

**COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE
SCREENING COMMISSION
FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES**

SCREENINGS

Date: Monday, November 6, 2017
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Gressette Building
1101 Pendleton Street
Committee Room 209
Columbia, South Carolina

Committee Members Present:
Chairman Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
Senator Thomas Alexander
Senator John L. Scott
Senator Danny Verdin
Vice-Chairman Representative Bill Whitmire
Representative Phyllis Henderson
Representative John King
Representative Sylleste Davis

Also Present:
Martha Casto, Staff
Julie Price, Staff

11:08 a.m.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I will call the meeting to order.

This is the meeting of the College and University Trustee Screening Commission. I'd like to welcome everyone. I pray that God continues to bless us all.

Our chair would like to entertain a motion and go into executive session and receive a briefing by our attorney.

A second.

Any opposition?

All right. We'll go into executive session. We'll try to be as expeditious as we can.

(Executive session transpired from 11:07 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: All right. The veil has been lifted.

We received a briefing from our attorney for some legal advice, and Members made some action on South Carolina State. I understand that 12 vacancies will be vacant, and one person has filed from District 6.

Is that all? Just one?

MS. CASTO: (Nodding head.)

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: So we're going to need to reopen those other seats.

SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Scott.

SENATOR SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would so move to reopen those 11 seats as of November the 7th, which is tomorrow, for South Carolina University. As you indicated, somebody did file under the 6th Congressional Seat, except we'll need -- the other 11 seats will be open as of November 7th, which is tomorrow.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion seconded.

Any discussion?

Hearing none, we'll take it to a vote.

All in favor, raise your hand.

Thank you. It's unanimous. No opposition.

So staff, explain to us, because there is quite a bit of interest in South Carolina State, what will this require?

MS. CASTO: What this will require is tomorrow morning we will send a press release to open up for letters of intent to run for the 11 seats that no one filed for this fall. Those seats will be the 1st Congressional District, the 2nd Congressional District, 3rd Congressional District, 4th Congressional District, 5th Congressional District, 7th Congressional District, and five at-large seats. Filing for these where they will be required to send the Committee a letter of intent to run will be open on the 7th and will close on December the 19th at noon.

At that point, whenever they come to give their letter of intent, they are presented with a packet that all candidates for boards and commissions have to complete. The packets will be due on Wednesday, January the 17th, at noon, and they must be hand delivered. And as we have told people, they can have someone else that they trust hand deliver these, but they must be hand delivered to our office in 213 of the Gressette Building.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: So there is nothing in this action that would stop a member of the board now presently from filing.

MS. CASTO: Correct. The interim board of trustees, they can run now.

Keep in mind, one of the interim board of trustee members has already filed to run for the College of Charleston seat. So he will not be able to file for this, but the others will.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: What happens if one of the present board members presiding in the 6th Congress District, could that person run at large?

MS. CASTO: Yes, sir. That person could run for one of the five at-large seats.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any questions?

So word will go out across the land that anyone who wants to run for South Carolina State Board, now is the time.

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Now, Francis Marion University, 5th Congressional District, Seat 5, expires 2018. I think this became open because the present member moved out of the district, right?

Okay. Tab A, H. Paul Dove, Jr., from Winnsboro.

MS. CASTO: Members of the Committee, on the left-hand side of your notebook are the skinnies that I have done on each of the candidates, but Mr. Dove is behind Tab A.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Good morning, sir.

MR. DOVE: Good morning, sir. Thank you very much for allowing me to be here.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Would you please raise your right hand?

MR. DOVE: 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. DOVE: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Would you give us your full name for the record and just a brief few minutes on why you'd like to serve on the Francis Marion Board of Trustees.

MR. DOVE: My name is Herbert Paul Dove, Jr. I'm a career educator, and I spent 33 years on the faculty at Francis Marion.

And so in my retirement, I'll be very delighted to go back to Florence and be a part of that group. I have seen Francis Marion move from 1975, when I first joined the faculty, until I retired in 2008. I have worked with all four presidents and have a lot of love and respect for that institution. And I would see it as a deep honor to be able to serve on that board.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from the Committee?

Mr. Scott. SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Dove, of course, spending the time to educate our children over the last 33 years. I'm pretty sure at Francis Marion, you have really seen Francis Marion really grow, and its intake on minority students have really, really increased.

Tell me a little bit about what you know about diversity, especially among faculty, staff. And we know you have a very diverse student body. What's going on with that?

Most of the schools now are beginning to have diversity offices to reflect the growth of the school. Tell me a little bit about what you know about that and where you are in that process.

MR. DOVE: I do know that the student body, like you say, sir, is approximately 46 percent Caucasian and 46 percent African American. So you can't get much more diverse than that.

Faculty and staff is a whole different issue. I know that President Carter and others have worked hard to address that issue. I know on the staff, every time that we hired somebody in the library, we did have to go through affirmative action and were able to recruit some local folks to come help us with our library program. It's much more different when it comes to faculty.

Francis Marion, I would say, is not one of the highest-paying schools in the nation. And so you're competing with every over school with salaries. And on the one hand, while I do know that perhaps chemists and other scientists are more in demand than some professions, maybe history and English for example.

And so there was some inequity in salary. You also had to be careful that you didn't buy people and get salaries out of whack with the existing salaries. I would suspect that that would be part of the problem that I know.

For example, a good friend of mine who was one of the art professors got hired away simply because another institution could pay him more.

MR. SCOTT: What about administration, finance department, business department, those other departments that vacancies do occur, how much input -- you haven't been in it long -- that you have watched any changes occur -- and in that process in going on that board if you are elected for it, where would you fit in in terms of trying to bring about those kind of changes at that board?

MR. DOVE: One of the things that I -- quite frankly, sir, that bothered me a little bit is that it appears that the board is mostly white males. It hasn't always been that way.

And so I would like to see the board become more diverse; certainly the faculty become more diverse. Again, I think the staff is very diverse.

But I don't have a plan. I just think I agree with you. I think I agree with it. It needs to be emphasized.

Again, our vice president for student affairs, Dr. Joe Haywood, was a minority, and when he retired, there wasn't anybody except some staff members on campus that could move up to his position. My replacement at Francis Marion, the dean of the library right now, is Ms. Joyce Durant, who moved up in 2008 when I retired, and Joyce is black. And I'm very pleased that -- in fact, the first time she sent me an annual report, I commented that I was both excited and disappointed because the annual report was so good that it looked like they didn't miss me.

And her very wise reply was, "Well, Paul, we are just trying to keep up with what you did."

And so I had mixed emotions about her first annual report.

SENATOR SCOTT: Well, just know that those particular type of issues are out there now. It's not that I'm picking on Francis Marion. All colleges and universities are looking at -- we're the 18th largest state in the country. We are probably more -- and most folks probably don't even know that. We have probably the most international companies coming in with very diverse-type staff and top execs, and we want to make sure our institutions will be working when these companies begin to reflect it. But just know it's out there --

MR. DOVE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

SENATOR SCOTT: -- and it's not a question you get didn't get asked.

And so when you're sitting down with your board on those kind of issues, you can put it on the table.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Mr. Dove, for your willingness to serve. You've got a very impressive resume here.

MR. DOVE: Thank you, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I was reading down, and I saw where you listed your biggest weakness is academic advising, especially to freshmen. And, as we know, a lot of freshmen enjoy going to college too much that first year, and then they have a hard time the rest of the time. How would you go about advising, especially freshmen, you know, to take a more studious approach toward their college career?

MR. DOVE: That's a good question, sir.

When I worked with freshmen as an advisor and when I worked with University LIFE Program -- by the way, we took freshmen and tried to literally hold their hands that first semester. I had problems when I went

from Winnsboro High School to college. And so I understand and identify with these students very well.

One of the tactics I tried to use was having seniors come in and talk to those freshmen about don't get behind. You know, from day one, take your class notes. Study your class notes. Prepare for your quizzes.

Do whatever your professor asks you to do. Turn your assignments in. These seniors would say, as a freshman, I wish I had known that.

Well, four years later, you can get those same freshmen back, and they would say the same thing. You know, they don't listen to the other students. They don't listen to us. You know, it's an adjustment.

And, you know, you do your best to hold on to them because you want them to succeed. But I wish there was an easy answer to that.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, unfortunately, I was one of those who didn't listen when I was in college, but I had a great time.

What bothers me about this is we have so many, you know, scholarship opportunities for students here in South Carolina, and so many of them don't take advantage of it. Either they end up dropping out of school, or they don't maintain the, you know, academic standards they need to keep it. And a lot of these kids -- I'm sure at Francis Marion -- if you didn't get the scholarships, they probably couldn't attend school.

So, you know, this is something -- I used to serve on an education committee in the House, and this has always concerned me, that particular kids who maybe don't have the guidance at home that others have. And they get into college, and they're kind of overwhelmed, and, you know, then it's too late for them to take advantage if they mess up.

MR. DOVE: Well, Francis Marion, like a lot of other universities, has been criticized for the time it sometimes takes for students to graduate, more than four years. But Francis Marion, for example, has an awful lot of first-generation college students who come from homes where higher education schools is not emphasized or not fully understood.

And so I don't feel like they always get the support they need. So many of them live off campus. So many of them do have to work. As we say, if you work more than 20 hours, you cannot take a full course load.

There's just not enough time in the week to do both. Not that they listen to us, but that, to me, partially explains why the average student may take six years to finish. I also think -- I've heard too many students say this -- that mom and dad have said, We're not going to send you to Clemson or wherever. It's too big, too expensive. We're going to send you to Francis Marion, and if you can survive a year or two there, then come talk to me about going on to where you really want to go.

And so that's another reason we lose some students that we'd like to keep.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, I, personally, am very thankful for a school like Francis Marion who reaches out to young people who might not have a chance to go to Clemson or USC or some other school like that. You really offer a chance for those young people to rise up above, maybe, their surroundings and stuff. So thank you very much.

MR. DOVE: Yes, sir. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I saw several hands.

Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a couple of questions for you.

MR. DOVE: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: As a board member, how would you promote -- if elected, how would you promote diversity as a board member to reflect the student -- through the faculty and staff to reflect what the student body looks like?

MR. DOVE: I was able to do it as the dean of the library. I don't know whether the same tactics, the same leadership, the same priorities would work on the board or not, but I would simply try to point out that we needed to be more representative of the people we serve.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

MR. DOVE: Is that vague enough?

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Well, I would hope that you would be a voice on the board.

MR. DOVE: Yes, sir, most definitely.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: In keeping with the quality of education, the high quality of education, that we try to offer at our colleges and universities here in South Carolina, what would you do to ensure that we continue to have a high-quality education for all students that attend colleges and universities in South Carolina but at a reasonable price? The cost for families to make it more reasonable for people to attend college, what would you do as a board member?

MR. DOVE: I would certainly support the administration's efforts to hold costs down. One of the best things about being a librarian is you learn how to do a lot with a little bit of money. In fact, it used to be called library economy before it was called library science.

And so you stretch that dollar as tightly as you can. I think Francis Marion does that. I'm amazed at what President Carter can do with what he has to work with. I know there is a strong emphasis on faculty at Francis Marion.

[SJ]

I know that 90 percent of the faculty hold terminal degrees, although, I will also say -- and maybe I shouldn't say this on the record -- that some of the best professors I had did not have terminal degrees. They knew more about teaching than some of the Ph.D.s did. But how do we promote that? A lot of it has to do with recruitment and the reputation of the school, and Francis Marion does attract mostly local students.

