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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee
In Person, USC Aiken Student Activities Center Mezzanine
and By Microsoft Teams
September 26, 2025

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Westbrook called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Interim Secretary Bradley confirmed Trustees attending in person and by Microsoft Teams audio and video conference.

Committee Members in attendance:

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

Committee Members absent:

Ellen Weaver

Other Trustees in attendance:

W. Michael Bond
Coleman Floyd Buckhouse
Brian C. Harlan
Hubert F. Mobley
Leah B. Moody
C. Dorn Smith III (online)
J. Strom Thurmond Jr.
Charles Williams (online)

Others in attendance:

Courtney Tkacs, USC Columbia Student Government President

Liam Hein, USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair
Robin Roberts, Advisor to the Advancement, Engagement and Communication Committee
(online)
David Seaton, Advisor to the Governance Committee

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President
Stacey Bradley, Interim University Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Terry Parham, General Counsel
Ed Walton, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Media in attendance:

Hayden Davis, the *Daily Gamecock*

Notice:

Board Chair Westbrook 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

Board Chair Westbrook stated there was a need for an Executive Session for the discussion of personnel matters related to new hires with tenure and honorary academic titles.

Dr. Jolly made the motion to enter Executive Session. Ms. Newton 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. Approval of New Hire with Tenure

Provost Fitzpatrick presented the following new hire with tenure for approval.

– Craig Wilson, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Palmetto College
Columbia

B. Approval of Honorary Academic Titles

Provost Fitzpatrick presented the following candidates for honorary academic titles.

1. College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management
 - a. Simon Hudson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
 - b. Brian Mihalik, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
2. College of Nursing
 - a. Mary Foster Cox, Clinical Professor Emerita
 - b. Cynthia Corbet, SmartState Chair Emerita
 - c. Robin Britt Dial, Health Sciences Endowed Chair Emerita
 - d. Georgianna Scott, Clinical Professor Emerita
3. Joseph F. Rice School of Law
 - Jaclyn Cherry, Distinguished Professor Emerita
4. McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
 - a. Joanna Casey, Professor Emerita
 - b. Chester B. DePratter, Research Professor Emeritus
5. Palmetto College
 - a. Mary L. Hjelm, Distinguished Professor Emerita
 - b. Park Bucker, Professor Emeritus, USC Sumter
6. School of Medicine Columbia
 - Donna D. Ray, Clinical Professor Emerita

C. Approval of New Center

Provost Fitzpatrick presented a new center for approval.

- Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopment (CAN) Research Center

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

D. Annual Review of New Programs

Provost Fitzpatrick presented the annual review of new programs.

This was received as information.

III. USC Aiken

– Approval of Program Termination

Chancellor Heimmermann presented a program termination for approval.

– B.A. Chemistry

Mr. Sherard made the motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Aiken's program termination as presented. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IV. USC Beaufort

– Approval of New Certificate

Chancellor Panu presented a new certificate for approval.

– Undergraduate Certificate, Criminology and Law

Ms. Morris made the motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Beaufort's new certificate as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

V. USC Upstate

– Personnel Matters – Approval of New Hire with Tenure

Chancellor Harris presented the following new hire with tenure for approval.

– Renae Swanson, hire with tenure in the Department of Human Performance and Health in the College of Education, Human Performance and Health

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

VI. Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing Update

A report from the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing was circulated for review in advance of the meeting and received as information.

VII. Joseph F. Rice School of Law Update

Dean Hubbard presented an update on the Joseph F. Rice School of Law.

The update was received as information.

VIII. Other Matters

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

IX. Adjournment

Board Chair Westbrook declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Bradley
Interim Secretary