representative Whitmire.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Good to see you
22 again.

23 MS. BIGHAM: Yes, sir. How are you?

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm great. Our --
25 my wife and my daughter worked for Kathy's restaurant.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Thursdays Too?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thursdays Too.

3 MS. BIGHAM: Trained a lot of them.

4 SENATOR PEELER: And I don't think I've ever
5 met your daughter, but I bet she's pretty.

6 MS. BIGHAM: She is.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Took after her
8 mama. But she got her undergrad there and her masters.
9 And my mother graduated, I don't know if you know this,
10 in 1940 from Winthrop. And I've had quite a number of
11 different family members graduate.

12 But I think the highest compliment I can pay
13 to you and the other Winthrop trustees is my wife,
14 Kathy, is an elementary principal, has been for 20
15 years. She's been the National Principal of the Year,
16 quite a number of awards. And she tells me the
17 first -- when she's looking at applicants for jobs as
18 teachers, she looks for that Winthrop University degree
19 first. She said because they're always well-trained,
20 they know what they're doing, and so that's just a
21 compliment to the university.

22 It may cost a little more than maybe some of
23 the other schools, but in my opinion, it's well worth
24 it because you've done an outstanding job from the
25 1890s on, so I just want to say thank you for a job

1 well done.

2 MS. BIGHAM: Thank you so much. That is
3 always rewarding to hear. You know, you do as a
4 trustee or as any of you in your roles, you give a lot
5 of your time and heart to what you're serving, where
6 you're called to serve and -- or choose to serve. And
7 it is nice to get that positive feedback. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And my son is in
9 the master's plan. He needs to go ahead and graduate.

10 MS. BIGHAM: I'll pass that on when I get
11 back. Thank you, sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Hayes.

13 SENATOR HAYES: Kathy, I think you're serving
14 as chairman now of the board; is that correct?

15 MS. BIGHAM: I just served as chair of the
16 search committee for the new president. And if any of
17 you have ever served on a search for a minister,
18 multiply it times ten. But I'm currently the
19 vice-chair of the board.

20 SENATOR HAYES: Vice-chair of the board. I'm
21 going to throw you a softball because I know you can
22 handle this one.

23 MS. BIGHAM: I appreciate that.

24 SENATOR HAYES: What's your vision for
25 Winthrop with the new president coming in, where do you

1 think it ought to head from this point forward?

2 MS. BIGHAM: Of course, we're very proud of
3 the vision of distinction that we have established.
4 And what we have heard her say, during screening we
5 learn so much referencing and screening about the
6 finalists. And what several of the things that really
7 made her stand out was her vision for the future, her
8 desire to see Winthrop to stand on the strength of the
9 past but also realize that the best is yet to come for
10 us. And we certainly needed that forward thinking.

11 She also several times expressed that she did
12 not believe that the future of higher ed could --
13 balancing the budget in higher ed could continue to be
14 with the tuition increase, and she wants to immediately
15 begin to look at ways to maintain what we have. The
16 small classrooms, maintain the structures that we have,
17 our older structures, but at the same time, you know,
18 be able to do that in a way that we're not always
19 continuing to increase our tuition.

20 She just said a lot of the right things. We
21 hope to -- of course, we want all our programs
22 accredited that can be at the national level. She
23 certainly will pursue that. But I just think the
24 experience she's had at Butler as a provost and her
25 other life experiences will certainly help her guide us

1 in the way we want to keep moving forward.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

3 Any other questions or comments?

4 Hearing none --

5 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable report.

7 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Second's heard. All in
9 favor, please raise your right hand.

10 Everyone. Thank you.

11 MS. BIGHAM: Thank you.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Please tell Larry hello for
13 us.

14 MS. BIGHAM: I certainly will. Thank you.

15 MS. CASTO: Thank you. The next person for
16 the Winthrop board is Rose Hilliard-Wilder. This is a
17 vacancy due to the new congressional district. This is
18 for the 6th Congressional District. The term will
19 expire in 2014. She is from Alcolu.

20 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Good morning.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

22 Will you please your right hand. Do you
23 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing
24 but the truth, so help you God?

25 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes, I do.

1 SENATOR PEELER: I've heard about Alcolu.
2 How would you get there from here?

3 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: I always tell everyone
4 Manning. Alcolu is about four miles -- about four
5 miles from Manning. So I just say Clarendon County to
6 be on the safe side.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Home of John Land.

8 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Would you like to share with us why you would
11 like to serve on the Winthrop board.

12 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes, sir. Thank you,
13 and good morning for the entire body.

14 I am very impressed with Winthrop's history.
15 As a matter of fact, and I was reflecting upon myself
16 thinking that you would ask that question, the first
17 thing came to my mind about Winthrop is that Winthrop
18 actually, in my opinion, is just what America is about.

19 If you look at Winthrop, the population for
20 the students, they have students from over 40 different
21 countries. There are at least 42 states there where
22 students are from. Has a very excellent legacy of
23 teaching and the arts.

24 Someone talked earlier about the teaching
25 program there. And as a superintendent, I worked in

1 seven -- I'm sorry, in several school districts. And I
2 can assure you the teachers from Winthrop are very well
3 prepared.

4 I enjoyed interviewing teachers from
5 Winthrop. As a matter of fact, we have students from
6 our school district currently that are students at
7 Winthrop University. And I just feel that Winthrop is
8 actually one of the best kept secrets in
9 South Carolina.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

11 Any questions?

12 Senator Hayes.

13 SENATOR HAYES: Where did you get your
14 doctorate degree from?

15 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: South Carolina State
16 University.

17 SENATOR HAYES: S.C. State?

18 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes, in 1988.

19 SENATOR HAYES: And your undergrad?

20 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: State College, and I
21 spent time at Columbia University as well.

22 SENATOR HAYES: And you're the superintendent
23 at Clarendon School District 1; is that correct?

24 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes.

25 SENATOR HAYES: How long have you held that

1 position?

2 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: This is my ninth year.

3 I have 18 years total experience as superintendent.

4 SENATOR HAYES: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

5 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Thank you.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

7 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Following up on that, and
8 thank you for your work with the children there. As
9 superintendent, are you appointed by the board, then, I
10 would presume?

11 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Okay. And you
13 would have -- you know, one of the things I'm
14 interested in is the ability of folks to attend the
15 meetings and the things that would be required as a
16 board member, and you would feel comfortable with your
17 ability. What would be your envision of your ability
18 to --

19 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: There would not be a
20 problem. I have checked the meeting calendar for the
21 Winthrop University, and my board meetings are
22 scheduled on the third Monday of each month. There is
23 not a conflict with my meetings at all.

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good. Thank you. Thank
25 you for your willingness to serve.

1 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Thank you.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 First of all, I know exactly where Alcolu is.

6 My mother is from Sumter.

7 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Okay.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Did you come up as a
9 classroom teacher?

10 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes, sir, I certainly
11 did. As a matter of fact, I taught for eight years in
12 Orangeburg 3. That was before the District -- before
13 the county consolidated. I taught for eight years at a
14 little place called Eutawville, South Carolina. As a
15 matter of fact, Senator Matthews was my principal as a
16 teacher.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Okay. And as drawing
18 from your experience in the classroom, in the school
19 system, what are some of the things you would draw on
20 from -- again, from your experience to work to sort of
21 motivate students to -- not only Winthrop but to look
22 at college in general? Because a lot of our students,
23 college is not on their radar if their parents didn't
24 go or family members didn't go, or they have never been
25 experienced to a college campus, but they have great

1 ability, great inner ability.

2 What would some of the things you would do as
3 a board member to touch some of those students?

4 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: The first thing I would
5 like to share with my colleagues on the board, if I am
6 fortunate enough to get on the board, is that we would
7 actually spend time visiting the school districts
8 throughout the state. It's a really, really different
9 world than it once was.

10 I can recall the times when I spent in
11 college. Based on what I see in our schools now,
12 education now should be more of a birth through 16 and
13 the K-12 is no longer the magic number. It's from
14 birth through 16. Some of the same programs we have at
15 the public school levels, we need to do at the college
16 level. Get out and see what's going on.

17 I would love to see a strong partnership or a
18 stronger partnership between the teaching ed programs
19 and the actual public schools themselves. Because a
20 lot of times we have excellent young persons leaving
21 the colleges, coming to teach. They are great and
22 wonderful young people. It's almost a culture shock
23 from what they see when they get in the schools.

24 So I think if we spent more time with our
25 people, spending additional time in the regular school

1 setting itself, they won't be in such shock mode when
2 they enter the real working force of teaching. It's
3 quite different today than it was several years ago.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I think you
6 answered my question. I was an educator for 30 years.
7 My wife is in education, my mother, so forth. With
8 your background, I was looking at -- quite impressive
9 by the way. How would you, if you were on -- elected
10 to the board, how would you emphasize to the, quote,
11 teaching teachers to be to make them aware of the way
12 it is in the regular classroom?

13 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Okay. First of all,
14 that wouldn't come from me directly, that would be a
15 part of the teaching ed program.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Right.

17 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: As a member of the
18 board of trustees, we could discuss ways of engaging
19 the teaching department itself into a larger spectrum.
20 And it could be one of our governance concerns or
21 simply we can discuss. But directly, I wouldn't have
22 direct input to the teaching staff itself. We could
23 discuss any concerns we may have and invite the
24 teaching ed department in, we could discuss together.
25 But as a board, it wouldn't be my -- I wouldn't have

1 that authority just to go back to that department.

2 I could express and share what I've seen and
3 what I know. And if the entire board feels it's
4 something we can discuss, then we'll do it as a group,
5 not for me as an individual just to go out and attack
6 that.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, I'm concerned
8 that these teachers to be, so to speak, are not
9 prepared for the way schools are now. When I started
10 teaching in 1973, all I had to worry about was trying
11 to catch a smoker out in the backyard. Now you've got
12 to deal with -- now you've got to deal with drugs,
13 obviously. You've got to deal with gangs.

14 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Weapons and everything
15 else.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Deal with
17 dysfunctional families. It seems to me that that needs
18 to be emphasized a lot more in the teaching areas.
19 Because these young people are coming out and they are
20 going into a foreign world, so to speak. And that's
21 where I think the trustees need to, you know, grab on
22 and say we've got to let these people know.

23 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Oh, yes, sir. A very
24 good point, Representative, in that, as I said earlier,
25 that will be an issue that will be discussed among the

1 board -- or should be discussed among the board of
2 trustees. We can relay that concern to our president
3 who in terms can relay that concern to the department
4 heads and the deans of education. To understand that
5 we would need to revamp the training process.

6 And in my opinion, my professional judgment
7 is that to get the true sense of that, I think our --
8 even our professors, along with our future teachers,
9 would need to spend time in diverse environments within
10 the various school districts. As you said, it's a
11 whole different world.

12 And my concern is a lot of times our young
13 persons are bright young people. They are anxious to
14 teach, but when they come out, it's a total shock to
15 them. And that's why I want to personally actually
16 thank you all for your support of doing a three-year
17 reduction. Because a lot of time our first year
18 teachers, when they come out, they're not successful
19 that first year. And you all know, as well as I do,
20 that if they're not successful, we are not obligated to
21 extend their contract to them. However, now they have
22 three years to go through that learning process, which
23 in my term -- in my opinion would give them a better
24 sense and better feel for what teaching is all about.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
2 Senator Peeler.

3 And thank you so much for your willingness to
4 serve, and I know all that you're doing in Clarendon
5 County. And I didn't ask this to other board members,
6 and I know that the teaching school at Winthrop is one
7 of their big programs, and so I'm assuming that a good
8 number of those people that get out of that program
9 teach in South Carolina.

10 What -- you know, knowing that we, as a
11 state, have a hard time attracting good teachers to
12 certain parts of the state, you know, whereas maybe
13 don't have enough competitive salaries or it's a more
14 difficult situation down in the 95 corridor, what do
15 you think that the University could do or even we, as
16 representatives, could do to help encourage -- continue
17 to encourage that process of young people that are
18 going into that profession to go into some of these
19 communities where they are really, really needed?

20 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Okay. And I'm going to
21 ask for forgiveness up front before I say this, and I
22 realize that money is not the cure all. But we really
23 need to put teaching on an even playing field with the
24 other professions. We have other young men and women
25 leaving college making \$50,000 first-year job as an

1 engineer and so forth. And our teachers work harder
2 than anyone. We have teachers who train those
3 engineers. And I think that teaching really needs to,
4 I guess, regain the respectability in the past years.

5 At one time, teaching was a very respectable
6 profession. And sometimes it's perceived now that
7 persons who cannot do any better resort to teaching,
8 and that is very sad for the teaching profession.

9 I think colleges for the most part are doing
10 a great job in what they can do in terms of teaching
11 the methodology and doing what needs to be done. But I
12 think the other side to that is there is money
13 involved.

14 I'm going to give you a perfect example.
15 Several years ago I had a young lady who was an ag
16 teacher. Believe it or not, she left Summerton and she
17 went to -- I think it was Aiken and made \$7,000 more as
18 a teacher than she could in Clarendon District 1. And
19 again, that was based on the local supplement that we
20 were not able to pay that Aiken was able to pay.

21 And I hate to bring anything around to the
22 dollar amount, but we really need to make teaching more
23 attractive in terms of the value we place on it and pay
24 our teachers more.

25 Right now a beginning teacher in my district

1 only made like 31-, \$32,000 this year.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you. That's
3 very helpful, very informative. I appreciate it.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: I want to ask you --

5 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

6 SENATOR MCGILL: -- very briefly. I've
7 always wondered, years ago if you were a graduate of
8 Clemson, you ran for the Clemson Board of Trustees. If
9 you were a graduate of College of Charleston, you'd run
10 for the College of Charleston board. It's all changed.
11 Everything's changing.

12 What drew you to run to the Winthrop board?

13 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Actually, what drew me
14 was, first of all, I would say this, I think that
15 Winthrop is a wonderful university. I am impressed
16 with its mission, which I believe in. And the mission
17 is that they actually -- there's a great effort to
18 personalize education but still it's very challenging,
19 and I think it's wonderful.

20 But the other side to that is I have always
21 wanted to play a role in higher ed, and I think that
22 this would be give me an opportunity to actually have
23 some direct input into higher ed.

