

(Approved at March 26-27, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting)  
**COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON, SC**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15-16, 2026**

**Alumni Hall/Zoom Video Conference**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Presiding: Renee Romberger, Chair, Board of Trustees**

**Board Member(s) Participating in Person:** *Trustees Hank Futch, Darryl Fyall, Henrietta Golding, David Hay (9:30 a.m.), Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Renée Romberger (Chair), Penny Rosner, Steve Swanson (Vice Chair), Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (Secretary), Derrick Williams and Neysa Williams (9:30 a.m.)*

**Board Member(s) Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** *Trustee(s) Laurin Burch, Andy Gianoukos, Brian Stern and Matt Klein*

**Board Member(s) Absent:** *Trustee Beth Burke*

**President's Cabinet Participating in Person:** *President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Katarina Fjording, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, John Loonan, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Brad Weiland*

**President's Cabinet Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** *None*

**President's Cabinet Absent:** *Courtney Howard*

**Others Participating In Person:** *Dex Blank, Joh-nette Brown, Betty Craig, Kyle Denzel, Jason Grimes, Elizabeth Kassebaum, David King (IT), Chris Korey, Jesse Kunze, Lance Laidlaw, Everett McInnis, Ashleigh Parr and Dawn Willan*

**Others Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** *None*

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Welcome/Call to Order**

Chair Romberger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

## **President's Report**

President Hsu opened his report by noting the College is on track for another record year in terms of applications for Fall 2027. Although he indicated the Board will hear from EAB consultants later in the meeting regarding benchmarking data and performance analysis against national peers, he wanted to point out a few initial challenges facing enrollment this year.

According to the latest statistics, students are now applying to an average of 6.8 schools (whereas the average in the mid-1990s was 2.5). Although overall applications are increasing, yielding students is becoming incredibly difficult since it is harder to determine their priority choices. In response, President Hsu is encouraging all faculty and staff to showcase our campus culture in positive ways – ranging from offering to help lost parents and students, to picking up stray litter and keeping the campus clean. The Board also conversed on ways to encourage current students to participate in yield efforts by reinforcing the importance of strong interpersonal and communication skills as part of the College culture.

President Hsu thanked the Board for their working in helping the College establish the first named academic school, the Bennett School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, housed within the existing School of Business. He praised Michael Bennett for a career committed to service, excellence and community, and thanked his family for their extraordinary philanthropy.

He spoke briefly about the new Life Design Center on campus, and explained that the Board will spend the morning engaging in a workshop similar to what is offered to students to help guide their decision-making processes. President Hsu added that the Board will also be visiting the new Center for Intentionality to participate in a few student-led intentionality activities.

President Hsu provided highlights to help frame a better understanding of the College's current financial picture. Since 2019, the administration has taken a deliberately cautious and disciplined approach to its finances. While expenditures may appear higher in dollar amounts, the College is spending less than the 6-year average when adjusted for inflation, while increasing revenue by \$16M at the same time. These changes have been implemented by strategic reductions in operating costs and investing revenue dollars in new programs, including engineering, health sciences, new doctoral programs, athletics, and student counseling.

Finally, President Hsu touched upon the importance of constructing a new academic building versus leasing spaces from a third party. Currently the College is spending over \$2M a year on academic leases, and if the College is able to complete a new building, the savings on rent (adjusted for inflation) would be over \$100M over 40 years.

President Hsu concluded by thanking the board for their engagement, insight, and continued partnership.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE MEETING (with Vision, Strategy and Priorities Session – “Life Design Center”)**

**Committee Member(s) Present:** Hank Futch (Vice Chair), Darry Fyall, Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Penny Rosner, Ricci Welch, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)

**Committee Members Absent:** Neysa Willaims (until 9:30 a.m.), Beth Burke

**Call to Order** – Committee Vice Chair Hank Futch

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 16, 2025, Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Shawn Holland and seconded by Trustee Toya Pound. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

**VISION, STRATEGY, AND PRIORITIES SESSION – “Life Design Center”**

Provost Suzanne Austin, Associate Provost Chris Korey, and Kristin McMullen (Executive Director, Life Design Center) facilitated an interactive exercise to walk board members through a student’s experience at the Life Design Center.