And "we serve the Pee Dee" was our original mission. But one of the phenomena that we've run into is that students from Greenville and Spartanburg and Orangeburg and Charleston want to get out of town, and Francis Marion is an opportunity for them to get out of town. Just like a lot of students in Florence don't want to stay in Florence.

My daughter lives in Easley, and I wanted her to go to Furman. She wound up at Wofford because Furman was too close to home. It's that kind of..

REPRESENTATIVE KING: I have two more questions.

MR. DOVE: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: What motivates you to want to be on this board besides being a former employee there? What truly motivates you?

MR. DOVE: Well, I guess the first thing was a call from the board chairman saying, "We need somebody in the 5th District, and you're in the 5th District. Would you be interested in applying?"

And so that was an honor for Ken Jackson to make that phone call. And I have since been in touch with President Carter just having worked for him for nine years. I wasn't sure how it would work out with a previous faculty member now on his board. He seems to be fine with that.

Having committed my career to higher education, I think I see the importance of education in our society, especially as we move toward a more highly technological age. The folks that are coming up, my grandchildren, are going to have to be very sophisticated in how they earn a living. And I know that colleges -- that being a college graduate opened doors for me that would not have been opened had I not had that opportunity.

So I am very eager to see that happen in my state, especially in my county, where we just lost that V.C. Summer Nuclear plant, 5,600 jobs. I now see that Fairfield County has the highest unemployment in the state. I believe education plays a vital role in fixing that.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And on that, my entire family is from Fairfield County, and my mother is from the Blair area.

MR. DOVE: Really?

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Yes, sir.

[SJ]

MR. DOVE: Well, I'm from the Lebanon area, which is right next door.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Yes, sir. I know exactly where that is.

My last question is: When we talk about diversity and keeping up with diversity within the classroom, as well as through the student body, as well as the, you know, faculty and staff as a whole, I just found out with the institution that resides in my district, which is Winthrop, they do that through adjunct professors to make it look as if they have African Americans who are on staff or as faculty members, but they never promote them to full-time professors. How would you make sure that if they are qualified to be adjunct instructors that they have a pathway to be full-time instructors at the institution?

MR. DOVE: I was privileged as a faculty member at Francis Marion to serve on the Academic Promotion and Tenure Committee. Not many librarians were. I know the trustees have a committee that works with that committee, or with the academic program.

And so if I were privileged to be appointed to that committee or work with other board members on that committee, I would certainly endorse that and promote that and simply remind ourselves of the need to be more representative of our communities.

I'm very active in the South Carolina Alliance, and we have two problems. One is recruiting young people, and one is recruiting minorities. We need more young folks in Alliance. We need more minority folks in Alliance, but it's not as easy as it sounds.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Dove.

MR. DOVE: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: So I wanted to ask about an issue that I've been working on a lot over the last few years, and it has to do with substance abuse.

I'm looking at a newspaper story from The State about USC where almost two-thirds of the freshmen drinkers said that they have engaged in high-risk drinking in the previous two weeks before this study, and another 45 percent said they had used a drug other than alcohol in the last two weeks before this survey. And substance abuse is a raging problem in our country, and especially on college campuses.

That you know of, has Francis Marion ever conducted any kind of survey, have any kind of figures about this issue on the campus there at Francis Marion?

MR. DOVE: No, ma'am, I do not. I would have to check with student affairs to see what had been done. I do know that we have a very active and very effective public safety force on campus to handle drinking especially. I have found beer cans upstairs in the library, which is not permissible.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, I'm also mostly interested in other drug abuse, prescription drug abuse and others. I mean, alcohol is definitely a major problem.

What programs does the university have in place to offer to those folks who are dealing with struggling and addiction and recovery, and do they have any safe harbor programs, any alcohol-free programs, or anything happening on campus that helps students dealing with this issue?

MR. DOVE: I don't know specifically, but I would think through the counseling services on campus, which is a very active and, I feel like, very effective program. The Ph.D. in psychology that has headed that program every semester came to my university life class I taught and talked to the students about all sorts of issues, not simply related to drug abuse, but also to safety, security, and what her office and her staff did in terms of counseling students that had any kind of issues that -- for which they thought they needed help.

We also worked with the Pee Dee Coalition against domestic and sexual assault to counsel any victims of any kind of sexual assault and to caution them about ways to avoid the risk of sexual assault.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, if the university has not conducted a survey nor do they have any programs, I would encourage you when you become a member of this board to challenge the rest of your commissioners to take this as a very serious issue and put some programs in place for students that are struggling with this and would like to have opportunities to do things other than participate in events that involve alcohol.

MR. DOVE: May I add something to that? Because of a medical condition I used to have, on several occasions -- because I was engaged to somebody here in Columbia -- I wound up in the Palmetto Baptist Hospital ER on a Thursday night, and it took them forever to treat me because of the gurneys that were lined up with students who had overdosed on alcohol.

And so I saw that firsthand and resented it because I had to wait for treatment for the students who had just been out drinking on Thursday night, fraternity night. And we do have fraternity nights and marches at Francis Marion.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or comments?

The motion is a favorable report.

SENATOR SCOTT: I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Second.

Any other discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor, raise your right hand.

It's unanimous.

Thank you so very much for your willingness to serve, sir.

MR. DOVE: Thank you, sir, for this opportunity. And the Lord willing, I'll be back next year.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: For the benefit of the candidates and the Members, when will they be free to ask for commitments and so forth?

MS. CASTO: We are going to have the report printed the first week y'all come back in session. So by Thursday it has to be printed in the House and Senate journals. After that, the following Tuesday, which will be the second week of -- third week of January.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I know, Mr. Dove, you're running unopposed, but we have some people that are opposed. I just want to remind all candidates that there is a certain time that you can ask for commitments. So be sure and abide by those times.

All right. That takes care of Francis Marion.

Now, we'll take the Medical University of South Carolina, 7th Congressional District Medical Seat. It expires 2020.

Dr. Paul T. Davis from Darlington.

Good morning, Doctor.

DR. DAVIS: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Let me give you -- thank you.

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

DR. DAVIS: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Give us your full name and a brief statement on why you'd like to serve on the Medical University Board of Trustees.

DR. DAVIS: Sure.

My name is Paul Thomas Davis, and I appreciate this opportunity to be here today.

If I could start out, I just wanted to say a brief word about Dr. Conyers O'Bryan, who held this seat for, I believe, over 35 years. And growing up in Florence, I always knew him to be just such a fantastic physician and somebody who just cared so deeply about the Medical University.

[SJ]

And it would just be a great honor for me to not only to serve on the board, but to follow him would be an even greater honor.

MUSC was always near and dear to my heart. First of all, I was born there. So it kind of is maybe my first home, I guess. And, also, I had my first job there at MUSC as a lab technician.

And then I was fortunate enough to get into dental school and had a career in dentistry there and have been -- I'm now in my 18th year as a dentist in Florence. And I just feel so very fortunate that I can do what I do every day and enjoy treating patients, and, you know, I just owe so much of that to the Medical University.

And, you know, growing up, the Medical University had a big impact on my family as well. My mother was a nurse at MUSC. My father was a physician. And they met at the Medical University.

And then both of my sisters graduated from the Medical University. One of them is a physician there now. She's been there for over 15 years. She's an anesthesiologist.

And so I just feel that with my medical background growing up and my experience in dentistry of -- in organized dentistry, and I've had some experience on some school boards, that I could maybe bring a little different insight to the Medical University Board, and it would be a great honor.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott.

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you for your willingness to serve.

How much, Dr. Davis, do you really know about MUSC and how progressive it's become in the last -- I guess since this new president has come in?

I had dinner with them the other night. I just left looking at the campus and what it's doing on the cutting edge with telemedicine and working with schools and some of the challenges it's also facing with growth and also recruiting minorities, not only just faculty, but students as well on that campus. And with the gap between Charleston and back to Orangeburg, Orangeburg Regional, there's really no health centers or places to take care of people.

Tell me a little bit about what you know that has transpired with the new changes, the new growth, and the new building, some \$380 million in construction. Just kind of update me about what you know that's going on. And if you've got a private practice at home, do you spend a lot of time with that? Tell me about what you really know about that.

DR. DAVIS: Okay. Well, I don't know everything, obviously, not being privy to the board proceedings. However, I know about, you know, obviously, they built a new dental school. But recently, the

children's hospital, I know about that. And I know that's a very big expense.

I know the expansion that -- they have gone into several communities and are buying up a lot of places, and with that comes challenges. Anytime you grow at a rate that MUSC has grown, certainly there are challenges to maintain the quality of care that you have as a small, intimate hospital that it used to be way back when.

So, you know, I am familiar with telemedicine. I think that's a great thing of the future. I think teledentistry is also kind of on the horizon as well. I don't know exactly how that's going to work, but I think certainly a lot of these smaller towns and areas where things have been bought up and physicians are no longer in some of these towns, MUSC has just been such a big, huge, massive entity now.

It's certainly a challenge to grow at the rate that they've grown.

SENATOR SCOTT: I know MUSC just received an award for its diversity in terms of service contracts it's been able to provide to the community, especially the minority community. Are you quite familiar with that?

DR. DAVIS: Well, I know that MUSC, as far as diversity goes, I believe they're around 23 to 27 percent depending on what school, as far as the students go, depending on which school you're talking about. But I know about the Diversity and Inclusion Program department.

I know that Dr. Cole has made a lot of strides for diversity --

SENATOR SCOTT: Yes.

DR. DAVIS: -- and I think that's very important. I recently read an article on a study that was done by the American Association of Medical Colleges, and in that article it talked about how in the year 2050, that the population would be almost 50 percent minorities.

And so what the article described, you know, I always feel like, you know, I want the best doctor and the best dentist to be working on me no matter what their race, color, any of that. However, the importance of that is what you're saying, that in the smaller communities what they found was that people with certain ethnic backgrounds were more willing to see physicians with the same ethnic background.

And so that was important as far as bringing diverse, different cultures, multicultural people to the university. And so I think if you train physicians to be multicultural -- they call it cultural competence -- then I think that helps when you go out and serve these underserved areas.

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you so much.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On my same questioning, but a little bit different since you are a physician and you're wanting to be on the board of a medical university, I'm just going to make this pretty open-ended. But I'd like your opinion as to what you believe the role of the university is and the medical profession in helping us solve the problem of opioids and prescription drug abuse in our state and in our country.

DR. DAVIS: Well, I believe it's a huge problem. And as far as personally, how I've been affected, obviously, you know, as a physician, as a dentist, we have changed now what we can call in over, you know, the phone for these patients that are maybe addicted to opioids.

And so I think as a university, it's very important to take care and to provide whatever needs that someone in your university -- whether it's a student, faculty, or whoever, I think they need to be very sensitive to the fact it's a disease, and it's a very, very bad disease that's causing a lot of problems of a lot of patients who have been through this in the Pee Dee area. And it's so, so important to correct this problem, and I think as a board member, I certainly would be very supportive of whatever means necessary to support anyone with this problem.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: What about as a profession, as the university that's training future medical professionals?

DR. DAVIS: Yes. I think you see a lot of overprescribing in the medical profession, the dental profession. Maybe not as much in the dental profession as the medical profession, but I think it's a huge responsibility as a physician that's treating patients to understand the problem; and not only to understand the problem but to take whatever steps necessary to fix the problem so that -- a big burden lies on our profession.

And, I think, you know, I'm not sure of the answers to everything. It is a huge problem that needs to be addressed.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: In your own personal experience when you go and do your continuing ed each year, could you recall ever actually even ever being offered the opportunity or anything, any kind of training in substance abuse disorder or appropriate prescribing and dispensing guidelines?

