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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee - Called

In Person, Floyd Boardroom, Pastides Alumni Center  
and By Microsoft Teams

October 13, 2023

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair English called the meeting to order at 9:00 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

Richard A. Jones Jr.

Leah B. Moody

Emma W. Morris

John C. von Lehe Jr. (online)

Rose Buyck Newton, *Board Vice Chair*

Thad H. Westbrook, *Board Chair*

Members absent:

Ellen Weaver

Other Trustees in attendance:

C. Edward Floyd

Brian C. Harlan

Henry L. Jolly Jr.

Hubert F. Mobley

E. Scott Moise

Reid T. Sherard

C. Dorn Smith III

Charles H. Williams (online)

Others in attendance:

Wayne Outten, USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair  
Emmie Thompson, USC Columbia Student Government President  
Robin Roberts, Advisor to the Advancement, Engagement and Communications Committee  
David Seaton, Advisor to the Governance Committee

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President  
Cameron Howell, 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:

None

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 confidential candidates for honorary degrees, a gift naming opportunity, and personnel matters related to the release of employees.

Ms. Moody made the motion to enter Executive Session, and Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair English invited the following to remain: Trustees, Dr. Outten, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Seaton, President Amiridis, Secretary Howell, Chancellors, Dr. Arnett, Mr. Parham, Mr. Walton, Dr. Verzyl, and Board support staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

– Executive Session Removed

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

II. Approval of Confidential Candidates for Honorary Degrees

Ms. Moody made a motion to advance the slate of two confidential candidates for the award of honorary degree to the full Board for approval. Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair English stated the candidates would be forwarded to the full Board for further consideration later in the afternoon.

### III. USC Columbia

#### – Approval of New Programs

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Donna Arnett presented three new programs for approval:

1. Undergraduate Certificate in Data Analytics and Visualization
2. Undergraduate Certificate in Project Leadership and Management
3. Undergraduate Certificate in Strategic Thinking and Communications

Ms. Moody made a motion to recommend full Board approval of USC Columbia's three new programs as presented and posted to the Board portal. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair English stated this item would be included on the Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board later in the afternoon.

### IV. Program Naming: Betsy Blackmon Dance Program at the University of South Carolina

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the Betsy Blackmon Dance Program at the University of South Carolina. Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair English stated this item was approved and would be considered by the full Board at its meeting later in the day.

### V. Approval of Campus Mission Statements

Dr. Arnett presented proposed revisions to USC campus mission statements.

- A. System
- B. Aiken
- C. Beaufort (reaffirmation)
- D. Columbia
- E. Upstate
- F. Palmetto College Campuses
  1. Lancaster
  2. Salkehatchie
  3. Sumter
  4. Union

Mr. Adams made a motion to recommend full Board approval of the USC campus mission statements as posted to the Board portal. Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair English stated the USC mission statements were approved and would be forwarded to the Governance Committee for review.

#### VI. Carolina Trustees Professorships

Secretary Howell provided an update on the Carolina Trustee Professorships.

Dr. Smith suggested each Board member contribute \$1,000 annually to the scholarship fund, as the annual monetary award amount had not increased for several years. Dr. Smith requested that a report be presented at the next Committee meeting detailing similar awards and amounts at peer institutions. Mr. Mobley concurred.

Mr. von Lehe suggested the recipients be encouraged to attend the event to receive their award. Secretary Howell agreed to work with the Provost's Office regarding timing of notification to award recipients.

Chair English stated this update was received as information.

#### VII. Committee Matrix

Chair English stated that he will meet with the Provost and the Chair of the Faculty Senate to update the Committee's matrix. He asked Secretary Howell to arrange and facilitate the meeting.

#### VIII. Adjournment

Chair English declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell  
Secretary