

For Immediate Release

February 14th, 2011

The Student Government Association at the College of Charleston announced today the resignation of Chief of Staff Elliot Dickerson, effective noon, February 13th, 2011. President Isaiah Nelson announced the selection of Elliott Wright, the current Academic Affairs Chairperson, to the position of Chief of Staff for a period contemporaneous with the President's term. The appointment would become official upon a confirmation vote by the Student Government Association Senate on Tuesday, February 15th pursuant to the SGA bylaws section 100.009.

The change comes at a crucial time for the SGA, as members begin to look toward the spring election cycle but continue to focus on immediate projects. In a statement, President Nelson explained that he had been incredibly pleased with the work that former Chief of Staff Dickerson had done for the organization and the passion he felt for the executive board.

"Elliot has given so much of his College career to the SGA, as we are all deeply indebted for his service," said President Nelson. "After having conversations with him and the rest of the Executive Council, however, it was felt Elliot's numerous extracurricular commitments did not allow him to put the time into the position he and the rest of the organization felt was appropriate. We felt that the time commitment that Elliot would be able to give over the next two months did not meet the twenty hours per week the Executive Council would desire. This was a difficult and challenging decision for all of the Executive Council, including Elliot."

Mr. Dickerson said that he looks forward to furthering the goals of SGA as a Junior Senator. Nelson then announced, upon consultation with the Executive Council, the selection of Elliott Wright as the next Chief of Staff.

"As we make this change, we want to ensure a smooth and orderly transition," Nelson said. "Our selection of Elliott Wright to the position of Chief of Staff comes based on his extensive knowledge of the many projects the SGA is currently working on, the exemplarily leadership he has shown during the planning of the 'Rally for Higher Education,' and the time commitment that can be expected from him over the next few months. We look forward to the Senate confirming this appointment in a timely manner so we can move ahead with the important work that has yet to be done this semester."

Nelson identified collaboration with the student organization *Alliance for Planet Earth* for a bike safety and awareness week in mid-March and the promotion of the "Dining Dollars for the Homeless" project as his top priorities for the remainder of his term. The Executive Council has also committed itself to continuing to staying active in the ongoing budgeting process for higher education as the budget moves forward in the coming months.

President Nelson announced early Monday morning the appointment of Elizabeth Pappas to replace Elliott Wright as the Academic Affairs Chairperson. The appointment is dependent upon the confirmation of the senate, as well.

Founded in 1770 and chartered in 1785, the College of Charleston is the oldest institution of higher education in the state of South Carolina and the thirteenth oldest in the United States. Through the years, the institution has grown from a school of twenty to a current enrollment of nearly 10,000 undergraduate students. The Student Government Association has represented those students based on the principles of Integrity, Honor, and Fidelity since its founding in 1922.

Office of SGA Public Relations

The College of Charleston
Haley Thomas
SGA@cofc.edu
843.953.5722