The Center was meant to coach students on how to build a future based on their academic, professional, and personal priorities and aspirations. The program includes 1:1 coaching, workshops, certificate opportunities, and tools to design their post-graduate path. Not only does it help students to build a “life after graduation” roadmap, but it also enables them to learn how to be marketable to employers and graduate schools after they leave the College of Charleston.

Board members were encouraged to think about and share their perspectives from when they were students at the College of Charleston, including their hopes/interests, what turned out well, and what turned out to be unexpected as part of their college journey. Board members proceeded to map out their lives over a series of decades based on 1) the life they actually lived 2) the life of an alternate path and 3) their dream life without any constraints. Many participants felt that the exercise was not only helpful to identify common themes or priorities across their different life paths, but also enforce the idea that students can change their minds as they go through their college career.

**Student Success Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Career Center Updates – *Alicia Caudill*
  - Alicia Caudill spoke about the First Destination Survey Results conducted by the Career Center for students 6 months after graduation, as well as various networking events and career fairs for students to engage with potential employers.
  - She also provided data regarding student usage of Handshake, the College’s primary platform for internships, job postings, major events, and job applications for students and alumni.
  - Other updates included statistics about on-campus student employment and the Financial Wellness and iGrad program.
- Lightcast Data Overview – *Chris Korey*

- Chris Korey spoke about the Lightcast Alumni Pathways Analysis, which provides information about all undergraduate alumni from 2000 – 2025 including current employment and location, top employers for each major/program’s graduates, top skills alumni include in their professional profiles, and additional programs alumni are completing at other institutions.
- Fraternity and Sorority Life Updates – *Alicia Caudill*
  - Alicia Caudill gave an update on the implementation of additional development and training activities for IFC fraternities (starting spring 2026), including new rules about social activities, workshop opportunities, and developing comprehensive community engagement plans.

**Student Success Committee Executive Session – No Executive Session Items**

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Penny Rosner. All in favor.

**ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NOTE: Chair Romberger asked Committee Chair Tav Swarat to call the Advancement Committee to order for the purpose of time.**

**Committee Member(s) Present:** *Tav Swarat (Chair), Derrick Williams (Vice Chair), Henrietta Golding, Matt Klein, Steve Swanson, Neysa Williams, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting).*

**Committee Members Absent:** *Beth Burke*

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 17, 2025, Advancement Committee Meeting minutes was made by Trustee Henrietta Golding and seconded by Derrick Williams. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Advancement Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Communications Updates – *Ron Menchaca*
  - Ron Menchaca gave an overview of the ongoing work of the Communications Office within each pillar of the strategic plan, and gave a preview of the Winter ’26 *CofC Magazine*.
  - He also provided data regarding the widespread coverage from the announcement of both the SC Talent Initiative Program and the Bennett School of Hospitality and Tourism gift.

- Advancement Updates – Dan Frezza
  - Dan Frezza provided an update of Institutional Advancement’s 2026 goals surrounding signature weekends, increasing alumni participation, and surpassing 2025 fundraising dollars.
  - He also gave an overview of Homecoming 2025 programming including the Alumni Oyster Roast, Student & Alumni Parade, Veterans Affairs Celebration, and the Donor Gratitude Gala, as well as a debrief of the various “Holiday Cheer” events.

**Advancement Committee Executive Session**

The motion to resolve into executive session was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding for the purpose of discussion of trade secrets and receipt of legal advice relating to campaign and naming opportunities. All in favor.

The motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding. All in favor. No action was taken in executive session.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding. All in favor.

**LUNCH**

Chair Renée Romberger called the full board to a recess for lunch and the BOT Connection (formally “Talk Abouts”) at the Intentionality Center (159 Rutledge Ave) for a tour with the Director, Brian Durbin, and a group of Intentionality Club students.

**FULL BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion to resolve into executive session was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat for the purpose of discussing contractual agreements.

The motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Trustee Tave Swarat. All in favor. No action was taken in executive session

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Committee Members Present:** Penny Rosner (Vice Chair), Laurin Burch, Darryl Fyall, Brian Stern, Tav Swarat, Ricci Welch, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)

**Committee Members Absent:** Beth Burke (Chair)

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 17, 2025, Governance Committee Meeting minutes was made by Tav Swarat and seconded by Darryl Fyall. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

### **Governance Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- 2026 Audit Plan Presentation – *Kevin McCord*
  - Kevin McCord gave an overview of the 2026 audit proposal that focuses on six of the highest-risk areas, as well as an outline of supplemental projects that will support the annual audit plan.
- Single Audit & NCAA AUP Reports – *Roselle Bonnoitt, Cherry Bekaert*
  - Roselle Bonnoitt spoke about the single audit for this year, which was student financial aid funds.
  - The audit comprises of a series of tests for things such as eligibility requirements, reporting requirements, and compliance. No substantial findings were found this year.
  - The NCAA is an “agreed upon review” process, that resulted with no exceptions on procedures. No opinions or conclusions were expressed.
- Committee Vice Chair Penny Rosner gave an update on the Board of Trustees annual attendance records and stated that everyone on the board is in compliance.
- Governmental Relations Report – *Paul Patrick*
  - Paul Patrick introduced the new Director of Government Affairs, Mary Green, and spoke about the FY27 budget process and timeline.
  - He mentioned that the College is working on a progress summary regarding the Grice Marine Laboratory funding.
  - Paul outlined an amendment to the College’s policy review period, stating that the institution will confirm to meet any legislative requirements immediately (without the current 30-day review), to remain compliant on state and federal legislature. However, the College will still post the updated policy and provide a medium for faculty and staff to give their feedback.

### **Motion Consideration**

“The Board of Trustees previously adopted a Policy on Policies that established a clear and consistent framework for the development, review, approval and implementation of College policies. The Board hereby amends the current policy to ensure timely compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Accordingly, any policy change required by state or federal law shall take effect on the effective date of that law, and the College shall no longer be required to provide thirty (30) days’ advance notice prior to implementing such legally required changes; however, the College will provide faculty and staff with thirty (30) days’ notice for informational purposes and receive comments for review and consideration regarding the implementation of such changes.”

The motion to approve was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Trustee Laurin Burch. All in favor.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding. All in favor.

**ATHLETICS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Committee Members Present:** *Shawn Holland (Chair), Andy Gianoukos (Vice Chair), Laurin Burch, Hank Futch, David Hay, Toya Pound, Craig Thornton, Derrick Williams, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)*

**Committee Members Absent:** *None*

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 16, 2025, minutes was made by Trustee Craig Thornton and seconded by Trustee Toya Pound. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Athletics Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Academic Excellence and Community Engagement – *Matt Roberts*
  - Matt Roberts opened with a few statistics outlining new student athletic academic records including average GPA and APR ratings.
  - He also provided an update regarding continue success with various sources of external revenue, comprised of ticket sales, Charleston Athletic Fund donations, and Corporate Sponsorships.

**Athletics Committee Executive Session – no Executive Session Items**

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton. All in favor.

**Board of Trustees Meeting Recessed until the following morning (January 16) at 8:30 a.m.**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026**

**Board Member(s) Present in-person:** *Trustees Renée Romberger (Chair), Beth Burke, Hank Futch, Darryl Fyall, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Shawn Holland, Toya Pound, Penny Rosner, Tav Swarat, Craig Thornton, Ricci Welch (Secretary) and Derrick Williams*

**Board Member(s) Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** Trustees Laurin Burch, Andy Gianoukos, Matt Klein, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson (Vice Chair) and Neysa Williams

**Board Member(s) Absent:** Beth Burke

**President's Cabinet Participating in-person:** President Andrew Hsu, Suzanne Austin, Chuck Baker, Mark Berry, Alicia Caudill, Jimmie Foster, Dan Frezza, Courtney Howard, Katarina Fjording, John Loonan, Kevin McCord, Michelle McGrew, Ron Menchaca, Paul Patrick, Matt Roberts and Brad Weiland

**President's Cabinet Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** none

**Others participating in-person:** J. R. Barnhart, Joh-nette Brown, Peggy Cieslikowski, Demetria Clemons (Trustee Emerita), Betty Craig, Kyle Denzel (Athletics), Scott Greenwood, Liz Jurisich (Senate Speaker), Elizabeth Kassebaum, David King (IT), Jesse Kunze, Lance Laidlaw, Laurie Minges, Pat Fillippa, Keith Sauls, Alan Uram, Dawn Willan and Jeff Woraratanadharm, Naylee Cortes (Athletics Student-Athlete Presenter), Colin McGlynn (EAB Presenter), Robert Hogan (Academic Affairs Committee), Joanna Gilmore (Community Engagement Council), La'Sheia Oubre (Community Engagement Council), Simon Adams (SGA President).

