

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
TO SCREEN CANDIDATES  
FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SCREENINGS**

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Location: 407 Gressette Building  
1101 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Committee Members Present:

Chairman Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.  
Representative Sylleste H. Davis  
Representative Richard C. King  
Representative William R. "Bill" Whitmire  
Senator Thomas C. Alexander  
Senator John L. Scott, Jr.

Also Present:

Martha Casto, Staff  
Julie Price, Staff

10:33 a.m.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I'm going to call the meeting back to order. This is the Joint Legislative Committee to Screen Candidates for College and University Boards of Trustees meeting starting at 10:30 for Coastal Carolina University, Daniel W.R. Moore, North Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Moore.

MS. CASTO: Mr. Moore is from North Myrtle Beach. His is an at-large seat that will expire June 30, 2021. He's been on the board since 2000.

Is that correct?

MR. MOORE: Yes, ma'am.

MS. CASTO: Okay.

And he's running unopposed.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Good morning, sir.

MR. MOORE: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for showing up this morning.

MR. MOORE: Well, thank you very much. I appreciate you indulging me. I was out of state yesterday.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I understand.

Let me swear you in.

MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

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

MR. MOORE: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a brief statement on why you'd like to continue to serve on the --

MR. MOORE: I don't -- I don't want to be redundant or anything like that. I've probably made a similar statement in the past.

I'm very attached to Coastal Carolina. I've spent time out there involved with the academic side, and I am so excited about the offerings that we have; the retention of good talent, educators; the ability of our provost, our president to attract top talent to educate our young people and nontraditional students.

Our resources are limited. We're not a legacy school. We are working to better that, if you will. We are engaged in a capital campaign now. I have committed dollars to the institution, and I will continue to do that. Our family supports an endowed scholarship, and we continue to contribute to that on an annual basis.

I'm very proud to serve in the capacity as trustee and would like to continue.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Any questions of Mr. Moore?

Representative Whitmire.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Let me get this on right.

MS. CASTO: Yes, sir. It's on.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: It's on?

MS. CASTO: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Welcome, Mr. Moore. It's nice to know you're --

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I don't think it's working.

MS. CASTO: We're not in this room very often.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Pull up closer.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I think this will work.

Thank you.

They gave me a bad chair yesterday. Now they gave me a bad mic.

(Laughter.)

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: They want me off this committee.

Mr. Moore, welcome. It's exciting to know you are a former educator in Oconee County. That was my life's work too. And you've obviously done very well since you've been in the Myrtle Beach area.

I asked one of the members yesterday -- people running for Coastal yesterday about the marine science program.

MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Where is Watie's Island?

MR. MOORE: Watie's Island was -- part of the island belonged to the Tilghman Family. They developed a large part of the north end of Myrtle Beach.

Watie's Island -- if I had a map, I could better describe it. It's off of Little River/Calabash Inlet --

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I know where you're talking about.

MR. MOORE: -- where Calabash, North Carolina and Little River, South Carolina come together. It juts out, and it's also flanked on the south side, going back to the south parts of Myrtle Beach and Cherry Grove, by an inlet also, the Cherry Grove Inlet.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Is that land protected?

MR. MOORE: Part of it is protected, but it was donated to us by the Tilghman Family, to the University, and it's an incubator of research science. And it's absolutely amazing. If any of you have the opportunity to get to the coast, go to Cherry Grove. You can wade across to the island at low tide and just explore. It's really beautiful.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So it's publicly accessible, then.

MR. MOORE: Publicly accessible. It is.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

MR. MOORE: And we have a caretaker and a causeway to get our scientific equipment and the like and students to the island. That's where we teach outdoor ecological courses and such.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, my wife's into birding. I assume you have a lot of birds.

MR. MOORE: Awesome. Awesome. Awesome.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I may take you up on it and come down.

MR. MOORE: Do. Do. Call me anytime. I'd love to show you around and take the tour out there with Dr. Paul Gayes, who's the director. He's awesome.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

MR. MOORE: The research -- I don't want to take too much of your time, but the research going on there is so exciting. We're studying estuary evolution, if you will, estuary maintenance, ebbs and flows of tidal marshes and how they fit into our ecology of the state of South Carolina and how we can continue to improve it and conserve and protect it. And that's what we're teaching our students also, and also to learn about the ecology.

Shrimp harvesting, oyster harvesting is just -- everybody likes shrimps and oysters unless you're allergic. Fortunately I'm not.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

MR. MOORE: It's exciting. It's very exciting.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Do you have a question, Senator Scott?

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Moore, for your willingness to serve.