DR. DAVIS: Never. I never have.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm looking at Tab 10 where you said that you definitely feel that non-South Carolina residents should be paying out-of-state tuition. Do they

not do that now? Do they not pay more than regular? Maybe I misunderstood.

DR. DAVIS: Currently, they do. And I may have read that question wrong.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay.

DR. DAVIS: But I -- yes.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Yes, I was thinking all out of state --

DR. DAVIS: All out of state pay out of state, correct.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. And I agree with you.

You mentioned earlier in one of your other tabs that the debt that, you know, people are -- young doctors to be or dentists to be are incurring in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, that's -- you know, you're going to spend your first 10 years in residency, you know, paying off your debt, it seems like.

DR. DAVIS: That's right.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I wish there was -- and I don't know if there's an answer to that. I really don't know.

DR. DAVIS: Well, it's a big problem, especially -- I know the medical school is pretty much in line with tuition. The dental school, after the dental school was built, was the highest dental school, public dental school, in the country at one time. I don't know exactly if it's still there. But I was with some of the professors this weekend, and at that meeting they were talking about it, and they said many of the students were getting out with over \$400,000 in debt.

And the issue with that is if you still have enrollment, we still have kids coming in, and they see I'm going to be a dentist or a doctor, but they're walking in the front door, going out the back door, they don't know what's in the backyard. So, you know, you see dentists especially coming out that don't have all the same options that I had even, you know, 18 years ago coming out because of this debt. So it's a big issue.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Well, you seem highly qualified, and I want you to know that one of your colleagues up in Oconee County recently gave me my first root canal, and I am still going to vote favorable for you.

DR. DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Ms. Davis. Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm going to continue with Representative Whitmire's questions for a little bit.

Given that the dental school has high tuition when compared to other dental schools throughout the country, what would you recommend and what would you do as a board member to try to reduce the cost of tuition for the dental school?

DR. DAVIS: Well, you know, as you all know well, there was a new dental school that was built a few years ago, and I think some of that is due to the fact that, you know, MUSC is paying a lot of that off. So I don't know all of the budgetary things that go on with the dental school. I know that I would support any effort to try to lower tuition. I think the value of the education is something more that I would try to look at.

And other things I would look at would be after dental school, what are some ways that, you know, we can help pay down this debt. And I think, you know, of course, the military is one option that a lot of people go to. So now there's some rural incentive programs, and some of the dentists that graduate can go to small towns and practice. And the South Carolina Dental Association is supporting that, and I think the legislature has supported that as well.

But, yes, I agree it's, I mean, across the board.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Well, is the enrollment for dental school down because of the cost of the tuition?

DR. DAVIS: Well, really it's not down, which is surprising to me. And, like I said, I think a lot of people don't understand what they're getting, and they get in, they go, and they don't realize until they get out what they're facing.

Corporate dentistry is a big entity now that has taken over, a lot like the rest of the world, the Aspen Dentals and other areas like that.

And so a lot of the people coming out with this high debt, they're going to work for these places. And I don't want to badmouth anything, but there's a lot of pressure on these dentists to do things that may or may not be completely ethical and because these corporate dentistry places are being run by non-dentists and business people, and they have a bottom line. They tell these dentists -- and I've talked to these dentists. They tell them what they have to do, you know, every day, so -- and that's an issue.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Well, sort of related to that, hasn't MUSC recently instituted a policy whereby the doctors are paid by the number of patients that they see, which sort of incentivizes, you know, that --

DR. DAVIS: They have. They have.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: -- idea where you're just trying to get as many patients through as possible?

DR. DAVIS: They have. I know there was some controversy about that, and I actually spoke with my sister, who is a physician there, about that. And I know some people think it's a good thing; some people thinks it's not a good thing.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: What are your thoughts on that?

DR. DAVIS: Well, I would never want to see anyone motivated by money when you're dealing with treating patients. You always want to do the right thing for the patient, whether -- you know, that's how I've handled my business. I've never gone into it saying, I need to produce this much and do this much. It's always, If I do the right thing, that part will come, and that's how I feel the Medical University should look at that as well.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

As kind of a follow-up to that, so many medical doctors are selling their practice to hospitals. Do you foresee dentists following in that boat, dentists going to work as an employee of the hospital?

DR. DAVIS: Well, not necessarily. The dentists have kind of stayed out of that thus far. I think what we do see are the dentists selling their practices to these corporate entities. I've seen a lot of that.

These corporate entities, they're coming in, and they're offering a much higher price than the devaluation of your practice. And people are tired. People are ready to sell, and they do.

And so that's what's happening.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: That's what's happening.

Other Members have some questions.

I was thinking about time. Are you a solo practitioner, or do you have someone in --

DR. DAVIS: I'm a solo practitioner.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you have time to serve on the board, and how -- would your patients suffer through your service on the board?

DR. DAVIS: I would have time to serve on the board, yes, sir. I feel like with the autonomy of running my business, I've set it up in a way that I would have time, yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Verdin.

SENATOR VERDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. Davis, if there were a change of posture from the federal regulatory agencies -- DEA, FDA, the Justice Department -- and there were available research dollars, what would your position or posture be as it

relates to -- and I'm all about peer-reviewed medical and scientific research, but specifically the issue of cannabis.

DR. DAVIS: Oh. I've never been a big fan of this legislation that's happened over in Colorado.

I'll tell you a funny story. I was -- just a side note, I was at the ADA meeting recently and Peyton Manning was our speaker.

And Peyton Manning said, "Well, as most of you know," he said, "I've gotten into the pizza business in Colorado." He said, "I own about 30 Domino's Pizzas -- or Papa John's Pizzas." He said, "With the recent legislative changes in Colorado," he said, "the pizza business has been pretty good."

So it's a joke, but I don't feel that that is a good thing for this country. I feel, you know, some people feel there is a need for that. Personally, I feel that that leads to other things and don't want to see us go down that road.

SENATOR VERDIN: Well, I would probably fall into your camp just by inclination or historical practice and upbringing, but the chairman has thrown me into this matter here over the last couple of years. And I'm really trying to hone in on what would be the justifiable basis of the medical communities, either support or opposition, to that matter, and it always comes back to this matter of where the science is and -- or the lack thereof.

So times are a-changing. I am not going to ask us now to determine for the better or the worse, but this is a matter that is going to continue to be before us, and addressing the matter of good science on the matter is where we all need to end up. So I'm really interested in where our medical research institutions are or could be in this regard.

Thank you.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As a board member, can you tell me what do you feel is your obligation to -- in reference to financial giving to the school?

DR. DAVIS: As a board member, I think you have a responsibility to certainly show that you give to the school, and that's something that I do on the local level of the school board that I'm a -- I'm a board member there. And as to the amount, you know, I just don't feel that's a -- should be a set amount. But I do feel like too if you're in the business of supporting your school, certainly the board is looked at as a representative of that school, and I think that a hundred percent participation on the board is something that is a positive thing.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And how as a board member will you promote keeping costs down while keeping up the high quality of education there at the university?

DR. DAVIS: Well, I certainly would support keeping costs down. You know, I think President Cole has done a good job.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Can you give me some examples of what you may introduce as a board member to try to keep costs down.

DR. DAVIS: Well, you know, examples, as far as tuition goes -- or are you specifically talking about --

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Whatever you think that will --

DR. DAVIS: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: -- help keep costs down, because I heard you say that some of these students are leaving with excessive debt of over \$400,000.

DR. DAVIS: Right.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: What would you do to try to keep the costs down for those students so that we do not have a generation where they are graduating and still not able to be self-sufficient because they're so overwhelmed with debt?

DR. DAVIS: I would certainly encourage more scholarships and grant money to help keep costs down from a tuition standpoint. I think that the Medical University has done a good job with that, but I think we could do more with, you know, I think in endowments and fundraising around the communities. There may be some ways that certain small communities could donate the funds to bring others back to their community to help keep costs down for certain individuals.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Anything else?

Motion is a favorable report.

SENATOR VERDIN: Second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Second.

Any other discussion?

We'll take it to a vote.

All in favor, raise right hand.

Thank you.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your willingness to serve, Doctor.

DR. DAVIS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Next, under Tab C, Gerald E. Harmon, Georgetown.

[SJ]

Good afternoon, Dr. Harmon.

DR. HARMON: How are you, sir?

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

DR. HARMON: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Have a seat.

DR. HARMON: I just may take the right seat.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. That will be good.

Make sure your green light is bright.

DR. HARMON: It is. I checked it out before I sat down.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Good.

Give us your full name for the record.

DR. HARMON: Gerald Edward Harmon. My nickname as Gerry, spelled with a "G." I'll introduce myself as Gerry Harmon.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with this body. Thank y'all very much, senators and representatives. It's a privilege to be here. I want to tell you I thank you for coming in.

I know we talk about your session not starting until June -- January, and it's only for the calendar year almost every week, and I talk to my state senators and representatives, and it's become more than a citizen part-time job. It's a full-time job. And, again, I sincerely thank you for this. God help you for doing it.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions? Comments?

Senator Scott.

SENATOR SCOTT: First, let me thank you, Dr. Harmon, for your interest in serving. How much do you really know about what's going on at MUSC, especially with the children's hospital?

I had a chance to visit it last week. And all of the progressive things they're doing, they -- even doing well and trying to -- they have a diversity office there. They're doing quite well in terms of service contracts and really trying to keep the community involved.

Tell me about where you are in your thinking pattern with that and what you know about what's going on at MUSC.

DR. HARMON: Senator Scott, good question. I have a fair amount of interaction with MUSC on a number of levels. I am a graduate there. I graduated from there about 40 years ago, and my wife taught there in the school of nursing.

Like Dr. Davis and me, my son was born there. He's, you know, an attorney in South Carolina. I am on the board of visitors currently of MUSC. So I get some inside information, you know. I'm aware of some of that stuff.

[SJ]

You talked about the children's hospital. I've taken a tour of it too.

I know President Cole pretty well. He's a surgical oncologist; still is a practicing doctor, as am I.

SENATOR SCOTT: Still doing surgery.

DR. HARMON: He's still doing surgery, and I'm still making rounds at the hospital. So I make referrals to David Cole. Sometimes I'll call him up, not as the President Cole, but as David, my doctor, surgical oncologist, and talk medical situations with him. So I have inside information.

You mentioned diversity too. I'll go ahead and jump right in with both feet on that. One of the things I get to do in my other part-time job is -- I'm with the American Medical Association. One of the things I would like to do is bring some national perspective to the governing body of the Medical University.

I'm five years into an eight-year term of the board of trustees right now. I'm the chairman of the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. The last three years, I've been the liaison of the Minority Affairs Section, which is the underrepresented minority students, physicians, of the AMA.

Two years ago, I got to present three Minority Affairs scholarships worth 10- to \$20,000 each to three Medical University graduates -- or students, then they've graduated. So I've seen that.

Last year we only had one. We had a lot of qualified applicants. We managed to bring one there.

You mentioned the contracting for minority qualified businesses at MUSC, and that's great, and I agree with that. One of the things I think our weakness is in in health care is we need to get engaged with these students at a much younger age. Not when they're in college; not even when they're in high school. I've been able to -- and I'll shut up in a minute, but you struck a chord here.

I participated in what's called Doctors Back to School with the Medical Association. I've spoken to large groups in Jackson, Mississippi. I've spoken to 900 youngsters in the seventh to the ninth grades, and even to the tenth grades, that were underrepresented minorities in a meeting in one -- December.

I wore my Air Force uniform. I'm retired military, and this was a --

SENATOR SCOTT: Major general.

DR. HARMON: Yes, sir.