**Others Participating by Zoom Video Conferencing:** Madison Lee (Community Engagement Council)

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

Chair Romberger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. noting that the meeting notice has been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Board Executive Session** (BOT, President Hsu, President's Cabinet, Board Staff and IT Staff)

The motion to resolve into executive session was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Ricci Welch 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
- Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property and receipt of legal advice concerning the new Business School Building and Project 205
- 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 trade secrets and receipt of legal advice relating to or concerning Enrollment Management and Campaign and Naming Opportunities

The motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Craig Thornton and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland. All in favor. No action was taken in executive session.

### **Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes of the October 16-17, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting; November 7, 2025, Board of Trustees Emergency Meeting; November 11, 2025, Board of Trustees Special Meeting; and the December 1, 2025, Special Board of Trustees Meeting, was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

- Laurie Minges, President, Alumni Association Board
  - Laurie Minges gave an overview of Homecoming 2025 and holiday cheer events. She made a call for nominations for the 2026 Alumni Awards, which will be open until March 1, 2026.
- Keith Sauls, President, Foundation Board
  - Keith Sauls provided a recap of the goals established when he came on as Foundation Board Chair, and provided highlights of the various accomplishments of each Foundation Board committee over the past two years.
- Alan Uram, President, Charleston Athletic Fund
  - Alan Uram gave an update about the elevated experiences in the hospitality and VIP rooms for athletic events, new CAF staff, and announcements about upcoming events/options to get involved.

### **Faculty Senate Report**

Liz Jurisich, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, provided updates regarding new academic programs and graduate certificates, recently established ad-hoc committees in the Faculty Senate, and feedback from the faculty shadowing program. Chair Romberger asked Speaker Jurisich to provide a report about developments from the new ad-hoc committee to form an institutional AI policy at one of the upcoming Board of Trustee meetings.

### **Staff Advisory Committee Report**

Jeff Woraratanadharm, Chair of the Staff Advisory Committee to the President, provided information about upcoming events and plans for increasing staff & faculty partnerships engagement opportunities.

### **“Moment of Mission”**

President Hsu gave a quick history lesson about CofC Past-President, Harrison Randolph, and his aspirations to continuously re-evaluate and update curriculum to keep the institution competitive. During his tenure, Harrison worked to revise the Greek/Latin and mathematics requirements and introduced electives to provide broader class choices. President Hsu reiterated that the current administration is grappling with the same choices – how to balance tradition and innovation, how to respond to student demand, and how to make the College more accessible for students coming from different educational pathways.

### **Introduction – Mary Green, Director of Government Affairs**

Paul Patrick introduced Mary Green, the new Director of Government Affairs. Mary has worked in local television for the past decade, and spent the most recent few years covering the

legislature at the statehouse. Mary's position is based in Columbia, SC, so the College can have a full-time liaison present during session and keeping track of state program updates and deadlines.

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

***Committee Members Present:*** David Hay (Chair), Craig Thornton (Vice Chair), Hank Futh, Andy Gianoukos, Shawn Holland, Steve Swanson, Tav Swarat, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), and Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)

***Committee Members Absent:*** None

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 16, 2025, minutes was made by Trustee Shawn Holland and seconded by Trustee Hank Futh. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

