

## DO THE RIGHT THING

I am paying to have this statement placed in the Times and Democrat because fairness and freedom are not free. I learned this when I demonstrated in the 60's and I also learned this as a military officer. Someone has always had to pay a price so that someone might have fairness and freedom. However, I believe that there are some fair minded people in South Carolina and the South Carolina legislature who need to know the truth from my perspective as a former 29 year retired employee from South Carolina State University. Some will ask why I am speaking out now. Mostly, must have some type of hidden agenda. I will say that I have no hidden agenda. I only want to see SCSU be the University that I know it can be for the students who elect to attend this great university. I also want to present additional information that will help the SC legislature understand how SCSU got to where it is today. However, I want to go on record that some leadership at SCSU did not have the University's best interest at heart. Some leaders did mismanaged funds but the faculty and students were never in a leadership or decision making position to prevent these occurrences. In fact the faculty, staff and students are to be commended for doing such a great job with the limited financial resources that were made available to them over these many years.

Spike Lee an accomplished film director and movie producer made a movie called **"Do the Right Thing"**. Today, I want to offer a challenge to the State of South Carolina to **Do the Right Thing** for the students who will freely choose to attend SC State University. SC State University has a long history of providing a high quality of education for students who want to attend this university. South Carolina State University alumni are leaders in many areas and as Governor Haley stated **"SCSU cannot afford to fail"**. **So please remember the Governor's statement.** South Carolina State University cannot afford to fail because it has provided an **affordable education** to numerous students who are serving this state and nation in productive careers. South Carolina State University also has a tremendous economic imprint on the City of Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, this region and this state. The students, faculty and staff purchase numerous goods and services which have a positive economic impact on banks, businesses, grocery stores, restaurant and etc. Just think about the housing, doctors, stores and other business that would not be needed if South Carolina State University was not located in Orangeburg or it closed its doors. Even the T and D would lose out because they would not have us to write about anymore. We must think of SCSU as a business and a university that is vital to this region and this county because it educates students, enriches the community, provides employment, educates future leaders and provides our business community with paying consumers. This is why all of us must view this situation at SCSU as a defining moment in its history. I also share the Governor's concern that SCSU can **no longer** be allowed to do things like it has done in the past. I support the Governor 100 percent in this area, and I fully understand her concerns as a tax payer. The Governor must protect the tax payer's dollars and her plan is addressing this serious problem. The Governor was also correct to put some controls in place to help insure that SCSU achieves the excellence that we all know it is capable of. However, the 6 million dollar loan was far from being adequate and it was less than a bandage from my perspective. This is where I disagree with the Governor. Think of it this way, if the enemy was on the next hill and I called for an air strike because the enemy was coming over the hill in mass and my men were running out of ammo, I would be in deep trouble. You as the Governor of the State of South Carolina are similar to a commander in chief. You know I need an air strike (13 million dollars requested by President Elzey) but you only give him small weapons to fight this battle and no extra ammunitions (additional funding) which he desperately needs. In fact he needs additional resources because the brand at scsu has been tarnished during the last 12 years because of all of the negative publicity that the university has

received. A reasonable person has to know that underfunding SCSU will not solve the problems that exist. You know all of this as The Governor / Commander in Chief and you still are only willing to provide the help that will provide some political cover as I see it, if all of my men get killed. This is how I view what was done even though I respect you Governor Hailey. You didn't even give President Elzey a chance to speak at the April Budget and Control Board meeting. I am saying this Governor Haley, because, I served in the US Army as an officer and earned the rank of Captain. I also came out number one in my military class so I know something about doing your best when you have the proper resources. No military commander would knowingly withhold vital resources to another officer (President Elzey) on the ground in battle knowing the facts as you said that you know from the reports thing and that you had received. With that said, I thank you for what you did do because I know full well you didn't have to do anything. Sending President Elzey only half of what he requested is the same old gravy warmed