

(Approved at October 16-17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting)  
**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC**  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
August 21-22, 2025

Tate 202/Zoom Video Conference

Presiding:  
Renée B. Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees

Trustee Laurin Burch, Chair, Budget, Finance, & Facilities Committee  
Trustee David Hay, Chair, Property Committee  
Trustee Penny Rosner, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee  
Trustee Shawn Holland, Chair, Student Affairs & Athletics Committee  
Trustee Beth Burke, Chair, Development, Alumni, Governmental  
& External Relations Committee  
Trustee Tav Swarat, Chair, Audit and Governance Committee

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Board Member(s) Present** – Trustees Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, 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 and Derrick Williams

**Board Member(s) via Zoom** – Trustees Ricci Welch (Secretary) and Neysa Williams

**Board Member(s) Absent** – Trustee Hank Futch

**President's Cabinet Member(s) Present** – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Katarina Fjording, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, Courtney Howard, John Loonan, Kevin McCord, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, Ashleigh Parr, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Brad Weiland

**Other Attendees Present** – Joh-nette Brown, Roger Brown (Men's Cross Country & SAAC Co-President), Tim Callahan (Interim Dean of the Graduate School), Betty Craig, Andrew Flagel, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Jesse Kunze, William Veal and Dawn Willan

(Only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, President's Cabinet, Board Office Staff, and others presenting or participating in the meetings are noted as attendees).

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

### **Welcome**

Chair Romberger called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Executive Session** *(Board of Trustees Only)*

**The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, to go into Executive Session at 8:34 a.m. for the purpose of “Discussion of individual employment matters.” All in favor.**

**The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. All in favor.**

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

### **President’s Report**

First, President Hsu congratulated Chair Romberger on her opinion piece that appeared in this summer’s issue of AGB’s Trusteeship Magazine. It explores the partnership between governing boards and presidents, and she uses our institution as an example of a place doing it right.

This summer, Suzanne Austin and John Loonan co-chaired the search for our next Chief Information Officer and Sasan Poureetezadi will begin on September 1. President Hsu will introduce Sasan at the October Board meeting.

Projects and developments on campus:

- The biggest project that the campus will be working on is our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which is required by SACSCOC. The topic is Intentional AI. AI will be incorporated into our curriculum. Provost Austin will give more details during the Academic Affairs Committee meeting.
- Athletics will occupy a lot of our attention. The rules are being rewritten and will change many times before we find a working model.
- On the philanthropy front, we are making very good progress. Despite some setbacks caused by the DEI discussion, very good results were still produced.
- On the Government Relations front, we plan to strengthen our efforts by hiring a full-time staff person to help improve our communications with the Legislature and State Government Agencies. We are in the process of recruiting the right person.
- Progress is being made on the Coming Street Commons project. Because of the site’s complicated history, it has not only garnered much interest, but also some controversy. We are committed to continuing our outreach efforts with community partners in order to be transparent and as responsive and respectful as possible. In fact, the College is but the latest in a long line of builders on this site. While building a residence hall of appropriate scale and size, we also want to illuminate the many hidden histories of the site.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

Pillar I – Student Experience and Success (*Alicia Caudill*)

Pillar II – Academic Distinction (*Suzanne Austin*)

Pillar III – Employee Experience and Success (*John Loonan*)

### **Vision, Strategy and Priorities Session** – “Collaborations/Partnerships”

Dr. Andrew Flagel (*President and CEO, Visiting Senior Scholar, The George Washington University*), presented an inspiring message regarding the “State of Higher Education and the Power of Consortiums.”

Dr. Flagel’s presentation included: (1) Enrollment Challenges, (2) Additional financial pressures on higher education; and (3) Ways to save/increase revenue through collaboration.

### **Executive Session**

**The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, to go into Executive Session at 11:11 a.m. for the purpose of “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services and competitive information.” All in favor.**

**The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland, to come out of Executive Session at 12:44 p.m. All in favor.**

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

### **“TALK ABOUT” SESSIONS**

Board Members departed for the three “Talk About” sessions for today’s meeting.

- (1) Residence Hall Advisors (Students) – Liberty Hall
- (2) School of Business (Faculty) – Tate 129 – Design Your Life Lab
- (3) Admissions (Staff) – Craig Hall, Conference Room 108)

Upon return from the “Talk About” sessions, Board members reported on their respective tours.

