

University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

University System Committee
In Person, Floyd Boardroom, Pastides Alumni Center
and By Microsoft Teams
November 18, 2022

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair Moody called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Secretary Howell confirmed Trustees attending in person and by Microsoft Teams audio and video conference.

Committee Members in attendance:

Leah B. Moody, Chair
Brian C. Harlan
Toney J. Lister (online)
Hubert F. Mobley
E. Scott Moise
Emma W. Morris
John C. von Lehe Jr.(online)
Rose Buyck Newton, *Board Vice Chair*
Thad H. Westbrook, *Board Chair*

Members Absent:

Miles Loadholt

Other Trustees in attendance:

C. Dan Adams
J. Egerton Burroughs
Alex English
C. Edward Floyd (online)
Richard A. Jones Jr.
C. Dorn Smith III
Mack I. Whittle Jr.

Other in attendance:

Audrey Korsgaard, USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair
Reedy Newton, USC Columbia Student Government President
Robin Roberts, Expert Advisor to the Advancement, Engagement and Communications Committee (online)
David Seaton, Expert Advisor to the Governance Committee

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President

Cameron Howell, University Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Donna Arnett, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Terry Parham, General Counsel

Ed Walton, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Media in attendance:

Caleb Bozard, the *Daily Gamecock*

Alexa Jurado, the *State*

Notice:

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

II. System Commencement Exercises

Vice President for System Affairs Derham Cole presented an update regarding System Commencement Exercises, including proposed revisions to policy BTRU 2.00. [UnivSys 111822 OS II]

President Amiridis discussed the value of giving system campuses flexibility to manage their own commencement events while also maintaining standards for those events across the system.

III. Approval of Revisions to Board Policy BTRU 2.00 “Commencement Exercises”

Mr. Mobley made a motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy BTRU 2.00 “Commencement Exercises” as presented and posted to the Board portal. Mr. Harlan seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

Chair Moody stated the revisions would be recommended to the Governance Committee and/or full Board for further consideration.

IV. System Strategic Planning

Chair Moody briefly discussed strategic planning efforts across the system, then invited President Amiridis to provide additional comments.

President Amiridis stated each system campus has their own strategic plan and suggested that as Chancellors provide reports at future meetings, Committee members ask for strategic plan updates. President Amiridis suggested the creation and addition of a brief, central document that recognizes the value of the entire system.

Board Chair Westbrook expressed how useful a system plan would be, especially in understanding President Amiridis’ overall vision and plan.

Mr. Adams asked for a report on course commonality between system campuses and Columbia.

V. Committee Matrix

Chair Moody stated a draft revision to the Committee matrix was posted to the Board portal.
[UnivSys 111822 OS V]

Chair Moody stated this update was received as information.

VI. Other Matters

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

Chair Moody stated if any Committee members had suggestions for a potential expert advisor for the Committee, to communicate those to her.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Moody declared the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Howell
Secretary

BOT SYSTEM COMMITTEE

November 18, 2022



SYSTEM COMMENCEMENT REVIEW

- April 7, 2022: Chair Dorn Smith asks System Leadership Council to “begin an immediate assessment of USC System policies and practices regarding commencement exercises, toward recommendations for potential revisions to those policies and practices.”
- June 24, 2022: Presentation to System Committee
- August 10, 2022: System Leadership Council Discussion
- September 16, 2022: System Committee Meeting
- October 20, 2022: System Leadership Council Discussion

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Student and family-focused commencements.
- Promoting celebratory atmosphere at students' home institutions.
- Creating traditions and connections that promote alumni engagement and pride.
- Logistical challenges of conducting and attending multiple ceremonies across the state.
- Accommodating growing numbers of graduates while maintaining individual recognition.

ELEMENTS COMMON TO SYSTEM COMMENCEMENTS

- Order of Exercises; Length
- Use of Seal in Programs other appropriate settings
- Conferral language citing BOT Authority
- Alma Mater/Carolinian Creed

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Modify current policy to allow system institutions to schedule and conduct ceremonies in a way that best serves students and families.
- Permit comprehensive universities to hold December commencement exercises on their campuses.
- Authorize system chancellors, using language common to the system, to confer degrees at their universities' and Palmetto College regional campuses' commencement exercises.
- Designate VP for System Affairs to serve as liaison between comprehensive universities and Palmetto College regional campuses and the President/BOT for commencement planning/coordination.

NOTABLE POLICY REVISIONS

- Inclusion of system institution definitions and System Leadership Council to promote clarity
- Permits needed flexibility regarding symbols of BOT authority (i.e., maces and medallions)
- Changes to composition and function of Columbia and System Commencement Committees
- SLC development of commencement calendar
- Consolidates system commencement standards

NEXT STEPS

- Adopt revised BTRU 2.00 and recommend full BOT approval.
- Develop and implement procedures for commencements through the appropriate bodies and personnel in accordance with revised policy.

**University of South Carolina Board of Trustees
 University System Committee
 WORKING FY24 Calendar/Matrix Draft**

Planned Agenda Items:	Responsible Area/Individual	Calendar Quarter >>	Q3	Q4	Retreat	Q1	Q2	Allotted Time
		Typical Month >>	September	November	January	March	June	
		Planned Date >>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Comprehensive University Strategic Plan Update (to include enrollment update)	Chancellors			Aiken		Beaufort	Upstate	10 minutes
Palmetto College Strategic Plan Update/Review (to include enrollment - with breakout of dual/concurrent)	Chancellor		X					10 minutes
System Accreditation Updates	VP System Affairs			X				10 Minutes
System Governance Initiatives Updates (System Leadership Council Updates, Other Governance Matters)	VP System Affairs						X	10 Minutes
System Collaboration Initiatives Updates (Bridge Programs, Online Initiatives, Transfer Programs, etc.)	VP System Affairs					X		10 Minutes
Annual Report on Local Commissions	VP System Affairs/Chancellors		X					10 Minutes
Annual Review of System Officials	VP System Affairs/President		X					10 Minutes
Report of System Institution Student Leaders	Campus Student Presidents					X		15 Minutes
System Commencements Planning	VP System Affairs/Provost			X				10 Minutes
System Commencements Debrief	VP System Affairs/Provost						X	10 Minutes
Other Agenda Items	As Requested by Chair				TBD			TBD

Possible Related Item: Palmetto College Campus Deans invited to Speak at Lunch (as a group) in conjunction with PC Update

Committee Members	Staff Lead	Staff Co-Lead
<i>Leah B. Moody, Chair</i>	Derham Cole	Joe Sobieralski
Brian Harlan		
Toney J. Lister		
Miles Loadholt		
Hubert Mobley		
Scott Moise		
Emma W. Morris		
John C. von Lehe Jr.		
<i>Thad H. Westbrook - Ex Officio</i>		
<i>Rose Buycck Newton - Ex Officio</i>		