over again for SCSU. To be fair to Governor Haley, the South Carolina Legislature and the SC Budget and Control Board, I have decided that that everyone needs to take a deep breath and take a walk back into history to fully understand how SCSU got to where it is today from my perspective. This is important because I know the Governor will say that I have been the Governor for only three years and you are correct and some of the members of the SC legislature will say I don't want to know the history. I only care about today, this is not my problem and I did not cause this problem. They will be correct also but if the problem is not fixed this group of legislatures will join others who have failed to **Do the Right Thing by SCSU**. This is why some of this story needs to be told from my point of view. I also want to go on record that the Governor and the legislature may not know or fully understand how some of the things that I will say have impacted negatively on SCSU. I will also state for the record that President Elzey and this current board of trustee did not cause these problems. **President Elzey, did the right thing like it or not he brought the SCSU debt forward and placed it on the table for all to see.** He decided that this can of worms (SCSU Debt) should not be kicked down the road any longer by exposing the debt and many of the problems. However even his hands are tied to some extent because he must work within the current system to correct this problem of underfunding. He should be commended for doing what he did. However, Senator Leatherman, must also be commended for his leadership. **Senator Leatherman** knows that this is a **real political hot potato** which has the potential to divide this state. His idea to use a distinguished group of former Presidents and others to make recommendations may allow some much needed political cover for those who must make the decisions in the legislature to do the Right Thing by SCSU. Do not expect all of the positive changes to be made today or even tomorrow. South Carolina State University will need time and resources to fully recover from these setbacks. You must give the legislature and Senator Leatherman's Committee a chance to do what is right. This committee is very important because, they may be the only group of leaders that will have the respect and courage to help the SC Legislature act in a meaningful way. Now comes the part that some of you may not want to hear. **In my heart I felt SCSU should have received 25 million dollars in extra funding to draw down on to pay its bills and cover some future expense at the April, 2014 Budget and Control Board meeting.** I do agree with the Governor that some controls had to be put in place to make sure that this money was being spent properly. I really wanted someone to be assigned **immediately** from the Controller Office or the Treasurer office to work with the SCSU President and the Board at SCSU to make sure that the tax payer's money was being spent properly for duration of five years. **This individual would act as a financial Czar to work with President Elzey, the new Board and the President's Blue Ribbon Panel to help SCSU right itself.** SCSU also needed to be provided with **whistle blower** protection so that students, faculty and staff could report problems that could be properly investigated without harm to themselves. This really protects the tax payer's money **and doing these two things will help President Elzey and the new board from doing things that were done in the past.** I also felt it was unfair to ask SCSU to use \$500,000 dollars of the loan money to pay for a service that should be provided at no expense to a state agency like SC State University. **SCSU did not need a loan**



they really needed some of the funding that has been cut over the years from the SCSU budget. While SCSU did not receive adequate funding, I still have some hope that someone in the SC Legislature or the Governor will introduce a spending plan that will **Do the Right Thing** for SCSU in the current academic year 2014-2015. I retired from SCSU in 2005 after 29 years of service as a former Full professor and chairperson. I served in the US army as an Armor Officer and completed my education from Morgan State University, Kansas State University, and Indiana University, I truly believe that Governor Haley does have SCSU best interest at heart but she and the legislature still need additional information that I would like to share with you and others. You cannot solve the problems of SCSU alone or in a vacuum. I applaud Governor's Haley's first plan of action but I also feel that this plan will not address the real problem that affects SCSU. **Senator Leatherman special President's committee** in my estimation has a better chance of stating the case for SCSU because all of these Presidents know what real resources can do as it relates to funding for student support, facilities, faculty and new programs. To really solve this problem will require the Governor to lead in uncharted waters. However, I firmly believe this problem can be solved with her leadership and with the cooperation of the SC legislature, The SC Budget and Control Board, President Elzey, the SCSU Board of Trustees, alumni, students, faculty, staff and stake holders of SCSU. Governor Haley has already proven her leadership having been elected as **the first female Governor of the State of South Carolina** who just happens to be