

## 4.3

### Multi-Level Governance

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: (1) institution's mission, (2) fiscal stability of the institution, and (3) institutional policy.

### Judgment

Compliant  Non-Compliant  Not Applicable

### Narrative

[Article IV Section 1](#) of the Board Bylaws states that the Board shall define the mission, role and scope of the University System and each of its component institutions, shall establish the general policies of the University System, shall lay out the University System's broad program of educational activity, shall approve the budget for the next fiscal year, and shall provide ultimate accountability to the public and the General Assembly.

The final authority and responsibility for the governance of the University of South Carolina is vested in its Board of Trustees ("Board") in accordance with the statutes of the State of South Carolina. Sections [59-101-185](#) and [59-117-40](#) of the South Carolina Code of Laws as well as the Board of Trustees Bylaws and Board Policy [BTRU 1.00 Statutory Basis of the University](#) clearly delineate the powers and responsibilities of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees. These responsibilities as stated in the Board Bylaws include:

1. Elect a President of the University to serve at the will of the Board or for such term and compensation as the Board may prescribe;
2. Elect a Secretary of the University and of the Board to serve at the will of the Board or for such term and compensation as the Board may prescribe;
3. Elect a Treasurer of the University to serve at the will of the Board or for such term and compensation as the Board may prescribe;
4. Establish policies and goals of the University and direct the President to implement and achieve those policies and goals;
5. Review and approve academic plans, including new programs and new units, and major modifications or deletions in existing programs and units;
6. Approve, upon recommendation of faculties and the President, the earned degrees awarded;
7. Designate academic chairs and professorships, award and revoke honorary degrees and name buildings or major portions thereof, other structures, outdoor spaces, streets and geographic areas;
8. Levy fees and charges and examine from time to time admissions policies as established by the faculties and the administration;
9. Review and approve requests for appropriations;
10. Review and approve annual budgets and budget changes;
11. Approve gifts where restrictions are indicated, designate the use of unrestricted gifts, and approve and designate the use of testamentary gifts;
12. Approve all loans, borrowing, and issuance of bonds;

13. Approve appointments and salaries of principal officials which shall be defined as those persons elected by the Board as provided in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 above, as well as University officers having the rank of Vice President or Chancellor or equivalent rank;
14. Approve compensation policy for faculty and staff;
15. Approve all long-range development plans for the University including major capital projects;
16. Approve or delegate authority for approval of all major contractual relationships and other major legal obligations executed in the name of the University;
17. Approve all sales or purchases of real property, and ensure that all properties of the University are preserved and maintained;
18. Establish investment policies and procedures which will provide for the prudent investment and preservation of funds entrusted to the University;
19. Establish auditing policies and standards and appoint independent auditors; and
20. Establish and maintain within the administrative procedures of the University the policy and practice that the administrators of the University covered under Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 above shall serve in such capacities at the will and pleasure of the Board; that the administrators of the University having the rank of Vice President, Chancellor, University Campus Dean, Academic Dean, Director or the equivalent thereof and any other person reporting directly to the President shall serve in such capacities at the will and pleasure of the President. It is understood that the employment of such administrators shall be on customary terms of University employment and there shall be no separate employment agreements; provided, however, it is further understood that no Athletics Department administrators will be given employment agreements in excess of one year without prior approval of a majority (eleven) vote of the entire Board of Trustees.

### **Policy Making Authority**

The Board is charged with setting policy for the institution and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are adequate to provide a sound educational program. The powers and responsibilities of the Board are clearly delineated in the [Articles III and IV](#) of the Board of Trustees Bylaws and [Section 59-117-40](#) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Specifically, the Board is responsible for, among other functions, the election of a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer of the University, establishing "policies and goals of the University and directing the President to implement and achieve those policies and goals", approving degrees awarded, designating academic chairs and professorships, levying fees and charges, reviewing and approving budgets, and approving appointments and salaries of principal officials.

### **Mission Statement Approval and Review**

University of South Carolina Columbia's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). Prior to October 11, 2019; the Board reviewed and revised the mission statement on [July 23, 2010](#). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Columbia mission statement again in 2023.

