

(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
March 3, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

Presiding:
Renée Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Members Participating via Zoom Video Conference – Trustees Laurin Burch, 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), Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Derrick Williams and Neysa Williams

Board Members Absent – Trustee Ricci Welch (secretary)

President’s Cabinet Participating via Zoom Video Conference – President Andrew Hsu, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, 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 1:32 p.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 Derrick Williams, and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding, 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 Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Andy Gianoukos, to come out of Executive Session and resume regular session at 3:09 p.m. All in favor.

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

MOTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In accordance with the “Dear Colleague” letter from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights and anticipated state legislative action and in alignment with other public universities in South Carolina, the College of Charleston Board of Trustees moves to immediately discontinue and eliminate funding for all DEI-related activities. The Administration shall report to the Board of Trustees on the implementation of this directive at the March 2025 meeting. The College of Charleston continues its commitment to be a non-discriminatory campus and to the success of all students.

Further, the BOT resolves to delete any and all references in the strategic plan and replace the core value statement on DEI with the core value of “**Respect for the Individual:** We create and nurture a

globally-oriented academic community, whose members value and respect one another.” **The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved. All in favor.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The motion was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:11 p.m. All in favor.