

A Resolution to Restore the Integrity of the Presidential Search

Whereas, the Governor of the State of South Carolina has taken the extraordinary step of calling a meeting of the Board of Trustees to select as president of the University of South Carolina a highly controversial candidate that he favors, and

Whereas, political interference in the selection of the university president conflicts with good governance of the university, and

Whereas, the Governor's action has already transformed selection of our next president into a partisan conflict, defiant of deliberative process and destructive of trust, and

Whereas, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has demonstrated concern over gubernatorial interference in governing boards, and

Whereas, deviating from good governance principles jeopardizes accreditation for the university as a whole and for individual programs and the aspiration to achieve AAU status, and,

Whereas, to succeed in its mission, the University must not only preserve its accreditation, but continue to attract and retain talented students, faculty, and administrators, and

Whereas, a properly conducted search might be expected to yield a highly qualified pool of candidates, and

Whereas, once damaged, a university's reputation is not easily repaired, and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees in its wisdom nominated an interim president who can lead the university in day-to-day operations, ensuring that additional time can be invested to rectify the problems in the search process, and

Whereas, the Faculty of the University of South Carolina resolved to continue to advise the Board of Trustees openly and honestly to the best of its ability regarding the presidential search,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the Board of Trustees to cancel the current presidential search and begin an open and legitimate search process as described in its bylaws and as recommended by the American Association of University Professors.