24 SENATOR MCGILL: What was the magnet that
25 drew you to run for Winthrop board, though? Do you

1 have friends that graduated from Winthrop? Family?

2 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: I have students,
3 friends, and colleagues, yes.

4 SENATOR MCGILL: Well, you're well-qualified,
5 I do know that. And it's good to see that you have
6 applied.

7 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Thank you. I
8 appreciate it.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Ms. Wilder, I have a copy of the letter you
11 sent to the committee.

12 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes, sir.

13 SENATOR PEELER: It was addressed, Dear Joint
14 Legislative Committee," and the first sentence says,
15 "This letter serves as my written testimony. I am
16 respectfully asking you for your support and vote to
17 represent the 6th District on Winthrop University
18 Board."

19 I'm going to interpret that as you've written
20 this letter to the committee asking for our vote today
21 as favorable report. I just want to caution you, you
22 can't ask a member of the House or the Senate for their
23 vote until after you're released to ask for
24 commitments. I just wanted to caution that.

25 I'm going to -- I'm not reading your mind,

1 okay, but I just want to caution you, you can't ask for
2 a vote of commitment until after released in screening
3 and so forth.

4 If I interpreted that as asking me for your
5 vote on the floor, that would be a no-no. But I think
6 after this vote today, I'm guessing that's how the
7 other members are going to interpret that. I just
8 wanted to caution you and other candidates within the
9 sound of the voice.

10 Any other questions or comments?

11 SENATOR MCGILL: In favor.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable
13 reported.

14 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

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

17 Thank you.

18 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Thank you for your
19 time.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

21 I'll have to go visit Alcolu.

22 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Just come up 95 North,
23 get off Exit 122.

24 SENATOR PEELER: I'm curious. Were you on a
25 TV program recently? ETV or something?

1 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes. Yes.

2 SENATOR PEELER: I thought you looked
3 familiar talking about your school.

4 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Yes.

5 SENATOR PEELER: And obviously you're doing a
6 good job there.

7 MS. HILLIARD-WILDER: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

9 MS. CASTO: Next is Ashlye Wilkerson. She is
10 from Columbia and is also running for the 6th
11 Congressional District for the Winthrop board.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Good morning.

13 MS. WILKERSON: Good morning.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Please raise your right
15 hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth
16 and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

17 MS. WILKERSON: I do.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

19 Want to share with us why you'd like to serve
20 on the board.

21 MS. WILKERSON: Good morning to you all.

22 Thank you so much for having me this morning.

23 I am a proud graduate of Winthrop University.
24 I graduated in 2005. I'm very active with Winthrop
25 University. I still maintain a role with the Winthrop

1 University Alumni admissions office. There I served as
2 a wave volunteer. I speak to upcoming or incoming
3 freshman. I also speak to high school students about
4 Winthrop University, the wonderful professors, the
5 small class sizes, the beautiful campus, and the
6 tradition that we have at Winthrop University.

7 I work with the alumni office. I have great
8 school spirit as a former Miss Winthrop University. So
9 I go back to implement volunteerism as well as when I
10 went back to crown the next queen of my university.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

12 Questions? Representative Henderson, are you
13 just --

14 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: No, I don't have
15 any questions.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Whitmire.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You want me to go
18 first?

19 SENATOR PEELER: Whoever.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Ms. Wilkerson, I'm
21 looking at your -- a couple of things, number one, your
22 driving record is woeful. Four speeding tickets, one
23 ticket for changing lanes improperly; one suspension
24 for failure to pay property tax; one suspension for
25 cancellation of insurance; one accident, did not

1 contribute. Would you like to speak to that?

2 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir. While enrolled in
3 graduate school, Hampton University, all of my
4 information were under my parents who had a shift in --
5 they changed their insurance policy. And I was --
6 because of being a full-time graduate student, I was on
7 their insurance policy. So when they shifted, I was
8 not notified that I was a part of the shift, and so I
9 had to resubmit all information while in Virginia. And
10 they clarified it right away.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What about the
12 failure to pay property tax?

13 MS. WILKERSON: That was a part of that.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Part of that?

15 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir. But it was
16 rectified as soon as I was made aware. I came back
17 from Virginia to the DMV here in South Carolina as well
18 as on Harden Street, and they updated the records. And
19 everything was clarified that same day, and I was
20 provided with a statement of good standing.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So you have one
22 point now; is that correct?

23 MS. WILKERSON: I only have one point against
24 my driving record.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Oh, against it.

1 MS. WILKERSON: I have 11 of the 12 points.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Well, that's
3 kind of a concern to me that, you know, if you're going
4 to run for a university board, you have to be a
5 responsible citizen. And this doesn't look like it to
6 me, so ...

7 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir. I do apologize for
8 that. Under my control, I am a responsible citizen.
9 Unfortunately, those things while in graduate school
10 and under the care of family members lapsed. And once
11 it was brought to my attention, I rectified it
12 immediately.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: But you had four
14 speeding tickets. That was under your control.

15 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: All right. I just
17 wanted to bring that up, Mr. Chairman.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you.

19 Senator Hayes.

20 SENATOR HAYES: A couple of things right
21 quick. You're studying now to get a doctorate degree?

22 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

23 SENATOR HAYES: What's your long-term goal?

24 MS. WILKERSON: My doctorate degree is in
25 teaching and learning at the University of South

1 Carolina. I am positioning myself to be a full-time
2 college professor. As of now, I am adjunct instructor
3 at Midlands Technical College and a teaching assistant
4 at the university.

5 SENATOR HAYES: Okay. I notice on the
6 Statement of Economic Interest, you didn't report the
7 salary from Midlands Tech. You know, isn't that
8 required, any state income that you have as far as
9 salary, et cetera, to be reported on the Statement of
10 Economic Interest, or did you not -- did you realize
11 that?

12 MS. WILKERSON: I'm sorry, it -- I did not
13 realize that. I asked -- I came back to make sure I
14 correctly filled out everything, and they said it
15 looked great to go. I did get another professional to
16 look at it to make sure I did everything correctly.

17 SENATOR HAYES: Okay.

18 SENATOR PEELER: How about your credit
19 report? It says several student loan deferments.
20 What's your --

21 MS. WILKERSON: I'm a full-time graduate
22 student now, and so all of my student loans are still
23 in deferment while in school full-time.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Are you at liberty to say
25 how much you owe on your student loans?

1 MS. WILKERSON: I should owe around 50- to
2 include my doctoral studies.

3 SENATOR PEELER: And you're an adjunct
4 instructor at Midlands Tech now?

5 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Is that considered
7 part-time?

8 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir. It is not a
9 benefit position. It's not full-time. It's something
10 to give me experience while working on my doctoral
11 degree full-time. And I teach in the early childhood
12 department.

13 SENATOR PEELER: What's your goal once you
14 complete your studies?

15 MS. WILKERSON: Once I complete my studies, I
16 would like to serve as an early childhood professor at
17 a college or university. I would prefer teaching
18 college.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Senator Hayes.

20 SENATOR HAYES: I want to ask as far as being
21 a Winthrop graduate, fairly recent Winthrop graduate,
22 what vision do you have for Winthrop? Where do you
23 think it ought to be headed in the near future?

24 MS. WILKERSON: Well, there are a few things
25 that I would like to work on as a -- if elected to be

1 on the board of Winthrop University. One thing I would
2 like to work on is recruitment. As of right now, we
3 have about 90 percent of our undergraduate students
4 from in the state South Carolina and about 60 percent
5 of our graduate students from in state of
6 South Carolina. So, therefore, we need to position
7 ourself to recruit more students from out of state as
8 well as from other countries to be a part of the
9 Winthrop family.

10 In addition, as a student in the education
11 department as Winthrop University, we need to work on
12 preparing our students for the diverse classroom
13 setting that occurs today in schools in school
14 districts. A lot of our placement opportunities there
15 does not prepare us for what takes place in the
16 classroom.

17 As a recent classroom kindergarten and first
18 grade teacher, I know we wear many hats of being
19 teachers, parents, counselors, sociologist,
20 psychologists, all with working with day-to-day things
21 that occur with our student population. And the
22 students at Winthrop in preparation need to be prepared
23 for those things taking place in the classroom.

24 With the turnover rate being three to five
25 years for teachers, our retention rate is very low in

1 the state of South Carolina. And those things need to
2 be addressed in their preparation program and not wait
3 to be addressed when they're in the classroom
4 full-time.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
6 comments?

7 SENATOR MCGILL: You know, Mr. Chairman, I
8 love looking at these records. She's above average,
9 not just student, but above average because you can see
10 in here where she participated as the Winthrop
11 University ambassador, Winthrop Alumni Council,
12 Winthrop University Alumni admission volunteer, and
13 even went into Australia on behalf of the former
14 superintendent of education.

15 And I cannot help but think you almost are
16 identical to my daughter, who was a student at Clemson,
17 who graduated from Clemson, who ended up every time she
18 went through Laurens going back to Clemson, Chairman,
19 she got a speeding ticket.

20 MS. WILKERSON: Right there on that
21 interstate, I promise you, they ticket us every time.

22 SENATOR MCGILL: Now, my youngest daughter
23 that graduated from Clemson, she never got a speeding
24 ticket through Laurens. She was slower. But I will
25 say this to you, that it's a remarkable young career.

1 You've done well.

2 MS. WILKERSON: Thank you.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: You really have.

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you. And I
7 certainly concur with the comments from the Senator
8 from Williamsburg, and this is a Congressional Seat 6.
9 I assume that home address is part of the --

10 MS. WILKERSON: 705 Sunset Drive, yes, sir.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And that is part of the
12 6th Congressional District.

13 MS. WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And I know you signed
15 that affidavit. But I know how that kind of divides up
16 in this area, so I just wanted that for the record.

17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
19 comments?

20 What's the desire of the committee?

21 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

23 Is there a second?

24 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

1 All in favor, raise your right hand.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. WILKERSON: Thank you for your time.

4 MS. CASTO: The final Winthrop candidate to
5 appear before you all today is Carl Folkens. He's from
6 Florence. He did occupy the 6th Congressional District
7 seat, so he is an incumbent running for the new 7th
8 Congressional seat with a term to expire 2018.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir, by two
10 minutes.

11 MR. FOLKENS: Yes, sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Raise your right hand,
13 please.

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

16 MR. FOLKENS: Yes, sir, I do.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Want to share with us why
18 you would like to serve on the board.

19 MR. FOLKENS: Yes, sir.

20 Good afternoon. My name is Karl Folkens.
21 I'm a mediator and a lawyer from Florence, down in the
22 Pee Dee. I'm seeking my third consecutive term on the
23 Winthrop board having served the last two terms on the
24 Seat Number 6. I would, as pointed out, be allowed to
25 fill the 7th Seat.

1 I've also served a term back in the '90s as
2 the alumni representative to the board. I served four
3 terms as board and chair. I believe six terms -- five
4 or six terms as board vice-chair. I have served four
5 to five years as the chairman of the board of the
6 committee on finance.

7 In my law career, I have conducted well over
8 3,500 mediations and arbitrations here in
9 South Carolina. And I think I bring a sense of seeking
10 consensus and team building and resolution to the
11 Winthrop board, and something I think I've done over
12 the last 15 years on my service.

13 My younger daughter is graduating from
14 Winthrop in May, and my older daughter graduated.
15 Their mother went to Winthrop. I went to Winthrop.
16 Their grandmother, their great grandmother went to
17 Winthrop. We love Winthrop very much. I would like to
18 continue to serve.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Any questions?

20 SENATOR MCGILL: Very qualified,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I'm just curious in your
24 years of service, your attendance, how would you
25 describe your attendance at board meetings?

1 MR. FOLKENS: In 15 years, I think I missed
2 one board meeting. And I think I've missed one or two
3 executive committee meetings. I served on the
4 committee for I think 13 out of the 15 years, and I
5 think I missed two meetings.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Congratulations. Thank
7 you, sir.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Amazing.

9 SENATOR HAYES: I just appreciate your
10 leadership on the board. I'm asking you a similar
11 question I asked of Kathy Bigham. What's your vision
12 for the future and how does it tie in with the new
13 president?

14 MR. FOLKENS: It is to continue doing what we
15 do well and that with which we should be doing better
16 to accomplish that.

17 With a new president is an opportunity to
18 validate -- externally validate exactly what we have
19 been doing well. The candidate whom we selected is on
20 the American Council on Education. She looks at all
21 the universities and colleges around the country, and
22 we are tasking her with taking the best that she sees
23 at other universities and bringing them the Winthrop.

24 In Winthrop, we do have -- there is a growth.
25 We're not doing everything perfectly, and we have

1 challenges going forward. So my vision is to keep
2 doing what we have been doing extremely well but to
3 look at some new fresh ideas that we could spend the
4 next two hours reviewing, but they're out there and
5 we're well aware of them.

6 SENATOR HAYES: Thank you.

7 MR. FOLKENS: And if I may, Representative
8 Henderson, the question you asked earlier, why Winthrop
9 is more expensive. We try to gauge the two research
10 universities and College of Charleston and The Citadel
11 as our peers as far as financial affordability. We are
12 slightly higher than number two, Clemson. And we are
13 very sensitive to that, but a number of factors play
14 into that. One is we're an old institution. We have a
15 lot of buildings. We have to budget our maintenance
16 based on cubic feet and not like Francis Marion does,
17 where I live down in Pee Dee, on square footage.

18 We have classrooms that have 20-foot
19 ceilings. We have an infrastructure that is heated and
20 schooled by a system that has been in place for almost
21 80 to a hundred years. That factors into it.

22 Secondly, do we have very low teacher-student
23 ratios. It's something that our students know the
24 faculty, most of them on a first-name basis.

25 I told you briefly little story of my

1 daughter, my younger daughter went to the public
2 schools down in Florence and was accepted into an Ivy
3 League school. Went up to Columbia University, Barnard
4 College, excelled up there. After two winters in the
5 New York and putting up with New York City, and like I
6 said, she did very well, had a 3.7 grade point average
7 up there, decided to come back to South Carolina and on
8 her own decided to go the Winthrop.

9 And so in the last two years, I've had a
10 chance to see Winthrop through her eyes. And what I
11 see and what she tells me is her experience of Winthrop
12 exceeds that which she was experiencing up at Barnard
13 and at Columbia University. She knows her professors,
14 her professors know her. They support her in how she
15 is excelling. And she has told me, and I wish she had
16 realized that two years earlier, that she wishes she
17 had attended Winthrop from the outset. So we do have
18 that kind of validation not only externally, but also
19 from my own child. It's something I treasure.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you.