And this was a Junior ROTC gathering. And of these graduates of the Junior ROTC scholarship program down there -- or academic program, 90 percent go on to secondary education after they finish their high school. Ninety percent go to two- or four-year colleges. The average

graduation rate for Jackson, Mississippi, graduates for going on in college, probably about 30 percent. So they are three times what their peers are.

One of the things they're doing is going into health care. You know, 20 percent of these jobs in this nation are in health care right now. So it's a big economic deal. Hitting a diverse workforce and giving some economic salvation relieves our tax burden.

So it's a win-win for all of us.

SENATOR SCOTT: My last question, telemedicine?

DR. HARMON: Another nerve. We have telemedicine. I practice it a couple of times a week.

In Georgetown County, where my practice is, I have zero psychiatrists. No full-time psychiatrists, a round number. Horry has about three or four, and they're overwhelmed. So they don't have a lot.

We use telepsychiatry consultations three times a week at MUSC, hosted by MUSC, with -- it's more than a Skype, because it's not just Skype, but it's MUSC-sponsored telehealth, and they do a very good job in my office upstairs daily.

SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you.

(Senator Scott exits the room.)

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Verdin.

SENATOR VERDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So, Dr. Harmon, I can't help but remark on your nickname, Gerry.

DR. HARMON: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VERDIN: My mother-in-law's nickname is Gerry. Geraldine.

DR. HARMON: I've been called that in lighter moments.

SENATOR VERDIN: Well, my mother-in-law would be fainting now if she knew I were telling this story.

But I'm going to ask the question about medical cannabis a little differently than I asked Dr. Davis. If the administration were to approach the board, you serving, and presented as beneficial, efficacious for the university, the community, to engage -- not even aggressively -- South Carolina style, very slow, very conservatively this matter of trying to establish the science here in the State on the matter of medical cannabis -- I've heard a lot of medical commentary from the law enforcement agencies, but I've heard very little from our research institutions. Would you be supportive of administration making that approach to the trustees?

DR. HARMON: Yes, sir, we have to. You've already alluded, Senator, to the fact that we don't have a lot of hard science about a hard

topic. So we've got to have peer-reviewed literature. There's been some evidence, and I've seen it.

I keep up with it just because of my position. I have to do these things. Not that I'm going to go out and establish research grants for cannabis use, but there's been some research and peer-reviewed evidence that excessive -- and defining excessive is almost in the eye of the beholder. But regular, immoderate use of cannabis may affect the IQs and intellectual functions of some of our students and become a detriment to their academic and business success careers.

Well, if that's so, then that's hard science. We need to look at that. It may have therapeutic benefit. It helps aid and stabilize uncontrolled seizures, epilepsy.

I'm sensitive to that. My grandson spent a week at MUSC a couple of months ago with uncontrolled seizures. So I never entertain cannabis, medical cannabis. I entertain stereotactic neurosurgery, which is a pretty high-tech thing.

But we managed to find -- after four medicines, we found something that would control him, and it was cannabis. But it is something that we need to have hard science on. So the science needs to be done so we can put some political issues at rest.

SENATOR VERDIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Doctor, do you serve as chairman of the American Medical Association Board now?

DR. HARMON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Has the board taken a position on this subject?

DR. HARMON: No, sir, and that's a very good question.

We are interested in peer-reviewed evidence. So we just brought it before House delegates, and I'm going later this week to the House delegates in a meeting. We have two meetings a year. We brought it up, and we looked at it.

We have a Council on Science and Public Health. It has eight distinguished people on it, and they tend to address it. Right now, we're looking for more science, and it just doesn't happen. There's not a lot of research on it, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I asked Dr. Davis and I'll ask you. With your responsibilities, such as the American Medical Association Board, do you have time to serve on the MUSC Board?

DR. HARMON: The first thing I thought when this question -- when the point came up -- and, again, with the untimely passing of Dr. O'Bryan -- he's a long-term friend. I taught his son. He's a third-year medical

student. I'm a clinical professor both at MUSC and USC School of Medicine.

I taught Edward. He's now an ER physician down at MUSC.

It came up. Can I possibly afford the time? Do I even want to do this? I gave it some very thoughtful concern, honestly, some prayer, and I looked at the schedule. I mean, then I -- with some hard science, not just how I felt about it.

I looked at the hard science, and I looked at it, and I looked at the next two years of scheduled meetings, because they are publicly scheduled. They're already on the calendar. There are 16 meetings in the next 24 months. My calendar has opposition with only two of them.

So I can make 14 out of the 16. And that -- according to the bylaws, if you make more than half, you're still qualified. So I can't promise a hundred percent. I did call the current board chair, told him about that, and I told my colleagues at the American Medical Association.

They've got a legal standing that says I am allowed to be a trustee of MUSC without conflict with the other official position. So it's a very good question, and I hope I've answered it.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Ladies this time.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you Mr. Harmon -- or Dr. Harmon, I should say, for --

DR. HARMON: Mister is fine, or Gerry.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: -- offering to serve, also your service in the Air Force. I have a nephew who is an F-16 pilot, actually, in Canada right now but getting ready to come back to the States.

So I'm going to ask you the same question that I asked before. And not only as MUSC, but, also, I'm interested in your response as chairman of the AMA as far as, you know, the conversations you've had at the national level, but also the role of the university in terms of helping us deal with the opioid and prescription drug abuse crisis we're facing in our country.

DR. HARMON: Representative Henderson, that's a -- it's a public health crisis. The last statistics show 91 moving up to 100 Americans a day dying from opioid overdose. A hundred a day. Any other issue -- which, you know, 700 a week, you're talking about a mass fratricide.

Well, this is incredibly -- this is a public health crisis. So, absolutely, I'm going to tell you I bring -- we have a task force, the AMA Task Force. Patrice Harris, a psychiatrist out of Atlanta, chairs it, and I help put her on that task force.

I'd like for you to know too -- and by the way, the current majority of those 90 to a hundred deaths a day are not from prescription opioids. Seventy percent of them are from illicit use of fentanyl, which is an artificially produced opioid that comes in via our border, produced in another country, or straight old heroin. Some of our folks now are going straight to heroin without having one prescription for opioids.

And you're right. We do have an accountability to all of us. And I will tell you that -- and you mentioned medical education.

The Board of Medical Examiners in the state now allow -- requires us every two years to do two hours of direct continuing medical education, accessing the use and understanding prescription drugs. We have to document two mandatory CME hours every two years, and I've done mine. So we do that.

I'll tell you, the opioid prescription of -- use is down 40 percent over the last three years absent any legislative intervention. We did it on our own. We were probably overprescribing, no question of it, because it was overutilized and there was a need.

We also felt the need to address someone's pain, so we were trying to make them comfortable. As you recall, you've heard some discussion about that.

But independent of that, we now have this SCRIPTS program, this prescription drug monitoring program, in South Carolina. It's well funded, well directed by DHEC, and we've had increased utilization of it by 800 percent, or 800 times more providers using it. There is also a state law now that says you have to access the SCRIPTS program when you schedule two prescriptions. Every time, I do it.

So there's a lot of regulation in place to help us do that. The bigger representation that we have to come up with -- and y'all are part of the solution too -- under -- Representative Hewitt and Fry are my local colleagues on it that are on the task force here. We have to somehow get away from the stigma of substance abuse disorder and addiction that's being a negative thing. We've got to treat these folks. We need to recognize how to help them. It's a mental health/social science issue that we just don't have good funding for.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Let me ask you really quick about the telepsychiatry, and I'm glad you asked about that because that was a pilot program put in our state budget last year with you all on the cooperation between doctors that are participating in medically assisted treatment and their access to the clinical piece. And that's very, very important, and I'm working on that task force, and I'm hoping that we can continue that program. But short of that, I'm going to encourage you that that university really needs to continue that program because it is

making possible for physicians to participate in treatment that haven't normally been able to.

And then so related to that, the question is that one of the problems that we have is that we need more physicians that are getting that waiver and participating in Suboxone specifically, but medically assisted treatment. What can we do as a state and what can the university do -- or the profession do to encourage more doctors? Because as we continue to work on this program the availability and access to treatment is, you know, one of the biggest issues that we have.

So how can we work together to make more treatment options available to our citizens that are dealing with this problem?

DR. HARMON: Mr. Chairman, she knows her stuff. That's right. In order to get Suboxone, it has to have a federal waiver. You have to be in line with the federal regulation.

I actually spoke with the secretary of -- excuse me -- the CMS administrator, Seema Verma, about this a week ago, and I asked her.

And she asked, "What can we do at the AMA level?"

We need to relieve those regulatory impediments, those speed bumps that make it necessary for us to get a waiver. As a practicing physician, I need to be able to give Suboxone without having to go through a special hoop. You know, you're also limited to a number of patients you can have on Suboxone. So there are artificial barriers we put in place.

It is a challenge, and we also need to be able to have the psychiatry folks tell that psychiatry be funded for providing medically assisted psychiatric behavioral science treatment for the abuse disorder patient. What we could do in the state, facilitate grants at MUSC. Dr. O'Bryan, by the way, over at the O'Bryan Institute, is the lead chair of clinical depression in telemedicine at MUSC right now.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Well, I look forward to chatting with you more about this.

DR. HARMON: We can talk no matter -- whether I'm on the board or not.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, I can talk for hours.

Thank you so much.

DR. HARMON: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I believe both of us, Representative Henderson and I, have a focus as well that -- a concern that I have, and I should have asked earlier of the previous candidate. I chaired the Sickle Cell Study Committee here in South Carolina. And so I have a question of something I learned about sickle cell.

I have two nieces that suffer with sickle cell, and one has SS, which is the really extreme and then get really sick with sickle cell. And as a matter of fact, she's in the hospital today with it.

What will you do to promote and encourage more research by the Medical University of South Carolina in reference to sickle cell, and how would you -- because I find that -- or I found that there are many physicians who are not educated on sickle cell. How would you all promote that as a part of the educational program there at MUSC so that as children are aging out and becoming adults, that they are not identified as drug seekers?

DR. HARMON: I didn't have access to your questions ahead, but Julie Kanter is our lead investigator and manager. Julie and I worked together on a telehealth project. We treat adult sickle cell patients with IV infusions. We get them pain relief. We give them IV saline so that they don't have to go to the emergency room with a sickle cell crisis.

We have a telehealth conference every two weeks, and she monitors that out of MUSC, and I supervise an advanced practitioner infusion clinic in our Georgetown hospital for that. So, yes, there's a grant. I've actually signed on for an extra grant on it. It comes to the institution; not to me.

Those are the ways we educate our staff and our emergency room physicians, that they are not just pain seekers, pain medication seekers. These are folks with valid medical needs, and if they can get treated before they begin a pain crisis, then they don't need the pain medicine. The research on sickle cell itself is still -- hopefully, it'll be in the promise of genetic medicine, a specific medicine, if we can do genetic therapy and manipulate those genes and chromosomes.

And we can talk about an ethical issue. The AMA does have a position. I'm not sure where to go with that.

Maybe we can literally cure sickle cell one day. We don't know. That would be nice.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have a couple of questions.

The first question, you had mentioned earlier that you felt like you could bring a national perspective to the board through your experience with the American Medical Association Board. Could you give us some additional detail on what that might look like and what sort of results, what we might see, from your national perspective.

DR. HARMON: Fair question. It just can't be a promise. You have to have some products, some details in there.

And it was not only the organized medicine nationally, it's my military experience too, because I've been -- and they were kind enough to note I was 35 years in the military and the reserves and the Guard and active duty.

One of the things MUSC represents is not just a medical university. It is a health professions university. It is a freestanding, six-school university. It's pretty cool.

