

From: Pardue, Doug <dpardue@postandcourier.com>
To: Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov
Date: 9/2/2016 11:12:28 AM
Subject: Would you see if the Governor has a response to this, please?

Chaney,

Yesterday, the Commission on Higher Education issued this release:

BIG NEWS: Call for SC's Big 3 Universities to be Investigated

In today's meeting, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education unanimously voted to request an audit of the state's three research universities by the South Carolina Inspector General, based on reports of alleged excessive spending by Boards of Trustees.

The decision came in the wake of recent reports centering around spending by certain members of the MUSC Board of Trustees, reports that the MUSC Board of Trustees had been previously warned about inappropriate spending, and additional reports of questionable expenses by other research sector boards. "All universities' Boards of Trustees are poisoned by this allegation," said Commissioner Hood Temple. "We need to gather the facts in order to address the public's concern or to defend our schools against these reports, should the allegations prove to be unfounded." "In an environment of skyrocketing costs and runaway spending in higher education, the timing of this news article could not be worse," noted CHE Chairman Tim Hofferth. "CHE's responsibility is to protect the students, families, and taxpayers of South Carolina. In order to properly address this situation, the first step is to be proactive in trying to find the facts. Once that occurs, we will determine what the appropriate course of action will be."

This is based on the investigative story Lauren Sausser and I wrote a week ago on MUSC's Board of Trustees titled "Is it Business or Pleasure:"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160826/160829697/musc-board-members-rack-up-thousands-on-luxury-hotels-meals>

How does the Governor feel about the Higher Education Commission's call for an Inspector General's investigation of the spending by MUSC, Clemson and USC's trustees while attending board meetings and other occasions. What does she think about the expenses detailed in our report?

Doug

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