

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.

Section 4: Governing Board

- 4.3 If an institution's governing board does not retain sole legal authority and operating control in a multiple-level governance system, then the institution clearly defines that authority and control for the following areas within its governance structure: (a) institution's mission, (b) fiscal stability of the institution, and (c) institutional policy.
(Multi-level governance)

Compliance

The institution reports that the Board of Trustees does not retain sole legal authority over the university. The other governing body with legal authority is the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education. In accordance with the Board's Bylaws Standard 4.2a-Mission Review, the Board approves the mission of institutions in the USC System. Evidence of this is in minutes from a board meeting in December 2016.

The South Carolina Commission of Higher Education is also charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving the mission of each institution, as stipulated in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 59-103-15. Evidence of this oversight is found in the February 2017 minutes of the Commission.

The Board's Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1 outlines the fiscal responsibilities prescribed to the board by the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 59-117-40. The fiscal responsibilities prescribed to the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education is prescribed in numerous sections of the Code of Laws.

The role of the Board of Trustees in overseeing institutional policy is found in the Board's Internal Control Policy. The South Carolina Commission of Higher Education oversees policies related to facilities, distance education, program productivity, new academic programs and program termination, and credit transfer. Responsibility for mission, fiscal stability, and institutional policy rests primarily with the Board of Trustees and secondarily with the South Carolina Commission.