21 Representative Whitmire.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I will agree with
23 you on the -- you're not a number at Winthrop. I can
24 speak from experience with my daughter and son there.

25 Also, on a personal note, Mrs. Smalley is the

1 wife of my best friend in Walhalla.

2 MR. FOLKENS: Yes.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So I know she does
4 excellent service on the board, also. And thank you
5 for what you've done over the years.

6 MR. FOLKENS: Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
8 questions?

9 I have a quick one. I see where you served
10 as a Timmonsville municipal judge?

11 MR. FOLKENS: I did.

12 SENATOR PEELER: You did?

13 MR. FOLKENS: Yes. I went off -- I had to
14 resign that to go on the Pee Dee Mental Health Center
15 board back in '91, I think it was.

16 SENATOR PEELER: I just had a question about
17 dual office holding.

18 MR. FOLKENS: No. I had to resign that to go
19 on to a community mental health board, and I served
20 there. And then had to go off there to go on the
21 Winthrop board.

22 SENATOR PEELER: I got you. Okay.

23 Any other questions?

24 Let me share this Winthrop story with you.

25 We were talking about driving records and Winthrop and

1 what a great school it is.

2 My mother is a retired elementary school
3 principal. She went back to school when I went to
4 Clemson. She graduated from Limestone. She was doing
5 some postgraduate work at Winthrop during the summer,
6 Senator Hayes. And she had called me, she had gone
7 over that Sunday night and she called me and said, "I
8 left my paper on the kitchen table, would you bring it
9 over to me?" So I did from Gaffney.

10 Got in to Winthrop Sunday night, dust dark.
11 I got in there and couldn't get out. I think I was
12 going too fast, at least that's what the blue-light man
13 said. And he pulled me over, and he said, "Son, what
14 are you doing in here?"

15 I said, "My mama is in here, and I'm bringing
16 her paper to her."

17 He said son, "I've been doing this for 20
18 years, that's the best excuse I've ever heard. I'm
19 going to let you go."

20 That's my Winthrop story, and I'm sticking to
21 it.

22 What's the desire of the committee?

23 SENATOR HAYES: Favorable.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

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

3 Thank you. We appreciate your service.

4 MR. FOLKENS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Does that
6 complete Winthrop?

7 MS. CASTO: That completes Winthrop. And we
8 scheduled a lunch break, since you all are ahead of
9 schedule, the final candidate for The Citadel board is
10 not scheduled to get here until like 2:20 so I --

11 SENATOR PEELER: We wouldn't be lucky enough
12 to have him here?

13 MS. CASTO: Julie is saying no.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Any other candidates here
15 this early?

16 (Off the record.)

17 SENATOR PEELER: We will recess until 2:00.

18 (A lunch recess transpired.)

19 SENATOR PEELER: I would like to call the
20 meeting back to order. The meeting of the joint
21 committee to screen candidates for the university
22 boards of trustees.

23 I will take up The Citadel. Fred Price from
24 Columbia.

25 Fred, if you would come forward. Take a seat

1 and make sure that your light is burning bright green.

2 Doing okay today?

3 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir, I am. Can you hear me
4 fine?

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good. Raise your right
6 hand, please.

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

9 MR. PRICE: I do, sir.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
11 the committee why you would like to continue serving on
12 the board.

13 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. I'd like to continue
14 serving on The Citadel board because I have gained an
15 extreme amount of knowledge having been on the board
16 the last six years. For the last 25 years, I've been
17 intimately involved with The Citadel. I have been a
18 director on the alumni association. You know, I was
19 president of the alumni association. In 1976, I
20 started as a fundraiser for The Citadel Brigadier Club,
21 and I have been raising money every year for that
22 foundation. I was president of that foundation in
23 1997.

24 And in 2006, I was fortunate enough to have
25 The Citadel alumni vote me to be a member of the Board

1 of Visitors. And I have thoroughly enjoyed serving my
2 college. I am who I am because of the training and
3 education I received at The Citadel. And I would just
4 like to continue my service on the board.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Could you explain to me how
6 it works. You're a designee from the alumni
7 association. Is there a term limit to that and you
8 continue to serve?

9 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Is that why --

11 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. There is a term limit.
12 It's a six-year term just like all the other board
13 members. But there's a rule that you can't succeed
14 yourself as an alumni member. So I could not go back
15 through the alumni association to run for that seat.

16 Now, they just as of this past November, they
17 changed the rule. But that will just be from Bob
18 Nuttall was elected from Charleston to fill my seat as
19 an alumni representative, and I think he would be
20 eligible to be succeeded -- you know, he would be
21 eligible to succeed himself. But they just changed
22 that rule this past year.

23 SENATOR PEELER: How were you so lucky?

24 MR. PRICE: I guess I hung around long
25 enough, and they ran out of people to put on there.

1 But I did, I was --

2 SENATOR PEELER: I understand.

3 MR. PRICE: Anyway.

4 SENATOR PEELER: I understand.

5 Any members have any questions or comments of
6 Mr. Price?

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I do.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

9 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Good afternoon.

11 MR. PRICE: Good afternoon, sir.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What's your vision
13 for The Citadel? We've asked this of a lot of
14 perspective trustees from different schools, so I would
15 like to hear yours.

16 MR. PRICE: My vision for The Citadel is
17 pretty much in lockstep with General Rosa, and that is
18 to -- you know, we've had -- we've had six or seven
19 great years of incoming freshman. We've had record
20 incoming freshman classes. We've got five full
21 barracks right now. We've got programs that are doing
22 extremely well. We were just number two -- no. We
23 were just number one again in U.S. News and World
24 Report for The Citadel, you know, in colleges and
25 universities.

1 In a time when we had to -- in a time when we
2 had less to work with as far as money in our budget,
3 over the past few years the general saw that, you know,
4 we kind of forecasted that ahead. He saw -- he saw
5 that we were going to be having less money. He made
6 changes in the administration. He made changes in the
7 staff. But we did not do anything to cut programs. We
8 kept programs to the level where they needed to be.
9 We've got a student-to-professor ratio of about 13 to
10 one.

11 So I think with that being said, that's kind
12 of why we were -- you know, we were number one again
13 for two years in a row in U.S. News and World Report
14 colleges and universities.

15 So just following what the general has set
16 out, where we want to go. We're trying to -- we're
17 increasing enrollment as much as we can. We've got a
18 great program in for retention. As you might imagine,
19 we lose a lot of cadets during freshman year, and
20 that's to be expected. But we have all of our
21 companies have had -- they've gone through -- they're
22 getting different type of training. We're trying to
23 keep the cadets. It's kind of like putting people on a
24 bus or putting people on an airplane, you want to get
25 them -- when you get them on there, you want to keep

1 them on.

2 We're so much different than any other
3 college in that we just can't transfer people in and
4 transfer people out. So if we get a cadet, we want to
5 keep him for all four years because we can't have
6 somebody transfer in as a junior or senior.

7 And then we have another big problem is that
8 the next highest class that we start losing our
9 students is right after our junior year. And you would
10 be surprised and say "Well, why is that?" And the
11 biggest reason of that is because a lot of these kids
12 just get so far behind, and there's such a pressure to
13 graduate with your class that they get to that point
14 and at the end of the second semester of their junior
15 year and they just kind of feel like, we'll, I'm not
16 going to make it, and they just kind of give up and
17 walk away.

18 So the biggest thing we're doing is to keep,
19 you know, just keep the bus full. Just keep the plane
20 full.

21 Now, we're limited as far as barracks goes.
22 Like I say, we've got five full barracks. So unless we
23 were to be able to build another battalion, and then
24 that brings up another problem because we're landlocked
25 and we only have so much land. I'm chairman of the

1 building and grounds, and I'm working on a project
2 right now for The Citadel trust where we're trying to
3 build a parking garage, which we really need because
4 that's the linchpin to move us forward. Because we
5 can't -- we can't tear down Capers Hall, we can't tear
6 down Stevens Barracks. We can't do any new building
7 until we have a place to move a lot of the cars. So,
8 you know, we're growing, but we're trying to grow at a
9 steady rate.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Is there any
11 possibility to acquire land around The Citadel, or is
12 that -- would you have to condemn the land, I guess?

13 MR. PRICE: Well, that's not really a
14 possibility to do that, but we do have a master plan.
15 We've got a great master plan we just updated three
16 years ago, and we -- there's some property that's owned
17 by The Citadel Trust, and if I can get a parking garage
18 built on that property, that the trust would own, and
19 would -- and one day the trust would be able to spin
20 off a lot of money back to The Citadel. So if we freed
21 up that, then we would have room on campus to build
22 some more buildings.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: One last thing,
24 Mr. Chairman, if I may.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Sure.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I just want to say
2 I live almost 250 miles away from The Citadel.

3 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm not as familiar
5 as some folks are. But the comradery and the tightness
6 that I've noticed among the representatives and
7 senators who have graduates or have family members, it
8 is second to none. You guys stick together, that's for
9 sure. So I commend you for that. That's been carried
10 on obviously for quite a long time. So thanks.

11 MR. PRICE: Well, thank you very much, sir.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
13 comments?

14 Senator Hayes.

15 SENATOR HAYES: What's the size of the corps
16 now as far as undergraduate?

17 MR. PRICE: 2,136 as of a few weeks ago.

18 SENATOR HAYES: And how about your graduate
19 program?

20 MR. PRICE: A little over a thousand. I
21 think it was like 900 something, but a little over a
22 thousand.

23 SENATOR HAYES: And it's my understanding
24 that the different services are cutting back on ROTC
25 opportunities. Is that going to have an impact on The

1 Citadel?

2 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir, I'm sure it is. You
3 know, we have 35 percent of the seniors this past year
4 go in the military. And all the branches are cutting
5 back. So that is hurting us as a lot of these kids
6 frankly use that money to pay for their education. So
7 that's certainly going to hurt us.

8 SENATOR HAYES: Do you have many that go into
9 the program where they go into the National Guard?

10 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. We have a lot of kids
11 go in the guard. We commission more officers in the
12 guard than any other -- any other senior military
13 academy.

14 SENATOR HAYES: Nothing further.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 And having been on the board, what would
18 you -- your attendance at the board meetings, how has
19 that been in that period of time?

20 MR. PRICE: I've never missed a meeting.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.

22 MR. PRICE: You know, I've been at all my
23 committee meetings, and I personally drive to
24 Charleston for my meetings instead of attending them
25 by, you know, by telephone.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay.

2 MR. PRICE: But I hadn't missed one yet.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. And what about --
4 I think you related a little bit earlier there as far
5 as the challenges from a financial standpoint of a
6 tuition standpoint, what do you see that as far as what
7 The Citadel is facing?

8 MR. PRICE: Well, there's several board
9 members are lobbying for a zero percent tuition
10 increase this year. We've had increases for the last
11 several years. And we -- I think we've got several of
12 us that are looking for a zero percent increase tuition
13 this year because we're tired of putting it on the
14 parents' backs.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Mack.

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

19 I want to ask a question as it relates to
20 some of the problems. And, again, I'm not holding
21 it -- I asked the other candidate also, I'm not holding
22 it against The Citadel but because society has changed
23 quite a bit, but you had the situation with counselor
24 being inappropriate with children during a camp, and
25 just recently a sexual and racial harassment incident.

1 Your thoughts about that, just being able
2 to -- I know you can't talk about the case and the
3 school can't talk about the case, but just generally,
4 your thoughts about maintaining a culture that is of
5 The Citadel.

6 MR. PRICE: The staff -- the faculty, staff
7 and all board members, I mean, pretty much everybody
8 that was associated with The Citadel just recently went
9 through the darkness-to-light training and as far as
10 a -- as far as relating to the reveal incident.

11 So, you know, that culture is changing. I
12 mean, everybody is starting to look at it as to where,
13 you know, you learn how to look at it. So like I say,
14 we all went through the darkness-to-light training.

15 The general did get -- you know, has
16 abolished the summer camp, but he did that far before
17 any of the reveal incident was ever -- ever came up.
18 The biggest reason he got rid of it was because --- I
19 think it was number one, financial; and number two, it
20 was just having kids there with other people and
21 unsupervised just, you know, just the chance of
22 something happening. And so he did do away with that.

23 And the third incident with the young lady, I
24 really can't comment on.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: I know you can't

1 comment on that particular, but general -- I'm talking
2 about the culture in general as it relates to race
3 relations and also women. Making sure that you create
4 a culture -- I don't want you to comment on that
5 particular case.

6 MR. PRICE: That particular case.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Uh-huh.

8 MR. PRICE: You know, I went to school back
9 when it was all male, so it's totally changed a lot.
10 The women are accepted into the corps now. Women have
11 excelled. They've done very well. The minorities are
12 accepted in the corps. They hold -- you know, they're
13 all doing -- they're all doing very well. I think
14 there is a culture shift, and The Citadel leadership is
15 trying to -- is trying to get that shift through.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Yeah. I just wanted to
17 put that on the record.

18 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: I grew up in that
20 neighborhood very close to The Citadel, and I think you
21 have come a long way in doing some great things, and
22 I'm proud of the school. But, you know, there's --
23 again, these things are happening. Like I said,
24 society has changed, it's happening at a lot of
25 different schools. So I just wanted to put that on

1 your radar and on the record.

2 MR. PRICE: Well, unfortunately, we seem to
3 be under a microscope. There's things that happen at
4 other colleges and universities that, you know, kind of
5 don't get the press that sometimes we seem to get. But
6 the general is very transparent. He's very open. I
7 mean, we want to be an open book. We want to do the
8 right thing.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Yes, sir.

10 Any questions, comments, anyone on the
11 committee?

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

13 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
15 report, second is heard.

16 All in favor, raise your right hand.

17 Thank you. Appreciate your willingness to
18 serve.

19 MR. PRICE: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.
20 Appreciate it.

21 MS. CASTO: Next we move to the Coastal
22 Carolina Board. Mr. Mullen, I do not believe is here
23 yet. William L. Lyles is under tab Q, if you want to
24 start with him. Mr. Lyles.

25 SENATOR PEELER: How about Marion Lee, is he

1 also?

