

**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.b

### Board/Administrative Distinction

#### 4.2 The governing board

- 4.2.b ensures a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy.

*(Board/administrative distinction)*

### Compliance

The authority of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees (BOT) to govern and require accountability derives from the South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 59-117-40(5)) which established the Board. The Board of Trustees Bylaws (Article V) describes the authority of the Board as follows: “The Board shall define the mission, role and scope of the University System and each of its major component institutions, shall establish the general policies of the University System, shall lay out the University System's broad program of educational activity, shall approve the budget for the next fiscal year, and shall provide ultimate accountability to the public and the General Assembly.”

Numerous examples are presented in support of the institution’s adherence to this standard. These examples demonstrate the distinction between the policy-making responsibilities of the BOT and the administration and implementation activities of the administration and faculty. As detailed in the summary of meeting minutes these responsibilities include the following: admission criteria, unit name change, the award of tenure, evaluation of faculty, Board proceedings, approval of institutional mission, approval of tuition or fee increases, approval of educational policies, approval of institutional hires, and the approval of construction projects and sales of land or other assets. Lastly, the institution’s organizational chart indicates a separation of the Board of Trustees and the institution's President.