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University of South Carolina  
Board of Trustees

University System Committee Meeting

June 24, 2022

The University System Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 10:32 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022 in the Floyd Boardroom of the Pastides Alumni Center and via Microsoft Teams video and audio conference.

Committee members present were Ms. Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley; Mr. Robin D. Roberts; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III, Board Chair; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook, Board Vice Chair, Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs, Mr. Toney J. Lister, and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr.

Mr. Miles Loadholt was absent.

Other Trustees present were Mr. C. Dan Adams, Mr. Alex English, Mr. Brian C. Harlan, Mr. Richard A. Jones Jr., Ms. Rose Buyck Newton, Ms. Molly M. Spearman, Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr., Dr. C. Edward Floyd, and Mr. Charles H. Williams.

Ms. Emma W. Morris participated by Microsoft Teams.

Also present were USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Audrey Korsgaard, USC Columbia Student Government President Ms. Reedy Newton, and Strategic Advisor to the Board of Trustees Mr. David Seaton.

Others in attendance were Secretary Cameron Howell; Vice Provost and Dean of the Faculty Cheryl Addy; Vice President for Human Resources Caroline Agardy; Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support and Interim Vice President for Development Stacey Bradley; Vice President for System Affairs Derham Cole; Interim Provost Stephen Cutler;

Chief Audit Executive Pam Dunleavy; Associate Vice President for Student Life Anna Edwards; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget Kelly Epting; Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Doug Foster; President's Chief of Staff Stacy Fritz; USC Upstate Vice Chancellor for University Advancement R.J. Gimble; USC Aiken Chancellor Dan Heimmermann; Chief Executive Officer, USC Alumni Association Wes Hickman; Interim Director of Academic Programs Trena Houp; Executive Director of Economic Engagement Bill Kirkland; Governance Consultant Brit Kirwan; Associate Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer Venis Manigo; Governance Consultant Drumm McNaughton; Senior Deputy Athletics Director Chance Miller; 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; University Treasurer and Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff for the Division of Administration and Finance Joe Sobieralski; USC Upstate Provost Pam Steinke; Assistant Vice President of Media and External Engagement Jeff Stensland; Chief Financial Officer for Athletics Jeff Tallant; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; Associate Director of Communications Jenny Tate; Vice President for Communications Larry Thomas; USC Upstate Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Sheryl Turner-Watts; Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Scott Verzyl; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Ed Walton; Associate Vice President and Chief of Police Christopher J. Wuchenich; Captain Community Services Eric Grabski; IT Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board of Trustees support staff Cary Graham.

## OPEN SESSION

### I. Call to Order

Chair Moody called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and asked Trustees in the room to introduce themselves. Secretary Howell confirmed Trustees joining by Microsoft Teams.

Chair Moody called on Mr. Stensland to introduce members of the media. Mr. Stensland introduced David Cloninger with the *Post and Courier*, Kate Robins with the *Daily Gamecock*, Collyn Taylor with Gamecock Central, John Whittle with Big Spur.com, and Jessica Holdman with the *Post and Courier* participating via the call-in line.

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

## MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Moody stated there was a need to enter Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice as protected by attorney-client privilege. Mr. Mobley made a motion to enter Executive Session and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. Chair Moody invited the following to remain: Trustees, Secretary Howell, Dr. Korsgaard, Ms. Reedy Newton, Mr. Seaton, Mr. Cole, Chancellors, members of the President's executive team, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Grabski, Mr. Kirwan, Dr. McNaughton, Mr. Stensland, Ms. Woodward, and Mr. Wuchenich.

Chair Moody stated no action will be taken in Executive Session and asked those not invited to remain to please exit the room.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Executive Session Removed

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

### II. System Leadership Council Report – Commencement Exercises

Chair Moody called on Vice President for System Affairs Derham Cole to present a System Leadership Council's report regarding commencements. Mr. Cole stated that Chair Smith charged the System Leadership Council to begin an assessment of University of South Carolina's policies and practices regarding commencement exercises and to present any recommendations for revisions.

Mr. Cole reported that several key issues had been identified during discussions among members of the System Leadership Council. The most significant issue is that of promoting "systemness" while still responding to each campuses' unique needs.

Mr. Cole reviewed the Council's recommendations to allow system campuses to hold December commencement exercises under Board policy, to permit the comprehensive campuses' Chancellors to confer degrees and create a mace or similar symbol of authority to be used at commencements, and to change how the system commencement committees are overseen, with the Vice President for System Affairs continuing as the main point of contact for commencements.

Chair Moody thanked Mr. Cole for his report. Chair Moody suggested to Board Chair Smith that a next step might include a review of the report by Board members, the President, the Provost, and all Chancellors prior to the Board's meeting in August, which would allow for additional questions and considerations about oversight of commencement events. Chair Smith recommended that the suggestions go to the Governance Committee

for review before being presented to the full Board. Ms. Moody stated that the report was received as information.

III. Other Matters

Chair Moody called for other matters to come before the Committee. There were none.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell  
Secretary