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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

June 20, 2025

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair English called the meeting to order at 11:02 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

C. Dan Adams

Henry L. Jolly, Jr. (online)

Richard A. Jones Jr. (online)

Emma W. Morris (online)

Reid T. Sherard (online)

John C. von Lehe Jr.

Ellen Weaver

Rose Buyck Newton, *Board Vice Chair*

Thad H. Westbrook, *Board Chair*

Other Trustees in attendance:

W. Michael Bond

Coleman Floyd Buckhouse

Brian C. Harlan

Hubert F. Mobley

Leah B. Moody

C. Dorn Smith III

Charles Williams (online)

Others in attendance:

Courtney Tkacs, 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

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President

Stacey Bradley, Interim University Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Donna Arnett, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Terry Parham, General Counsel

Ed Walton, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Media in attendance:

Ian Grenier, the *Post & Courier*

Alexa Jurado, the *State*

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 the discussion of personnel matters related to candidates for tenure and promotion, new hires with tenure, and honorary academic titles.

Mr. Adams made the motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. von Lehe 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 Tenure and Promotion Recommendations – Fall 2024 Cycle

Provost Arnett presented the following candidates for tenure and promotion.

- a. Iftikhar Ahmad – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing

- b. Joao Albino-Pimentel – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of International Business, Darla Moore School of Business
- c. Alissa Armstrong – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- d. Bridget Armstrong – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science, Arnold School of Public Health
- e. Dominic Armstrong – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Music
- f. Agnieszka Bolinska – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- g. Daniel Brackmann – awarded tenure, Law Library, Joseph F. Rice School of Law
- h. Claire Bryant – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Music
- i. Yuche Chen – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
- j. Colleen Clark – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Music
- k. Alyssa Clay-Gilmour – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health
- l. Mónica Colón-Aguirre – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Information Science, College of Information and Communications
- m. Elizabeth Connors – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- n. Da Ke – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Darla Moore School of Business
- o. Sara Donevant – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biobehavioral Health and Nursing Science, College of Nursing
- p. Lance DuPre – awarded tenure, University Libraries
- q. Chelsea Estancona – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- r. Manpreet Gill – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, Darla Moore School of Business
- s. Olesya Kisselev – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences

- t. Seulghee Lee – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- u. Wuchen Li – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- v. William Matchin – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Arnold School of Public Health
- w. Crystal Murillo – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biobehavioral Health and Nursing Science, College of Nursing
- x. Phyllis Raynor – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biobehavioral Health and Nursing Science, College of Nursing
- y. Brett William Robertson – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, College of Information and Communications
- z. Cory Schnell – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- aa. Stella Self – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health
- bb. Sarfaraz Serang – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- cc. Jenna Spiering – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Information Science, College of Information and Communications
- dd. Magdalena Edyta Stawkowski – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- ee. Allison Sweeney – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biobehavioral Health and Nursing Science, College of Nursing
- ff. Scott Taylor Jr. – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management
- gg. Lucas Vasconcelos – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Educational Studies, College of Education
- hh. Kandy Velázquez – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine Columbia
- ii. Valerie Vera – awarded tenure, University Libraries

- jj. Yuan Wang – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health
- kk. Madalyn Wasilczuk – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Legal Studies, Joseph F. Rice School of Law
- ll. Camilla Ferreira Wenceslau – awarded tenure at the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, School of Medicine Columbia
- mm. Carolyn Wessinger – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- nn. Dustin Whitehead – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, School of Theatre and Dance, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- oo. Yanfeng Xu – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, College of Social Work
- pp. Chih-Hsiang (Jason) Yang – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science, Arnold School of Public Health
- qq. Linyun Yang – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, Darla Moore School of Business

2. Approval of New Hires with Tenure

Provost Arnett presented the following candidates for new hires with tenure.

