

5.2.b Control of intercollegiate athletics

The chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for and exercises appropriate control over the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

Compliance Judgment: In Compliance

Rationale

Intercollegiate Athletics at USC Aiken. The University of South Carolina Aiken sponsors 10 sports that compete for championships in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II. Men's sports include: baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, and soccer. Women's sports include: basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, and volleyball. The cheerleaders and dance team are also considered part of the athletic department.

CEO's Responsibility over Intercollegiate Athletics. The Chancellor of USC Aiken, Dr. Sandra Jordan, carries out the expressed commitment of the Board of Trustees to assure full compliance with all athletic conference and national association rules, regulations, constitutions, and bylaws. As detailed in the [Board of Trustees Bylaws](#) ^[1], the Chancellor will "bear responsibility for fund raising, intercollegiate athletics, auxiliary enterprises, and alumni activities." The [2019-2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Manual](#) ^[2] states in Principle 2.1 that "...the institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures." The Chancellor delegates athletic administrative duties to the athletic director, [Mr. James Herlihy](#) ^[3] who serves as a member of her cabinet in accordance with the [Senior Administration Organization Chart](#),^[4] but retains responsibility for the fulfillment of the duties.

Evidence of the Chancellor's Control over Athletics. There is an abundance of evidence that the Chancellor asserts institutional control over athletics, including but not limited to:

- ***Maintaining an active role in the conference and NCAA.*** As indicated on her [curriculum vitae](#),^[5] Chancellor Jordan has been actively involved in NCAA governance. She has been serving on the Board of Directors of the Peach Belt Conference and is the current President of the Conference. She has been serving in various officer capacities for the NCAA Division II, including as a member of the Finance Committee, Vice-President of the Division, and currently as the [Chair of the Division II President's Council](#).^[6] Dr. Jordan also serves on Finance Committee of the [NCAA Board of Governors](#) ^[7] with oversight of DI, DII, and DIII athletics.
- ***Hiring and appointing of athletic personnel.*** The Chancellor appoints the [Faculty Athletic Representative](#) ^[8] and the [Director of Athletics](#).^[9] Further, as illustrated with the [re-appointment of the golf coach](#), ^[10] Dr. Jordan approves contracts with personnel to serve as athletic coaches.
- ***Approving a strategic plan for athletics.*** The Chancellor has approved a [three-year strategic and tactical plan](#) ^[11] for advancement of athletics at USC Aiken.
- ***Meeting regularly with athletes and athletic personnel.*** The Chancellor meets monthly with intercollegiate athletics. A sample of agendas for monthly meetings during the 2018-19 academic year are provided for [April 2018](#), ^[12] [December 2018](#), ^[13] [February 2019](#), ^[14] and [March 2019](#).^[15] The agendas illustrate the wide scope of issues considered at meetings and include fundraising; facilities; health, safety, and welfare; academics; compliance; and governance. The athletic director also sits on the Chancellor's cabinet at which athletics and athletic facilities are discussed as demonstrated with meeting minutes of [July 16, 2018](#), ^[16] [October 18, 2018](#),^[17] and [January 13, 2020](#). ^[18] Further, as illustrated with screenshots of the Chancellor's outlook calendar dated [September 12, 2019](#) ^[19] and [January 16, 2020](#), ^[20] she meets at least

once a semester with the Faculty Athletic Representative. The Chancellor also holds one-on-one meetings with the Athletic Director on a monthly basis as illustrated with screen shots of her outlook calendar for [September 4, 2019](#) ^[21], [October 2, 2019](#) ^[22], and [November 7, 2019](#). ^[23]

- ***Exercising fiscal control.*** As an institutional department, Intercollegiate Athletics submits annual budgetary requests, including capital items using the same process as other campus units, as presented in the [narrative response to Standard 13.2 – Financial documents](#).^[24] New athletic budgetary requests for the 2020 fiscal year were presented and prioritized in an [open forum in April of 2019](#).^[25] In keeping with authority delegated to the Chancellor by the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor makes the final determination of what is to be included in budgetary recommendations forwarded for board approval.
- ***Handbooks showing the role of the Chancellor in athletics.*** The [Student Athlete Handbook](#) ^[26] clearly identifies that the Chancellor is the highest ranked official on campus in the athletic chain of command, answerable to the Board of Trustees. The duties and responsibilities of the Chancellor are also delineated in the [USC Aiken Athletics Compliance Manual](#) ^[27] which is provided to athletic staff.
- ***Submission of NCAA reports that require review and approval by the Chancellor.*** The Chancellor reviews and approves the [income/expense statement](#) ^[28] for the Intercollegiate Athletics programs, [athletic graduation rate reports](#), ^[29] [athletic academic success reports](#),^[30] and [equity in athletics disclosure reports](#) ^[31] before they are submitted.
- ***NCAA compliance audit.*** In 2019, a NCAA compliance consultant was contracted by the Chancellor to complete a review of USC Aiken athletics. As indicated in the [compliance report](#) ^[32] submitted to the Chancellor, a thorough review of all compliance systems was undertaken which included the areas of governance and institutional control, financial aid, student-athlete welfare, eligibility, and recruiting. The audit found that “University of South Carolina Aiken has implemented current strategies for effective oversight of its Division II

athletic program.” At the same time, vulnerabilities and areas that could be strengthened were identified in the report. If the Chancellor was not exercising appropriate control over intercollegiate athletics, the audit would have reported such a finding.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Board of Trustees Bylaws: Authority and Duties of the Chancellors over Athletics](#)
2. [2019-20 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Manual](#)
3. [Resume of Athletic Director James Herlihy](#)
4. [Senior Administration Organizational Chart](#)
5. [Curriculum vitae of Chancellor Sandra Jordan](#)
6. [NCAA Division II President's Council website](#)
7. [NCAA Board of Governors membership website](#)
8. [Appointment Letter for the Faculty Athletic Representative](#)
9. [Appointment Letter for the Director of Athletics](#)
10. [Re-appointment contract for the Golf Coach](#)
11. [Athletics Strategic and Tactical Plan](#)
12. [Intercollegiate Athletics meeting agenda for April 2018](#)
13. [Intercollegiate Athletics meeting agenda for December 2018](#)
14. [Intercollegiate Athletics meeting agenda for February 2019](#)
15. [Intercollegiate Athletics meeting agenda for March 2019](#)
16. [Chancellor's cabinet meeting minutes for July 16, 2018](#)
17. [Chancellor's cabinet meeting minutes for October 18, 2018](#)
18. [Chancellor's cabinet meeting minutes for January 13, 2020](#)
19. [Chancellor meeting with Faculty Athletic Representative September 12, 2019](#)
20. [Chancellor meeting with Faculty Athletic Representative January 16, 2020](#)
21. [Chancellor meeting with Athletic Director September 4, 2019](#)
22. [Chancellor meeting with Athletic Director October 2, 2019](#)
23. [Chancellor meeting with Athletic Director November 7, 2019](#)
24. [Narrative response to Standard 13.2 – Financial documents](#)

25. [Budget Forum April 2019](#)
26. [Student Athlete Handbook](#)
27. [USC Aiken Athletics Compliance Manual](#)
28. [Athletics income/expense statement for 2018](#)
29. [Athletics Graduation Rate Report](#)
30. [Athletics Academic Success Report](#)
31. [Equity in Athletics Disclosure Report](#)
32. [NCAA Compliance Audit Report](#)