To want to be on this board, you don't want to do it for the football tickets or anything else or the away games. You want to do it because it's for research and science. MUSC has The College of Health Professions, Graduate Studies, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry, and Medicine at a research-based institution in a medical school in a hospital. I mean, it has all the trappings of the leading health care organization in this country. It's one of the few in the whole country.

I'd like to see MUSC get credit for that. I'd like to see them recognize what they're able to bring to the table: their diversity efforts, their efforts at sickle cell, the research, the medical school. I think we can do some of that right now.

I spoke the other day to the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University in downtown Philadelphia. It is the fifth most commonly applied to medical school in the country. And why anybody wants to go to downtown Philadelphia and practice medicine in Temple University just blows my mind. It's because you have a good reputation nationally.

They have all these professors and research grants. They garner good people to apply. I want those students to look in their top five to be at MUSC applying for medical school or dental school or nursing or health professions in general. I think we can make that work.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Sort of following up on that, you had mentioned that you thought it was a weakness that the school had six different health care institutions on one campus. So I'm trying to reconcile all that, right?

So is that an advantage that we have the diversity, or is it an advantage because there are additional costs associated with, you know, basically taking care of that diversity of health care institutions? So talk a little bit more about what you mean by that.

DR. HARMON: I agree. And you picked up on it, yes, ma'am. It's our strength that we can do that, and when you teach team-based care or team-based health care delivery so that it's a nursing issue, it's a dental issue, it's a health professions issue, it becomes a management issue for our administrative team, so they can recognize the need for doing cannabis research or medical research on sickle cell. But it also means that President Cole and his board has to deal with nursing issues,

[SJ]

healthcare and management issues, dentist issues. The cost for the dental tuition, as mentioned by Dr. Davis, is pretty doggone high relative -- in fact, the most debt is actually incurred by the pharmacy's graduates down there.

When I was down there at the board of visitors, you know, the highest debt served -- it has to come from the pharmacy and, I guess, because it's a five-year tuition. I don't know, but most of the debt, where it is borne, is by their pharmacy graduates, not their nursing or dentistry or medical graduates.

I do think that the -- I think we have to divide -- I think President Cole and the MUSC Board has to divide its attention to give a fair shake to the College of Health Professions and not just the glitter professions, the medicine. Everybody says, "Well, it's a medical school. It's a medical school."

It is not just a medical school. It is a dental school. It is a nursing school. It allows me as a physician leader to recognize the team-based approach to delivering health care and the change in the way health care is delivered as far as resources and conservation of money.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: And one follow-up question. You mentioned the virtual classroom.

DR. HARMON: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I have 20 years of IT and a math degree, by the way, so I'm always looking out for technological advantages. Is that a way to reduce the cost of the medical university?

DR. HARMON: It was made for that. We don't need -- and I know we need a new medical -- a new hospital for children's hospital. There's no argument there. My son was in that children's hospital, so I know how desperate -- my grandson.

My son was there because he wouldn't leave his son, so -- but there were three generations of Gerry Harmons in that room. And David Cole came by and told me -- bless his heart -- told me hello because he knew I was there. He recognized the name.

But, yes, that's how we can reduce the cost and still get quality. That's how we can make it attractive. We can do telemedicine. We don't have to have teaching in a brick-and-mortar institution anymore, whether it's at Winthrop, Francis Marion, or MUSC.

You need a qualified professor and you need interested students, motivated students. You need a way to make sure you have quality controls of what they are transmitting and learn, and then you have a way to test their evidence, that they have learned it. And I do think telehealth and teleteaching is part of the way to reduce the cost.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.

I look forward to cost savings and a tuition reduction.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Thank you, Chairman. I'll ask for a favorable report.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I had a couple more questions, and then I'll entertain that.

Doctor, I see on your report, "Defendant, defendant, defendant, defendant."

Is it the type of medicine you practice -- is just you have to be more of a defensive medicine-type person or what?

DR. HARMON: I'm not sure I understand.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Well, you had a defendant malpractice, dismissed; personal injury, dismissed; some cases mediated; a malpractice. It was dismissed. A lot of them were -- evidently, you were a part of --

DR. HARMON: I don't have one. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Am I reading that right?

Okay. You may want to look at the information SLED sent in and see if there's a discrepancy there.

DR. HARMON: I may have been an expert witness in some of those.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Maybe that's where it was. I was just looking at the notes here.

DR. HARMON: Okay. Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions? We'll entertain the motion of a favorable report.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Is there a second?

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Second.

Any other discussion?

All in favor, raise your right hand.

It's unanimous.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Scott said he had a doctor's appointment. I said, "Well, I have two here."

Now I've got to go see mine.

DR. HARMON: Thank you again. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Doctor. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

DR. HARMON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Now we'll go to the University of South Carolina, 14th Judicial Circuit, expires 2020.

First, Tab D, Kent Eddy.

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

MR. EDDY: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: If you will give us your full name for the record and a brief statement on why you'd like to serve on the USC Board.

MR. EDDY: Sure.

My name is Kent McBride Eddy. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity today to speak to you about the University of South Carolina.

While my passion is for the University of South Carolina, my passion runs deeper than that. It runs for higher education and providing an opportunity for young children and young adults to have the opportunity to attend college if that's what they so choose.

Why the University of South Carolina? With eight campuses and almost 50,000 students, the impact could be significant and the ability to serve and reach the number of students.

And so outside of my family and my work, certainly my passion is trying to help young people attain their goals for the future.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Question or comments of Mr. Eddy?

Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you. I'll get us started.

One thing that I've noticed being here in Columbia is that when you're driving around campus, students are everywhere. And seeing that you've got experience in buildings and grounds and that kind of thing, what would you do to ensure the safety of those students? Because I'm concerned about the students there in the middle of all that traffic. Is there something different that you would do with the grounds to make it safer for the students?

MR. EDDY: Okay. I certainly appreciate that question.

I will tell you that what the University of South Carolina has done with the streetscape in downtown Columbia and the investments that have been made have been tremendous. And trying to bring that campus together and tighter, it has certainly been an improvement. But there are risks associated with that, and I share that same concern.

Florida State had a similar-type issue where their campus was spread amongst the middle of Tallahassee, and it ended up -- and this would be an uphill battle in the city of Columbia, is that Florida State found a way to reroute traffic around downtown. I don't know that that is a viable solution in this scenario, but it's certainly something that should be considered in certain areas. That intersection at the Darla Moore School

of Business is particularly concerning, and that's an area where students are crossing that road on a pretty regular basis.

And so I think we've got to continue to look at alternatives there to try to find a better solution.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you.

MR. EDDY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Can you tell me how you would promote diversity on campus through faculty and staff as a board member.

MR. EDDY: Sure. I appreciate that question.

One of the things in South Carolina, I think we have made a lot of strides in taking first-generation college students -- and some of those, in certain scenarios, being minorities -- and educating them and providing college degrees. And more can be done along those lines with merit-based scholarships. Need-based scholarships, aside from just merit based.

But I think one of the unique things where we really have an opportunity is mentoring incoming students and educating them on the opportunities within higher education. I come from a background of higher education where I coach college golf. I was an assistant athletic director, and I was an associate vice president for business.

Not many kids that come into school go in thinking that they're going to be a college professor. Not many think that I'm going to work as a dean of student affairs at a college. I think that we have a unique opportunity there, in particular with a master's degree in higher education and being able to go on and get a doctorate's, to mentor some of these students and teaching them about opportunities in which they can advance, not only at the University of South Carolina, but it may be Winthrop University. It may be Francis Marion.

So I think we are well positioned with our degrees in higher education, as well as being able to serve as the research institution, to be able to cultivate some of our South Carolinians in teaching them about opportunities within -- to serve as a faculty or a staff member at a university. It's just not a well-publicized profession, and I think there's a way to mentor students.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: How do you propose to -- as a board member to ensure that there's a pathway for these minorities to move from being adjunct instructors to full-time professors at the university? Would you be a voice to ensure that that happens?

I find that if they are good enough to be adjunct instructors, they should be -- and teaching in some of the core classes within the

department, how would you -- without micromanaging and allowing, you know, the school to -- manage the school but being a board member, how would you promote the advancement of people of color?

MR. EDDY: Well, and I think part of that goes in line with what it means being an adjunct professor. Sometimes being a night school student at Charleston Southern, I had to -- I had a lot of adjunct professors, and a lot of those professors had full-time jobs during the day that paid them a lot more than the labor of love of teaching college courses.

And so their path was not such that they wanted a full-time tenured position as a professor within the university, but for those that are qualified and that is their desired path, I think you have to set up a system within those to continue to bring all of your professors along to be the very best that they can be. And in doing so, you -- in order to be number one in whatever program you're offering -- I will use international business as an example of that -- you want your very best professors, and you want to get your very best professors trained and cultivated.

And so you're going to do everything you can to take them along that path and bring them along to be full tenured professors.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

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

Along the lines of my questioning that I've already been pursuing -- actually, looking at a July 2017 article in The State newspaper with a headline "Up to 1,350 USC Students Need Help Recovering from Addiction," according to the incoming freshmen survey, and this group of students, Carolina Recovery, actually went to the board of trustees and asked them to start a program, which my understanding is they are, but what's your position on the whole issue of providing not only support for students struggling with substance abuse, but also providing safe harbor, you know, events and things for students that don't want to participate in events that involve alcohol and eventually, obviously, at some point, drugs too?

MR. EDDY: I appreciate the question.

I have a 19-year-old daughter who is a freshman at Wofford, and I am fortunate enough that my daughter has made the choice not to drink. But I will tell you, as a father, it is something that is very scary, to send a child off to college and have to worry about that.

She has a teammate. The very first day of school, called my daughter to come and take care of her. Here is a child who is away from home from Virginia being taken care of by an 18-year-old child. Several weeks

later, having to go to the hospital to pick this child up in the middle of the night because the child had too much to drink.

It is a problem, and it's a problem on all college campuses. As a member of the board of visitors, we have taken on a task this year. And one of the things that we want to do is we want to address Greek life, because I think that that is a place where we can start and make a significant impact. It's not going to solve the problem because it's not limited to Greek life, but it is an area that has always had the stigmatism that that's where it begins.

The challenge with taking on Greek life is that is a -- that's one of the most powerful lobbyist groups that you're going to encounter in higher education. And so there's some challenges within that in working with those students, because they come with a large lobbying force behind them.

Some thoughts, some ideas, some suggestions that could hit the table are versus having rush in the fall semester, deferring that for incoming students until the second semester. Taking the opportunity to try to mentor and advise young college kids that are coming in at 18, 19 years old who do not have the ability at that point to make reasonable judgments relative to the impacts of alcohol. Many of them have experienced it at a younger age, but you're hoping at this point in time that you can advise them and teach them of the harmful impact and what happens when you lose control, when you have no control of your body.

We have a significant problem, and it's not limited to South Carolina but to all college campuses. And as a board, we've got to do more because that's a liability there.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Verdin.

SENATOR VERDIN: The same subject. I'll try to vary the question.

If the school of medicine brought to the board the opportunity -- I know the resources are differently applied than the sister medical institution, but given the opportunity to put some -- or rudder in the water on this matter of medical cannabis, would you encourage the school of medicine to do more or less?

MR. EDDY: I'm of a similar belief to you, that we have to have medical research. And having the previous testimony of the chair of the AMA saying that research is not there, I think we're a significant time frame away from being able to make that decision and pursue that option. I think it's something that we've got to remain very knowledgeable about, and what are the alternatives that if we choose not to go down that path, where can our money best be used to find alternative research.

I'm not in favor of it, personally, but I would have to keep an open mind relative to what the medical research showed, because I don't think the positives can outweigh the negatives at this point in time.