a minority. **She also provided leadership by appointing Senator Tim Scott to the US Senate** for the State of South Carolina who also happens to be a minority. This took bold leadership on her part and SCSU will need the same type of bold leadership that she has demonstrated in the past. While, Senator Tim Scott was qualified she did something for Senator Tim Scott and the Republican Party that had not been done previously by anyone. Governor Hailey gave Senator Scott a chance to be elected as a US Senator from South Carolina. SCSU will require the same type of bold leadership. I say this because **SCSU needs increased financial resources more than anything else at this time**. It is my strong opinion that SCSU needs increased funding just to catch up to its peer institutions in the State of South Carolina, other 1890 Land Grant Universities and other HBCU in other states. We already know from history that **SCSU was underfunded in its early beginnings from 1896 – 1954 because of a legal doctrine of segregation**. That is a known fact, which should not be disregarded because it takes time to build real wealth. From **1954-1968** funding was still inadequate for South Carolina State University, when compared with other universities in this State. **South Carolina also vigorously fought the 1954 Supreme Court decision and SCSU was never treated fairly or equally for an extended period of time**. This data should be available in our state archives, but no one wants to deal with what was done in the past and that has been one of the problems. If I were under nourished as SCSU was for the first 72 years of its life (1896-1968) how do you really expect me to grow. SCSU was able to grow and strive under this system because this was the only state supported university that African Americans could attend in this state. Thus SCSU normally got the best African American students and athletes because they could not go to Clemson, USC, the Citadel or other universities in this state for an extended period of time. However all of the other Southern State under the old Confederacy did this to their HBCU or 1890 universities. You know this and I know this. **This was done legally and it was done by State law. Blacks had no power and they were at the mercy of what the legislatures only wanted to give reluctantly. This was the problem then and it continues today.** Most HBCU were merely funded to exist in name only but in spite of this SCSU and many other HBCU/1890 universities educated productive students who have proven their worth. However this unequal measure of funding would hinder SCSU from really growing and striving. SCSU has never been able to reach its full potential because of inadequate funding for facilities; academic faculty, new academic programs and student support except for that brief period of time after the three students were killed on campus in 1968. I will also add poor leadership to this list but our **current President (Elzey) and current Board of Trustees did not cause these problems**. However, all of them must work together to solve these problems to gain the trust of the Governor, the legislature, The Budget and



Control Board, the alumni, faculty, staff, stake holders and most importantly our future students. In fact a complete state audit of SCSU should have been completed of all finances, financial records and facilities should have been done during President Elzey first year or before he took office. He would now not be held for all of the problems that were caused by others. This is how the military operates when a change of command is made. Just ask yourself why was DSS given so much support so fast. They were given approval to hire 200 new staff before they got a new director. Does this sound like politics to protect or lift up one state agency and kill another state agency (SCSU)? You must also ask yourself why the House Sub-Committee on Higher Education would approve a measure that gives scholarship money to SCSU students to attend another university and they will not even give a dime to help them remain at SCSU. You even want to fire faculty and staff so that you can pay their unemployment benefits which will also affect the economy of Orangeburg County and this region. Finally it will take at least four years or more to get this university reaccredited if you follow your plan. I have seen some real unfair things in my life but this plan beats all of them. I know a group of intelligent people can do better than this. **A financial Czar assigned to SCSU along with whistle blower protection will address many of your concerns.** I don't want the leaders to mismanage their SC, Federal, and alumni funds either. This type of protection should prevent it from occurring in the future. **All of us agree on this but how do we get there in a just and humane manner without destroying SCSU. The actions of this committee have damaged the SCSU brand almost beyond repair and that was not fair.** President Elzey and the new Board have only been in place for a short time period. Your solution is making the current faculty, staff; President Elzey and the new board your escape goat from my perspective. I might add that the House and Senate members voted all of these individuals onto the SCSU Board. This can also be corrected and alumni and Black-Caucus members should have recommend better people to serve on the board. This is why I support a university system instead of the current process.