2 MS. CASTO: Yes, Mr. Lee is here.

3 SENATOR PEELER: How about Natasha Hanna?

4 MS. CASTO: Natasha Hanna is not here.

5 Larry Biddle --

6 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. CASTO: -- is here. And Robert

8 Templeton.

9 SENATOR PEELER: You all want to stand up and

10 be sworn in at the same time to save a little bit of

11 time.

12 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole

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

14 (Candidates answer.)

15 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

16 And that was -- give us your name for the

17 stenographer so we know which one we swore in.

18 MR. TEMPLETON: Robert Templeton.

19 MR. BIDDLE: Larry Biddle.

20 MR. LYLES: William Lyles.

21 MR. LEE: Marion Lee.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. All right.

23 Mr. Mullen.

24 MS. CASTO: Mr. Mullen is not here yet.

25 Mr. Lyles --

1 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Lyles.

2 MS. CASTO: -- is from Anderson. He's the
3 3rd Congressional District, and this will be his first
4 run for the board. Correct?

5 MR. LYLES: No.

6 MS. CASTO: You are currently on the board.
7 Okay. We don't have you listed.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It says incumbent
9 on mine.

10 MS. CASTO: Okay. Thank you.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Please take your seat and
12 make sure that the green light is burning.
13 You're from Anderson, right?

14 MR. LYLES: Yes.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. 3rd Congressional
16 District Seat 3. You want to share with us why you
17 would like to serve on the Coastal Carolina board?

18 MR. LYLES: Well --

19 SENATOR PEELER: Or continue to serve.

20 MR. LYLES: Continue to serve. As I stated
21 in my statement that I sent in, since my son was a
22 graduate of there and I came on the board in '93, I've
23 grown to -- my first run for the board was successful.
24 I've really grown with the school. I've seen it grow.
25 I'm very proud of it, and I've supported it

1 financially. I support it with my time, my experience,
2 and I felt like I in large part in some of the ways,
3 helping some of the ways we've grown. I'd like to
4 continue on.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good. You say your son
6 graduated from there?

7 MR. LYLES: He graduated in '95.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you.

9 Any questions or comments of Mr. Lyles?
10 Senator Alexander.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you for your
12 service, we appreciate that.

13 MR. LYLES: You're welcome.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I guess Coastal Carolina
15 has a unique opportunity because of the one-cent money.
16 How do you see that going forward from that standpoint
17 in the impact of your students?

18 MR. LYLES: I think it's very evident. It's
19 been one of the biggest factors in our financial
20 success. We have a lot -- we're very proud of it, very
21 thankful for the work that goes on. As you well know,
22 that one cent goes to structure, brick, and mortar.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Right.

24 MR. LYLES: Any time anybody rides down 501
25 and turns in to Coastal, you can see that one cent at

1 work and will continue to see it at work. That's the
2 main emphasis I see.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And you understand as
4 folks from Gaffney and Oconee and Rock Hill are paying
5 that one cent when we come back down there, too, making
6 that possible.

7 MR. LYLES: That's right. And Anderson.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And Anderson, right.
9 Right.

10 What is your enrollment as far as in state
11 and out of state at this time, roughly, do you know?

12 MR. LYLES: Roughly, it's about two-thirds to
13 a third.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Two-thirds, instate or
15 out of state?

16 MR. LYLES: In state.

17 SENATOR ALEXANDER: In state. Okay.

18 And your attendance at board meetings over
19 this period of time?

20 MR. LYLES: It's been well. I've been a
21 committee chairman. I've been an officer of the board,
22 I know three different times.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Is "well" 80 percent of
24 the time or 90 percent of the time?

25 MR. LYLES: I would say I have missed one

1 board meeting in the last two years.

2 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. Good.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Any other
5 questions or comments?

6 Representative Whitmire.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many students
8 do you have at Coastal?

9 MR. LYLES: Over 8,000. I'm not exactly
10 sure.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: You're the third
12 largest in the state, I would imagine.

13 MR. LYLES: I think so. I think so.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Living so far away,
15 I'm from Oconee County, can you just tell me some of
16 the -- is it liberal arts school or --

17 MR. LYLES: Oh, yes, it's liberal arts. Our
18 business school, the Wall School of Business is one of
19 the best in the state. It's accredited by SACS. Yes,
20 it is a liberal arts school and with a key emphasis I
21 think on business and marine science.

22 I think that's probably the -- our flagship,
23 I would like to say. Of course, being in Conway,
24 Myrtle Beach located, we have access to so much of the
25 necessary things to have a successful marine science

1 program. And just recently this past year we received
2 the go ahead for Ph.D. in marine science.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many students
4 are in that particular program, do you have any idea?

5 MR. LYLES: No, I don't.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: All right. That's
7 all I have.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
9 comments?

10 Carolina Beer Company, are you a distributor?

11 MR. LYLES: Beer wholesaler, yes.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Who do you
13 distribute?

14 MR. LYLES: Coors, Miller, Heiniken, just
15 basically everything but Anheuser-Busch products.

16 SENATOR PEELER: How long have you been doing
17 that.

18 MR. LYLES: I've been employed down there for
19 41 years, and my wife and I have owned the business for
20 30 years.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
22 comment?

23 What's the desire of the committee?

24 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable report.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable report.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

2 SENATOR PEELER: And seconded.

3 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

4 Thank you. I appreciate your willingness to
5 continue to serve. Appreciate the job you're doing
6 down there.

7 MR. LYLES: Thank you.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Good to see you.

9 MS. CASTO: Marion Lee. Mr. Lee is from
10 Hemingway. He is a new candidate to the board.
11 Representing the 6th Congressional District. With the
12 creation of the 7th Congressional District, it put that
13 one with nobody. And he chose to run.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Where is the Senator from
15 Williamsburg? We need to get him on up here.

16 Thank you, Mr. Lee. If you would have a
17 seat, please, sir.

18 MR. LEE: Thank you.

19 SENATOR PEELER: I guess your green light is
20 burning, right?

21 MR. LEE: Yes, sir.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
23 us why you want to serve on the board.

24 MR. LEE: Well, I would like to serve on the
25 board. I've -- I have taken some courses at Coastal

1 myself early on. I've watched Coastal since I was in
2 high school in 1954 when they started with about 50
3 students as a junior college. I was sorry that when I
4 finished high school, it was not the college that it is
5 today.

6 However, my youngest daughter finished
7 Coastal and played tennis for Coastal, as a matter of
8 fact, about 20 years ago. And today my oldest grandson
9 is a student at Coastal, a rising junior.

10 I'm interested in serving. I'm particularly
11 interested in the educational program at Coastal. We
12 need teachers badly. We need teachers that are
13 trained. Williamsburg County is in great need of
14 teachers as many other places.

15 I've also been fortunate to have a place in
16 Murrells Inlet, a summer place for years. And I keep
17 running into these guys with the boats in Murrells
18 Inlet with the marine science program. And, of course,
19 Winyah Bay is one of the largest estuaries in the
20 world. And it's such a very strong program, I'm very
21 interested in that, as well as a number of golf courses
22 we have in the greater Myrtle Beach area with golf
23 management. And at the present time, I think there are
24 about 65 other programs at Coastal.

25 And the present enrollment, according to the

1 computer this morning, was about 9,300. So I'm very
2 interested in all of this and would be delighted to
3 serve.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I wanted to make
5 sure the Senator from Williamsburg was here during the
6 questioning.

7 Senator from Williamsburg.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Thank you, Chairman.

9 You know, the thing that I find very
10 interesting, they have a program with the Bahamas, too,
11 at Coastal Carolina. I know you hate that. You may
12 not know anything about that.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: It sounds like you do.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: I haven't been. I will say
15 briefly that Mr. Lee serves presently on the ag
16 commission, which he will resign when elected or sworn
17 in to this other position. And he served on the State
18 Board of Education for some four years and really
19 helped the school district in some of the rural areas
20 of South Carolina.

21 His first cousin is Dr. Eddie Floyd, and his
22 uncle is Frank Lee, Dr. Frank Lee of Bruce & Lee
23 Foundation in the Florence area.

24 But Mr. Lee is a workaholic, I can tell you
25 that. He's focused, and he will make a major

1 difference at Coastal Carolina University. Not just in
2 that area, but he'll make a major difference in
3 anywhere he goes.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

5 Any other questions or comment?

6 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for a favorable report.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
8 report.

9 Is there a second?

10 SENATOR HAYES: Second.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

12 All in favor, raise your right hand.

13 Thank you. Appreciate your willingness to
14 serve, Mr. Lee.

15 MR. LEE: Thank you very much.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 MS. CASTO: Mr. Biddle. Mr. Biddle is an
18 incumbent. It is a new seat that he is running for
19 because of the restructuring of the board due to the
20 7th Congressional District. He is from Conway, and his
21 is an at-large seat.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
23 the committee why you would like to serve.

24 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir. I was born in Denver,
25 Colorado, grew up in Sacramento, California, and met a

1 blonde southern belle in New York Harbor on my way to
2 Madrid, Spain, and that's how I got to Horry County. A
3 long time ago. I didn't know about the Independent
4 Republic, Senator, but it's quite a place.

5 I was there -- we were really going back to
6 California, never happened. She was pregnant with our
7 first child and ended up going to Conway High School
8 for one year. And Dick Singleton called me and said,
9 "Would you be interested to coming to --" the college
10 at that time was USC regional campus.

11 And I said, "Well, I don't know." I said,
12 "Next year at Conway High School, I'm getting a raise
13 and a coaching supplement."

14 And he said, "Well --" they said, "Next year
15 we're catching up with the Southeastern average."

16 And I thought, "Okay."

17 He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do," Dick
18 Singleton said. "You find out what they're going to
19 pay you, I'll double it if you'll come to the college."

20 So I went to the college. And I was there
21 eight years teaching Spanish, coaching baseball,
22 basketball, driving the bus. In those days we got to
23 do everything. It was really interesting.

24 I was the first person in Atheneum Hall,
25 which as we get security out of that hall, it will

1 become the story of Coastal Carolina University or
2 history, which is very rich. As you heard Mr. Lee say,
3 it started in 1954 in Conway High School.

4 My wife is a Burroughs, and they built -- her
5 grandfather built the first school in Horry County,
6 which is now becoming the Horry County Museum.

7 I've been at Coastal Carolina University for
8 a long time. I have fought for it, loved it, cried,
9 did all the things you do working on the power of who
10 young people can become. And I've had a keen interest
11 in it for a very long time, really since 1965 when I
12 came to South Carolina.

13 And, of course, all my Californians want to
14 know why I don't go back to California. I said, "You
15 have got to be kidding. I mean, I know better than
16 that."

17 They come here and they say, "Wow, this is a
18 great state."

19 But I just have a love for Coastal, always
20 have. I would like to continue to serve. We are doing
21 some absolutely outstanding things at the university.
22 It is becoming a major driver at -- in our area and,
23 you know, we have a lot of unique things at the
24 university. Certainly marine science is one.
25 Education is strong. My wife and I endowed the Biddle

1 Center for Teaching and Learning. We actually --
2 Coastal educates probably 75 percent of the teachers in
3 Horry/Georgetown area and many in Williamsburg as well,
4 with graduate programs as well as undergrad.

5 And so we're very excited about the
6 professional golf management, which is major. The
7 College of Fine Arts is just doing very well. Of
8 course, you heard Mr. Lyles talk about the business
9 college, the Wall College, which is just spectacular.
10 So there's a lot of great, unique things going on at
11 the university. And we need to continue that.

12 We just finished our Southern Association
13 Accreditation. I was fortunate to serve on the college
14 of -- Commission on Colleges in Atlanta, and it's my
15 third year on that commission. They would ask me to
16 serve on the executive committee. And I remember the
17 president of Clemson University said, "We're putting
18 you on that committee as a businessman and an educator
19 so you can keep all us college presidents in line."

20 I said, "Well, that's a tough, tall ladder,
21 but I'll do what I can."

22 It was -- you know, Jim Baker is just
23 absolutely spectacular. I mean, what a leader he is
24 for this state and for all the Southeastern colleges as
25 well.

1 I am bilingual, so, you know, Southern
2 Association takes care of Latin America as well, so my
3 Spanish came in handy with that.

4 But it's an exciting university, moving in
5 great directions. And we just need to keep moving. We
6 were accredited. I'm very interested in the QEP. I
7 watched many universities across the South and the
8 Southeast really have trouble with the QEP, the Quality
9 Enhancement Programs, which is part of that
10 accreditation now. We've got a great one in at Coastal
11 about putting the real world in the international world
12 into the minds of the students so that they understand
13 that -- as Representative Mack had said, that there's a
14 lot of things going on.

15 We have, I think, 49 foreign countries listed
16 at Coastal Carolina University, so it's very
17 attractive.

18 SENATOR PEELER: What's the percent in state,
19 out of state?

20 MR. BIDDLE: It's about -- it's probably
21 somewhere -- in state is about maybe 48 and out maybe
22 52. This past year -- we haven't raised our in-state
23 tuition for two years. Our president, Dave DeCenzo, is
24 a businessman. His leadership has been absolutely
25 spectacular. We raised in -- out-of-state tuition 3

1 percent this year, kept in state solid again. And
2 would like to say that no qualified South Carolinian is
3 turned down at Coastal Carolina University. So if
4 they're qualified, they're in.

5 Now, the thing I'm after as well as the
6 president and several board members, our philosophy is
7 if we're going to accept them, then we have a
8 responsibility to help them grow to their dreams,
9 whatever those are. And so that's the latest
10 initiative at this university.

11 That obviously goes right after retention.
12 Very strong, we've got some new things in place there.
13 So very concerned about that. I've been honored to
14 serve as an officer on the board of trustees. So we're
15 excited about it.

16 I walk, talk, tell the story daily. I was
17 telling it yesterday at the baseball game to three high
18 school students who were talking about coming to
19 Coastal Carolina University.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you,
22 Mr. Biddle.

23 Your university and USC schools that are in
24 or near metropolitan populations, you had a recent
25 tragic incident at your school and of course USC has

1 had some problems also.

2 Have you revisited your security
3 preparations, or have you ever discussed it with your
4 other trustees how to make it safer?