*[Trustee Derrick Williams left the meeting and continued the meeting via zoom.]*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECESSED**

Chair Romberger recessed the full Board meeting at 2:30 p.m. and handed the floor over to Committee Chair Penny Rosner for the Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee Penny Rosner, Chair; Trustee Henrietta Golding, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s) Present** – Trustees *Beth Burke, Henrietta Golding (vice chair), Matt Klein, Toya Pound, Penny Rosner (chair), Brian Stern, Tav Swarat, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

**Committee Member(s) Participating via Zoom** – Trustee *Ricci Welch*

**Call to Order** – Committee Chair *Penny Rosner*

### **Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, that the minutes of the March 27-28, 2025 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

### **Provost's Report** – *Suzanne Austin*

- Dean Searches AY 2025-2026
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): Intentional AI
- Life Design Center

### **Enrollment Planning Update** – *Jimmie Foster*

### **Charleston Engineering Youth Conference Update** – *Katarina Fjording*

### **Executive Session**

The motion was made by Trustee Toya Pound, and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding, to go into Executive Session at 3:17 p.m. for the purpose of “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services, and competitive information”. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, to leave Executive Session at 3:29 p.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Rosner noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

The motion was made by Trustee Tav Swarat, and seconded by Trustee Toya Pound, that the Academic Affairs Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:29 p.m. All in favor.

## **BUDGET, FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee Laurin Burch, Chair; Trustee Craig Thornton, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s) Present** – *Trustees Laurin Burch (chair), Craig Thornton (vice chair), Hank Futch, Darryl Fyall, Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Matt Klein, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson, Derrick Williams, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

### **Call to Order** – *Committee Chair Laurin Burch*

### **Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Trustee Craig Thornton, and seconded by Trustee Andy Gianoukos, that the minutes of the March 27, 2025 and June 2, 2025 Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee Meetings be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

### **Information/Discussion Items**

- Budget & Finance FY25 Year-End Close Projection – *John Loonan*
  - Revenue, Expense and Margin Projections (including Athletics)

- Fund Balance and One-Time Allocation Recommendation
- Facilities – *John Loonan*
- Summer Renovation/Improvement Projects Update

**Motion to Adjourn**

**The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m. All in favor.**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee Shawn Holland, Chair; Trustee Andy Gianoukos, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s) Present** – *Trustees Shawn Holland (chair), Laurin Burch, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos (vice chair), Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Toya Pound, Craig Thornton, Derrick Williams, Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

**Call to Order** – *Committee Chair Shawn Holland*

**Approval of Minutes**

**The motion was made by Trustee Andy Gianoukos, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the minutes of the March 27, 2025 Student Affairs and Athletics Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.**

**Athletics Updates**

- Roger Brown (Men’s Cross Country), SAAC Co-President
- House Settlement Updates – *Matt Roberts*
  - Revenue Share and Academic Aid
  - Roster Limits
- Charleston Athletic Fund Leadership Update – *Jerry Baker*

**Student Affairs Updates** – *Alicia Caudill*

- Neighborhood Relations Update and Plan for Academic Year
- Fraternity and Sorority Life Update
- Start of the Semester Highlights

**Motion to Adjourn**

**The motion was made by Trustee Craig Thornton, and seconded by Trustee Toya pound, that the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:39 p.m. All in favor.**

**DEVELOPMENT, ALUMNI, GOVERNMENTAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee Beth Burke, Chair; Trustee Toya Pound, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s) Present** – *Trustees Beth Burke (chair), David Hay, Shawn Holland, Matt Klein, Toya Pound (vice chair), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Derrick Williams, Renée Romberger (ex officio) and Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

**Committee Member(s) Participating via Zoom** – *Trustee Neysa Williams*

**Call to Order** – *Committee Chair Beth Burke*

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Trustee David Hay, and seconded by Trustee Matt Klein, that the minutes of the March 28, 2025 Development, Alumni, Governmental and External Relations Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the minutes were approved.

