

**The official minutes of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees are maintained by the Secretary of the Board. Certified copies of minutes may be requested by contacting the Board of Trustees' Office at trustees@sc.edu. Electronic or other copies of original minutes are not official Board of Trustees' documents.**

University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee

June 11, 2021

The Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 1:45 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021, in the Pastides Alumni Center Ballroom and by Microsoft Teams.

Committee members present were Mr. C. Dan Adams, Chair; Mr. Alex English; Mr. Richard A. Jones Jr.; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr.; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III, Board Chair; and Mr. Thad H. Westbrook, Board Vice Chair. Committee members participating by Microsoft Teams were Ms. Molly M. Spearman and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr.

Other Board members present were Mr. Brian C. Harlan, Mr. Hubert F. Mobley, Ms. Emma W. Morris, Ms. Rose Buyck Newton, Mr. Robin D. Roberts, Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr., and Mr. Charles H. Williams. Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs and Mr. Toney J. Lister joined by Microsoft Teams.

Also present were USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Mark Cooper and USC Columbia Student Government President Mr. Alex Harrell. Strategic Advisor to the Board of Trustees Mr. David Seaton participated by Microsoft Teams.

Others in attendance were Interim President Harris Pastides; Secretary Cameron Howell; Vice Provost and Dean of the Faculty Cheryl Addy; Vice President for Human

Resources Caroline Agardy; President's Chief of Staff Mark Bieger; Interim Dean of the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management David Cardenas; President and Chief Executive Officer USC Foundations Jason Caskey; Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health Tom Chandler; Vice President for System Affairs Derham Cole; Dean of the College of Pharmacy Stephen Cutler; Vice President for Development Monica Delisa; Chief Audit Executive Pam Dunleavy; Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget Kelly Epting; President and Provost Faculty Fellow Stacy Fritz; Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing Hossein Haj-Hariri; Chief Executive Officer of the USC Alumni Association Wes Hickman; Associate Director of the Office of Distributed Learning Trena Houpp; Dean of the Greenville School of Medicine Marjorie Jenkins; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; Assistant to the President for System Affairs Eddie King; Executive Director of Economic Engagement Bill Kirkland; Director of State Government Relations Derrick Meggie; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs Terry Parham; Chief Operating Officer Jeff Perkins; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost Dennis Pruitt; Interim Executive Communications Director Amy Rogers; Health and Medical Affairs Committee Expert Advisor Angelo Sinopoli; University Treasurer and Assistant Vice President of Administrative Operations and Chief of Staff Joe Sobieralski; Assistant Vice President of Media and External Engagement Jeff Stensland; Director of Athletics Ray Tanner; Vice President for Communications Larry Thomas; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Walton; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Julian Williams; Public Relations Strategist Dana Woodward; and Board of Trustees' support staff.

## OPEN SESSION

### I. Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and asked Trustees at the table to introduce themselves. Secretary Howell confirmed Trustees attending by Microsoft Teams.

Chairman Adams called on Mr. Stensland to introduce members of the press in attendance. Mr. Stensland introduced Rich Owensby with WLTX and David Cloninger with the *Post and Courier*.

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

## MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Adams stated there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters related to tenure and promotion, transfers and hires with tenure, and honorary academic titles. Mr. von Lehe made the motion to enter Executive Session, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Adams stated no action would be taken in Executive Session and invited the following to remain: Trustees, Interim President Pastides, Secretary Howell, the President's Executive Council, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Harrell, Mr. Seaton, Mr. Cole, Chancellor Jordan, Chancellor Panu, Dr. Korsgaard, and Board of Trustees support staff.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Executive Session Removed

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

### II. USC Columbia

#### A. Approval of Revisions to Columbia Faculty Manual

Provost Tate advised the Faculty Senate and General Faculty have approved several changes to the USC Columbia Faculty Manual that clarified language and better define committee roles and responsibilities.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the proposed revisions to the USC Columbia Faculty Manual as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr so moved, and Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this agenda item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

#### B. Approval of Proposed New Faculty Award

Provost Tate stated the Office of the Provost requests the Committee's approval of the University Eminent Professorship Award. The award provides internal recognition of an outstanding University faculty member who receives a prestigious external award or recognition that contributes to the University's reputation.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the University Eminent Professorship award as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. English so moved, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

C. Approval of New Programs

1. BS Neuroscience
2. MS Coaching Education – 100% online
3. MS Data and Communications - 100% online
4. Graduate Certificate in Accounting and Audit Analytics – 100% online
5. Graduate Certificate in Data and Communications

Provost Tate provided an overview of five new degree programs, three of which will be delivered 100% online.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the five new degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Moody so moved, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

D. Approval of Program Modification – BA English

Provost Tate advised the bachelor of arts in English program will be modified to include a secondary education English major.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the modification of the bachelor of arts in English degree program as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr so moved, and Mr. English seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

E. Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

1. Master of Hospitality and Tourism Management (MIHTM)
2. Master of Sport and Entertainment Management (MSEM)

Provost Tate advised the master of hospitality and tourism management, and master of sport and entertainment management degree programs are moving to 100% online delivery.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of these two 100% online degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Jones so moved, and Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