I now must point out that in 1968 several students were killed on the campus of SCSU and SCSU received a measure of financial support from the Governor and the SC Legislature that that allowed SCSU to have greater progress and achievements from 1970-1984. (14 years) As a new faculty person in 1976, I saw new facilities, faculty and academic programs that other HBCU did not have in 1976. This was a direct result of the student deaths on campus as I saw it. By the time I arrived in 1976, SCSU had built a brand new Olympic size swimming pool and SHM facility with classrooms and labs. The SHM facility was better than any facility that existed among HBCU schools during this era (1973-1984). They built a brand new bowling alley which other HBCU's did not even have at the time. The student center had been renovated. A new dorm had been built with new eating facilities. A new auditorium was built on the front of the campus along with a new administration building. The football stadium, track, tennis courts and weight rooms were better than what was available at other HBCU of that era. The Library, Turner Hall and other buildings were also refurbished. Our athletic teams won numerous championships and our ROTC and students seemed to excel in all areas during this era. Our band was also one of the best in the nation among HBCU. I came to work at SCSU because they had some of the best facilities and academic programs that I had seen at various HBCU/1890 Universities at that time. SCSU also had a budget to recruit top faculty to this university. All of the academic programs were of a high quality and we offered academic programs that students wanted to take during that era. The campus and infra structure were well maintained up until 1990's and then the bottom seemed to drop out from under SCSU as it related to funding and support. SCSU began to fall on hard times due to a number of factors which collectively reduced SCSU ability to attract additional students. The facilities built after the 1968 death of the three students allowed this university to flourish from 1973-1992 from my perspective. Beginning in the 1980's more minority students were beginning to be welcomed with open arms at universities like Clemson, USC, College of Charleston and others in South Carolina. Minorities began to



flock to these universities at a higher rate because they were no longer discriminated against. However SCSU did not receive the same level of funding to recruit white students and other race students as other state universities received to attract outstanding black students. USC was even allowed to put a program in call General Studies so that more Black Athletes could attend. I thought this was wrong and USC later dropped this program. Other universities also did the same thing until the NCAA stepped in and made all of the schools do more to help their student athletes graduate. The presidents at these Universities decided that they would aggressively use their financial resources to recruit more minority student and this was good but SCSU was never supported so that they could attract white students like other universities in South Carolina were able to do with black student, black athletes and other race students. I call this the state's **one directional policy** because Blacks students were motivated to enroll in the traditional white universities in South Carolina and white students and other race students were also motivated to enroll in traditional white universities because they received the funding and academic programs that would attract them. **South Carolina State never received the types of programs that would attract white students or other race students** that other schools received. Even the Black students were motivated to attend other schools because the Commission of Higher Education routinely approved the best programs for the traditional white universities from my perspective. This **one directional plan or policy** was only good for the status quo and not SCSU. The SEC and ACC also decided as a conference that they would recruit the best athletes regardless of race so that they would be more competitive with other conferences. The state of South Carolina also said that there would be no more duplication of programs but this decision prevented SCSU from getting programs that would attract students to this university. This one directional policy practiced by the Commission of Higher Education had the affect of freezing SCSU program growth in place. I really felt that we needed a South Carolina University System like other states had adopted. This helped all of the universities in a state to get equal funding, new academic programs and new facilities. **Our current system in higher education protects the status quo** and it does nothing to help an HBCU/1890 school like SCSU attract white students and other race students. New program guidelines and level of funding should be developed that will allow SCSU to do the same types of things that I saw USC , Clemson, College of Charleston and Coastal Carolina do to attract good black students and good black athletes. **SCSU needed that same type of support to attract more white students and other race students.