5 MR. BIDDLE: We were all in touch when it was
6 happening. We have some excellent procedures in place.
7 They were followed. I thought that our Dean of
8 Students, our security department, our -- I received --
9 I was in a Bible study with a friend of ours at our
10 church and she said, "I really want to commend the
11 security at Coastal Carolina University."

12 And I thought, Well, that's great. Could you
13 kind of send me a paragraph about it. She sent me two
14 pages. This is a 30-year nurse of experience who has
15 been in emergency rooms her entire life. She said she
16 has never seen law enforcement like the Coastal
17 Carolina force that really comes with the students,
18 advocates for them, stays with them. They just don't
19 bring them in. This has just been -- I shared that
20 with our chairman, Wyatt Henderson, as well as
21 President DeCenzo.

22 So we did, and we continue to. We're not
23 perfect, but it did happen. We think all the
24 procedures we have in place were good. We do revisit
25 it, but as tragic as it was, and you never want to see

1 that happen, I've said across this country, as the
2 founder of National Renaissance, which started at
3 Conway High, as I am the founder, that every school in
4 America is maybe one person from a Columbine,
5 unfortunately.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Of course, you're
7 in a wonderful part of our state which leads students
8 to have plenty of opportunities to go out and party and
9 have fun and everything.

10 MR. BIDDLE: Exactly.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: That's an issue
12 that your security force has to take.

13 MR. BIDDLE: We keep telling, Representative
14 Whitmire, the Coastal Carolina students, what we share
15 with them is you need to be turning left on 501 and
16 right on 544 and come to Conway Historic River Town
17 founded in 1732 and beware of the neon. And more and
18 more are listening to us. That's a good thing.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, sir.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
22 Senator Peeler.

23 Thank you so much for your service. I know
24 that you are very committed to the community and the
25 university.

1 I just have a question. I know that your
2 student population is about 50/50 in state, out of
3 state. I'm from Ohio. And I know a lot of people that
4 vacation down here, and I think it's -- I do think it's
5 actually a good thing to have a good, healthy out-of-
6 state student population.

7 But what percentage of your graduates -- I
8 mean, are those kids coming down here to go to school
9 and then staying in South Carolina, or are they going
10 back to -- how many of them when they graduate from
11 here are actually staying in South Carolina?

12 MR. BIDDLE: Many are. I think they -- you
13 know, a lot of them and their parents -- a lot of their
14 parents -- I met -- I was talking to the shortstop's
15 parents yesterday from Florida and some other folks
16 were here from -- they were from upper part of North
17 Carolina, Elon area. And they all follow their
18 children and, you know, they're in their second home or
19 whatever, and they just say, "We're staying here.
20 We're tired of fighting the snow. We're tired of this,
21 tired of that."

22 A lot of these students I think do stay, some
23 do not. With the Ph.D. coming in marine science, I
24 think that will help that area certainly.

25 But, you know, I guess I don't have the

1 exact -- I know that we have it at the university, I'm
2 sure, but it's more and more of them like the area.
3 There's lots of opportunities. And with golf course
4 management, having a hundred courses in Horry County
5 and Georgetown, pretty strong. So a lot of students
6 will continue to work in Horry, Georgetown County.

7 So it's kind of what they want to do. Some
8 of them leave and go back. You know, it's always
9 greener, right? As Erma Bombeck said, "It's always
10 greener over the septic tank." So they leave and they,
11 "Oh, I miss this. I miss that. I miss the ocean.
12 This is opening."

13 I tell you the classic. David Anderson, who
14 is a baseball player at Coastal, just opened a
15 operation called Cleat Chasers. I don't know how much
16 you know -- how many ladies follow baseball players,
17 but there are lots of them. And that's where he got
18 the name. It's amazing. I mean, a lot of
19 entrepreneurs. One of the most successful businesses
20 in Conway is called the Crafty Rooster, which is a
21 former student from Ohio area. So anyway, yeah.

22 They like the area. They like the state. I
23 think they like South Carolina. I think they like our
24 area of the country and the ocean and the river. We
25 are kind of prone to the river, that's where it all

1 started.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: 1732.

3 MR. BIDDLE: That's right. It does not lie,
4 sir.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

7 And I agree with you, I think your president
8 is doing a great job. And I will also say that dealing
9 with some of this deferred maintenance work with the
10 higher education, that Coastal has been a leader, in my
11 opinion, of the way it should be done. Is my
12 understanding --

13 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR MCGILL: -- you keep money in the
15 bank to take care of those things understanding that
16 those needs are going to be forthcoming.

17 I heard you say about the students. What is
18 the biggest challenge that you're facing you think
19 right now at Coastal given all the other parameters
20 that you have?

21 MR. BIDDLE: Well, I think, you know, I
22 personally feel as someone who has worked with young
23 people all my life, there are a lot of distractions
24 down there. And as we begin to grow the new HTC
25 Center, the new dormitories that are coming online,

1 more and more campus functions that they don't have to
2 leave to go somewhere and do something at the beach.
3 It's been a lot better off. We've got much more of a
4 campus atmosphere that I think keeps young people, you
5 know, on the campus. Rather than traipsing off
6 somewhere where there's temptations and other things
7 that abound. So that's been very helpful.

8 I think that the new building, we're calling
9 it the Penny Building, after the one-cent sales tax.
10 But right there as you face the Wall College, it's
11 right to the right. And we just approved one to go to
12 the left. It's classroom offices, but they have nice
13 facilities.

14 We're getting ready to expand the student
15 center. The Atheneum Hall will become the history of
16 the university. We're so excited about that because
17 there really is nowhere on the campus where we've had
18 enough room to really put the history of Coastal
19 Carolina University. And it's an exciting history.
20 The whole county is an exciting place. It really is
21 hand and glove with the new museum that's coming online
22 in the next two or three months.

23 So I think as the campus becomes more of a
24 collegiate atmosphere, it enhances those youngsters
25 staying on the campus. We had over 250,000 visits to

1 the new HTC Center, the part of it that's the fitness
2 and all that. It's open till 2:00 every day, a.m., and
3 it's really exciting. There's a climbing wall and all
4 the latest and greatest.

5 You know, someone at Coastal who has a friend
6 here at Carolina, they can actually run a race together
7 online on the treadmill. They link into the computer
8 and, say, your friend is Bill and Bill races Mary in
9 the Boston Marathon. So that technology is really
10 exciting stuff. And we're glad that we have it.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

13 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman.

14 How many students at Coastal?

15 MR. BIDDLE: About 9,300 total. Probably
16 1,500 plus in the graduate programs. We've had
17 master's in accounting, MBA, lots of master's in
18 education, marine science.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: And only a few years ago you
20 were about 4,500 to 5,000 students. It's one of the
21 fastest growing universities in the Southeast.

22 SENATOR PEELER: No doubt.

23 SENATOR MCGILL: And it's because it is well
24 organized, it's well run. And I agree with you, Dave
25 DeCenzo is without a doubt one of the finest presidents

1 in the Southeast.

2 MR. BIDDLE: You're right. Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Strictly business.

4 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir.

5 SENATOR MCGILL: But to you, I want to say to
6 your credit, I noticed in here Arts and Humanities.
7 Did you evidently work with that school some?

8 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir. And education as
9 well. Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR MCGILL: You are commended. That is
11 wonderful. I know Virginia Uldrick --

12 MR. BIDDLE: Yes.

13 SENATOR MCGILL: -- used to be at that
14 school.

15 MR. BIDDLE: Are you talking about the
16 Governor's School in Greenville?

17 SENATOR MCGILL: In Greenville, yes.

18 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: And that is commendable, and
20 your reputation is impeccable.

21 MR. BIDDLE: Thank you. You know, Virginia
22 said to me when I was at Conway High School, "We've got
23 to get the students in Conway, South Carolina, into a
24 residential program for the entire academic year. This
25 summer stuff, just as we get them ready to launch, they

1 got to go home."

2 I said, "Well, let's do it, Virginia."

3 And she did. What a lady. What a leader in
4 this state. I mean, she's single-handedly made all
5 that happen. We just got our green flags out every
6 morning and said, "Go, Virginia, go."

7 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
8 comments?

9 What is the desire of the committee?

10 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Motion for a favorable
12 report.

13 Is there a second?

14 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

16 All in favor, raise your right hand.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. BIDDLE: Thank you very much.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your service.

20 MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir.

21 MS. CASTO: Next we will go to Robert
22 Templeton. His is an at-large seat 15. He is an
23 incumbent. This is a new seat for him, too, dealing
24 with the restructuring. He's under tab U in your
25 notebooks.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, sir.

2 You want to share with us why you would like
3 to continue to serve.

4 MR. TEMPLETON: Yes, I would. Thank you.

5 I have always had a desire to serve in our
6 community, and in probably early 2006 I was considering
7 running for county council in the Orangeburg County
8 area. One of my business associates at that time, a
9 gentleman you may know by the name Tommy Stringer, and
10 I were speaking one day. And Tommy had approached me
11 about filling a seat, an unexpired term at Coastal
12 Carolina since he had recognized my desire to want to
13 serve.

14 So in doing so, I had come up and I had
15 investigated Coastal Carolina and seen what it was
16 about and determined that's where I wanted to try and
17 apply my energies. So we ran for that seat and
18 fortunately, we were elected. And since that point in
19 time, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving the
20 citizens of South Carolina in that area. And it's my
21 desire to continue doing so if the legislature and the
22 senate here decides that's appropriate again going
23 forward.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

25 Any questions or comments?

1 SENATOR MCGILL: He's an incumbent now?

2 MS. CASTO: Yes, sir.

3 SENATOR MCGILL: He's an incumbent?

4 MS. CASTO: Been on the board since 2007.

5 MR. TEMPLETON: 2007.

6 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, while you

7 look through that, if I could --

8 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: -- during your period of

10 time on the board, how is your attendance? How would

11 your rate your attendance at the board meetings?

12 MR. TEMPLETON: Since 2007, I have missed

13 three meetings.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good. Thank you, sir.

15 MR. TEMPLETON: Thank you.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Excuse me, Chairman.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

18 SENATOR MCGILL: What do you like about

19 Coastal Carolina University?

20 MR. TEMPLETON: Well, I'll tell you, there's

21 a lot to like. It's hard not to like any -- not to --

22 well, I'm going to make sure I say that correctly.

23 It's hard to dislike anything there.

24 We mentioned the president, Dave DeCenzo. He

25 is an astute businessman and someone like myself going

1 in, you can learn a lot from an individual like that.
2 Then I have my fellow trustees that I work with,
3 Mr. Biddle; Mr. Lyles; Ms. Hanna, who is here now; and
4 other trustees there that you are able to glean
5 information from and learn a lot about.

6 When you find the love and desire that each
7 one of these individuals has to serve the community and
8 Coastal in particular, you can't help but want to get
9 involved and see the students graduate and have chances
10 to be successful in their future endeavors.

11 It's a great university. It's a positive
12 place to be. And I will tell you, I know I'm going to
13 go out on a limb and probably be challenged by some
14 other trustee candidates in here, but it's probably the
15 best institution in the state of South Carolina.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Is Roper still head of
17 security?

18 MR. TEMPLETON: Yes, sir.

19 SENATOR MCGILL: He is? He's a retired SLED
20 agent. He's one of the best.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?
22 Representative Whitmire.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: What Congressional
24 District do you live in?

25 MR. TEMPLETON: Well, you know, I'm not sure

1 now. I live in Orangeburg County. I thought it was
2 Congressional District 90, but I see a question mark
3 beside my sheet of paper.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: We got a lot more
5 folks in this state than I thought we did.

6 If you could get that back to us so I can
7 just -- we can make a notation on that.

8 MR. TEMPLETON: Yes, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Because I don't
10 know which one that would be. All right.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions?

12 You say you're a financial adviser?

13 MR. TEMPLETON: Yes, sir. I am a financial
14 adviser. I work with Waddell & Reed. I've been with
15 them for 18 years. I am a pastor of a Southern Baptist
16 church. I've been pastoring church about five years.
17 I am a high school baseball coach. I have a game this
18 afternoon in Walterboro. I've been doing that about
19 nine years. And I'm also a husband and a father. Not
20 necessarily in that order, but I'm all of those.

21 SENATOR PEELER: You were fined in '03.

22 MR. TEMPLETON: Yes, sir. Back in 1998, I
23 had probably one of the most severest lacks of judgment
24 you can ever have. I had a client complete some
25 paperwork. She left a blank in it, and I did the

1 unthinkable. I filled in the blank, submitted the
2 paperwork. About five years later was discovered by
3 FINRA, was fined \$5,000 and suspended for 120 days with
4 the securities industry.

5 SENATOR PEELER: No good deed goes
6 unpunished, right?

7 MR. TEMPLETON: Well, that was -- I should
8 not have done that. That wasn't a good deed.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Is that when you started
10 ministering?

11 MR. TEMPLETON: Yeah, I did a lot of praying
12 then.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other questions
14 or comments?

15 Being none, what's the desire of the
16 committee?

17 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for a favorable report.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable report.

19 Is there a second?

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Second.

22 All in favor, raise your right hand.

23 MR. TEMPLETON: Thank you.

24 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Appreciate your
25 willingness to serve.

1 MS. CASTO: We will go back to tab P. George
2 Mullen. He is from Hilton Head. He's a new candidate
3 for the board representing the 1st Congressional
4 District and is running unopposed.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Mullen, I need to swear
6 you in, so if you would raise your right hand.

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

9 MR. MULLEN: I do.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

11 Would you like to share with the committee
12 why you would like to serve on the Coastal Carolina
13 board?

14 MR. MULLEN: Yes, sir. I've been practicing
15 law in Hilton Head for 33 years. 16 years ago, I
16 opened an office in Myrtle Beach, so I've had contact
17 for, you know, in the area for a number of years. I've
18 watched Coastal Carolina grow during that period of
19 time. 16 years ago there were about 4,000 students
20 there. Today some 9,300. If you drive through the
21 campus today, you'll see construction building going on
22 all over the place. It's just an exciting place to be.
23 It's a place that over the years I've gone to football
24 games, basketball games.

25 I've had a constant interest in it.

1 Actually, I considered running for the seat about five
2 years ago when Mr. Templeton did. At that time
3 businesswise it wasn't ideal.