#### **Property Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Community Engagement – *Courtney Howard*
  - Courtney Howard introduced Joanna Gilmore, La'Sheia Oubre, Demetria Clemons (in-person) and Madison Lee (online), from the Community Engagement Council (CEC) regarding the Coming Street Commons Dorm Project.
  - Several trustees thanked the CEC for their dedication and service, willingness to provide candid feedback, and work with college administration on ways to appropriately commemorate the site at 106 Coming Street. They agreed that this was an opportunity to honor the people and history of the site in a dignified way that has not been done so before.
  - At the same time, trustees were understanding that the project needs to move forward in a timely manner in order to provide critical housing accommodations for incoming students.
  - Specifically, Trustee Derrick Williams wanted it noted that he only abstained from the original BOT vote approving the project because his partner works for the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. He viewed this as a conflict of interest as the SFAA is part of the overall approval process.
  - Based on the discussion, Craig Thornton suggested that the Board of Trustees propose a resolution to reaffirm their commitment to the project by following best practices outlined in the Ted Weiss Federal Building (New York City) and Gaillard Center (Charleston) examples.

- David Hay made a motion that the Board of Trustees will vote on a resolution with official language later in the full board meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat. All in favor.
- Property Reports – *Paul Patrick*
  - Paul Patrick provided an overview of newly acquired properties and ongoing building renovations.

**Property Committee Executive Session – No Executive Session Items**

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Shawn Holland and seconded by Trustee Tav Swarat. All in favor.

**Student Athlete Spotlight – Naylee Cortes**

Naylee Cortes was invited to speak in between the Property and Academic Affairs Committee meetings since the Thursday Athletics Committee schedule change conflicted with her practice time. Naylee spoke about her positive experience as a member of the women’s basketball team, and emphasized how the College of Charleston has given her a sense of place and community direction.

**ACAEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Board member(s) present:** *Matt Klein (Chair, on zoom), Toya Pound (Vice Chair, presiding over committee), Darryl Fyall, Henrietta Golding, Penny Rosner, Brian Stern, Ricci Welch, Neysa Williams, Renee Romberger (ex-officio), Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)*

**Board member(s) absent:** *None*

**Call to Order – Committee Vice Chair Toya Pound**

**Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 17, 2025, Academic Affairs Committee minutes was made by Trustee Ricci Welch and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

**Academic Affairs Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Dean Search Updates – *Suzanne Austin*
  - Dean, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences
  - Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Research
- Program Updates – *Suzanne Austin*
  - 5 New Graduate Certificate Programs
    - Accounting Data Analytics
    - Financial Reporting and Attestation

- Forensic Accounting
  - Management Accounting
  - Taxation
- Program Termination
  - Special Education, B.S.
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), SACSCOC Accreditation – *Suzanne Austin*
  - Provost Austin gave an overview of the leadership and workplan for the Intentional AI QEP, which includes revised student learning outcomes and culminates in an AI module available for all incoming students.
- Enrollment Planning Update – *Jimmie Foster*
  - Jimmie Foster provided information regarding Fall 2026 First-Year class progress, visitor experience data, and new school counselor initiatives.

**Academic Affairs Committee Executive Session**

The motion to resolve into executive session was made by Trustee Penny Rosner and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding for the purpose of discussion of trade secrets and receipt of legal advice relating to or concerning enrollment management, and personnel/current employment issues covered by attorney-client privilege. All in favor.

The motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. All in favor. No action was taken in executive session.

**Motion to Approve Five New Graduate Certificates**

The motion to approve the five new graduate certificates was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. All in favor.

**Motion to Approve Termination of Special Education, B.S., as a Program**

The motion to approve termination of the B.S. Special Education program was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. All in favor.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Darryl Fyall and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. All in favor.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Board member(s) present:** *Laurin Burch (Chair, on zoom), Darryl Fyall (Vice Chair, presiding over committee), Andy Gianoukos, Henrietta Golding, David Hay, Matt Klein, Brian Stern, Steve Swanson, Craig Thornton, Derrick Williams, Renée Romberger (ex-officio), and Andrew Hsu (ex-officio, non-voting)*

**Board member(s) absent:** *None*

**Call to Order – Committee Vice Chair Darryl Fyall**

### **Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve the October 16, 2025, Finance Committee minutes was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton. After no further discussion, the board unanimously approved the minutes.

