

Statement Regarding Student Involvement on Board of Trustees
Submitted by Past Student Government Association Leadership, College of Charleston

April 29, 2014
Charleston, South Carolina

In light of the recent events affecting the College of Charleston community, we feel it necessary to address several items in question. Though each of our experiences serving the Student Body is vastly different, we have come to realize they share one overarching, unchanging theme: it is absolutely imperative that a voting student seat is secured on the College of Charleston Board of Trustees.

Since 1922, the Student Government Association has represented the voice of the students to faculty, administration, and the Board of Trustees. We have worked with different constituencies to enhance the student experience. Although our tenures as Student Body President may only last a year, we continue to work with our alma mater after graduation as a matter of passion.

Most recently, the Board of Trustees has come under fire for their selection of the twenty-second president of the College. Today, seven Student Body Presidents have come together to provide a greater understanding of the students' role in this process and to ensure that the voice of the Student Body is not only heard, but also acknowledged and considered.

Many students are angry, and we, along with countless others, believe they have the right to be. The Student Government Association Senate, in addition to the Faculty Senate, has passed a vote of no confidence regarding the Board of Trustees, what we believe to be an action unprecedented in the organization's one hundred year history.

Students should have a greater voice in the College's presidential selection process and in the operation of the institution. It's time that the student representative to the Board of Trustees, the Student Body President, serves more than just an ex-officio role. The leader of the Student Body should be allowed an active and involved voice in the Trustees' executive session and have the power to vote. The Board cannot continue to make decisions that they feel are best for the students without having a student representative actively engaged in the decision making process.

As former Student Body Presidents, we care deeply about our alma mater. We are concerned alumni and believe that now, more than ever, is a time to speak up for change. The future success of the College of Charleston relies on the voices of many. Her loyal sons and daughters are here to help guide her. Listen to us, work with us, and let the College do what is best for the College.

Respectfully submitted,

Presidents of the Student Body, Emeriti

Erica Arbetter, 2012-2013
Elliott Wright, 2011-2012
John M. Capelle, 2009-2010
M. Seaton Brown, 2008-2009

Whitney Hinds Coble, 2007-2008
Nicholas Collins Glover, 2003-2004
Rhodes Bailey, 2001-2002