

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting – June 10, 2026**

*Submitted by Ashley D. Smith*

The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (SCGSAH) Board of Directors meeting was held Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. virtually via Microsoft Teams from the Callie Stringer Rainey Boardroom of the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

#### **Board Members in Attendance**

Chad Prosser, Chairman; Irv Welling, III, Vice Chairman; Sarah Cathcart; Rev. Josh Dry; Raye Felder; Fallon Hogan; Kim Lee; Fain McDaniel; Dr. Carly Porter-Phinizy; Katherine Barnette Pinillos; Andrew Saleeby; Gerald Witt

#### **Employees in Attendance**

Dr. Cedric Adderley, President; Betsy Beam, Vice President (VP) of Finance & Administration; Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development; Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean and VP of Arts & Academics; Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director, SCGSAH Foundation; Richard Jones, Director of Information Technology; Ashley Smith, Executive Assistant to the President/Board Secretary

#### **Welcome**

Chairman Prosser called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He announced that the meeting is being livestreamed and recorded in accordance with SC legislation. He explained the agenda has been adjusted due to the scheduled Executive Session discussion with legal counsel to receive advice regarding pending litigation.

#### **Notice of Meeting**

Chairman Prosser announced the notice of this meeting had been provided to all persons, organizations, and news media that have requested notification, as required by Section 30-4-80(e) of the SC Code of Laws. (Page 1)

#### **Approval of the Minutes (Exhibit 1)**

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. A motion to approve the board meeting minutes was brought forth by Vice Chair Welling, seconded by Fain McDaniel, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **President's Report (Exhibit 2)**

Dr. Adderley, President, presented a briefing of the President's Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. He reflected on the significant achievements throughout the 2025-2026 academic year to include state and national honors, sold out performances and successful departmental collaborative events. He advised that the budget requests have been reviewed and agreed upon by both legislative chambers but

are currently awaiting confirmation. He provided an update on the Dining Hall renovation and estimated the completion of the project for the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic school year. He also thanked Martha Greenway for her work with the entire school community during the strategic planning process and stated that the plan establishes a robust strategic framework to drive success over the next five years. Dr. Adderley acknowledged that Betsy Beam, VP of Finance and Administration, will soon be retiring and reflected on her operational courtesy, accomplishments and dedication to the school's mission and values. Chairman Prosser also expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Beam's professionalism, leadership and ability to move the community forward.

- Fain McDaniel requested clarification on the process of the state approving capital projects, more specifically about the approval of a project in one fiscal year but not providing any funding for the following years. Dr. Adderley clarified that previous capital project fundings were either approved in full or in phases. He pointed out that no previous projects have gone beyond two phases, making the current approval but no funding for the Gallery/Flexible Instructional Space a unique scenario. Chairman Prosser discussed previous capital projects and funding priorities with the General Assembly. Chairman Prosser opened the floor for Raye Felder, Board Member, and former member of the General Assembly to offer any words of advice, if possible. Ms. Felder suggested that the board take a position early next year to ask each chamber to consider including this funding to ensure that the request is captured in the budget committee's framework.

Without further questions, the President's Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

### **Old Business**

#### **● Strategic Plan Update (Exhibit 3)**

- Martha Greenway, Greenway Strategy Group, provided a review of the three phases of the strategic planning process: analysis, strategic development, and action plan. She thanked the entire Govie community for their contributions throughout the analysis and development phases and introduced the action plan initiatives derived from the feedback. She introduced the proposed names of the strategic plan: Building South Carolina's Creative Talent or Cultivating Creativity for South Carolina's Future.
  - Chairman Prosser thanked the Greenway Strategy Group for capturing the information provided by the stakeholders and constituents. He stated that a special meeting will be scheduled to discuss further revisions to the strategic plan.
  - Fain McDaniel inquired about the process of monitoring the plan once implemented. Ms. Greenway stated the objectives and initiatives include defined timelines to allow leadership to monitor progress. Ms. Greenway further explained that the implementation phase is the most challenging, but Leadership has designated sponsors for every initiative that will ensure ongoing guidance and oversight to balance action plan implementation and daily operations.
  - There was a consensus amongst the board members about scheduling a special virtual meeting prior to the next board meeting scheduled for September. Leadership expressed appreciation for the product provided from the entire process.

## **New Business**

### **• Proposed Fee Increase (Exhibit 4)**

- Betsy Beam, VP of Finance & Administration, provided a review of the exhibit that was distributed before the meeting. Mrs. Beam explained there have not been any fee increases in two years and that these increases are based on cost-of-living increases. She presented that the board consider and vote on the \$200 increase in each summer program session and an increase in the residential high school meal plan.
  - Vice Chair Welling inquired if the Foundation provides funds for the summer programs. Mrs. Beam explained there are some funds from endowments designated for financial assistance with summer program attendance, but not as much as for the residential high school.
  - Fain McDaniel inquired if the proposed meal plan increase was enough to cover the cost-of-living increase from Aramark due to the 6% contractual cap to which Mrs. Beam explained that the increase would not fully cover the cost-of-living increase. Mrs. Beam further explained that the Foundation and school graciously absorb a portion of the meal plan costs each year. Vice Chair Welling asked for an estimate of how much the school and Foundation absorb to which Mrs. Beam stated the estimated figures are \$202,000 from the school and \$260,000 from the Foundation in an attempt to make the meal plan affordable.
- Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the Proposed Fee Increase. A motion to approve the Proposed Fee Increase was brought forth by Vice Chair Welling, seconded by Fain McDaniel, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

