

**EXCERPT FROM THE PRELIMINARY REPORT
OF THE REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Statement Regarding the Report

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is responsible for making the final determination on reaffirmation of accreditation based on the findings contained in this committee report, the institution's response to issues contained in the report, other assessments relevant to the review, and application of the Commission's policies and procedures. Final interpretation of the Principles of Accreditation and final action on the accreditation status of the institution rest with SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

Name of the Institution: **University of South Carolina - Columbia**

Date of the Review: **November 3-4, 2020**

SACSCOC Staff Member: **Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover**

Chair of the Committee: **Dr. Timothy S. Brophy**
Director, Institutional Assessment
and Professor, Music Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32606

4.2.f

External Influences

4.2 The governing board

- 4.2.f protects the institution from undue influence by external persons or bodies.
(*External influence*)

Compliance

Numerous measures are in place to ensure the governing board is free from undue external influence. Board Policy BTRU 1.19 is cited as evidence of compliance. Board policy outlines the trustee's commitment and adherence to protecting the institution from undue influence by external persons or bodies. In addition, the Board Ethics Policy defines the responsibilities and expectations of Board members and describes their responsibilities. The Board Ethics Policy also stipulates that Board members are legally required to comply with the state of South Carolina's ethical rules of conduct found in Sections 8-13-700 to 8-13-795 of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991. Board members are required to disclose potential conflicts of interest and to abstain from participating in any action that would affect a personal or familial economic interest (Section 8-13-700). Provisions in both state code and Board policy prescribe standards of conduct, state agency ethics, compensation, financial disclosure, and transparency preserve the appropriate institutional independence. Relevant training sessions are provided regarding these matters and the protocols protect the institution from external influence by established policies on conflict of interest, conflict of commitment, and standards of conduct.