SENATOR VERDIN: Well, I appreciate your response, and I should thank the chairman and the indulgence of other Committee Members for allowing me to ask this question.

We do have legislation pending before the General Assembly on this matter and have had now for two sessions. And what you've just expressed and all of the previous candidates is just the spirit of South Carolina. Twenty-nine other states have preceded us, and the general concern is this matter on a national level may eclipse what we are able to accomplish or control at the state level. And I'm just -- when you said "open mind," I'm just looking and trying to encourage everyone that can come to bear on the matter.

This is something that should have our attention and not just be relegated to another time, another day. It's something we really need to really ramp our awareness and our proactiveness up on and at the research institution level, because I -- we have a political atmosphere across this country on this matter, and not so much that I'm convinced of a medical or scientific response to.

So, generally, Mr. Chairman, Members, I am encouraged by all of the responses so far.

I might not be able to stay long enough to ask the other candidates on the same question, so maybe my colleagues will query some there in my absence.

But thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or comments?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: No.

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

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is favorable.

Any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor, raise your right hand.

MR. EDDY: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Mr. Eddy, for your willingness to serve.

Next, under Tab E, Frampton Harper from Beaufort.

Good afternoon, sir.

MR. HARPER: Good afternoon.

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

MR. HARPER: Yes, I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: For the record, if you would, give us your full name and a brief statement on why you would like to serve on the USC Board.

MR. HARPER: Yes, sir.

Frampton Lawton Harper, II. I'm a third-generation South Carolinian. I'm a graduate of the USC School of Law, class of 1993. Some of my first memories are Gamecocks sporting events on the radio, listening with my father. And my grandfather is class of 1933.

I want to give back to the university that's given so much to me and my family.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions?

Since you said you're going to leave early, do you have one, Senator Verdin?

SENATOR VERDIN: Has it crossed your mind as you contemplated service to the university that this might be within the realm of what's pertinent activity on the part of the university engaging in medical cannabis research or at least addressing the matter responsibly being in a position to -- and we've had the school of medicine, as well as other researchers outside the school of medicine, from USC come and testify before the Senate.

Have you come to the point in life, or just awareness of this matter generally, that it might be a point of address?

MR. HARPER: Yes, sir. Our state senator, Tom Davis, has been fairly active on this issue. I would take the issue a step further and say the issues of anxiety and depression. I know it also treats seizures oftentimes.

And I'm not a doctor, so I haven't studied the science. I know the rates of anxiety and depression are skyrocketing in this country. And I'm not a psychiatrist or psychologist, and I think there is a need for more information about -- I think it's THC, which is part of the marijuana effects that helps.

SENATOR VERDIN: Tetrahydrochloride. That's good.

MR. HARPER: Is that correct?

SENATOR VERDIN: You're on it.

MR. HARPER: Okay. But I'm certainly no expert, and I'm open to the opinions. Any medical help that can help someone with mental illness or seizures needs to be looked at.

And I also heard a question earlier about the opioid crisis that's going on in our country.

[SJ]

SENATOR VERDIN: Yes.

MR. HARPER: I follow that fairly closely. And I'm not an expert, but, obviously, it's a very big problem running throughout our country. And there are even off-market drugs from China that are finding their way here and doing a lot of damage, to our young people particularly. So I'm aware of the issues to the degree that I can be.

SENATOR VERDIN: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would use the expression -- and it's been my point of inquiry -- staying in position and posture to honor the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, and to be able to trust that relationship having the parameters set by the medical community, which comes from peer-reviewed science, to ascertain the efficacy or lack thereof of this drug.

So I appreciate your candor.

MR. HARPER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VERDIN: Thank you.

MR. HARPER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions?

Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Yes, hi.

I notice that you had listed the biggest weakness of the school being the unused potential.

MR. HARPER: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: So what do you -- what is that potential and tell us about that, and tell us how you would use that potential.

MR. HARPER: I believe the focus on the use of resources -- financial, time, attention -- they are broad concepts, but they're very important. And, for example, we have technology that's in our world now on handheld devices and computers that are affecting our youth. And I don't want to sound judgmental, but a lot of time spent playing video games, I don't think it's well spent. And that did not exist -- well, I'm 50 years old.

So the first video games came out when I was in high school, and they were basically Nintendo. We live in a different world now, and the time, money, and attention that we spend can be well spent or, frankly, frittered away. If we make an investment in infrastructure -- for example, crosswalks. I think somebody mentioned the infrastructure of the University of South Carolina.

I am former military, and I served as a safety officer. "Safety first" is the motto that I try to teach others and also practice myself. And the money spent for crosswalks, perhaps at Williams-Brice Stadium -- you know, the traffic that has to get from the fairgrounds to the stadium, it's

very dangerous, and you've got a lot of people buzzing around there in golf carts and so forth. So maybe some infrastructure there, for example.

And then you have -- our campus is largely in the city. And there's some strengths to that, but there are also some weaknesses. And I went to law school here. I lived not far from Five Points in a duplex, and some of those safety -- we had that tragedy when the Kentucky game happened.

It's deeply concerning about safety. So I hope that answers your question. That's a broad answer.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Favorable report.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I've got one quick one.

On your SLED report, there's several -- defendant in a bench contract, dismissed; defendant in a legal malpractice, dismissed. Two in February of 2005 and October of 2004. You were a defendant in a property suit. Both of them say pending.

Are they the same property suit? Are you familiar with them?

MR. HARPER: I don't know without looking at them in detail. As a real estate lawyer, I've been sued about four times, I believe, over 25 years. I sign the front of checks, and part of that is the potential to be a defendant in a lawsuit.

I can say broadly that in each of those matters, I was a closing attorney where something went wrong, and someone pointed the finger at me. And I can go through those --

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: You got hit with a trap.

MR. HARPER: Yes, sir. Yes, it's wide-cast net, so to speak, and a real estate lawyer does have malpractice insurance. But I've been through those. I think the studies with insurance claims, a real estate lawyer gets sued about every four, and I think I've been sued four or five times over 25 years.

Generally, it's a -- well, I've already spoken generally. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Talk to your trial lawyers --

MR. HARPER: I understand, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: -- in law school.

SENATOR VERDIN: Your buddies.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Yes, your buddies.

Any other questions or comments?

SENATOR VERDIN: Favorable.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable report.

A second is heard.

Any other discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor, raise your right hand.

Good.

MR. HARPER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you for your willingness to serve, Mr. Harper.

MR. HARPER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Next, Tab F, Rose Newton from Bluffton.

Raise your right hand.

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

MS. NEWTON: I do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: For the record, if you would give us your full name and a brief statement on why you would like to serve on the USC Board of Trustees.

MS. NEWTON: I will. Thank you so much, Senator Peeler.

Again, my name is Rose Buyck Newton, and I am very excited to be in front of you all today. I would like to, first of all, express my deepest thanks to Representative Davis, King, Representative Henderson and Whitmire, Senator Peeler, and Senator Verdin for your willingness to serve. I recognize the sacrifice that you all make to your businesses and to your family, and I say thank you.

I am very excited about the opportunity to possibly serve the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees. I am a third-generation Gamecock. I graduated from the business school MBA program in 1994.

I have continued to be active within the university. I am a member of the alumni association, a past member of the board of visitors. I most recently was very thankful to be able to accept the Distinguished Alumni Award from the business school for my father, who recently had a stroke and was unable to attend. But I'm the most proud of being the daughter of the first female to graduate from the business -- from the MBA program at the University of South Carolina.

I'm very passionate about the university, and as a businesswoman with 15 years of corporate governance and 15 years of executive management experience, I believe I bring a skill set to the university board.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Henderson.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I beat out Senator Verdin on the draw.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: He's going to leave.

SENATOR VERDIN: I'm going to make it easy on all of you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Oh. Okay.

Representative Henderson.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I'll make it quick because I have another hearing.

Thank you for offering to serve.

So how many other women are on the board of trustees?

MS. NEWTON: Well, the secretary of education, Molly Spearman, serves as an ex officio.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: She's ex officio, though.

MS. NEWTON: And then there's one female, Leah Moody.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Out of how many; do you know?

MS. NEWTON: Twenty.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: I don't even know what to say.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Makes your head turn red, doesn't it?

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, that really does. It really does.

I blame myself, honestly, to not try to go find people to run.

But let me ask you my question, again, about the whole issue with addiction. And this is not so much alcohol, as we know is a serious problem, but drug addiction and what the university is doing or should be doing to help students that are struggling with this problem.

MS. NEWTON: Well, I don't think you can turn on your TV or open up your iPad and not see some evidence of the opioid crisis that is occurring, not only in South Carolina, but across the country. And it has become an epidemic. I believe that it is an all-hands-on-deck issue. I'm very appreciative of what the General Assembly has done with the opioid study under, I know, the direction of Representative Bedingfield. He's been very instrumental.

I think that everybody needs to do their part, and the university, like you mentioned before, I think was able to get a \$23,000 grant to do a collegiate recovery program this year for the students and/or faculty, but so much more needs to be done. And I think we need to look at other schools that are making an impact in this arena. We need to do more from a board perspective, from a university perspective, and I know that the university is continuing to try to look at even doing more, adding a full-time person in 2019.

But there are other programs. Wofford, I know, has implemented a drop box for extra prescription pills that students may not -- or faculty may not need anymore. The College of Charleston has also implemented a recovery program. But we need to take it from being a stigma and recognize it as a disease, and I do think that will make a difference.

And we need to do more on the education program in terms of educating people on the problem and the severity of it.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, just one thing about the stigma. I look at this survey, this self-reporting survey of incoming freshmen, and they say 4 percent are struggling with this. I mean, I'm going to tell you, on a national level one in five high school seniors have experimented with prescription drugs.

So you know that nobody wants to say that they're dealing with it because they don't want people to think that, you know, they're a bad person. So I'm sure that you all would understand that it's probably a whole lot bigger problem than what people are saying, kids are saying, when they're asked on some kind of survey, so...

Thank you.

MS. NEWTON: Well, and I will also say that education is a big piece of that in helping to overcome that stigma. I do know that Sonny, the -- one of the lead -- not the singer, but one of the band members of Hootie and the Blowfish, has been very vocal about his drug addiction, and I think more voices like that will also help overcome the stigma. But implementing education programs, having the college campus police, having more resources is very important.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Verdin.

SENATOR VERDIN: I'm truly not trying to solicit any great elaboration on the matter, just really thumbs up, thumbs down on the school of medicine to engage in any level of medical cannabis research.

MS. NEWTON: Well, as a constituent of Senator Davis, we have maybe more knowledge than most, but I'll have to agree -- and I learned a lot from Dr. Harmon -- that I would like to see more specific research. Personally, I have a problem with it, but I'm also open-minded. I have a very close college friend who flies her daughter to New York for treatment for epilepsy. So it hits close to home.

And it takes just a couple of times with Senator Davis, and you get more information, so -- which is a good thing, and it helps you have an open mind.

SENATOR VERDIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I thank you for your willingness to serve and be here with us today.

I do have a question, and it relates sort of back to one of my earlier questions. I believe it relates back, but you had said that you thought the biggest weakness was the lack of a cohesive college campus, and I'm assuming that you're meaning physically cohesive. But I would like for

you to just describe what you mean by that and how as a board member you think you might impact that.

MS. NEWTON: Specifically -- and I think it's been mentioned already, but the expanse of space in downtown Columbia for prospective students has -- can potentially be a weakness for the university. But I also think being more creative in terms of more infrastructure, walkways, a better use of some of the busing facilities to bus students back and forth, I think would -- could help at least alleviate some of the image issues associated with -- and some people may like a big, giant campus in the middle of downtown Columbia.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I appreciate, though, that you recognize that there is a potential safety issue for the students.