** I can tell you that this did not happen for SCSU. These things along with good faculty, external grant funding and outstanding alumni support will help a university grow. Since SCSU did not even have what I consider basic support it made it that much harder for SCSU to really stay competitive. SCSU should have never had it budget cut as it was over the years. Even Ray Charles can see what was done to SCSU was unfair. However, SCSU did a great job of educating its students with what it had. The other universities in the State of South Carolina continued to get funding that allowed them to upgrade their facilities. Even though SCSU offered a quality education students would prefer to go to other universities because SCSU lacked the financial resources to stay competitive. The state of South Carolina also reduced the funding for all Universities in this state but it had a greater impact on SCSU because SCSU had a greater number of students who needed financial resources. Thus our traditional students went to schools that could provide them with the financial assistance that they required. The lottery funding for education was primarily given to the three large research universities and to students who achieved the required scores. This extra lottery money allowed some universities to recruit more students, give more scholarship, support more academic programs and etc. This decision to annually give SCSU far less lottery money still causes me pain today. This was grossly unfair and now it appears that the College of Charleston will become the fourth research university in the State of South Carolina and SCSU will still not receive an additional dime. This is why I believe we need a **university system in this state**. In a ten year period SCSU has only received token financial support from the lottery money while the three research universities have received millions over this same time period. This is unfair and unjust. The plan that was passed in



Georgia gave minorities a better chance to gain access to lottery funds for scholarships than the one passed in South Carolina from my perspective. Since, SCSU was primarily a university that prepared students to become teachers for years. This also affected our enrollment because minority no longer wanted to be teachers. They wanted to go into programs that were only offered at the majority universities because SCSU could not get newer emerging academic programs that would attract white students and other race students.. Now I am not saying that there was a conspiracy to do these things to SCSU but for whatever the reasons these thing happened and SCSU did not have the political influence to prevent them from occurring after 1986. **The leadership at SCSU also made a critical error in the early 1980's when SCSU was considered one of the best HBCU to attend in this nation.** Our administration and the State of South Carolina decided to **pull out of the Federal Law Suit** which would have required the State of SC to adequately fund SCSU in the future. The Democrats were in control of the legislature at the time and the leadership at SCSU was led to believe that this Federal Law Suit would be divisive for this state and SCSU could depend on the State to adequately fund them. Since, SCSU was the only HBCU in the nation to pull out of the Federal Law suit we never received the fair funding that other HBCU/1890 Universities would receive after the legal decision was favorable rendered by the US Federal courts. Jackson State in Mississippi was the last HBCU in the nation to receive a settlement from the Federal Lawsuit in the mid 1990's. **Most of the Southern States fought tooth and nail not to settle or Do the Right Thing.** Similar to what South Carolina is doing with the Law Suit to provide fair funding for rural public school is South Carolina. **I call it a tactic of delay, delay and delay to slow down real progress.** Jackson State University received a little more than 50 million dollar. In today's dollars that would be 300-400 million dollars in new programs, new facilities, and recruiting outstanding faculty. I say this because South Carolina would have probably done the same thing that it is doing with the rural public school lawsuit. Just think about where SCSU would be now had they stayed in the Federal lawsuit. As a result of this single decision and mistake our peer HBCU/1890 universities in other southern states have received more favorable funding while our state funding has declined. This is a major reason why we don't get the students or faculty to grow this university. Other southern states also have university systems that insure that each school/university has attractive academic programs. In addition to this decision our Black Legislatures and black leaders in this State supported unrealistic Black districts so they could be more easily elected. I don't even want to discuss the impact that this has had, but believe me it was done. This caused numerous white Democratic legislatures to not seek office again as a democrat and others just switched to the Republican Party. The final straw came in 1992 when the 6th Congressional District was drawn as a Black district. Before this date there was balance in our Congressional delegation. Several Congressmen in the old 6<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional districts would help SCSU get federal fund and grants. After that, South Carolina State University had very few friends in the legislature and the congressional delegation except Congressman James Clyburn who has done his best. If the truth be known before 1992 Congressman from different congressional districts in South Carolina would help SCSU get grants and funding on a regularly bases. Today, I don't see anything like this happening for SCSU. After 1992 SCSU could really only look to Congressman James Clyburn for real support. Everybody had to play the political game and act like SCSU had all of this support. This was not true. It became increasingly more difficult for SCSU to have a real voice when it came to getting support for funding from the SC legislature. Federal student aid and financial support for limited resource students was also cut in the late 1990's but the declines have continued to this day. It was also more difficult for limited resource students to get federal student loans. This had a greater impact on our students at SCSU because they were from poorer families than those at other universities such as Clemson, USC, The Citadel and the College of Charleston. These factors along with SCSU pulling out of the Federal Law Suit has decreased SCSU ability to grow this campus, improve our facilities, get new program and attract new faculty. I sat at the Budget and Control Board Meeting until the end and the Treasurer said he could not hire an auditor because the salary was not competitive. The auditor has



