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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee  
In Person, Floyd Boardroom, Pastides Alumni Center  
and By Microsoft Teams  
March 17, 2025

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair English called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Secretary Howell confirmed Trustees attending in person and by Microsoft Teams audio and video conference.

Committee Members in attendance:

Alex English, Chair  
C. Dan Adams  
Henry L. Jolly, Jr.  
Richard A. Jones Jr.  
Reid T. Sherard (online)  
John C. von Lehe Jr. (online)  
Ellen Weaver (online)  
Rose Buyck Newton, *Board Vice Chair*  
Thad H. Westbrook, *Board Chair*

Committee Member absent:

Emma W. Morris

Other Trustees in attendance:

W. Michael Bond  
Coleman Floyd Buckhouse  
Brian C. Harlan  
Hubert F. Mobley  
Leah B. Moody  
C. Dorn Smith (online)

Others in attendance:

Patton Byars, USC Columbia Student Government President  
Wayne Outten, USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair

Robin Roberts, Advisor to the Advancement, Engagement and Communication Committee (online)

David Seaton, Advisor to the Governance Committee (online)

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President

Donna Arnett, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Cameron Howell, University Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Terry Parham, General Counsel

Ed Walton, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Media in attendance:

Hayden Davis, the *Daily Gamecock*

Alexa Jurado, the *State*

Kevin Miller, GamecockCentral.com

Notice:

Chair English stated notice of the meeting and agenda had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been circulated to the Committee; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair English stated there was a need for an Executive Session for personnel matters regarding confidential candidates for the award of honorary degree, for tenure and promotion, for honorary academic titles, and for the receipt of legal advice regarding a potential city ordinance.

Dr. Jolly made the motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

– Executive Session Removed

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

II. USC Columbia

A. Personnel Matters

1. Approval of New Hires with Tenure

Provost Arnett presented six new hires with tenure in Executive Session without objection.

- a. Dr. Emily Beaulieu Bacchus, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences

- b. Dr. Wenli Bi, hire with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, College of Arts and Sciences
- c. Dr. Behrooz Mirafzal, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering and Computing
- d. Professor Kristina Niedringhaus, hire with tenure as a Librarian in the Law Library, Joseph F. Rice School of Law
- e. Dr. Chad Rose, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Educational Studies, College of Education
- f. Dr. Tara Sutton, hire with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the USC Columbia new hires with tenure as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

## 2. Approval of Honorary Academic Titles

Provost Arnett presented three candidates for honorary academic titles in Executive Session without objection

- a. Dr. Joanna Casey, Professor Emerita, College of Arts and Sciences, May 16, 2024
- b. Dr. Sanjib R. Mishra, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, College of Arts and Sciences, August 1, 2024
- c. Dr. G. Nathan Carnes, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, College of Education, December 31, 2024

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the USC Columbia honorary academic titles as presented. Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

## B. Approval of New Programs

Provost Arnett presented four new programs for approval.

- 1. B.A., Communication
- 2. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Artificial Intelligence in Business
- 3. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Public Safety Executive Leadership
- 4. M.S.L., Public Safety Executive Leadership

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the new programs as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

C. Approval of Program Modifications

Provost Arnett presented eleven program modifications for approval.

1. B.F.A., Art Studio, changing curriculum
2. B.A., Dance, changing curriculum
3. B.A., English, adding concentration
4. B.S., Environmental Science, adding concentrations
5. B.S.B.A., Management, adding concentration
6. B.S., Music Industry, adding concentrations
7. B.M., Music, adding concentration
8. B.S., Retailing, changing curriculum
9. M.S., Environmental Health Sciences, changing curriculum
10. Ph.D., Environmental Health Sciences, changing curriculum
11. Ph.D., Health Services Policy and Management, adding concentrations

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the program modifications as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

D. Approval of 100% Online Delivery Programs

Provost Arnett presented three 100% online delivery programs for approval.

1. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Health Communication
2. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Behavioral Health in Athletic Training
3. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Critical Incident Management & Primary Care in Athletic Training

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the 100% online delivery programs as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

E. Approval of Center Name Change

Provost Arnett presented one center name change for approval

- Economic Policy and Innovation Center to South Carolina Economic Policy Center, Darla Moore School of Business

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the center name change as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

F. Approval of Program Terminations

Provost Arnett presented two program terminations for approval

1. Graduate Certificate, Counselor Education
2. SLIS, Library and Information Science

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of program terminations as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

III. USC Aiken

Chancellor Dan Heimmermann presented a new program for approval.

- B.S. Electrical Engineering

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Aiken's new program as presented. Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IV. USC Beaufort

Chancellor Al Panu presented one candidate for honorary academic title.

- Dr. Stephen A. Borgianini, Professor Emeritus, Department of Natural Sciences,  
December 31, 2024

Ms. Newton made a motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Beaufort's candidate for honorary academic title as presented. Dr. Jolly seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

V. Palmetto College

Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins presented three USC Sumter program modifications for approval.

- A. AA/AS, add Lee Academy as dual enrollment site
- B. AA/AS, add Wilson Hall as dual enrollment site
- C. AA/AS, add Hammond School as dual enrollment site

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to recommend full Board approval of Palmetto College's program modifications for USC Sumter as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VI. Approval of Confidential Candidates for Honorary Degree

One confidential candidate for the award of honorary degree was approved by President Amiridis and the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees. The confidential candidate was discussed in Executive Session without objection.

Dr. Jolly made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the confidential candidate for honorary degree as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved. The candidate was forwarded to the full Board for further consideration.

VII. Report on from the Joseph F. Rice School of Law

A report from the Joseph F. Rice School of Law was circulated for review in advance of today's meeting. Dean Hubbard was available for questions.

This report was received as information.

VIII. Report from the College of Information and Communications

A report from the College of Information and Communications was circulated for review in advance of today's meeting.

This report was received as information.

IX. Orientation Programs for Graduate and Professional Students

Provost Arnett presented a report on orientation programs for graduate and professional students.

This report was received as information.

X. Committee Matrix

The updated Committee matrix was received as information

IX. Other Matters

Chair English called for any other matters to come before the Committee. There were none.

X. Adjournment

Chair English declared the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell  
Secretary