MS. NEWTON: Well, and I know Girls State was moved from Columbia to PC for that specific reason. And it's -- you know, you're looking at 700 potential women of leadership roles all from the state of South Carolina who are not able to spend a week at the university campus for that specific reason, and it was safety.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Now, what's the desire of the Committee?

Favorable report.

A second.

Any other discussion?

Hearing none, we'll take it to vote.

All in favor, raise your right hand.

Thank you.

MS. NEWTON: Thank you so much.

REPRESENTATIVE HENDERSON: Yes, I just want to -- I have to go chair an oversight committee meeting.

And so I will be leaving, but I just want everybody to know that I'm still working.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you, Representative Henderson.

And Senator Scott had to leave for a doctor's appointment, and Senator Alexander is not here. So we still have, what, four?

(Representative Henderson exits the room.)

SENATOR VERDIN: I'm ready.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: We'll carry on.

Tab G, Tim Pearce, Beaufort.

DR. PEARCE: Thank you, sir.

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

DR. PEARCE: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: If you would, give us your full name and a brief statement.

DR. PEARCE: My full name is Holden Timberlake Pearce, but I generally ask people to call me Tim, you know. I'm a surgeon from Beaufort, South Carolina. I'm actually the senior surgeon at Beaufort Memorial right now, and I've been interested in leadership roles and the organizations that really have meant a lot to me.

I graduated from Carolina and went to medical school at MUSC. I did my surgical training in the Navy. But once I opened a private practice, the local hospital and its welfare as a not-for-profit organization was important to me. So I served on that board and as chairman of the board.

I also have developed an interest in the politics of medicine and served on the board of the SCMA, chair of that board for three years, and then past president of that board.

But what really, I think, got me interested in higher education was back in 1997, I was appointed to the Beaufort-Jasper Higher Education Commission, which is a partnership group with the University of South Carolina Beaufort. It was established by a 1994 act, and I am not sure that many people really understand what we as an organization are actually able to do.

We support USC Beaufort. We can receive money from donations, but we also can contract. We can build buildings, and we can partner with the university to try to help their needs.

And in this day of less, maybe, public support from the legislature, it has been critical to the growth of our university. And we have actually seen that what we've been able to build was dormitories that would fill up right away, a student center, a gym, and then we now know that we have been listed as the fifth fastest-growing, you know, public university in the country in one higher education publication.

So with that in mind, I work closely with former Chancellor Jane Upshaw and current Chancellor Al Panu to advance the cause of USC Beaufort. And when this position became open, it was Jane Upshaw that called me and encouraged me to run for this office.

And so I'm here and running.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you.

Questions or comments from Members of the Committee?

SENATOR VERDIN: I've got a question.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Senator Verdin.

SENATOR VERDIN: I've just been burning for somebody from Carolina.

Is it officially the USC Gamecocks or the USC Fighting Gamecocks?

DR. PEARCE: Officially, I have always referred to it as USC Gamecocks, but it sure works either way for me.

I thought you were going to ask me if USC Beaufort is the Sand Sharks. And so --

SENATOR VERDIN: Well, I was wondering.

DR. PEARCE: Yes.

SENATOR VERDIN: I was wondering. Well, sand sharks, do they fight?

DR. PEARCE: I sure hope so.

SENATOR VERDIN: Dr. Pearce, you served on the first Medical Marijuana Study Committee, which I believe was a joint House-Senate effort --

DR. PEARCE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VERDIN: -- headed up by, I guess, Senator Cleary. I don't remember. I wasn't serving.

DR. PEARCE: I think Dr. Davis -- Senator Davis, yes.

SENATOR VERDIN: And you served.

DR. PEARCE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VERDIN: Did you have any -- I'm going to presume that you came in with a wealth of background and information on -- or as a medical practitioner, you came to the table with a multitude of experiences, backgrounds, and perceptions. Did anything change for you in the course of how you perceive the subject in the course of your time of service on that study committee?

DR. PEARCE: Do you have 20 minutes, or --

SENATOR VERDIN: They don't. I know I would.

DR. PEARCE: No, I won't.

Let me just very briefly -- you know, I am one of the few people that have never smoked marijuana. Just, to me, the idea that my children or others, you know, find that appealing is just something that I have not been able to do. But just remember that medical marijuana is cannabinoid oil, which is a component of regular marijuana, and cannabinoid oil itself has a very low amount of THC, which is, you know, the euphoric component. And, you know, we don't have the research, you know, that we need for the medical profession to say, Yes, this is a good thing.

But as a part of the task force that I was on, we went around the state, and we heard countless testimonies from individuals that would bring tears to your eyes in terms of the sufferings that they had that were made

well by the use of medical marijuana. So you can't help but at least, you know, pay attention to a six-month-old with constant seizures who is not responding to traditional medicine who does respond to medical marijuana. Yet since it's Schedule I, since we have limited ability to research it, then the medical community still has a hard time getting on with that.

A very brief aside, you know, I have a granddaughter that has an issue that I will not go into except to say that, you know, the idea or the possibility of the use of medical marijuana in her has come up, and it's given me a new perspective, you know, on, you know, how I would go. Hopefully, we will not need to do that.

But we do need the research, and would I encourage, you know, my university, both of them, USC or MUSC, to be more involved with that research? Yes, I would.

SENATOR VERDIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I serve with you on the --

DR. PEARCE: I remember that, yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Can you tell me -- let me get my question for you -- how you would promote diversity with the faculty and staff if you are appointed or elected, I mean, as the -- on the board of USC.

DR. PEARCE: Well, to be honest, Representative King, to say that I know what Carolina has done or they have not done, you know, in that regard, you know, I have to be honest in saying, you know, I do not know. But I do recognize the importance of your question, and I think that as a board member, you know, along with a number of other key items, that's something that I need to be educated about when I -- if I'm fortunate enough to get there as to exactly what the current status quo is and, you know, what has been done.

And the other thing that I can do as a board member is to make sure that the rest of the board knows that I believe that it's an important topic that needs to be appropriately addressed.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And I would say that I appreciate your answer to Senator Verdin's question in reference to cannabis, medical cannabis. I feel like you were probably -- and not to discount anyone else, but forthcoming, and I really appreciate your answer.

DR. PEARCE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Dr. Pearce, you say here that one of the strengths of the university is the leadership of President Pastides, and then you say abatements. As it pertains to out-of-state tuition versus

in-state tuition and abating the out of state and allowing those students to pay in state, if the president sees it one way and you see it the other way, are you strong enough to oppose that?

DR. PEARCE: The board-CEO relationship is fairly clear. The CEO, or the president, you know, works for the board. Yet, you know, as an individual what you would need to do is to seek support from other board members. And having been on a number of boards, I've had a number of opportunities to do just that.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other questions or comments?

Hearing none, what's the desire of the Committee?

REPRESENTATIVE KING: I have --

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Oh. We have one more.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: -- one more quick question.

I was --

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You support the trend for more out-of-state versus in-state students who have less competitive -- can you elaborate.

DR. PEARCE: I think that the university itself needs to have more research. We need to make it a place where you have international and national recognition and so forth. And the reality is, is no one wants to, you know, raise tuition, you know, but one of the realities that we face is that with less public support, legislative support, then that's been one of the few ways that the universities have been able to offset some of their costs. I think the system does an excellent job in dealing with both.

We have 40 percent out-of-state students at the Columbia campus, but we have like 10 percent out-of-state students in the regional campuses. So to attract quality, out-of-state people to come here and make us a more dynamic international university, I would support it. But to take care of the people of South Carolina that we, obviously, are more interested -- well, not more interested in, but we're very interested in making sure that we take of them, the university system as the regional campuses that allow an individual that is unable to get into Carolina to go to that system to have success and then to transfer to the university at a later time.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: The motion is favorable.

Seconded.

All in favor, raise your right hand.

DR. PEARCE: Thank you all.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, sir. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

[SJ]

SENATOR VERDIN: Mr. Chairman, to each of you, and to our Winthrop candidates, I apologize for having to leave early.

(Senator Verdin exits the room.)

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Winthrop University, 4th Congressional District, Seat 4.

Under Tab 8, Edward Driggers from Greer.

If you would, raise your right hand.

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

MR. DRIGGERS: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Would you like to make a brief statement? Well, give us your full name for the record and make a brief statement, please.

MR. DRIGGERS: For the record, my name is Edward Rosemond Driggers. I go by Ed. I am a candidate for the Winthrop University trustee position.

I do believe that I bring to this opportunity a unique background and experience: my career. My most recent career has been in public administration. I have previously served as an elected official on a municipal level. I had also had an opportunity to serve in the private sector as well.

Those experiences over the last 40 years, I believe, have uniquely qualified me to see issues from different perspectives. It certainly has allowed me to question issues when it's appropriate for those to be questioned, and it's given me the expertise to really dig in and look for answers for those things that sometimes can be right below the surface.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Questions?

Representative King. Since it's in your district, Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

And is it all right if I call you Ed?

MR. DRIGGERS: Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Ed and I -- as I served on City Council, he was my boss man. I call him my boss man because he would take good care of me.

But I have a question for you. Recently, an encounter that I had with Winthrop was with adjunct instructors, African American adjunct instructors there, that were not afforded the opportunity to become full-time professors. How would you work towards ensuring that people who are adjunct instructors have an opportunity to see a pathway at being full-time instructors at Winthrop University?

MR. DRIGGERS: Very good question.

I think that the answer to that could be twofold. One of the issues involving adjunct professors is certainly having what each individual university would set as a minimum requirement, educational, a requirement for adjunct. I think that is a role and a responsibility that each college, each university should be able to do as a matter of policy, what that minimum education level should be.

However, what really does apply on the adjunct side, I believe, is this issue of most who go adjunct first are coming out of the professional arena. These are practitioners, typically. These are folks who have experience, real-life experience, and not necessarily just from an academia standpoint. And I think there is great value to that.

So I think the road has to be paved. I certainly think that those opportunities have to be there. It has to be a matter of policy or relative to the individual college or university. But I certainly would be supportive of making sure from a policy for Winthrop University that that avenue would be there.

I think some of the best people that I've experienced in my academic career and postgraduate work as well have been from those active practitioners who have real-life experiences that bring valuable, valuable information to that classroom.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And my next question is, as you know, I consider Winthrop as having the top quality of education in the state. It resides in my district. How do you work with keeping costs down but continuing with quality education there at Winthrop?

MR. DRIGGERS: You know, that's the \$64,000 question in everyone's arena, is how do you absolutely offer the best product; in this case, the best educational value that you can, and do that at an affordable price? One of my concerns in looking at Winthrop University as a graduate of their MBA program -- one of the things that I am certainly interested in is how do we balance this higher cost of undergraduate tuition in South Carolina relative to the quality that those students are receiving.

I think the quality is there. I think it's an exceptional quality, but there is a fine balance to that as well. I think the board has a huge responsibility in monitoring that, working with the administration to make sure that we are continuing to look at programming, facilities, academics.

We've got to look at the balance in our own communities. How many people that live near us live near that campus are choosing that as their choice facility. Those are things that -- administration from their role, as well as the board from its individual roles, will have to look at that on a continuing basis.

You're absolutely correct. It has to be balanced.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And how do you propose that the board should work with the City of Rock Hill and as well as the York County delegation personally in developing college town as what we're developing there now, but also making -- keeping the soul and the spirit of what we know as Rock Hill and not being overwhelmed by Winthrop per se?