**Information/Discussion Items**

- Advancement Update – *Dan Frezza*
  - Fiscal Year 2025 Recap
  - Fiscal Year 2026 Review of Goals and Targets
- Marketing and Communications Update – *Ron Menchaca*

**MOTION TO RECESS DAGER COMMITTEE MEETING (PUBLIC SESSION) AND RECONVENE DAGER COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE SESSION) TOMORROW MORNING, FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025**

The motion was made by Trustee David Hay, and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland, to recess the DAGER Committee Meeting and reconvene DAGER Committee Executive Session as the first item during Executive Session #1 tomorrow morning. All in favor.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED**

**Board Member(s) Present** – *Trustees Renée Romberger (chair), Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, Darryl Fyall, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Shawn Holland, Matt Klein, Penny Rosner, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson (vice chair), Tav Swarat and Craig Thornton*

**Board Member(s) via Zoom** – *Trustees Andy Gianoukos, Toya Pound, Ricci Welch (secretary), Derrick Williams and Neysa Williams*

**Board Member(s) Absent** – *Trustee Hank Futch*

**President’s Cabinet Member(s) Present** – *President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Katarina Fjording, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, Courtney Howard, John Loonan, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Brad Weiland*

**Other Attendees Present** – *Joh-nette Brown, Lindsey Copeland, Betty Craig, Liz Jurisich, Elizabeth Kassebaum, Jesse Kunze, Lance Laidlaw, Laurie Minges, Keith Sauls, Paul Schwager, Alan Uram and Dawn Willan*

(Only attending Board Members, President Hsu, Chief of Staff, President’s Cabinet, Board Office Staff, and others presenting or participating in the meetings are noted as attendees).

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Romberger reconvened the Board meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone attending the meeting. She thanked President Hsu and Rongrong for hosting the wonderful Reception and Dinner at 6 Glebe Street last evening for the Board of Trustees, Deans and President's Cabinet.

### **Executive Session #1** *(Board of Trustees, President Hsu, President's Cabinet, Board Staff, IT Staff, Peggy Cieslikowski)*

**The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to go into Executive Session at 8:31 a.m. for the “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”; “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property”; “Consideration of candidates’ Qualifications for Commencement Speakers and Candidates’ Qualifications for Honorary degrees”; “Employee records – legal matters and executive contract negotiations – personnel matters”; Personnel matters – legal matters covered by attorney-client privilege”; “Discussion of individual employment matters”; and “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services and competitive information”. All in favor.**

**The motion was made by Trustee Penny Rosner, and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern, to come out of Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. All in favor.**

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

*[Break at 10:00 a.m.]*

### **Approval of Minutes**

**The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat, that the minutes of the March 27-28, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting and June 2-3, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting/Retreat be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.**

### **Alumni Association Board President, Foundation Board Chair and Charleston Athletic Fund President Reports**

Laurie Minges, President of the Alumni Association Board; Keith Sauls, Chair of the Foundation Board; and Alan Uram, President of the Charleston Athletic Fund, presented their respective Board Reports.

### **Faculty Senate Report**

Liz Jurisich, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, gave her report on behalf of the Faculty.

### **Staff Advisory Committee Report**

Lindsey Copeland, Chair of the Staff Advisory Committee to the President, gave her final report on behalf of the Staff and introduced Jeff Woraratanadharm, the new SAC Chair. *[Chair Romberger presented Lindsey with a gift in appreciation for her service as President of the Staff Advisory Committee].*

Jeff Woraratanadharm has been at the College since 2018. He works in Information Technology as an Audio/Visual System Administrator. Also, he is an adjunct faculty member teaching ballroom dancing and serves as an advisor and coach for the CofC Ballroom Dance Club.

**“Moment in History”**

Due to time constraints, the “Moment in History” was not presented.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee David Hay, Chair; Trustee Brian Stern, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s)** – *Trustees David Hay (chair), Hank Futch (absent), Darryl Fyall, Brian Stern (vice chair), Steve Swanson and Craig Thornton; Renée Romberger (ex officio), Andrew Hsu (ex officio, non-voting)*

**Call to Order** – *Committee Chair David Hay*

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the minutes of the March 27, 2025 Property Committee Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

**Executive Session**

The motion was made by Trustee Craig Thornton, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property”. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall, and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern, to come out of Executive Session at 11:34 a.m. All in favor.

Committee Chair Hay noted that no action was taken in Executive Session.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion was made by Trustee Craig Thornton, and seconded by Trustee Brian Stern, that the Property Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:34 a.m. All in favor.