### **Fiduciary Oversight of the Institution**

[Article VII Section 1](#) of the Board Bylaws establishes several standing committees, four of which focus on the fiduciary oversight of the Institution: 1) Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee, 2) The Audit and Compliance Committee, 3) The Building and Grounds Committee, 4) The Executive and Governance Committee.

[Article VIII Section 4](#) of the Board Bylaws defines the responsibility of the Executive and Governance Committee: The Executive and Governance Committee shall function as the governance committee of the Board, exercising all responsibilities related thereto not otherwise expressly delegated by these Bylaws to another standing committee of the Board; shall function as a continuous planning and financial committee of the Board, exercising general supervision of the finances of the University; shall review in advance the proposed budget for the succeeding year; and shall review in advance the proposed application for appropriations for the succeeding fiscal year in the light of overall University plans.

## The University System Defined

Article I Section 4 of the Bylaws defines the University System:

*The University System is composed of the following component campus units:*

- A. *University of South Carolina Aiken.*
- B. *University of South Carolina Beaufort.*
- C. *University of South Carolina Columbia.*
- D. *University of South Carolina Lancaster.*
- E. *University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.*
- F. *University of South Carolina Sumter.*
- G. *University of South Carolina Union.*
- H. *University of South Carolina Upstate.*





The University of South Carolina Aiken, the University of South Carolina Beaufort, and the University of South Carolina Upstate shall individually be referred to as a "Comprehensive University" and shall collectively be referred to as "Comprehensive Universities." The University of South Carolina Lancaster, the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, the University of South Carolina Sumter, and the University of South Carolina Union shall individually be referred to as a "Regional Palmetto College" and shall collectively be referred to as "Regional Palmetto Colleges."

## University System and Its Governance

Article XII Section 1 of the Bylaws provides an outline of the system structure and states: The University of South Carolina System, at times also referred to as the "University System," consists of the component campus units described in Section 4 of Article I of these Bylaws. It shall be charged with the responsibility of providing to the State of South Carolina readily accessible comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and other instruction, research, continuing education and service programs, all of the highest quality, through the operation of major components or campuses with varying missions and at various locations throughout the State. Each Comprehensive University campus with the exception of the Columbia campus shall be administered by a Chancellor who shall report directly to the President. The position of the President of the University System shall also encompass the office and duties of Chancellor of the Columbia campus. Each regional Palmetto College campus shall be administered by a Campus Dean who shall report to the Chancellor of Palmetto College who in turn reports to the President.

The University of South Carolina Columbia is the flagship campus in the University of South Carolina (USC) system, which includes the research university in Columbia, three comprehensive universities (Aiken, Beaufort, and Upstate; each separately accredited by SACSCOC) and four regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union, each branch campuses of the University of South Carolina and accredited with the University of South Carolina Columbia). The South Carolina State Code of Law, SECTION 59-101-10 Designation of State Colleges and Universities lists the University of South Carolina Columbia as a state public university within the state of South Carolina: "There are universities and colleges as follows: one located in the City of Columbia, styled the University of South Carolina; another in or near the Town of Orangeburg, styled South Carolina State University; Clemson University; Winthrop University; another styled The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina; the College of Charleston; another in or near the Town of Greenwood, styled Lander University; another in or near the City of Florence, styled Francis Marion University; the Medical University of South Carolina, and another in or near the City of Conway styled Coastal Carolina University. They are separate and distinct institutions, each under its separate board of trustees or visitors."

## Sources

-  [BTRU 1.00 Statutory Basis of the University](#)
-  [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 10\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 12\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 13\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 19\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 23\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 33\)](#)
-  [Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 101 - Colleges And Institutions Of Higher Learning Generally](#)

 Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 103 - State Commission On Higher Education

 Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 117 - University Of South Carolina

 EG Committee Meeting October 11 2019

 July 23 2010 BOT Meeting Minutes

 SC CHE to USC Columbia Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019