F. Approval of Program Terminations

1. BA Chinese Studies
2. BA Classics
3. BA Comparative Literature
4. BA French
5. BA German
6. BA Russian
7. BA Spanish
8. MA Comparative Literature
9. MA French
10. MA German
11. MA Spanish

12. PhD Experimental Psychology
13. PhD Clinical-Community Psychology
14. PhD School Psychology

Provost Tate presented several program consolidations, which included seven bachelor of arts language programs into a language, literatures, and cultures bachelor of arts program. Four master of arts language programs would be consolidated into a language, literatures, and cultures master of arts program. He stated this is consistent with best practices and generates more student engagement across two languages. He presented three PhD programs for consolidation into one PhD program with tracks or concentrations, which makes the programs more competitive in terms of recruitment and better aligns mentors with the various program tracks.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval for termination of these 14 degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Moody so moved, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

G. Approval of Name Change

- Institute for African American Research to Institute for African American Studies and Research

Provost Tate presented a change in name of the Institute for African American Research to Institute for African American Studies and Research provides

more synergy allowing students to link their efforts in earning degrees while engaging in research as undergraduates.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the Institute for African American Studies and Research program name change as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. English so moved, and Mr. Warr seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

### III. Palmetto College

#### A. Approval of Revisions to the Palmetto College Campus's Faculty Manual

Chancellor Elkins stated proposed revisions to the Palmetto College campus's faculty manual have been approved by the Faculty Senate at each of the Palmetto College campuses, the Chancellor of Palmetto College, the USC Columbia Provost, USC's General Counsel, and the President. Changes clarified the grievance process and assured the appropriate faculty and staff are included in the process as required.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the proposed revisions to the Palmetto College faculty manual as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Jones so moved, and Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

B. USC Columbia

— Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

- a. AA Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. AS Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Elkins proposed an additional delivery modality of 100% online for the associate of arts in liberal arts and sciences and the associate of science in liberal arts and sciences be added to the USC Columbia curricula.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the 100% online delivery modality for these degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. English so moved, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

C. USC Lancaster

1. Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

- a. AA General Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. AS General Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Elkins presented an additional delivery modality of 100% online for the associate of arts in liberal arts and sciences and the associate of science in liberal arts and sciences to be added to the USC Lancaster curricula.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the 100% online delivery modality for these degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Moody so

moved, and Mr. Warr seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

2. Approval of Program Termination

— ASN Technical Nursing

Chancellor Elkins proposed the ASN technical nursing degree be offered in partnership with York Technical College. The program is being terminated and an additional emphasis has been placed on the USC Lancaster bachelor of science in nursing partnership with USC Columbia.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of termination of the ASN technical nursing degree program as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. English so moved, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

D. USC Salkehatchie

— Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

- a. AA General Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. AS General Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Elkins presented an additional delivery modality of 100% online for the associate of arts in liberal arts and sciences and the associate of science in liberal arts and sciences be added to the USC Salkehatchie curricula.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the 100% online delivery modality for these degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. von Lehe so moved, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

E. USC Sumter

— Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

- a. AA General Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. AS General Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Elkins presented an additional delivery modality of 100% online for the associate of arts in liberal arts and sciences and the associate of science in liberal arts and sciences be added to the USC Sumter curricula.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the 100% online delivery modality for these degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Warr so moved, and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

F. USC Union

— Approval of Degree Programs – 100% Online

- a. AA General Liberal Arts and Sciences
- b. AS General Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Elkins presented an additional delivery modality of 100% online for the associate of arts in liberal arts and sciences and the associate of science in liberal arts and sciences be added to the USC Union curricula.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of approve the 100% online delivery modality for these degree programs as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. English so moved, and Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

IV. USC Aiken

A. Approval of BA Communication and Digital Arts to BA Emerging Media Program Name Change with 100% Online Delivery

Chancellor Jordan stated the Department of Communications at USC Aiken is requesting a degree name change from bachelor of arts in communication and digital arts to bachelor of arts in emerging media. The new name reflects changes in the

discipline, changes in faculty experience and expertise, and changes in the focus of the curriculum. The delivery modality will be 100% online.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the bachelor of arts in emerging media program name change with 100% online delivery as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. von Lehe so moved, and Mr. Warr seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

B. Approval of BA/BS Interdisciplinary Studies to BA Liberal Studies with tracks in Multidisciplinary Studies and Integrated Research Program Name Change with 100% Online Delivery

Chancellor Jordan presented a name change recommendation from bachelor of arts/bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies to bachelor of arts in liberal studies with tracks in multidisciplinary studies and integrated research. The name change aligns with other programs at the two-year institutions and in Columbia. She stated there is a slight change in curriculum and the delivery modality will be 100% online.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the bachelor of arts in liberal studies with tracks in multidisciplinary studies and integrated research program name change with 100% online delivery as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Jones so moved, and Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

B. Approval of Revisions to Faculty Manual

Chancellor Jordan presented three revisions to the USC Aiken faculty manual related to teaching evaluations, modification of the description of the Distance Learning Committee, and the creation of a pool of 16 Assembly-elected faculty members to populate search committees.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the proposed revisions to the USC Aiken faculty manual as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. Jones so moved, and Mr. English seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

Dr. Pastides took a moment of personal privilege to recognize Dr. Sandra Jordan, the longest serving chancellor in the University System. Dr. Pastides thanked Dr. Jordan and wished her well in her impending retirement.