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Trustee Tav Swarat, Chair; Trustee Ricci Welch, Vice Chair

**Committee Member(s) Present** – *Trustees Laurin Burch, Beth Burke, Darryl Fyall, Andy Gianoukos Brian Stern, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat (chair) and Renée Romberger (ex-officio)*

**Committee Member(s) via Zoom** – *Trustees Ricci Welch (vice chair) and Neysa Williams*

**Call to Order** – *Committee Chair Tav Swarat*

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion was made by Trustee Beth Burke, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, that the minutes of the March 28, 2025 Audit and Governance Committee Meeting and the March 6, 2025 Audit and Governance Committee Special Meeting be approved. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the Minutes were approved.

### **Information Items**

- Introduction of Kevin McCord, Internal Auditor – *Chair Swarat*
- Governmental Relations Report – *Paul Patrick*
- Upcoming SACSCOC Board Members’ Self-Evaluation Survey – *Chair Swarat*  
*Board Members were informed that the Self-Evaluation Survey link will be sent to them via email next week. Survey results will be presented at the October Board meeting.*
- BOT Mission Statement, 3 Pillars and Words of Commitment Cards were at Board Members’ places.  
*Chair Swarat asked Board members to keep the “Core Values” as a reminder.*
- Chair Swarat reminded everyone that the New BOT Committee Assignments will be in effect at the October Board meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**The motion was made by Trustee Brian Stern, and seconded by Trustee Andy Gianoukos, that the Audit and Governance Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:40 a.m. All in favor.**

### **Board of Trustees Committee Chairs’ Reports**

Committee Chairs gave brief reports of their respective committee meetings.

### **Committee Resolutions/Motions**

There were no Committee Resolutions/Motions for approval at today’s Board meeting.

### **Chair Romberger’s Report**

#### **Creation of “Trustee’s Circle”**

Chair Romberger informed everyone about the newly created “Trustee’s Circle” to recognize and acknowledge all Board members for their service and stewardship, and to encourage continued engagement and advocacy for the College.

In conjunction with the October 16-17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, all current Trustees, Trustees Emeriti, and Former Trustees will be invited to the Inaugural Annual Reception and Recognition Ceremony and Program on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Simons Center Lobby and Recital Hall.

President Hsu will give his “State of the College” message and all former trustees will receive a gift.

### **Recommended BOT Site Visits**

Chair Romberger informed the Board that Trustee Penny Rosner will be in charge of BOT site visits to other universities, i.e., Coastal Carolina or Georgia State. Board members will come back to campus and share ideas like they did with the “Talk Abouts” at Board meetings. This will not be mandatory for all Board members.

### **BOT Charleston Experience in the Fall**

Board members will be sent a Response Sheet to indicate their two choices for possible offerings for the BOT Experience in the Fall, including:

- Behind the scenes tour of a theatre production
- Bee Keeping at Stono Preserve
- Archaeology field experience
- Planetarium Experience (Inside Rita)
- Sailing Experience

Elizabeth Kassebaum noted that the Life Design Center will be the “Vision, Strategy and Priorities” Session for the January Board Meeting.

### **Housekeeping Items**

Elizabeth Kassebaum shared a few housekeeping items:

- Meeting Survey will be distributed to Board members today as usual. If they complete the Survey, they will have a CofC surcee at their places for the October Board meeting.
- We will move back to Alumni Hall for the October BOT meeting as TATE 202 is not available.

### **Executive Session #2** *(Board of Trustees, President Hsu, Paul Patrick, Elizabeth Kassebaum)*

**The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, to go into Executive Session at 11:53 a.m. for the “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”; “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property”; “Consideration of Candidates’ Qualifications for Commencement Speakers and Candidates’ Qualifications for Honorary Degrees”; “Employee records – legal matters and executive contract negotiations – personnel matters;”, “Personnel matters – legal matters covered by attorney-client privilege; “Discussion of individual employment matters”; and “Discussion of trade secrets where public disclosure would expose commercially valuable plans, marketing services and competitive information”. All in favor.**

**The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland, and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner, to come out of Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. All in favor.**

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

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**The motion was made by Trustee Steve Swanson, and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m. All in favor.**