4 This past year, my son started as a freshman
5 there in his first year in a special program at Coastal
6 Carolina. I don't know if you're familiar with it, but
7 Coastal and a couple of other universities here have a
8 program called the Life Program. It's a program for
9 special learning disability children. My son has
10 Down's syndrome. It is just an exceptional thing that
11 as a parent growing up wondering what will your son do?
12 What would your child do?

13 I have a daughter already -- she's in law
14 school now. And another daughter who will be going to
15 college next year. And you wonder what would my middle
16 son be doing? And to have the opportunity for him to
17 go and have the college experience, it's just something
18 that is hard to describe to you.

19 I'm forever grateful for the opportunities
20 that Coastal has given to him. I want to be able to
21 give back. I think I have things that I can offer. I
22 have been there during this past year virtually every
23 weekend. I have observed what is going on in the
24 campus, in the social life of the campus. As I said,
25 such a dynamic place. The president is a dynamic man.

1 I'm particularly interested in their new
2 football coach, Jim Moglia. You'd have a hard time
3 finding a more unique background for a head football
4 coach than he has. It's an exciting time, and I want
5 to be part of it.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

7 Any questions or comments from members of the
8 committee?

9 Senator Alexander.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 It's my understanding that you're an attorney
12 by trade?

13 MR. MULLEN: Yes, sir.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And do you have any
15 contracts with Coastal Carolina?

16 MR. MULLEN: We do not. We have had one
17 instance where my partner represented a subsidiary, the
18 Coastal Housing Foundation, on a relatively minor
19 matter. It was a construction defect issue, which is
20 what my firm does. That's all we do is construction
21 litigation. They did ask for our assistance. From a
22 dollar amount value, it was a very nominal amount.
23 It's the only issue that we've had.

24 With exception connected with that, there
25 were some issues that came up of a coverage issue at

1 the same time our Supreme Court was addressing a case
2 that actually this legislature also addressed. A
3 couple of years ago, our Supreme Court decided there
4 was no insurance coverage for construction defect
5 litigation covering general contractors.

6 We represented at the Supreme Court the
7 Coastal Carolina Housing Foundation. I actually was
8 allowed, as an advocate, to come in and argue that to
9 the Supreme Court. I did that on a pro bono basis. To
10 seek coverage for government institutions and private
11 individuals where there were defects.

12 Fortunately, the Supreme Court saw its way
13 that they had previously ruled the wrong way. They
14 corrected that probably some with the encouragement of
15 your bodies which passed legislation dictating that
16 there would be insurance coverage for that type of
17 defective construction litigation.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So rather than being a
19 conflict of interest, I would assume with all that
20 building going on down there, you'd have the
21 opportunity to be an ally of making sure that things
22 are done in the correct manner?

23 MR. MULLEN: I've had -- I've been involved
24 in construction litigation since the day I started
25 practice. It's been 33 years. That's all our practice

1 is, has solely been in that. I have quite extensive
2 background that I think I would have a certain skill
3 set there that I could assist the board with and
4 certainly intend to.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

7 Any other questions or comments?

8 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, let me ask
9 this question. I would love to be a fly on the wall at
10 breakfast time in this house when he and the judge
11 discuss issues. That would be quite a conversation.
12 Your wife does a marvelous job. You let her know that
13 you rode on her ticket today to get across.

14 MR. MULLEN: Thank you, sir. I appreciate
15 that.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Do you address her as Your
17 Honor?

18 MR. MULLEN: I absolutely do. She reminds me
19 often that she can throw me in jail.

20 SENATOR PEELER: My coroner reminds my
21 sheriff that.

22 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Good reminder.

23 SENATOR PEELER: That's right.

24 Any other questions or comments?

25 SENATOR MCGILL: Move favorable.

1 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable
2 report. Is there a second?

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

5 All in favor, raise your right hand.

6 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

7 MR. MULLEN: Thank you very much. I
8 appreciate it.

9 MS. CASTO: Coastal Carolina for the 7th
10 Congressional District is Natasha Hanna. Hers is under
11 tab S. And this would be the new 7th Congressional
12 District. She is an incumbent on the board and
13 represented -- were you representing the 6th District?

14 MS. HANNA: The 1st.

15 MS. CASTO: The 1st District beforehand. She
16 is from Myrtle Beach.

17 SENATOR PEELER: I need to swear you in, I
18 guess.

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

21 MS. HANNA: I do.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Do you want to share with us
23 why you want to continue to serve on the board.

24 MS. HANNA: Yes, I would love to.

25 I am actually one of those out-of-state

1 students who came here by way of Virginia to go to
2 Coastal Carolina University. Planted my feet in the
3 sand and never left. Graduated in 1994, married a
4 local boy who was born and raised in Myrtle Beach. He
5 graduated from Coastal in 1992. And now we have two
6 children, ages 7 and 9, who are also big Chanticleer
7 fans as well.

8 I have served on the Coastal Carolina
9 University Board of Trustees since 2009. I'm also
10 honored to serve on the Commission on Higher Education
11 as well.

12 When I am not a mother, a wife, or a lawyer,
13 I own my own small business, my own firm in Myrtle
14 Beach. My other passion is education. I'm very
15 involved in the elementary school all the way up to
16 postgraduate and doctoral level.

17 Since I've been on the board, we have made
18 significant changes at Coastal. We have made budget
19 cuts all across the board. We have done everything
20 that we can. What I think, I personally believe that I
21 bring to the board, I bring the same responsibility
22 that I have in my house, that I have in my home, I try
23 to figure out how to do more with less. And I realize
24 and acknowledge that we are at a crossroads and our
25 universities have been at a crossroads for probably the

1 last five years with the economy. But my belief is we
2 don't need to sit around and whine about the money we
3 don't have, we just need to figure out what we can do
4 with what we've got.

5 We are very blessed at Coastal because we
6 have -- let's face it, our location is tremendous. We
7 have a lot of people that want to come to our school,
8 so we don't have a problem getting the students there.
9 We have a penny sales tax that we are very blessed to
10 have. So with all of those things, we figure out how
11 we can do more with less. And I think we've done a
12 really good job at that.

13 But the bottom line is I love my university.
14 I have tremendous pride. We attend the sporting
15 events, the cultural events. Whatever it is, I am
16 there. And I'm just not done yet. I feel like I have
17 a whole lot more to give, and I'm hopeful that I'm
18 given that opportunity.

19 SENATOR PEELER: I was looking over your
20 information, and I think I remember screening you
21 before about that pink sweater.

22 MS. HANNA: Angora sweater. It's going to
23 haunt me for the rest of my life.

24 SENATOR PEELER: You want to share with the
25 newer members about that pink sweater?

1 MS. HANNA: Yes. When I was 17 years old I
2 made a poor lapse in judgment and me and one of my dear
3 friends got in an argument over a pink angora sweater.
4 And she was smarter than I was, she went to the police
5 about it. And unfortunately, they gave me a nice
6 little ticket. It ended up being completely dismissed,
7 but to this day I still have to talk about it no matter
8 where I go. And Senator Knotts I think asked me at the
9 end one day, he said, "I want to know one question,
10 Ms. Hanna, who won?"

11 SENATOR PEELER: Do you ever wear pink
12 anymore?

13 MS. HANNA: I love the color. I have a hot
14 pink suit, so I don't let that detract me from
15 anything.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Well, next time you come
17 before us, you ought to wear one.

18 MS. HANNA: I should. You'll remember me,
19 won't you?

20 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions?

21 Representative Mack.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, I just
23 want to say for the record, I've never made a mistake
24 at 17.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank goodness you're not

1 under oath.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Yeah, right.

3 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I think he made his
4 mistakes at 15.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you. And
7 I'm glad to hear you're one of those out-of-state
8 people who came and stayed, as am I.

9 I wanted to ask, inform me, just I'm curious,
10 I don't know anything about the penny. So can you tell
11 me what -- how that transpired and what that is?

12 MS. HANNA: It came about before I was
13 actually on the board, but the bottom line is there was
14 a referendum and it was passed and we have a penny
15 sales tax. And what that penny sales tax does is extra
16 money in Horry County that goes from K12 all the way
17 up to Coastal and Horry Georgetown Technical College.

18 Now, the one caveat is that the money has to
19 be used to build buildings, and that's what we use it
20 for. If you come down to our campus, you'll see that
21 it is absolutely stunning and we're blessed to have it.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So it's an Horry
23 County local option, but you get some of it?

24 MS. HANNA: Correct.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Very interesting.

1 Okay. Since we're talking about wardrobe, I
2 did notice that you have a sea foam green suit, and I'm
3 thinking you probably looked all over the place for
4 that. So I give you credit for wearing those Coastal
5 colors.

6 MS. HANNA: Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

9 I'm following up with Representative
10 Henderson, but let me go first to the fact you're an
11 attorney as well, correct?

12 MS. HANNA: Yes, sir.

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And do you do any work
14 for the university?

15 MS. HANNA: No, sir, I do not.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And would trust that you
17 have no intention of doing any work for the university?

18 MS. HANNA: No, sir, I do not.

19 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Okay. I think I was
20 going to also mention to Representative Henderson, I
21 think they actually bought a golf course with the
22 penny, too, if my memory serves me correct. And it's
23 not just -- but for other funds. You all own your own
24 golf course?

25 MS. HANNA: Yes, sir, we do. Which works

1 very well with our PGA program. And also we share the
2 responsibility with the local technical college, Horry
3 Georgetown with their turf building program as well.
4 So it's a wonderful thing in our community.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And it's close to the
6 university, I would assume?

7 MS. HANNA: It's right across the street.
8 Great location.

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander and I
11 serve on the joint bond review committee, and Coastal
12 Carolina comes quite often with that penny. There's no
13 telling, Senator McGill, how much that penny brings in
14 for that.

15 Representative Whitmire, I think you have a
16 question.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, I just want
18 to say I really like your passion. You've just come
19 across as this is the place you want to be, and I just
20 want to say thank you for your service.

21 MS. HANNA: Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm looking
23 forward, if I can ever get down to Myrtle Beach, I'm
24 going to call you guys up, I would love to tour the
25 campus because I've never been there.

1 MS. HANNA: We have a beautiful teal golf
2 cart. If anybody ever wants to come to our campus, it
3 would be our honor to take you around for a few hours
4 and let you see. I'm very proud. Thank you.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other questions,
6 comments?

7 What's the desire of the committee?

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Favorable.

9 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable report
11 and seconded.

12 All in favor, raise your right hand.

13 Thank you. Appreciate your time today.

14 MS. HANNA: Thank you.

15 MS. CASTO: That concludes Coastal Carolina,
16 so we're moving to Francis Marion.

17 And Coastal Carolina folks, if you want to
18 leave, you can. If you want to stay the rest of the
19 afternoon, you can do that, too.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Francis Marion. I think we
21 have three candidates here. They're not due to be here
22 until 4:00, so we can get started earlier. We
23 appreciate it.

24 Jody Bryson.

25 MR. BRYSON: Yes, sir.

1 SENATOR PEELER: If you would come forward.
2 I will swear you all in individually to kind of keep up
3 with everybody.

4 MS. CASTO: Mr. Bryson is behind tab X in
5 your notebooks. His is the 4th Congressional District
6 seat for Francis Marion, and he is a new candidate.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Let me swear you in. If you
8 would raise your right hand.

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

11 MR. BRYSON: I do.

12 SENATOR PEELER: You want to share with us
13 why you'd like to serve on the Francis Marion board.

14 MR. BRYSON: I certainly will.

15 I am from South Carolina originally. I'm a
16 product of two Upcountry mill villages. My father grew
17 up in Judson Mill community. My mother grew up in
18 Union Bleachery Mill community. So early on that
19 instilled a sense in me of the value of education and
20 the importance of education to those of us here who
21 grew up in the state as well as relocated here.

22 I had the opportunity in my career after
23 graduating from Clemson and then getting a master's
24 degree from Carolina, I had the opportunity to work for
25 two of our state schools, Clemson and Newberry College.

1 I gained a unique perspective on the value of higher
2 education during both of those career stops.

3 Over the last ten years in my career, I have
4 had the opportunity to work with a number of our
5 colleges and universities. When I was with Upstate
6 Alliance, we had several different types of colleges
7 and universities who were active with our organization.
8 And then most recently, in my current position with the
9 South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center, we've
10 worked very closely with Greenville Technical College,
11 who has two schools on our campus, as well as Clemson
12 University in developing a test track on our inactive
13 runway.

14 So I guess all of that experience combined
15 has really instilled in me a sense of value of higher
16 education to the state as well as a desire to serve our
17 state.

18 Francis Marion intrigues me in particular
19 because during my time in Leadership South Carolina, I
20 learned a great deal about the Pee Dee area and some of
21 the particular needs of that part of our state. I
22 understand how the university, a local college can be a
23 catalyst for economic development and job creation for
24 its citizens.

25 And then I guess the final reason I'm

1 interested is I've been a great fan of Dr. Fred Carter
2 for many, many years having had the opportunity to work
3 with him during the Campbell Administration. The first
4 Campbell Administration when he was a member of the
5 executive staff, and I served on the kitchen cabinet
6 and had a position with Governor Campbell's staff as
7 well.

8 I've been watching his career from afar and
9 observing some of the progress that he's made in his
10 current roll as president of Francis Marion. So when
11 this opportunity came along, the time was right and my
12 interest was strong and that's why I'm here with you
13 today.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Great.

15 So South Carolina Technology and Aviation
16 Center, tell me a little bit about that.

17 MR. BRYSON: Well, you may know us as
18 Donaldson Center. We have been in existence as an
19 industrial park for nearly 50 years. It's a former
20 military base that was closed in 1963. The City of
21 Greenville and the County of Greenville basically
22 bought the entire 2600 acres and all the existing
23 facilities and surplus equipment back from the military
24 when it was shuttered in '63. They set up a
25 development commission to redevelopment the base. They

1 used private dollars, they didn't use tax dollars.
2 They went to four local banks and got a loan for
3 \$450,000 and bought the entire lock, stock, and barrel,
4 2600 acres.

5 They sold off some utility rights, some
6 surplus equipment, and four and a half months they had
7 paid off the loan. And we've been generating a profit
8 for those two governments ever since by the lease
9 revenues we generate and the property sales that have
10 occurred over the years.

11 So I've been there six years. I oversaw
12 the -- really the creation of our economic development
13 strategy of which the rebranding and the name change
14 was a key part of that. So we're home to 85 companies
15 currently today with an annual economic impact of \$1.4
16 million annually to the state's economy, 3800 jobs, and
17 we're looking to add to that.