been interim for seven years because the salary was so low. He even suggested that the Governor was allowed to raise salaries so that she could attract and hire better people. Compare that with the budget that SCSU gets. Both Clemson and USC were recently allowed to upgrade their facilities because they said in the paper that we need these facilities upgrades to attract the best students and to stay competitive. Does anybody see anything wrong with this picture? Clemson and USC leaders know that new facilities and new programs attract great students, great faculty and energize alumni support. SCSU has the same problems as all of these universities have but the real helping hand has not been extended to our students and faculty. However, SCSU knows it will not get the same type of support that a USC or a Clemson gets and that is not what they are asking for. As a former retired faculty person and Chair we wanted the financial support, facilities, student support and faculty support that are afforded similar size universities in the state of South Carolina, 1890 universities and other top HBCU in our MEAC Conference. Really is that too much to expect from the State of South Carolina when you only have one state supported HBCU/1890 university. SCSU students, faculty, staff and alumni should demand that they receive adequate support from the State of South Carolina. You buy lottery tickets, pay your taxes and buy items from these local stores in your communities. You stay in hotels and motels and spend your money in Myrtle Beach and etc. So what is the real problem that is keeping SCSU from getting its fair share? Our students and faculty always give you their best and they expect you to give them your best. That to me is fair and just. You can look at HBCU like Morgan State, Coppin State, Maryland Eastern Shore in Maryland, Alabama A and M, Alabama State, in Alabama, North Carolina A and T, Winston Salem State and North Carolina Central in North Carolina, **Florida A and M** and the same thing applies to all of the other 17 southern states that have HBCU/1890 universities. The Federal Law Suit which **SCSC and the State of South Carolina pulled out** should not be used today as a reason to continue to under fund this great university. Governor Haley's family came to the United States so that their daughter would have a chance at a better future. The students who elect to be educated at SCSU deserve the same opportunities for success that Governor Haley family sought for her. SCSU has never really received adequate funding throughout its history. Today other HBCU in the States of the old confederacy also fought against this Federal Law Suit but after it was passed their legislatures worked to improve their HBCU in terms of adequate funding for facilities, faculty, staff, student support and new programs. No one has had the courage to speak the truth or do the right thing as it relates to SCSU South Carolina State University needs to be competitive with its peer schools in the MEAC as it relates to facilities, salaries, student support and etc. I appeal to all that want to do the right thing, to move with a sense of urgency. I also pray that Senator Letterman Committee will review the September 2013 Policy Brief from the Association of Public And Private Land Grant Universities Policy Brief Report Titled "Land Grant But Unequal", prepared by John Michael Lee, Jr. Ph.D. which reports that SCSU only received 50% of its match funding for 2010-2012 from South Carolina. While many other Southern States gave their 1890 universities their full match. **The students, faculty and staff that attend and work at SCSU should not be asked to carry this burden any longer.** I might add that none of these HBCU gets the financial support that the major universities get in their states. We only have one state assisted HBCU in South Carolina that deserves increased financial support. **We cannot and should not put SCSU at risk a day longer.** Even though I am not a graduate of SCSU I share its pain because I worked at SCSU and I have two daughters who graduated from SCSU. I have not figured out what I will do as a protest to this issue of funding for SCSU but you must begin to ask yourself what you are prepared to do. I can tell you that I do not want to go down that road again because the last time I protested in 1966 and 1968 in Maryland a lot of negative things happened which today I am not proud of. So whatever I decide to do it will be positive from my perspective. I also learned as a military officer that no two battles are ever fought the same, your tactics must be fluid, you must learn how to adapt to your enemy and you must be committed to your cause. The other Southern States of the old confederacy realized that students who elect to attend their HBCU are deserving of adequate facilities and student support. Both the ACC and



