

(Approved at the January 15-16, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting)

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC

Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
November 11, 2025
8:30 a.m.

Presiding:

Renée Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Members Participating via Zoom Video Conference – Trustees Beth Burke, Hank Futch, Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Shawn Holland, Matt Klein, Renée Romberger (chair), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson (vice chair), Tav Swarat and Derrick Williams

Board Members Absent – Trustees Laurin Burch, Darryl Fyall, Toya Pound, Brian Stern, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (secretary) and Neysa Williams

President’s Cabinet Participating via Zoom Video Conference – President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Dan Frezza, Michelle McGrew and Paul Patrick

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Romberger called this special 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.

TWO NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Dan Frezza presented two naming opportunities for consideration/approval by the Board of Trustees.

- (1) The Schoen Foundation Program for Veteran and Military Student Success – Endowed Program for Veteran and Military Students – Proposed gift from the Schoen Foundation is \$1.1 Million.

- (2) Lounge in the Veteran and Military Student Success Center to be named “Jerry’s Place” for memorial recognition of Gerald “Jerry” D. Polis ’62 – Jerry has given \$257,000 to veterans-related activities at CofC. He passed away in February 2023.

MOTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Administration recommends the Board of Trustees make a motion to approve the creation and naming of an endowed program fund for veteran and military students to be called the “Schoen Foundation Program for Veteran and Military Student Success” through the generous contribution of \$1.1 Million by The Schoen Foundation represented by Kelsey Sutton ’14.

The motion was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved. All in favor.

MOTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Upon careful review of all of the associated issues, the Administration recommends the Board of Trustees make a motion to approve naming the lounge in the Veteran and Military Student Success Center as “Jerry’s Place” for memorial recognition of Gerald “Jerry” D. Polis ’62 and his lifetime of giving of \$257,000 to the College as is the wish of many donors that contributed to the effort in honor of Jerry.

The motion was made by Trustee Shawn Holland and seconded by Trustee Hank Futch. The Chair called for the yeas and nays, and the motion was approved. All in favor.

Chair Romberger noted how special it is to be able to honor our veterans. Dan Frezza replied, “If you see Cathy Mahon, thank her. That’s her work.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Steve Swanson, to go into Executive Session at 8:39 a.m. for the purpose of “Receipt of legal advice from legal counsel about the university’s actions and response related to the disappearance of a student and recent sexual assault arrest by College of Charleston Public Safety”. All in favor.

The motion was made by Trustee Derrick Williams, and seconded by Trustee David Hay, to come out of Executive Session and resume regular session. All in favor.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

The motion was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding, and seconded by Trustee Derrick Williams, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:54 a.m. All in favor.