

**DeKalb County Board of Ethics**

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Trustee Room, Turner Lynch Campus Center

Oglethorpe University

4484 Peachtree Road NE

Atlanta, GA 30319

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Scott Bonder  
Brian Deutsch  
Dan DeWoskin  
Greg Russell  
Lawrence Schall  
Robert Tatum

**Members Absent:**

**Board Affiliates Present:**

Gene Chapman, Board Counsel

**Attendees who signed the attendance sheet:**

Viola Davis  
Joel Edwards  
Tom Owens  
Gale Waldorf  
William Perry  
Paul Maner  
Vic Hartman  
Clint Browning  
Mark Niese  
Terry Phillips  
Adam Murphy  
Jon Goss  
Shaheen Williams  
R. Johnson  
Debbie Schneider

I. **Call to order**

Lawrence Schall called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Welcome

Lawrence Schall welcomed attendees. The members of the Board introduced themselves.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Greg Russell made a motion to adopt the agenda and Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

IV. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2015

The members reviewed the Minutes from the former Board's meeting on November 12, 2015. Scott Bonder made a motion to approve the minutes as to form and Brian Deutsch seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

V. Board governance.

- A. Rules of procedure. The members discussed the draft for new rules of procedure which conformed to HB597. Per discussion, the members suggested changes to Rules 1.1, 7.2, and 7.3 to identify HB597 as the enabling Act and a four year period of limitation for filing a complaint. Scott Bonder made a motion to adopt the rules with suggested changes to Rules 1.1, 7.2, and 7.3. Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.
- B. Forms. The members discussed new forms for a complaint and request for advisory opinion which conformed to HB597. The members suggested changes to each form to identify HB597 as the enabling Act. Scott Bonder made a motion to adopt the forms with suggested changes. Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.
- C. Election of officers. Greg Russell nominated Lawrence Schall to serve as Chair. Robert Tatum seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with a vote of 5-0-1. Schall abstained. Scott Bonder nominated Greg Russell to serve as Vice-Chair and Lawrence Schall seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with a vote of 5-0-1. Russell abstained. Lawrence Schall nominated Scott Bonder to serve as Secretary and Robert Tatum seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with a vote of 5-0-1. Bonder abstained.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. 1. Status reports

Gene Chapman stated that the complaints are in various procedural postures and since HB597 provides for new procedure and substantive rights, the Board should discuss how to address the complaints to ensure compliance with HB597. The Board discussed the option of giving complainants the opportunity to sign an oath to attach to their complaints rather than dismiss the complaints and require the complainants to submit all of their documents again. Lawrence Schall made a motion to notify each complainant via certified letter that the complainant should submit an attestation under oath within thirty days to

continue the complaint. Dan DeWoskin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

The members discussed the status of Viola Davis' request for advisory opinion. Ms. Davis volunteered to withdraw the request until her pending complaints are resolved.

VII. New Business.

Gene Chapman stated that Mr. Johnson had submitted a new complaint using an old form. Mr. Johnson will receive the same letter of notice as complainants with pending complaints.

VIII. Board governance.

Greg Russell made a motion to go into Executive Session and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0. The Board met in Executive Session to discuss the search for an Ethics Officer and pending litigation.

The Board exited Executive Session and reconvened the public part of the meeting. Gene Chapman suggested that the members consider obtaining an Outlook365 account to have emails dedicated solely to communicating about the Board of Ethics meetings. Greg Russell made a motion to direct Gene Chapman to arrange for the account with Board funds. Scott Bonder seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

IX. Adjournment

Greg Russell made a motion to adjourn and Robert Tatum seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

2/17/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date