the SEC made bold moves so that minorities would feel more welcome at their universities. The universities in the SEC and ACC are all enjoying wealth and progress because they did the right things at least 15 years ago for minorities. There were people in those States who did not want that to happen but the right changes were made for Clemson, USC, The Citadel and the College of Charleston. I know that some of those fans sitting in these facilities today don't really care about these minorities but leadership prevailed and attitudes continue to change for the good of all. The entire SEC and ACC member universities recognized years ago that changes needed to be made for the benefit of all. The State legislatures in all of these states increased their funding and support for member SEC and ACC Universities while helping their HBCU schools. I need not tell you the financial gains that these SEC and ACC universities have made in the past ten years. Minority enrollment increased in all of these Universities in both the ACC and SEC. This is something that all of us can take pride in. However, I am very concerned that the State of South Carolina has not followed the lead of other Southern States who are also in the SEC and ACC but their leaders found the courage and the will to do the right thing by their HBCU and or 1890 Universities. South Carolina State University has not enjoyed the same type of support from their state as other HBCU/1890 universities have received. The students who normally attend the HBCU are from families with less financial resources than that of families that attend Clemson, USC, and the College of Charleston. The funding that SCSU receives needs to reflect this statistic. No one wants to tell them because the truth sometimes hurts. I remember when **Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Hunter** who are now deceased told me in 1976 that **Senator Strom Thurmond had a daughter** who attended SCSU. It was something that no one talked about at SCSU but many people knew this. They probably didn't talk about it because many people knew **that Senator Thurmond did his best by SCSU**. He routinely helped them to get grants and Federal Funding, which were greatly needed. It was only after his death that the real truth came out. He was really a friend to SCSU as I saw it but he too had to play the political game because he knew that many white southern in SC may not have voted for him had they known his secret. Senator Hollings also did his part to help SCSU. Both Senators Graham and Senator Scott have also given financial help to SCSU but it does not even come close to what Senator Thurmond and Hollings did for SCSU during my tenure at the university. I really don't know why SCSU continues to be under funded in the State of South Carolina when the other States that make up the SEC and the ACC have found a way to be fair to their HBCU/1890 schools. I don't know all of the reasons why this has not happened but I can tell you that politics may be one of them. **However, the entire SCSU alumni must give all that they can to help SCSU.** SCSU alumni you must show the Governor and the SC Legislature that you support SCSU with your dollars. You cannot look to the governor, State Budget and Control Board or the legislature until you look at yourself and ask have I given my financial support to my Almamater. This is critical and God may be testing your resolve and commitment to SCSU. After you give your gift you must begin to unite on this issue that obtaining fair funding for SCSU is your cause and mission. Even if your child goes to USC, Clemson, The Citadel, the College of Charleston, you must ask yourself the question is this right and is this fair that SCSU not be funded adequately as it relates to similar size universities in the State of South Carolina and its peer HBCU/1890 schools. Our stakeholders to include the business community, elected officials, clergy and citizens are also encouraged to do the right thing and support SCSU. Don't wait to be asked, just do the right thing. **If you are an alumni or stake holder and have never given to SCSU this is a perfect time to support President Elzey and SCSU.** Let's do the right thing. We also know that none of these HBCU /1890 Universities was ever established to educate white students however **HBCU and SCSU never legally discriminated against any student who elected to attend SCSU and we must be proud of this fact.** I am also very proud of the numerous minority students who are attending other universities in South Carolina. You are proving everyday that **you can compete academically and you can be competitive in athletics.** Numerous people marched and died so that you could have the right to go to any school in the State of South Carolina. **Governor Haley and Senator Tim Scott represent the fruit of the civil rights marches and sit**



**in. Both of them were able to go to the schools of their choice because someone was willing to march for what was right and everyone should be proud of this fact.** These battles were fought by many people who you do not even know. Most of them marched and died because they knew this was the right thing to do even though some of their children would never benefit from it directly. Your brothers, sisters, cousins, friends, former classmates and even students who you don't know have elected to attend SCSU may need your support and courage in the near future. Your support will be critical if SCSU is to reach greater heights. To help you better understand the situation at SCSU, I invite you to visit SCSU so that you can compare your campus, academic program and facilities with the ones at SCSU. This will help you understand and see for yourself the great divide. I am praying that students in South Carolina will support the students at SCSU because your support may be needed. **Finally, I ask all individuals and clergy to offer a prayer at their churches on a Sunday of your choice.** All things are possible with prayer and I ask all SCSU alumni to Pray for Governor Haley, the SC legislature and the Budget and Control Board so that their hearts and minds will be right for the important job that is before them. I pray that our Governor will provide the bold and decisive leadership that is necessary to do what no one else has been willing to do before now. **I believe that Governor Haley has a chance to make history again in the State of South Carolina.** She became the first female Governor in the State of SC, the first female governor in a Southern State to appoint a minority to a US Senate Seat and she could become the first governor to.... South Carolina State University. **Governor Haley and other state leaders will have a chance to write the history of this previous sentence.** Let All of Us. Do the Right Things. Let's make SCSU our battle cry.