18 SENATOR PEELER: What did you do with the
19 Campbell Administration?

20 MR. BRYSON: I managed a federal
21 transportation program called -- it was a Title 19
22 program. And we worked with various local agencies to
23 provide and oversee a statewide transportation program
24 for Medicaid clients. I also worked in the Office of
25 Criminal Justice Programs, managing grants for various

1 local law enforcement agencies.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Well, was Dr. Carter as
3 tough then as he is now?

4 MR. BRYSON: Absolutely.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other questions?

6 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, very brief.

7 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

8 SENATOR MCGILL: The Donaldson group that
9 you're talking about, you all asked for some funding
10 from the General Assembly several years ago. Did you
11 get any money?

12 MR. BRYSON: We actually ended up receiving a
13 loan through the South Carolina Energy Office, which we
14 utilized to do upgrades to our facilities, which are
15 currently leased by Lockheed Martin. They're our
16 largest employer. As a result of those funds, we were
17 able to make the upgrades to make them more cost
18 effective and efficient, and as a result, they renewed
19 their lease. So they're going to be here for at least
20 another five years. We are grateful for that.

21 SENATOR MCGILL: Very good. And you're
22 right, Dr. Carter, as Dave DeCenzo with Coastal
23 Carolina University, both are great presidents. And I
24 can tell you, both of these universities are fiscally
25 sound.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 I just want to say that I've known Jody for a
5 really long time, and he is a wonderful economic
6 development ambassador and knowledgeable. And the fact
7 that he, in my opinion, is willing to drive down to
8 Francis Marion, you're not an alumni to serve, I think
9 it's great because we just sat here and had this
10 conversation about people from Charleston all serving
11 on The Citadel board and how we need to mix things up a
12 little bit.

13 And I think it's great that you're willing to
14 do that. And I just wanted to just say that by way of
15 character reference for Mr. Bryson.

16 MR. BRYSON: I appreciate that.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: You're welcome.

18 MR. BRYSON: And, of course, it's also an
19 excuse to stop by Young's Pecans there and stock up,
20 too. So I want to be completely forthcoming with your
21 committee. I have an ulterior motive.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

23 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Thank you.

24 I really appreciate your willingness to
25 serve. I do think that there's a lot of great things

1 going on at Francis Marion and certainly under the
2 leadership of the president. I really think you'll
3 enjoy your service.

4 What are you -- are you okay as far as the
5 meetings that and schedule-wise and all that, there's
6 no problem from that standpoint?

7 MR. BRYSON: I am. I talked at length with
8 Darryl Bridges about the commitment, and I think he's
9 the staff -- or help staff the board. I'm fortunate
10 I'm in a position now in my current position which will
11 allow me to be a faithful attendee at all the meetings
12 and committee meetings. And, of course, with the
13 smartphones these days, you're never really unplugged.
14 So I get a lot of work done in the car, safely.

15 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And just knowing
16 Dr. Carter, he's going to work you hard.

17 MR. BRYSON: That's good. That's good. I
18 understand.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Mr. Bryson, thank
21 you for your willingness to serve. We need more folks
22 like you to step up to the plate.

23 When you were talking about your bio, though,
24 you brought back some memories, my grandparents lived
25 in the Sans Souci area.

1 MR. BRYSON: Oh, really?

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And I had a cousin
3 who went to Parker. I don't know if you went to Parker
4 or not.

5 MR. BRYSON: I did not go to Parker, but I
6 have aunts and uncles galore as well as my mom who all
7 went to Parker. Golden Hurricanes -- Golden Tornadoes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's sad that
9 history of textiles has passed us by. It was a
10 wonderful time in our state.

11 MR. BRYSON: There is a very active textile
12 heritage group in Greenville who are really working
13 hard to preserve that heritage. And if you ever have a
14 chance to go to Upcountry History Museum in downtown
15 Greenville -- have you been?

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes.

17 MR. BRYSON: They've done a great job of
18 saving a lot of that Heritage. My aunt and uncle are
19 very involved with that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, sadly, I'm
21 from the small town of Walhalla, Senator Alexander and
22 I are, and we lost our last remaining textile building
23 a few months ago. It's sad to see it go.

24 MR. BRYSON: I have very fond memories of
25 those mill villages growing up. And there's still a

1 great sense of community at some of them.

2 Thank you.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Coastal Carolina students,
4 when they leave class they get to go to Myrtle Beach
5 and the ocean and all that. When I was at Clemson, I
6 got to go to Walhalla. I was very lucky.

7 Representative Mack.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 I just wanted to, again, as was mentioned,
11 thank you for your service. Also, I wanted to commend
12 the president, as you have, Fred Carter, he's a friend
13 of mine. Again, it just shows how leadership can
14 create a great culture.

15 And just wanted to tell you a quick story
16 that we had a member of my church went there on a
17 basketball scholarship, got very ill, but the way the
18 school treated him when he was not able to play
19 basketball, they got behind him and they helped him as
20 a student, as a person. And, you know, it's reflective
21 of the school. I've been there, and it's a great,
22 great atmosphere.

23 MR. BRYSON: I appreciate you sharing that.
24 That doesn't surprise me at all. Thank you.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or

1 comments?

2 What's the desire of the committee?

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Favorable.

4 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

7 All in favor, raise your right hand.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BRYSON: Thank you, sir.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you that you are
11 willing to serve.

12 MR. BRYSON: Thank you.

13 MS. CASTO: The next individual is George
14 McIntyre. He is from Bennettsville. He's an incumbent
15 but in a new seat in the 7th Congressional District.

16 Francis Marion, you all may recall, when you
17 did the restructuring for the colleges and
18 universities, they had the biggest shake up, I think,
19 in all of their seats. And most of them lived in the
20 Pee Dee, and they had to restructure some of them.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Mr. McIntyre, would you
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 MR. McINTYRE: I do.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to share with
2 us why you would like to serve.

3 MR. McINTYRE: Well, I would like to continue
4 my service. I've been on the board now for nearly 14
5 years, and I'm a graduate of Francis Marion. And it's
6 been just a great experience for me to be back in a
7 different role on the campus and to see all the good
8 things that have happened during that time.

9 I came to Francis Marion about the same time
10 that Fred Carter left the Budget and Control Board and
11 came over and assumed the presidency there. So we've
12 kind of been on a ride together. And it's been a great
13 experience for me individually and also to watch the
14 university grow and reach to the goals that we only
15 dreamed about back in the early '70s, the mid '70s when
16 I was a student there.

17 We had a vision, but we -- you know, we're
18 not there. But we've been able to get to a lot of that
19 over the last 10 or 12 years. We've got great plans
20 for the future, also. So I'm looking forward to being
21 part of the ride and continuing on.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

23 Any questions, comments?

24 SENATOR MCGILL: Impeccable reputation.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Sounds like it.

1 MR. McINTYRE: Thank you, Senator.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Where did you go to college?

3 MR. McINTYRE: Francis Marion. I graduated
4 from there in 1978. I was one of the early ones there.
5 When I arrived on campus, I think we had either three
6 or four buildings and no dormitories. Everyone was a
7 commuter. And we lived in apartments, some of us off
8 campus there.

9 But today, to go back to the campus now and
10 see the difference from the time in the 1970s and early
11 '80s to today, it's just astonishing what the
12 university has been able to accomplish over the last 10
13 or 12 years.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

16 SENATOR ALEXANDER: While you've been on the
17 board, your attendance, how has that been.

18 MR. McINTYRE: I was hoping someone would ask
19 me that question, sir. I have missed one meeting in 13
20 years, nearly 14 years now, missed one meeting. And
21 quite frankly that was to attend the funeral of one of
22 your former colleagues, Representative Doug Jennings'
23 father passed away, and I attended that funeral. It
24 fell on the same day as a board meeting. But that's
25 the only board meeting I've missed in nearly 14 years.

1 SENATOR ALEXANDER: All right. My other
2 question is dealing with talking about you started out
3 when you were, there four buildings or so there on the
4 campus, is it true that -- where is your fine arts
5 center for Francis Marion University?

6 MR. McINTYRE: The new Performing Arts
7 Center?

8 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Yes.

9 MR. McINTYRE: It is downtown in Florence.

10 SENATOR ALEXANDER: So university campus has
11 really stretched out in downtown Florence?

12 MR. McINTYRE: It has stretched out, it has
13 indeed.

14 SENATOR ALEXANDER: And no tax dollars was
15 used for that, the best I remember.

16 MR. McINTYRE: There was a state
17 appropriation for a portion of it, but the majority of
18 the money came from the Bruce & Lee Foundation
19 privately there from Florence and the City and the
20 County and private citizens.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I've seen a picture of
22 it. It's a beautiful --

23 MR. McINTYRE: It's a beautiful facility.
24 We're very proud of that, yes, sir.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. I've been told

1 there's some water statue there, water art. Is it a
2 statue of a senator made out of water or something?

3 MR. McINTYRE: I'm not -- we have a few
4 statues around, now, but I don't know about a water
5 statue.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Some water art.

7 MR. McINTYRE: We have one of Francis Marion
8 there in the main entrance, and we just unveiled one at
9 the last board meeting of our first president, Doug
10 Smith. Walter Doug Smith, who is 92 or -3 years old
11 and still living and was there at the ceremony. It was
12 quite an event. And a lot of the older, retired staff
13 people, professors came back for that ceremony. It was
14 quite an event. Very nice.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Great.

16 Representative Whitmire.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: How many students
18 do you have now?

19 MR. McINTYRE: Just a shade under 4,100.
20 About 4,100.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Is that a steady
22 increase?

23 MR. McINTYRE: We've had about a 2 or 3
24 percent increase steadily for the last number of years.
25 Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Good growth.

2 MR. McINTYRE: We're excited about that. You
3 know, we brought online several new programs and
4 degrees recently. One that we're very proud of is the
5 master's in nursing, nurse practitioner degree that's
6 going out. Of course, we have a bachelor's in nursing
7 degree.

8 But we just brought online in January a
9 master's in nursing degree, a nurse practitioner. And
10 we hope to be able to put these folks to work out in
11 the Pee Dee and other parts of the state, particularly
12 the rural areas. We think it's going to be the future
13 of health care in many of these rural areas having
14 nurse practitioners as opposed to doctors in some
15 cases.

16 We have an industrial engineering degree
17 that's coming online January of '14, and we're excited
18 about that. And that will be the first engineering
19 degree in northeastern South Carolina. We think,
20 again, that will meet a need for our industries who are
21 looking for engineers, having a hard time, particularly
22 in the rural areas, of finding them. So we're planning
23 on educating them and having them there.

24 I think history shows that when they go to
25 school, they get their degree there, they tend to stay

1 in that area and work in the industries, in the areas
2 of that area.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I assume the
4 majority of your students are from the Pee Dee area?

5 MR. McINTYRE: Majority are -- 95 percent of
6 our students are South Carolinians. I think the last
7 numbers I saw, about 56, 60 percent are from the Pee
8 Dee area of South Carolina, yes. We feel like we're
9 fulfilling the mission that we were intended to do, you
10 know, when they were founded in 1970, and filling a
11 very big need in the Pee Dee and in South Carolina.

12 SENATOR PEELER: I think it's the anchor of
13 the Pee Dee, I really do.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Move for a favorable
15 report.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable
17 report.

18 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Second.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

20 All in favor, raise your right hand.

21 Thank you for your willingness to serve.

22 MR. McINTYRE: Thank you.

23 MS. CASTO: Next is William Coleman. He is
24 from Florence, and he is an incumbent but is a new
25 seat, the at-large seat number 15 with a term to expire

1 in 2016.

2 SENATOR PEELER: What tab is that?

3 MS. CASTO: I'm sorry. It's under tab 1.

4 It's the very last tab in your notebook.

5 SENATOR PEELER: Good.

6 If you would please raise your right hand.

7 Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole

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

9 MR. COLEMAN: I do.

10 SENATOR PEELER: You want to share with us
11 why you would like to continue to serve on the board at
12 Francis Marion.

13 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, sir. I'm senior to
14 Mr. McIntyre.

15 I first want to apologize. I've had
16 laryngitis and bronchitis for about a week to ten days.
17 I can't whip it.

18 SENATOR PEELER: I hate to tell you, you've
19 got about two more weeks to go. I've had it for a
20 month.

21 MR. COLEMAN: I tell you, this medicine is
22 worse than the --

23 SENATOR PEELER: I agree.

24 MR. COLEMAN: But I'm from a little town
25 called Pamplico, South Carolina. And was in first

1 graduating class of Francis Marion in 1971. I've been
2 in the banking business for 20-something years,
3 retiring about ten years ago and went in to commercial
4 real estate business. I married a Lake City girl.
5 I've been real involved with the community, been on the
6 economic development board. And like I say, I've been
7 involved with the foundation since it started, Francis
8 Marion, continuously also.

9 I think I'm the longest serving Francis
10 Marion board member right now, and I've been chairman
11 twice. Fortunate to be.

12 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions or comments of
13 Mr. Coleman?

14 SENATOR MCGILL: Mr. Chairman.

15 SENATOR PEELER: Senator McGill.

16 SENATOR MCGILL: Talk about impeccable
17 careers and impeccable personality, this man has got
18 it. This man's love -- it's hard to find a man that is
19 loved by all people all over that region. But he's
20 participated more by helping other people and not about
21 I, I, me, me. And I can tell you what, he without
22 question, if he's the longest serving board member at
23 Francis Marion University, I know if Chairman
24 Leatherman was in this room today or Fred Carter, any
25 of them, that they would talk about his very, very

1 impeccable, great reputation.

2 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you, Senator.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I move for
4 confirmation after that.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Let me ask this. Staff had
7 one question on the questionnaire. It was left blank,
8 it may have been just oversight.

9 MR. COLEMAN: On the --

10 MS. CASTO: On the personal data
11 questionnaire.

12 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. CASTO: On page 3, question number 23,
14 the second question at the top. It just says, "Have
15 you ever been a party, a plaintiff or a defendant, in
16 any state or federal litigation for the preceding five
17 years?"

18 MR. COLEMAN: I'm in litigation with the
19 Hartford Insurance Company right now.

20 MS. CASTO: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. COLEMAN: But I did leave that out in
22 error, I'm sorry.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Motion is favorable
24 report from Representative Whitmire.

