

**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

4.3

Multi-Level Governance

- 4.3 If an institution's governing board does not retain sole legal authority and operating control in a multiple-level governance system, then the institution clearly defines that authority and control for the following areas within its governance structure: (a) institution's mission, (b) fiscal stability of the institution, and (c) institutional policy.
(Multi-level governance)

Compliance

Institutional mission: Principal documents demonstrating compliance include Article IV Section I of the Board bylaws and the University of South Carolina Board policies, specifically BTRU 1.00 and 1.02. The South Carolina Code of Laws (Section 59-117-40) stipulates that the institution shall develop policies and goals directing the president to implement and achieve those policies and goals, approving degrees awarded, designating academic chairs and professorships, levying fees and charges, reviewing and approving budgets, and approving appointments and salaries of principal officials. The Board is further vested with the responsibility for clarity and focus on mission of each of its institutions. The institution's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on October 11, 2019, and the mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on December 5, 2019.

Fiscal stability of the institution: The process and structure for ensuring fiduciary oversight are outlined in Articles VIII Section IV of the bylaws, which describe a uniform system for establishing the necessary internal controls to ensure that institutional funds are expended and recorded appropriately. The bylaws outline the structure for the Executive and Governance Committee, which guides the planning and financial work of the Board, exercising general supervision of the finances of the institution, reviewing proposed budgets applications for state appropriations.

Institutional Policy: The South Carolina Code of Laws authorizes the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees to oversee the policy direction for each institution under its purview. The Trustees' Bylaws and Board policies are the official repository of institutional policies and procedures for the Board of Trustees. Meeting minutes were provided demonstrating the Trustees' authority.