Finally, Frederick Douglass said it best when he stated" **THOSE WHO PROFESS TO FAVOR FREEDOM AND YET DEPRECIATE AGITAGTION , ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT CROPS WITHOUT PLOUGHING THE GROUND; THEY WANT RAIN WITHOUT THUNDER AND LIGHTING; THEY WANT THE OCEAN WITHOUT THE ROAR OF ITS MANY WATERS. THE STRUGGLE MAY BE A MORAL ONE, OR IT MAY BE BOTH, BUT IT MUST BE A STRUGGLE. POWER CONCEDES NOTHING WIHOUT A DEMAND. IT NEVER DID AND IT NEVER WILL.** **Alumni, stake holders and students are asked to be prepared for a struggle but let it be a positive and constructive one that continues to move all of us forward.** It took 3-4 years to begin to see the first changes that occurred after the three students were killed on campus at SCSU in 1968 and new facilities and programs were added by 1973 so don't expect to see all of the changes that you know are needed to happen right away. What you should look for is **a plan of action that includes real financial resources that recognizes that we cannot do what we have done in the past for SCSU to be the university that it can be.** Please feel free to send this statement to alumni, news outlets, post it to your face book page, send it to your friends, and state elected officials and other stake holders. Remember this is my opinion and my statements represent just some of my concerns and observations. SCSU needs your prayers and support and it will soar to new heights with your help. SCSU builds leaders for the future. Remember this fact: Had the Black students at SCSU and other HBCU schools in South Carolina not marched, sat in and gone to jail then in the 50's and 60's it would have taken this State (South Carolina) decades more to DO THE RIGHT THING. This state has a documented pattern of holding up progress when it comes to being fair to all people. All people of color ( police, firemen, state patrol, media and other professional of color could not go to the schools that they go to today in South Carolina, If it had not been for students at SCSU and other HBCU students fighting to brake these barriers that still linger to some extent today. The students at SCSU now need you to stand up and fight for them. **THESE STUDENTS DID NOT CAUSE THESE PROBLEMS!!!**

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The senate plan clearly shows that these members understand the principal of Governance. The House plan clearly violates the principal of Governance in SACS because the House bill states that their new board must fire the President, while the Senate Plan does not have that language in it. The outcome may be the same but they show more intelligence by not actually stating what they want as a outcome ( firing of the President). One group of legislatures appear to be a little wiser than the House Sub-Committee members that passed their bill. I think the House members need to talk with officials at SACS before they move forward with their plan. However their actions have already done more to damage the brand at SCSU beyond repair. SCSU will come back but it should not be closed for even one second. The State of South Carolina should have conducted a full AUDIT before President Elzey took office. If they had done that they would know that he is not responsible for the majority of this debt. Things were already in place for him to fail. Now he is being thrown under the bus. He had a four alarm fire on campus as I saw it but they only gave him a little water pistol to put the fire out. It took him a full year just to find out what was wrong if you really want to be fair. Senator Leatherman had the best plan as I saw it but no one seem to want to support his Blue Ribbon President Council to advise the President Elzey and the new Board. They also need a financial CZAR and whistle blower protection for the next seven years to help insure that the tax payers, alumni and grant funds are never mismanaged again. Faculty and staff should have been more willing to report different things but they should have been terminated without this type of protection. Faculty, Staff and students did their jobs but now they are the ones who will be punished. There is one good thing that has happened. SCSU alumni and stake holders know this is not fair and hopefully they will continue to rally behind SCSU for the good of all. Alumni also need to continue to organize to raise funds to help this university grow. SCSU should not have to be on their knees to ask the State of South Carolina for help. DSS was broken and it is a State agency but they were put on the fast track for right sizing. DSS was given the funds to hire 200 people before they even had a new Director. SCSU has not been given the same type of respect in this process. I might add that none of the other officials or Board members that contributed to these problems have been treated as President Elzey has been treated and he just got here. The SC House and Senate members also voted for all of these Board members that now they say are so bad. All of those board members were not bad but too many of them just failed to take their responsibilities seriously. The alumni, business community and members of the House and Senate must help SCSU identify the best people that they can who have the time, energy, financial resource and integrity to serve on the SCSU board. The vetting process continued to fail SCSU. This university can come back. SCSU came back after the three students were killed on campus in 1968. Those times were worse and SCSU rose to the top and it will rise again with the right type of leadership, alumni financial support and State of South Carolina financial support. SCSU NEEDS OUTSTANDING FACILITIES, NEW EMERGING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, AND ADDITIONAL FACULTY SO THAT THEY CAN ATTRACT NEW STUDENTS.