MR. DRIGGERS: Sure.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: How to work with the local delegation and the city to ensure that the residents of the city of Rock Hill continue to have that passion about what Rock Hill is all about?

MR. DRIGGERS: Town-and-gown dynamics are diverse. They're as diverse as college campuses are themselves. Rock Hill continues to be one of South Carolina's fastest-growing municipalities, 70,000-plus residents with a campus of about 5,000 folks that are there in the center of that city. It's an asset, and I think both York County and the City of Rock Hill -- I think they do view Winthrop as an asset to them, but I think they also have to view it as an economic asset.

So when we are -- as a county or a municipality, when we look at providing incentives to workforce development or providing incentives for businesses to locate in our state, we cannot forget the balance. We cannot forget the asset that we have in our own communities relative to these institutions of higher learning.

Winthrop is a wonderful example. It has been there since Rock Hill was a small textile town. It is as much the fabric of that community as it has developed growing larger over time.

Rock Hill cannot forget its history. It cannot forget its roots. I don't think York County will as well. That relationship has to be forged between the administration and the elected officials in that county, in that city, and I think the board has a role in that as well.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And my last statement -- not a question -- if elected, I would just remind you that it is this General Assembly that elects the board, and when you all do invite us to come over to Winthrop, it is not the city that should be -- I mean, you recognize your city-elected officials. But I have gone over there for the last 10 years, and every year that I've gone, none of the state-elected officials have ever been recognized. And I go to all, if not the majority, of functions there.

MR. DRIGGERS: That is an inexcusable oversight in my opinion, and I can assure you that if I'm afforded the opportunity, I would share that with those who are making those introductions.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Whitmire.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: A few questions.

First, from staff, is a municipal city administrator and serving on a college board, is that -- is there any conflict there?

MS. CASTO: No. You are appointed by the city council.

MR. DRIGGERS: Yes.

MS. CASTO: That's correct.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: So it's not through elected.

MS. CASTO: We have state employees serving on college boards too.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: And to Mr. Driggers, I used to be a mayor. A smaller town than Greer, but I know my city administrator was full-time, you know, five days a week. Is your mayor and council going to be okay with you being at Winthrop that considerable amount of time?

I mean, that would concern me a little bit, you know, when I was mayor if my city administrator came up and said, Well, hey, I'm going over here. I'll be gone "X" number of days, and some crisis might come up.

So how would you address that?

MR. DRIGGERS: Well, there's never been a crisis in Greer that I have not been available to be reached. Winthrop and Greer are pretty close in proximity, and I'm sure that I can be familiar with and make sure that I'm addressing issues and concerns on both of those parts.

I have had communication with my mayor and with my city council concerning this possible appointment. They are very supportive of that. Greer has long supported our professional staff being involved in both national and state organizations and opportunities. We believe that it's an opportunity for us to be more diverse as a staff, and we believe it's an opportunity for areas outside of our own community to see what's happening in Greer, South Carolina.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Good enough.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: How long have you been the city administrator for Greer?

MR. DRIGGERS: For Greer, I'm in my 18th year.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I do have a question. Based on your background as a public financial manager, city manager, you mentioned that you felt like a weakness of the school was that perhaps the tuition was too high. So given your background with public financial management, what would you do to try to lower the tuition?

MR. DRIGGERS: Well, I'm not exactly sure that the objective is to lower the tuition. I think it's certainly that we have to be aware of it, and

we have to understand why that is happening. And if there is opportunity for us to look at that balance, yes, that certainly needs to happen.

One of the things that I do believe that I bring to the table as a public administrator is understanding governmental accounting. It is very, very different than managerial accounting. There is no profit and loss statement in governmental accounting.

So what we have to be able to look for is where are our revenues and what are those revenue streams, and of those revenue streams, what is restricted, and what is tied to certain objectives. And then most importantly, from our expense standpoint, we need to be able to look at those programatically, where those dollars are being spent.

Winthrop University has a beautiful campus, and it is evident that dollars are being spent to maintain that beautiful campus. And I think those are very worthy dollars that need to be put into that regard, but we have to look at every avenue, every department. Every programmatic part of that budget needs to be reviewed from a perspective that says, How are these being spent?

There is a fiduciary responsibility that trustees have, that they need to question how those dollars are being spent. Not that we don't support it, but it is a fiduciary responsibility to question those expenditures. And I think by questioning those, you look for avenues and opportunities where dollars can be reallocated where it may most help students and families.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Right, I agree. In fact, I believe we should be doing that in state government as well.

But do you have any specific ideas going in the door of ways that you can cut costs?

MR. DRIGGERS: Not necessarily to cut costs. Again, I think that that could be a little shortsighted if you walk in saying, I'm here to cut the budget by "X" percent. I think the objective needs to be to do that review. I'm not a proponent of ever looking at any organization's budget and when there is a need to say that there needs to be an "X" percentage decrease across the board.

Having spent 20-plus years in public administration, I know that it just doesn't work that way. I maybe can take an organizational percentage cut, but I have to have the ability to go inside of that organization and look at where the priorities are, assessing those priorities. Do the things that you do well, and do those better. But there may be things that you were doing that can best be done somewhere else or by someone else, and if that's the case, let's look at eliminating that expense.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Sounds good. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Motion is a favorable report.

Second.

All in favor, raise your right hand.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

MR. DRIGGERS: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: What would Uncle Vern Smith have to say about you?

MR. DRIGGERS: Vern and I went to church together.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Next, under Tab I, last but not least, Kristen Magee.

MS. MAGEE: Magee.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Magee.

From Simpsonville.

MS. MAGEE: Hi.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: That's the reason I always ask for you to give your full name when you start.

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

MS. MAGEE: I do.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: And if you would, give us your full name and a brief statement.

MS. MAGEE: Kristen Gebhart Magee. I'm from Simpsonville, South Carolina. I'm a proud graduate of Winthrop University, class of 1995.

Since I've graduated, I've served on the alumni council. The alumni council, I was president of the alumni council for two years, ending in 2014. In that role, I also got to serve on the foundation board at Winthrop and several operating committees of the foundation.

Winthrop means a tremendous amount to me and really gave me an opportunity outside -- out of high school to get a higher education. If I had not been afforded the opportunities that Winthrop gave me, I probably would have stayed home in Georgia and maybe gone to Georgia State -- maybe -- but at the time could not afford to finish such an opportunity.

So when I think of Winthrop, I think of opportunity.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Thank you.

Questions or comments?

Representative King.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: Thank you.

First of all, I would like to thank you for offering yourself.

Can you tell me -- and I asked Mr. Driggers the same question -- what would you do to promote diversity on campus in reference to faculty and staff and a pathway for qualified adjunct instructors who are teaching

within the core curriculum classes to have a pathway into becoming full-time professors on campus?

MS. MAGEE: Absolutely.

Some of the adjunct professors I had in my experience at Winthrop were some of the best and influenced my career greatly to be in hospital administration when I first graduated, and I think it is incredibly important for those folks to be able to influence the education of university students.

As to taking a strategic initiative around diversity and education, I really would like to understand what Winthrop has done so far. It doesn't sound like they've done enough since the question, but making sure that the chairmen of the department are using adjunct professors appropriately and offering those types of -- you know, anytime you start to get into school budget discussions, I'm sure that there are positions that are not being allowed to potentially be filled full-time, right? And that ensuring that we are promoting those types of -- you know, whether it's an endowed-type fellowship opportunity to enhance the diversity of the university of adjunct professors and bringing those on full-time, I think there are a lot of opportunities to, you know, endowed chairmen or endowed roles through the university's foundation and other types of focus on recruiting those -- converting those to full-time opportunities.

REPRESENTATIVE KING: And the reason why I asked that question is I have a -- just to be very transparent with you, at Winthrop I was contacted by several of the African American professors there, one in particular who applied for a job there, and there's no African American in the department other than the adjunct instructor. The adjunct instructor was overlooked for someone else who had less qualifications. And so that's why I have asked that question.

MS. MAGEE: And rightfully so. We have oversight of the university and have influence into that and need to participate and offer those kinds of solutions and opportunities where available. Winthrop is a very diverse campus, and it needs to have a diverse faculty to go with it.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Representative Davis.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you.

This question was asked earlier to another candidate, but -- so I'll ask you as well. How many women are on the Winthrop board now; do you know?

MS. MAGEE: I believe two at this point. As the alumni president, I got to go to graduations and sit with the board, and I seem to recall two. Again, my term ended in 2014, and I've taken some time to be a mom and get the kids through middle school and into high school. So I don't know the current status, but I believe it's two.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. And then, also, when we talked about weakness, you said that there was a difficulty in obtaining capital support --

MS. MAGEE: Sure.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: -- for the university. Is that --

MS. MAGEE: Absolutely.

You know, sitting on the foundation board, again, my -- I'm three years out. So I haven't been as engaged and up to date on where the school finances and the funding starts. But, you know, we're a relatively large university in this state and have a difficult time even financing replacement buildings for, let's say a library that is decaying, the books, or a student center that had to have tremendous amounts of capital raised to be able to build dormitory expansions.

You know, there is a real -- we don't have a billion-dollar endowment at Winthrop. Let's just put it that way. And it's incredibly difficult to fund a school and keep something going that has less than one month's state benefits covered from state dollars for the faculty and staff of the university.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: So how would you change that? What do you think needs to be done there?

MS. MAGEE: I think we need to spend a lot more time in Columbia talking to you guys and building these relationships and bridges because, you know, at the same time, I don't think -- you know, we just don't -- it is a -- what worries me the most in this state is that the focus will be brought to taking -- reducing the number of smaller satellite schools like Winthrop or USC Beaufort or Aiken or Lancaster or other schools in the state and reducing that opportunity for people to go to local -- locally for education, just to focus it on a Clemson or Carolina. And that makes me really nervous because I think there is a tremendous value for the state's development to the knowledge-based economy. That won't happen if those universities go away.

So I think there has to be a greater voice and more networking in Columbia to make some of those kinds of things happen. We're also not going to change the economics of the state very quickly.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Do you think that there is untapped potential with alliances with industry --

MS. MAGEE: Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: -- and businesses, especially given your proximity to Charlotte?

MS. MAGEE: Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: I would think that there would be a lot of synergies there and a lot of, you know, capital essentially that you could tap into.

MS. MAGEE: Even if it's human capital, absolutely. I think there are tremendous opportunities from just a biomedical research perspective or the school of business administration. You know, if I had gone into education, I would have been a fourth-generation educator, and both of my parents encouraged me not to, simply because of where we stand from an educator's stand. And I don't think we value that enough about Winthrop and what it brings to the state and the community.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Okay. Good. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: I see where you were a student athlete. What are your thoughts about the possibility of a football team at Winthrop?

MS. MAGEE: I actually have a Winthrop Football t-shirt that says "Still Undeclared" on the back.

I actually -- Winthrop is one of the first schools to be fully Title IX compliant with its funding for men's and women's athletics and devote equal money to both sides. I'm actually opposed to adding a football team to Winthrop. I think anytime you do that, you have to see what it's going to gain or add to the university. And, you know, from a student athlete perspective, I think it will take away from the university's athletic opportunities for women.

I don't think it will be a profitable entity for the university. Would it gain some school spirit? Possibly. I just don't think that financially those kinds of programs are -- pay for themselves at that size of a school.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Okay. Any other questions or comments?

It's a favorable report?

REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: Any other discussion? If none, raise your right hand.

Thank you --

MS. MAGEE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SENATOR PEELER: -- for your willingness to serve.

That concludes our agenda, and we'll stand adjourned.

(The screenings adjourned at approximately 2:09 p.m.)