### **• Commercial Music Curriculum Proposal (Exhibit 5)**

- Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean and VP of Arts & Academics, explained that the proposal had been developed over the course of the last three years and acknowledged Dr. Lauren Vaughn for creating a faculty workshop to assist in designing the proposed curriculum. She provided an explanation of the scope of the courses and announced that, pending approval, some of the courses would begin in the next academic school year. She confirmed that music students would be able to explore some of the courses without entering this specific program. She discussed multifaceted careers that the curriculum explores and the appeal to a new type of music student that could assist with recruitment. She further detailed this program would create a small group of musicians that can perform across the state in outreach capacities and provide more visibility of the school.
- Fain McDaniel inquired if there has been a discussion on how the legislature will receive all of the necessary information to evaluate this program to best demonstrate the overall benefits this will bring to our state. Dr. Thomas confirmed that pending the approval of the curriculum, the initiatives included in the action plan for the strategic plan that addresses the return on investment would be appropriate to evaluate and communicate this information. Vice Chair Welling stated that the explanation to the General Assembly needs to be comprehensive.
- Sarah Cathcart inquired about the faculty requirements and Dr. Thomas explained that there are current adjunct and full-time faculty members for most instrument areas, but there will be a need for a new adjunct guitar instructor. Katherine Barnette-Pinillos offered to make connections with a faculty member at Francis Marion University as a potential resource for the program.
- Andrew Saleeby inquired if the program will include specialized technology such as turntables for disc jockeys classified as instruments for the new cohort of students. Dr. Thomas explained that elements of technology are included in the curriculum and the skillset for disc jockeys can be fostered, but the use of

turntables and electronic media is not currently under consideration as an instrument for the program.

- Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the Commercial Music Curriculum Proposal. A motion to approve the Commercial Music Curriculum Proposal was brought forth by Kimberly Lee, seconded by Vice Chair Welling, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

### **Executive Session**

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to SC code 30-4-70(a)(2) which allows for a discussion with legal counsel, Charles F. Turner, Jr., WJCB Law, to receive advice regarding pending litigation. It was decided to vote to go into Executive Session and then return to vote on coming out of Executive Session. A motion to go into Executive Session was brought forward by Gerald Witt, seconded by Katherine Barnette-Pinillos, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to come out of the Executive Session. A motion to come out of Executive Session was brought forward by Vice Chair Welling, seconded by Gerald Witt and Katherine Pinillos, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Prosser declared the meeting back in Public Session and there were no votes or actions taken during the Executive Session.

### **Finance and Administration Report (Exhibit 6)**

Betsy Beam, VP of Finance and Administration, presented a briefing on the Finance Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Mrs. Beam provided updates on department staffing and operational support for year-end events. She reported that the Shared Services Asset Team and Executive Budget Committee visits went well. She advised that FY27 budget may not be approved by July 1, 2026, and the current plan for the state is to adopt a Continuing Resolution to maintain funding at FY26 levels while working with rolled over funds in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. She addressed the FY26 budget, unit level budgets spending and forecasting, and the cost-of-living increases across all areas. She advised the Dining Hall expansion is due to be completed before the beginning of the upcoming academic school year, and the Residential Hall renovation draft will be brought to the September board meeting.

Without further questions, the Finance Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

### **Student Development Report (Exhibit 7)**

Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development, presented a briefing on the Student Development Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Dr. Burns announced the Admission's Department is fully staffed and are currently brainstorming on new ways to recruit students, especially male students. He explained 235 students is the targeted amount for enrollment, and the final numbers will be presented at the September board meeting. He confirmed the collaboration events with the Film and Visual Arts departments were successful and will help raise the school's profile. He provided updates on year-end events and the upcoming Summer Programs Professional Development Day.

Without further questions, the Student Development Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

**Dean's Report (Exhibit 8)**

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean and VP of Arts & Academics, presented a briefing on the Dean's Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Dr. Thomas announced the Office for School Counseling won first place in the division for the highest number of students/families that completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid packet. She provided updates on Department Chair rotations and staffing. She presented two Film projects, Battle of the Stands and Between.

Without further questions, the Dean's Report was received as information and will be accepted as a permanent component of these minutes.

**Foundation Report (Exhibit 9)**

Fain McDaniel, SCGSAH Foundation Chair, and Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director of the SCGSAH Foundation, presented a briefing of the Foundation Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Fain McDaniel provided an update that the Foundation Board recently met to discuss the FY26 budget and officially reviewed and approved the FY27 budget. She provided an updated status on the Foundation's financial standings. She thanked the board members for their continued support. She requested assistance from the board members to help identify potential corporate sponsors. She invited the Board Members to the annual Foundation Performance Tour and Dinner in September.

Amanda Herlihy briefed information about a SCGSAH Music Alumna who has created an endowed fund for and is currently providing funds to assist with the launch of the Commercial Music program. She confirmed the Foundation received a record number of gifts in kind during the Songwriters in the Round event that took place in March. She announced that Vice Chair Welling was awarded the Fred Collins Luminary Award for his longstanding leadership, advocacy, and support of SCGSAH during the event.

Without further questions, the SCGSAH Foundation Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

**Faculty Council Report (Exhibit 10)**

No briefing provided, but information is available in the board report for review.

**Staff Council Report (Exhibit 11)**

No briefing provided, but information is available in the board report for review.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 12:59pm. A motion to adjourn the board meeting was brought forth by Andrew Saleeby, seconded by Fallon Hogan, and was approved by unanimous vote.