25 Is there a second?

1 SENATOR MCGILL: Second.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

3 All in favor, raise your right hand.

4 Unanimous. Thank you, sir.

5 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you for all you all do
6 for the state.

7 MS. CASTO: If you will go back to tab V,
8 Mark Moore is here from Mount Pleasant. It is the 1st
9 Congressional District seat for Francis Marion. Tab V.
10 And he is a new candidate.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Good afternoon, Mr. Moore.

12 MR. MOORE: Thank you. Pleasure to be here.

13 SENATOR PEELER: Raise your right hand.

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

16 MR. MOORE: So help me God.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

18 If you would share with us why you would like
19 to serve on the board of Francis Marion.

20 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir. I think to be a part
21 of any board of trustees would be special and
22 definitely an honor, but I think Francis Marion is a
23 particular interest to me. My parents were both in
24 higher education, both taught at the College of
25 Charleston. My father was there for nearly 40 years.

1 He passed away about four years ago. And, you know,
2 there's a lot of value in my family. A lot of them
3 have worked in higher education, particularly in public
4 institutions.

5 I think that, you know, all public
6 institutions are there to serve the communities in
7 which they're located. I think Francis Marion is
8 especially special in that respect. I believe 95
9 percent of their students come from South Carolina. I
10 believe that more than 40 percent of them, I think, are
11 first-time college graduates out of their family. So I
12 think they're doing a really incredible job there of
13 educating and raising the level of that community.

14 Dr. Carter was a colleague of my father's at
15 the College of Charleston. My father maintained a
16 close relationship with him and with Francis Marion.
17 He went up there on a regular basis, and I would like
18 to be a part of the university. I would like to be
19 able to help where I can. I think I bring some
20 experience to the table that is useful.

21 I've worked in the public sector, private
22 sector in higher education administration. And as an
23 attorney, I think all of those things I could use in
24 assisting on the board.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. I see where you

1 were fired as a shoe salesman at Belk's?

2 MR. MOORE: I was. I wasn't Belk material.

3 SENATOR PEELER: I'm sorry?

4 MR. MOORE: I was told I wasn't Belk
5 material, so a career at Belk was pretty much out of
6 the question after that.

7 SENATOR PEELER: I think if I was a lady's
8 shoe salesman at Belk, it would be like dying and going
9 to heaven.

10 MR. MOORE: I was a men's shoe salesman.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Oh, okay. Oh me.

12 Any questions, comments?

13 SENATOR ALEXANDER: I can't outdo that.

14 SENATOR PEELER: I saw that, I said my
15 goodness.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Have you ever
17 wanted to go back and visit and show them what you
18 accomplished?

19 MR. MOORE: Well, I still won't ever live up
20 to being Belk material. No, actually, I -- you know,
21 it was one of those things. I was just out of college
22 and actually it was around the time the Navy base had
23 closed down in Charleston, and I went back to school
24 there after undergrad and worked there and was hoping
25 to get health benefits. But didn't make it past the

1 period I was supposed to make it to.

2 SENATOR PEELER: I thought you were going to
3 say you were a loafer.

4 (Laughter)

5 SENATOR PEELER: What is the pleasure of the
6 committee?

7 SENATOR MCGILL: Favorable report.

8 SENATOR PEELER: The motion is favorable
9 report.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

11 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

12 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

13 Thank you.

14 I appreciate your willingness to serve. I
15 think you will enjoy serving on it.

16 MR. MOORE: Thank you all so much.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I
18 may. I have noticed that the tenor of your meeting has
19 changed significantly since this morning. We're
20 getting a little punchy over here.

21 SENATOR PEELER: Yeah.

22 MS. CASTO: If you will turn to Tab Y, James
23 Bunch. He is from Gaffney, and his is the 5th
24 Congressional District seat on the Francis Marion board
25 with a term to expire in 2014.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Hello, Mark.

2 DR. BUNCH: Good afternoon. Thank you for
3 seeing me today.

4 SENATOR PEELER: I need to swear you in, if
5 you would please your right hand.

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

8 DR. BUNCH: I do.

9 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

10 Would you share with the committee why you'd
11 like to serve on the Francis Marion board.

12 DR. BUNCH: Francis Marion for my family has
13 a long history starting in 1975 with an older brother
14 attending there and older sister, younger sister,
15 several cousins, very -- lots of family members and
16 then myself as well even attending there.

17 I've always enjoyed Francis Marion, being
18 from that part of the state, watching its growth and
19 watching it change from the college to a university
20 status. It was indeed an honor to get my degree from
21 the college, university, and I look forward to working
22 with them and seeing what that future holds for that
23 university. So I'm looking forward to being with them
24 for this period of time.

25 SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Dr. Bunch.

1 DR. BUNCH: Thank you.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions, comments?

3 SENATOR MCGILL: Chairman, let me just see.

4 I see you served on Bennettsville City Council.

5 DR. BUNCH: Yes, I did, many years ago.

6 SENATOR MCGILL: How did you like that task?

7 DR. BUNCH: That was an interesting
8 situation. I filled a void as there was a term they
9 restructured, did some line drawings and other things
10 like that. So it was an odd time for an election
11 there, so I ran for that city council seat and had a
12 great time there. Learned lots about the government of
13 the City of Bennettsville. Enjoyed my time there a
14 lot.

15 SENATOR MCGILL: I can tell you this,
16 Bennettsville is one of the most attractive small towns
17 probably in the whole Southeast.

18 DR. BUNCH: Thank you very much. That city
19 has really grown with its character downtown, so
20 they've done a beautiful job with that. So thank you
21 very much.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions,
23 comments?

24 I would like to comment. Dr. Bunch is from
25 Gaffney. He's principal at Kinard Middle School where

1 my oldest granddaughter attends and my daughter-in-law
2 teaches there. And Dr. Bunch also sings with a group
3 with my brother Bill. So I know him very well. And I
4 think he would be a great member of the board.

5 I see on here you failed to leave -- write
6 down your voter registration number. Please tell me
7 you're registered to vote.

8 DR. BUNCH: Yes, I am. I apologize for that.
9 Yes.

10 SENATOR PEELER: That would have been a big
11 old black mark.

12 Any questions or comments of Dr. Bunch?

13 SENATOR MCGILL: Move for a favorable report.

14 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

15 Is there a second?

16 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Second is heard.

18 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

19 Thank you for your willingness to serve,
20 Mark.

21 DR. BUNCH: Thank you very much. I
22 appreciate it.

23 SENATOR PEELER: Nice to see you.

24 DR. BUNCH: Yes, it is. Thank you and good
25 afternoon.

1 SENATOR PEELER: I asked my granddaughter, I
2 said, "Dr. Bunch will be under oath, do you want me to
3 ask him any questions?"

4 "Ask him how many bow ties does he have."

5 You don't have to answer that.

6 DR. BUNCH: Thank you all very much.

7 MS. CASTO: We are waiting on Gail Ness
8 Richardson. She was scheduled -- isn't scheduled to be
9 here until 4:10. So she should be here in just a
10 little bit.

11 (Off the record.)

12 SENATOR PEELER: Hello.

13 MS. RICHARDSON: Gail Richardson, Barnwell,
14 Francis Marion University Board of Trustees. I've been
15 a trustee there for 25 years, since 1988. And I love
16 my job, and I consider it a full-time job. I'm very
17 proud of what Francis Marion does, of the mission of --
18 to serve the Pee Dee. And I hope you'll see fit for me
19 to be a trustee for a little bit longer.

20 SENATOR PEELER: Wow. You're like Jeopardy,
21 you're given us the question and we've got to guess the
22 answer. You've given the answer, and we've got to
23 guess the question.

24 MS. CASTO: Ms. Richardson is behind tab W in
25 your notebook.

1 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. If you would take
2 your seat.

3 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you.

4 SENATOR PEELER: I need to swear you in.

5 MS. RICHARDSON: Certainly.

6 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Please raise your
7 right hand.

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

10 MS. RICHARDSON: I do.

11 SENATOR PEELER: You just gave me the reason
12 you want to continue to serve. Anything you would like
13 to add to what you said?

14 MS. RICHARDSON: No. Thank you, sir. I
15 would certainly entertain any question.

16 SENATOR PEELER: Okay. And that's what we
17 will do. I'll open it for questions.

18 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you.

19 SENATOR PEELER: Anyone have any questions or
20 comment?

21 How long you have been on the board, 25
22 years?

23 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, since 1988. Since the
24 legislature saw fit to separate the boards of all of
25 our universities. And Francis Marion got their own

1 board, and I've enjoyed it very much ever since.

2 SENATOR PEELER: Looks like you drive like
3 you talk, kind of fast.

4 MS. RICHARDSON: Why is that?

5 SENATOR PEELER: Six speeding tickets.

6 MS. RICHARDSON: Oh, well, I might drive too
7 fast, yeah.

8 SENATOR PEELER: Any questions?

9 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman.

10 SENATOR PEELER: Senator Alexander.

11 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Being you've been there
12 for so long, a couple of things. One is how has your
13 attendance been?

14 MS. RICHARDSON: My attendance is excellent.
15 I'm unemployed other than in this job, and I make
16 myself available not just for board meetings, but for
17 those times in between when other board members are
18 tied up with other employment issues and I am there.
19 And it's a two-hour-and-20-minute drive, so it's not a
20 quick run for me.

21 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Right. And I guess the
22 other question with serving for that length of time,
23 what is the greatest change that you've seen at the
24 university during that period of time?

25 MS. RICHARDSON: The quality of the

1 administration. We have had only four presidents. I
2 did not serve under one. One quite excellent in his
3 presidency, and one not so great. This man that we
4 have now is dynamite.

5 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Are you speaking of
6 Dr. Carter?

7 MS. RICHARDSON: I am. He has done wonderful
8 things for the association, among the faculty and the
9 administration and the trustees and the students so
10 that everyone is pulling in the same direction. And
11 that's what we need.

12 SENATOR ALEXANDER: Let the record reflect I
13 certainly share your admiration of Dr. Carter and his
14 leadership.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. His leadership
16 is excellent.

17 SENATOR PEELER: Representative Mack.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 What are some of the changes you've seen over
21 the 25 years?

22 MS. RICHARDSON: Well, we've seen quite an
23 increase in our student body. We have over 4,000
24 students now. There was a period of time when that
25 number was going down, but not in the past 15, 17

1 years.

2 We have added tremendously to our repertoire
3 of course offerings thanks to the approval for those
4 and for our structures on campus. We are a young
5 campus, and I'm a little bit partial but I think we
6 have the prettiest college campus in South Carolina.
7 It's relatively new, having -- the university having
8 started in the '70s. And we have added some really
9 fine facilities, a Performing Arts Center in
10 conjunction with the City of Florence that has not only
11 been quite an asset for us as a university but also to
12 revitalize the downtown area of Florence, too. And a
13 beautiful nursing facility.

14 We have several graduate programs now that we
15 did not have in 1988 when I began on the board. And
16 we're now adding nurse practitioner and physicians
17 assistants programs. And that is going to be quite an
18 addition for our Carolina and McLeod hospitals in the
19 Pee Dee, and, of course, other places, too.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: You were not here
21 earlier when a lot of us, including myself, spoke very
22 highly of Dr. Carter and the school.

23 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Just one word of
25 advice, I like you a lot. Please slow down.

1 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you. Slow down in the
2 car.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: In the car.

4 MS. RICHARDSON: I do talk fast.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: In the car.

6 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you.

7 SENATOR PEELER: I'm curious, did you say you
8 have a master's degree from South Carolina?

9 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, I do.

10 SENATOR PEELER: What's your master's?

11 MS. RICHARDSON: Library science. I was a
12 media specialist at Blackville-Hilda High School, and
13 SAT prep teacher.

14 SENATOR PEELER: So you're retired.

15 MS. RICHARDSON: I am. I'm retired from
16 teaching. I'm a grandmother of nine, so that's my
17 other part-time job besides Francis Marion.

18 SENATOR PEELER: Only thing in the world
19 that's not overrated is grandchildren.

20 MS. RICHARDSON: It's true. It's absolutely
21 true.

22 SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or
23 comments?

24 SENATOR MCGILL: Just thank you for your
25 service.

1 Move favorable report.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

3 SENATOR PEELER: Motion is and seconded

4 favorable report on Ms. Gail Ness Richardson.

5 All in favor, please raise your right hand.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. RICHARDSON: Thank you very much. I hope

8 I haven't held you kind people up.

9 SENATOR PEELER: No.

10 MS. RICHARDSON: I know I'm early, but I

11 think you are running a little ahead of schedule.

12 SENATOR PEELER: We are.

13 MS. RICHARDSON: That's a good thing. Have a

14 wonderful afternoon.

15 SENATOR PEELER: You, too.

16 MS. CASTO: That's it for today.

17 SENATOR PEELER: I'll see you in the morning.

18 (The hearing recessed at 3:54 p.m.)

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1
2 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
3

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

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

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

19 Witness my hand, I have hereunto
20 affixed my official seal this 12th day of April,
21 2013, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.
22
23

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

I N D E X

1		
2	CANDIDATE	Page
3	GEORGE R. STARNES	4
4	LINDA DOLNY	10
5	JACK W. LAWRENCE	19
6	S. ANNE WALKER	29
7	CATHERINE LEE FREDERICK	32
8	ROBERT BRIMMER	42
9	GENE PINSON	46
10	TIMOTHY B. SEASE	63
11	KATHY H. BIGHAM	72
12	ROSE HILLIARD-WILDER	77
13	ASHLYE V. WILKERSON	91
14	KARL A. FOLKENS	100
15	FRED LEWIS PRICE, JR.	107
16	WILLIAM L. LYLES	121
17	MARION B. LEE	126
18	LARRY L. BIDDLE	129
19	ROBERT TEMPLETON	143
20	GEORGE E. MULLEN	149
21	NATASHA M. HANNA	154
22	JODY BRYSON	161
23	GEORGE C. MCINTYRE	171
24	WILLIAM W. COLEMAN, JR.	178
25	(Index continued on the following page.)	

1	CANDIDATES CONTINUED	Page
2	MARK S. MOORE	182
3	JAMES M. BUNCH	185
4	GAIL NESS RICHARDSON	189
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		