



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

4.2 The governing board

- 4.2.g defines and regularly evaluates its responsibilities and expectations.
(*Board evaluation*)

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee's review of the institutional mission found the regular board review process is relatively recent, first conducted in 2018. At that time the Board of Trustees adopted an annual self-evaluation process where all board members completed a questionnaire covering the areas of board meeting effectiveness, board performance, and strategic planning. Subsequent to the first self-evaluation in 2018, the Board worked with the Association of Governing Boards to adopt a critical self-evaluation process in an effort to establish best practices and appropriate policies that clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and individual board members, improve institutional and system governance, build board leadership, and advance orientation and education for board members.

Board self-evaluation materials from the 2018 and 2019 reviews were provided, as well as relevant January 2020 retreat presentations. These self-evaluations have led to discoveries and recommendations, as well as documented change for the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees. Change for the Board as a result of the review includes a new policy approved in 2020: *Protecting the Institution from External Influences*.