- a. Kelly Anderson, hire with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services Policy and Management, Arnold School of Public Health
- b. James Hayes, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, College of Information and Communications
- c. Jesse Yi-The Jou, hires with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences
- d. Natalie Wenzell Letsa, hire with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences
- e. Jun-Hong Liang, hire with tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the School of Earth, Ocean and Environment, College of Arts and Sciences
- f. Katherine Masyn, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, College of Education
- g. Jenneifer Ng, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, College of Education
- h. Bendegul Okumus, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management

- i. Fevzi Okumus, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management
- j. Scott Parrott, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Information and Communications
- k. Jessica Spybrook, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Educational Studies, College of Education
- l. Brooke Whitworth, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Instruction and Teacher Education, College of Education
- m. Yue Zhao, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing

3. Approval of Honorary Academic Titles

Provost Arnett presented the following candidates for honorary academic titles.

- a. Dr. Shirley Staples Carter – Distinguished Professor Emerita, Journalism and Mass Communications, College of Information and Communication
- b. Dr. Douglas H. Wedell – Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- c. Dr. Jed Scott Lyons – Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
- d. Dr. Naomi B. Farber – Professor Emerita, College of Social Work
- e. Dr. Mark Berg – Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Chemistry and Biochemistry, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences
- f. Dr. Gail V. Barnes – Distinguished Professor Emerita, School of Music

B. Approval of New Certificate

Provost Arnett presented two new certificates.

- 1. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Operation and Supply Chain Management
- 2. Undergraduate Certificate, Artificial Intelligence Literacy

C. Approval of Program Modifications

Provost Arnett presented four program modifications.

- 1. B.S., Physics
- 2. M.A., Psychology
- 3. Ph.D., Psychology
- 4. D.N.A.P., Nurse Anesthesia

D. Approval of 100% Online Delivery

Provost Arnett presented one 100% online delivery program.

–M.A., Art Education

E. Approval of Name Changes

Provost Arnett presented three name changes.

1. Post-master's Certificate, Nurse Midwife to Nurse Midwifery
2. M.S.N., Nurse Midwife to Nurse Midwifery
3. D.N.P., Nurse Midwife to Nurse Midwifery

F. Approval of Program Terminations

Provost Arnett presented four program terminations.

1. B.A.I.S., Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Arts and Sciences
2. B.S.I.S., Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Arts and Sciences
3. B.A., Film and Media Studies
4. M.M., Mathematics

G. Approval of New Centers

Provost Arnett presented two new centers.

1. Center for American Civic Leadership and Public Discourse
2. USC Center of School and Behavioral Health

H. Approval of Revisions to the USC Columbia Faculty Manual

Provost Arnett presented revisions to the USC Columbia Faculty.

I. Approval of Establishment of New Fixed-Term Professorships, College of Information and Communication

Provost Arnett presented the establishment of fixed-term professorships for the College of Information and Communications.

Mr. Adams made the motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Columbia's action items as presented. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

III. USC Aiken

A. Personal Matters

1. Approval of Tenure and Promotions – Fall 2024 Cycle

Chancellor Heimmermann presented the following candidates for tenure and promotion.

- a. Katie Chargualaf – promoted to the rank of Professor, School of Nursing
- b. Charles Nathan Hancock – promoted to the rank of Professor.
Department of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences
- c. Andrew Hatchett – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of
Exercise and Sports Science
- d. Sarah King – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy
- e. Deborah McMurtrie – promoted to the rank Professor, School of Education
- f. Mary Mills – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, Department of Biological Environmental, and Earth Sciences
- g. Stephanie Orozco – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- h. Titan Chandra Paul – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of
Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
- i. Adam Pazda – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of
Psychology
- j. Kristina Ramstad – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of
Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences
- k. Keely Rhodes – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, Department of Visual and Performing Arts
- l. Julie Steen – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, School of Business Administration
- m. Hala Strohmier Berry – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of
Associate Professor, Department of Computer Sciences, Engineering, and
Mathematics
- n. Michelle Vieyra – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of
Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences
- o. Amanda Warren – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor, Department of English

2. Approval of New Hire with Tenure

Chancellor Heimmermann presented the following new hire with tenure.