V. USC Upstate

A. Approval of New Program

— BS Health Information Management with 100% online delivery

Interim Chancellor Cole provided an overview of the new bachelor of science in health information management program with a 100% online delivery modality.

The program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be a health information administrator in a variety of settings. The program would be self-sustaining in one year and would primarily utilize existing faculty. In addition, the program would build upon existing articulation agreements with Greenville Technical College, Trident Technical College, and Florence-Darlington Technical College.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the new bachelor of science in health information management 100% online degree program as presented and posted to the Board portal for this meeting. Ms. Moody so moved, and Mr. Warr seconded the motion.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

B. Approval of Revisions to USC Upstate Faculty Manual

Interim Chancellor Cole presented revisions to the USC Upstate faculty manual that clarifies existing modes of faculty review, provides a more robust description of review processes and outcomes, and creates a Post Tenure Review Committee. Additional revisions clarify procedures for revising the faculty manual and define a procedure for electronic voting on manual revisions. Two new faculty officers have been added to the USC Upstate Faculty Senate to serve as a parliamentarian and a webmaster.

Chair Adams called for a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of the proposed revisions to the USC Upstate faculty manual as presented and posted to

the Board portal for this meeting. Mr. von Lehe so moved, and Mr. Warr seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chair Adams stated this item would be included on the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee's written consent agenda for consideration by the full Board on June 25, 2021.

Interim President Pastides took a moment of personal privilege to thank Mr. Cole for his service as Interim Chancellor in leading the second largest university in the University System. He stated as Dr. Bennie Harris takes over as Chancellor of USC Upstate, Mr. Cole will transition to the role of Vice President for System Affairs.

VI. Endorsement of Faculty Senate Admissions Committee Statement of Support for Extending Test Optional Policy Through Fall 2023

Chair Adams stated in preparation for today's meeting, he received a briefing from Dr. Mark Cooper and a Faculty Senate representative regarding the proposed endorsement of the Faculty Senate Admissions Committee's statement of support for extending the test optional policy through Fall 2023. Based on that briefing, he suggested the Faculty Senate develop a resolution for extending the test optional policy for one year rather than two years. Dr. Cooper expressed support of the request. He suggested since the Faculty Senate Admissions Committee does not meet again until the fall, that a rationale for the shorter review period be reduced to writing and conveyed to that Committee. Chair Adams asked Dr. Cooper to share the information with the Committee and to express the Board's appreciation of the Faculty Senate working with the Board.

Chair Adams stated that he and Trustee Whittle would like to encourage the Governance Committee to study the question of the Board's powers that are delegated to other bodies or persons. He suggested the General Counsel, USC Columbia Faculty Senate

Chair-elect Korsgaard, and USC System representatives provide guidance to the Governance Committee as to how the Board's powers are delegated through Bylaws, policies, and faculty manuals. Governance Committee Chair Westbrook stated the Governance Committee will present an adjusted work plan at its meeting scheduled for June 25, 2021.

Dr. Dennis Pruitt stated the Undergraduate College Admissions Common Application goes to publication in two weeks. To ensure the University is included in the Common Application, he asked that approval be given for extending the test optional policy for one year. Dr. Pruitt stated 84% of the four-year institutions across the country will be test optional and 92% of the flagship institutions across the country will be test optional. In the Southeastern Conference, nine schools have announced they will be test optional. Clemson University, the College of Charleston, USC Beaufort, USC Aiken, and USC Upstate have announced they will be test optional. Most institutions are piloting their test optional policy for one to five years.

Chair Adams called for a motion for provisional approval to extend the test optional policy for one year. Ms. Moody so moved, and Ms. Spearman seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried.

#### VII. Review of Committee Matrix

Chair Adams called attention to the Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee matrix posted to the Board portal for the Committee's review. He noted the matrix provides a timeline through October 15, 2021.

#### VIII. Other Matters

Chair Adams called on Dr. Stephen Cutler to deliver a special presentation. Dr. Cutler called departing Provost Bill Tate to the podium and recalled a speech Dr. Tate gave

to a group of 50 University leaders about the importance of promoting empathy, truth, and courage at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Cutler highlighted the establishment of numerous programs and other successes under Dr. Tate's leadership. He thanked Dr. Tate for his academic leadership and his important work promoting academic excellence at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Cutler then presented Dr. Tate with a framed Horseshoe print on behalf of the University and wished him well as he begins the next chapter in his career as President of Louisiana State University.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Adams declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell  
Secretary