



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 - Aiken**

Date of the Review: **November 5-6, 2020**

SACSCOC Staff Member: **Dr. Denise Y. Young**

Chair of the Committee: **Dr. William R. Fannin - CHAIR**
Professor of Management
The University of Texas Permian Basin
Odessa, TX

Section 4: Governing Board

- 4.1 **The institution has a governing board of at least five members that:**
- (a) **is the legal body with specific authority over the institution.**
 - (b) **exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution.**
 - (c) **ensures that both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution.**
 - (d) **is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it.**
 - (e) **is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution.**
- (Governing board characteristics) [CR]*

Compliance

The number of trustees on the University of South Carolina governing board totals 20 individuals, including three ex-officio members (the Governor, the State Superintendent of Education, President of the Greater University of South Carolina Alumni Association) and seventeen voting members (one from each of the sixteen judicial circuits in the state. These sixteen are selected by the General Assembly. The seventeenth is an at-large member appointed by the Governor. This is set by Section 59-117-10 Code of Laws of South Carolina as well as the Bylaws of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees.

The legal authority of the Board of Trustees over all higher education institutions in the University of South Carolina System is established by Section 59-117-10 of the Code of Laws. Section 59-117-40 establishes the fiduciary oversight of the board. Protections to ensure that the governing board is free of contractual, employment, personal or familial interest is found in the Board of Trustees Conflicts of Interest Policy.

Article X of the Board's Bylaws require a roll call and a quorum to conduct the business of the board. Board meeting minutes from June 22, 2018 and February 8, 2019 are presented as evidence of the roll call and quorum requirements. The Chair of the Board of Trustees presides over meetings of the board. The Chancellor of the institution is not a member of the board. The roster of the board listed on the Board's website serves as evidence of compliance, as does the Board's Bylaws, which delineate the duties of the Chancellor.