- David Buckman, PhD, hire with tenure at the rank of Professor, School of
Education, as the Dean of Aiken's College of Education

B. Approval of New Programs

Chancellor Heimmermann presented two new programs for approval.

1. B.S., Cybersecurity
2. M.S., Exercise and Sport Science, emphasis in Strength and Conditioning

C. Approval of Program Modifications

Chancellor Heimmermann presented three program modifications.

1. B.S., Exercise and Sport Science
2. B.A., Middle Level Education
3. B.A. and B.S., Secondary Education

Ms. Weaver made the motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Aiken's action items as presented. Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IV. USC Beaufort

A. Personnel Matters – Approval of Tenure and Promotions

Chancellor Panu presented the following candidates for tenure and promotion.

- a. Eric Montie – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Natural Sciences
- b. Jim Sidletsky – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of English, the Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies

B. Approval of Unit Change

Chancellor Panu presented a unit change.

- Merge Department of Business and Communications Studies and Department of Hospitality, Resort, and Tourism Management into Department of Business, Hospitality, and Communications

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

V. USC Upstate

A. Personnel Matters – Approval of Tenure and Promotions

Vice Provost Kim Purdy presented the following candidates for tenure and promotion.

- a. AKM Jahangir Alam Majumder – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences
- b. Ann Merryman – promoted to the rank of Librarian, Library
- c. Anita Nag – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Natural Science and Engineering
- d. Bridget Kirkland – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Communications Studies
- e. Colby King – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Women’s Studies
- f. Courtney McDonald – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Women’s Studies
- g. Carolyn Webber – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Communication Studies
- h. Elizabeth Cole – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting
- i. Elham Sohrabi – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
- j. Freda Sue – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Communication Studies
- k. Jack Cheng – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Economics, Finance, and Accounting
- l. Jennifer Gray – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
- m. James O’Connor – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Management, Entrepreneurship, and Marketing
- n. Justin Travis – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
- o. Kimberly Shorter – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Natural Science and Engineering
- p. Matthew Brisebois – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Human Performance and Health
- q. Matthew Donaldson – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Communication Studies
- r. Monika Shehi Herr – promoted to the rank of Professor; Department of Language, Literature, and Composition
- s. Refika Turgut – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Education
- t. Scott Meek – promoted to the rank of Professor, Department of Psychology

- u. Sirajul Shibly – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Management, Entrepreneurship, and Marketing
- v. Scott Tanner – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Natural Science and Engineering
- w. Victor Summers – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

B. Approval of New Certificates

Vice Provost Kim Purdy presented three new certificates.

1. Undergraduate Certificate, Artificial Intelligence
2. Undergraduate Certificate, Accounting
3. Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Accounting (CPA Path)

C. Approval of Program Modification

Vice Provost Kim Purdy presented one program modification.

- B.A., Computer Information Systems to B.S.

D. Approval of Program Termination

Vice Provost Kim Purdy presented one program termination.

- B.S.B.A., Entrepreneurship and Innovation

E. Approval of Revisions to the USC Upstate Faculty Manual

Vice Provost Kim Purdy presented provisions to the USC Upstate faculty manual.

Mr. Adams made the motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Upstate’s action items as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VI. Palmetto College

–Approval of Tenure and Promotions

Interim Vice President for System Affairs Julian Williams presented eight (8) candidates for tenure and promotion – 2024-2025 Cycle.

- a. Francis Burns – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie
- b. Sher Chhetri – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Sumter

- c. Elizabeth Easley – promoted to the rank of Professor, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- d. Rebecca Freeman – promoted to the rank of Professor, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- e. Kirsten Iden – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie
- f. Patrick Lawrence – promoted to the rank of Professor, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- g. Nahid Swails – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- h. Jerrod Yarosh – awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, University of South Carolina Lancaster

Mr. von Lehe made the motion to recommend full Board approval of Palmetto College tenure and promotion as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VII. Other Matters

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

VIII. Adjournment

Chair English declared the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Bradley
Interim Secretary