

**SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - NOVEMBER 22, 2016

Approved at the January 2017 meeting of the SIC. fnBelk

Present: Christopher Toumey, Chair, Parent, Drama, and the Richland County area; Tamar Paltrow Zwerdling, Parent, Visual Arts and the Greenville County area; Sarah Crockford, Parent, Creative Writing and the York County area; Eric Johnston, Parent, Dance, and the York County area; Meesh Hays, Parent, Drama and the Richland County area; Earle Oxner, Parent, Creative Writing, and the Greenville County area; Marty Epp-Carter, Faculty and Visual Arts; Norman Belk, Faculty and Library; Cam'Ron Stewart, Student Body Co-President; Leah Abbott, Student Body Co-President; and Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Julie Allen, Dean and Vice-President; Dr. Matthew Burns, Student Services; and Dr. Cedric Adderley, President.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Toumey welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. He also asked for introductions to begin the meeting.

APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA

Mr. McKay moved to accept the Agenda as provided. There was a second and the Agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

SIC Membership clarification

Mr. Toumey called on Dean Allen to explain the membership and voting privileges of those members. The large outline of membership is dictated by the State of South Carolina and brings specific stakeholders to the table (students, faculty, parents, etc.). In addition, our SIC seeks to add into the mix the Art Areas of the curriculum as well as state-wide geographic diversity. Each member has voting privileges, except those who are Ex-Officio. All meetings are open to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

"Midway Families"

Mr. Toumey noted concern about families who must travel long distances to coastal areas or to the eastern midlands transporting students to and from campus. Dr. Burns pointed out that the Govie Parent Group has created lists of parents who are willing to help with such transportation, including "carpooling." Social Media helps with this process. The Dean and Dr. Burns plan to emphasize this service/concept in the next parent packets.

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2017-2018 School Calendar

Dr. Burns distributed the proposed school calendar for 2017-2018. He emphasized that this draft school calendar meets state requirements and has gone through the Department Chairs as well as President's Council here on campus. He noted that the school has tried to accommodate parent needs as well, but that the school recognizes that all concerns of parents are not met with this draft. He asked that any ideas for improvement be communicated to him.

Parent Education Opportunities

Dr. Burns asked the Council whether it would be beneficial to offer, perhaps on departure days for breaks, opportunities for parents to have information sessions on varying topics. Mr. Oxner asked what topics might be considered. Dr. Burns suggested "College Admissions," "Cyber Awareness," "Eating Disorders," etc. A question arose concerning allowing upstate parents who might be interested. Dean Allen said that we do some of that now during Family Weekend, for example. We do have limited space and limited parking facilities. Mr. Johnston suggested that we float some ideas with parents. Ms. Hays suggested that we might target the College Fair day.

Downtown Perimeters Update

Mr. Burns noted that walking perimeters for students have always been a work in progress while the City of Greenville has developed rapidly. During this time walking perimeters have largely expanded. The West End area has developed to a point where an expansion of walking perimeters is now possible. Dr. Burns noted that the school always works with Greenville City Police, local merchants, and our own Security Department for assistance in making recommendations. Parents may restrict their student's walking perimeters. If parents have concerns about Downtown walking perimeters or Downtown Greenville for safety, please let us know.

Eric Johnston asked about availability of bringing snacks from home and about snacks on the weekend. It seems that the schedules are at a variance with the weekdays. Dr. Burns noted that the contract for food services is up this year and that this situation will be considered in contract negotiations. Both Mr. Johnston and Dr. Burns discussed the role of the Dining Committee, a body established to bring community concerns to the vendor.

Chairman Toumey talked about the competition for the SIC Award discussed in the previous meeting. He indicated that, perhaps, bringing anecdotes to include in a future application for the award would be supportive of our application.

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Mr. Belk noted that he had forgotten to include the approval of the minutes from the last meeting of the SIC in today's Agenda. The Chairman called for a motion to approve. Mr. McKay moved to approve the minutes of the October 2016 meeting. There was a second and the minutes were approved.

DEAN'S REPORT

Dean Julie Allen indicated that the school report card will become available and that she will bring information to the SIC. She said that exams are coming up and listed events related to this year's Graduation, Senior Send-Off, Celebration of Achievement and locations for this year's activities. Information is available on the school's website.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Adderley noted the intense activity and great growth in the student body evident at this time of year. He said that his children attended with him activities such as Dance performances and Opera Scenes. He discussed our partnership with Drayton Mills in Spartanburg County and noted a Legislative presence at our activities there. Dr. Adderley also noted that our recruitment efforts are yielding robust results. Details seem to point to a great first year for the online application process. Outreach efforts are having similar success. In 26 counties throughout the state, we have had a high impact on many, many fifth grade classes with a Visual Arts project.

This year, the GSA Foundation's "Songwriters in the Round" event was very successful and it became a two-event activity. The second event was held on our campus for our students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Allen noted that the Piano Ensemble event was well received by the audience of on-campus folks as well those from off-campus. Marty Epp-Carter noted that the Open Studio program featured several VA faculty and it would be interesting for everyone to see the reactions of our students. Mr. Toumey said that the next meeting is January 13, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Toumey called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk