

(Approved at the March 27-28, 2025 BOT Meeting)

**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC**

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
February 25, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Presiding:
Renée Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Members Participating via Zoom Video Conference – Trustees Beth Burke, Hank Futch, Darryl Fyall, Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Shawn Holland, Matt Klein, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger (chair), Penny Rosner, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson (vice chair), Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (secretary), Derrick Williams and Neysa Williams

Board Members Absent – Trustees Laurin Burch and Tav Swarat

President’s Cabinet Participating via Zoom Video Conference – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Courtney Howard, John Loonan, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca and Paul Patrick

Other Attendees – Board Staff: Betty Craig and Elizabeth Kassebaum; IT Staff: Joh-nette Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Romberger called this special meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Trustee Ricci Welch, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of “Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege” and “Personnel matters – legal matters covered by attorney-client privilege.” All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch, to come out of Executive Session and resume regular session at 11:08 a.m. All in favor.

Chair Romberger noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION AS STATED

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Board of Trustees makes a motion to pass the Resolution as just stated.

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Neysa Williams, that the Board of Trustees pass the Resolution as just stated. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved. All in favor. [See Resolution below as stated by Paul Patrick.]

Whereas, the College of Charleston, as a public institution of higher education in South Carolina, is bound to comply with all state and federal laws, including provisions prohibiting discrimination found in the U.S. Constitution and other federal and state laws.

Whereas, the College of Charleston remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a highly educated workforce by admitting and educating students from South Carolina and all other 49 states without regard to considerations of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation and other characteristics protected from discrimination.

Whereas, the College of Charleston's policies, programs and activities are compliant with existing laws in the State of South Carolina, and the institution is actively monitoring and will comply with any legislation enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly, including, but not limited to, that which addresses anti-discrimination and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Whereas, the College of Charleston acknowledges the "Dear Colleague" letter issued by the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, dated February 14, 2025, reaffirming the obligation of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance to provide an environment devoid of discriminatory practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Whereas, the College of Charleston further acknowledges that the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights specifically identified DEI training, programming, and activities conducted at educational institutions as constituting unlawful discrimination and advised that the Office of Civil Rights will "vigorously" enforce and assess compliance with applicable federal anti-discrimination laws.

Now, therefore be it resolved by College of Charleston Board of Trustees that:

1. The College of Charleston and its Board of Trustees reaffirms its continuing commitment to providing an educational environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free of discrimination. No campus policy, program or activity should discriminate based on race, color, national origin or any other characteristic protected from discrimination by the U.S. Constitution and federal and state laws.
2. The College of Charleston Board of Trustees requests the university administration to, at once, review all campus policies, programs, and activities to ensure that they are consistent with the U.S. Constitution and federal and state laws. If necessary, the administration should immediately move to cease, amend, modify, or eliminate any programs that violate the U.S. Constitution and federal and state laws. This review should also include a review of policies, programs, and activities in respect to proposed legislation and budgetary provisions at the S.C. State House, particularly those related to statutory changes associated with diversity, equity and inclusion activities. The Board of Trustees is resolved to comply with those changes when they are enacted.
3. The College of Charleston no longer spends state-appropriated, general funds on designated DEI-related activities.
4. The Chair of the College of Charleston Board and President of the College shall form working groups to review College policies, programs, and activities and make recommendations to

the Board of Trustees at its regularly scheduled March 2025 meeting as to what actions, if any, may be required to maintain compliance with existing and proposed federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination as defined therein.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The motion was made by Trustee Ricci Welch, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m. All in favor.