MR. MOORE: Well, thank you, sir.

SENATOR SCOTT: Do you know what a diversity officer is?

MR. MOORE: Yes, sir. I do.

SENATOR SCOTT: I spoke with some of your other colleagues and others who have -- who are interested in being at Coastal Carolina, and I asked the question, Do you all know if you have a diversity officer?

Do you know whether or not you have one or not?

MR. MOORE: I'm --

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, let me help you out. I don't think you do.

MR. MOORE: You do?

SENATOR SCOTT: I don't think you do.

MR. MOORE: Okay.

SENATOR SCOTT: And the question is why you don't have a diversity officer. You all are probably one of the most diverse schools in South Carolina, especially with your minority participation. The numbers are higher than most of the others. Maybe one other school may have you, but your numbers look really good --

MR. MOORE: Well, thank you.

SENATOR SCOTT: -- for student body.

MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR SCOTT: But for staff and faculty, it's a little different.

MR. MOORE: Okay.

SENATOR SCOTT: And so I asked the question in both a private conversation and as a screening, Where is the board in making sure we reach a balance?

MR. MOORE: Right.

SENATOR SCOTT: Your group is so diverse, but not just African Americans but Asians and folks from a little bit of everywhere.

MR. MOORE: Right.

SENATOR SCOTT: So it's important to get that culture here, if you're able to get some more diverse people also --

MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR SCOTT: -- on your campus to teach.

What's your take on that?

MR. MOORE: That's an extremely interesting question. I know that our student population is diverse.

It escapes me for the moment, but we do have a student services officer who is African American.

SENATOR SCOTT: No, sir. No, sir.

MR. MOORE: I can't recall his name at the moment. But I would suggest that his work at the university transcends any question of diversity.

SENATOR SCOTT: No, sir. The diversity officer does a little bit more than student services.

MR. MOORE: I understand.

SENATOR SCOTT: He's well trained in helping the faculty -- in helping the faculty and staff --

MR. MOORE: To understand the differences.

SENATOR SCOTT: Yes, sir.

MR. MOORE: I understand.

SENATOR SCOTT: Now, some of the largest schools -- I think your alma mater, Clemson University, which we're going to be with them this morning --

SENATOR ALEXANDER: Go Tigers.

SENATOR SCOTT: Go Tigers.

MR. MOORE: Go Tigers.

SENATOR SCOTT: Last year they hired a new diversity officer and diversity team and are working on some of their diversity issues.

USC has a diversity officer, and most of the larger schools who are doing tremendous recruiting -- and especially because they're involving internationals such as the Darla Moore School of Business, the international school of engineering in Clemson, MUSC.

So they're reaching out to bring in these officers to help them to understand the challenges when they bring in these international students as well as the African-American student population, the importance of

having a diverse group and having an officer to help pave the way for you to understand that.

MR. MOORE: You make an excellent point, and I will take that information back --

SENATOR SCOTT: I'd appreciate that.

MR. MOORE: -- to our president and provost and discuss that with them.

Thank you.

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you so much.

MR. MOORE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Any other questions?

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: (Shaking head.)

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I move for a favorable report.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The motion is a favorable report.

SENATOR SCOTT: I will second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Seconded.

Any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

(Members respond.)

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The ayes have it.

Thank you so much for your service and for your willingness to continue to serve.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, sir.

I thank all of you.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you for being here this morning.

MS. CASTO: Thanks.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Martha, would you like to announce?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I'm looking forward to coming down

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, and I'm going to come too.

MR. MOORE: Yes, please do.

MS. CASTO: I have before you all a schedule for the rest of the timeframe for the candidates.

What we are trying to do -- we just finished the last screening. On Friday, March 17, we're going to release -- and it will be printed in the Journals of the House and the Senate. It will be an initial release of

names. By law, we have to wait at least 48 hours for it to be formally released and candidates to get their pledge.

So what we are proposing for you all to adopt is that on Tuesday, March 21, at 12 noon, the candidates will be released to get pledges.

The election will be Wednesday, April 5. We've got to have two weeks, so this is two weeks and one day -- or half a day before the election.

We will send this out to all the candidates. It tells them that they cannot -- and it's straight from the statute -- cannot seek directly or indirectly the pledge of any member of the General Assembly until 12 noon on March 21. And if a member is found in violation of making a pledge, they go before the Ethics Committee, and any candidate, it's a misdemeanor charge.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Everybody okay with the schedule?

THE MEMBERS: (Nodding heads.)

SENATOR SCOTT: Motion to adjourn.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.)