### **Finance Committee Information/Discussion Items**

- Budget & Finance Mid-Year Review – *John Loonan*
  - BOT 12/31/25 Quarter End Report
  - Mid-Year Revenue Analysis
- FY 2027 Campus Services Fee Proposals – *John Loonan*
  - Housing Rate Proposal – 5.5% increase for most residence halls; 2.5% increase for private-only buildings
  - Dining Rate Proposal – 5% increase
  - Cites both increases are related to inflation, uncertain economic forecast, the impending Demographic Cliff, and shifts in enrollment trends

### **Finance Committee Executive Session – No Executive Session Items**

#### **Motion to Approve Proposed Student Housing and Meal Plan Fees**

The motion to approve the resolution on “Student Housing and Meal Plan Fees for FY 2026-2027” was made by Trustee David Hay and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding. All in favor.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Hay and seconded by Trustee Henrietta Golding. All in favor.

### **BOT Committee Chair Reports & Approval of Full Board Minutes**

Chair Romberger requested that Committee Chairs skip their reports for the sake of time.

The motion to approve the minutes of the October 16-17, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting; November 7, 2025, Board of Trustees Emergency Meeting; November 11, 2025, Board of Trustees Special Meeting; and the December 1, 2025, Special Board of Trustees Meeting, was made by Trustee Tav Swarat and seconded by Trustee Craig Thornton. All in favor.

### **Motion to Consider/Approve Honorary Degree Recipient**

Chair Romberger stated the Board of Trustees approved Candidates A & B as commencement speakers, Candidate C as a commencement speaker/honorary degree recipient, and Candidate D as an honorary degree recipient, at the January 8, 2026, BOT Prep Meeting. Candidate E was also discussed on 1.8.2026 and was scheduled for discussion/approval at the January 16, 2025, Full Board Meeting.

The motion to approve Candidate E, based on availability, as an Honorary Degree Recipients for the May 2026 Commencement Ceremonies was made by Trustee Craig Thornton and seconded by Trustee Hank Futch. All in favor.

### **Committee Resolutions/Motions for Board Action**

#### **Academic Affairs Committee**

**The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Board approve five new Graduate Certificates: (1) Accounting Data Analytics; (2) Financial Reporting and Attestation; (3) Forensic Accounting; (4) Management Accounting; and (5) Taxation. All in favor.**

**The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Board approve termination of the Special Education, B.S. Program. All in favor.**

#### **Finance Committee**

**The Finance Committee moves that the Board approve the Resolution on Student Housing and Meal Plan Fees for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. All in Favor.**

#### **Governance Committee**

**The Board of Trustees previously adopted a Policy on Policies that established a clear and consistent framework for the development, review, approval and implementation of College policies. The Board hereby amends the current policy to ensure timely compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Accordingly, any policy change required by state or federal law shall take effect on the effective date of that law, and the College shall no longer be required to provide thirty (30) days' advance notice prior to implementing such legally required changes; however, the College will provide faculty and staff with thirty (30) days' notice for informational purposes and receive comments for review and consideration regarding the implementation of such changes. All in favor.**

#### **Property Committee**

**The Board of Trustees directs the Administration to follow the process for the planned facility in a timely and responsible manner, following established best practices for public and civic projects, including those demonstrated by the Ted Weiss Federal Building in New York and the Gaillard Center in Charleston, where archaeological study, community engagement, and permanent memorialization were successfully integrated.**

**In doing so, the Administration shall ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and continue to balance meaningful community engagement with the College's responsibility to advance the project efficiently and in alignment with its broader institutional priorities.**

**The Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to the members of the Community Engagement Council for their service and for their thoughtful contributions in advising the College on the interpretation and stewardship of the former Public Burial Ground and former YWCA site. The Board affirms that the Community Engagement Council's voice and leadership will continue to help ensure the work on the College's project is carried out**

**with care, respect, transparency and a shared commitment to “respecting – the past, place and people.” All in favor.**

### **Chair’s Report – Chair Renée Romberger**

Chair Romberger thanked trustees for their dedication to serving higher education, and for both their time and financial commitments made to the institution over the past calendar year.

While there are no currently scheduled “BOT Charleston Experience” events for the spring, Chair Romberger and Elizabeth Kassebaum will reach out if they are able to fit something in between busy travel schedules. They are also working on scheduling a recommended site visit at another institution, but will provide additional details later in the spring.

The March 2026 BOT Meeting Visioning Session will be centered around the Institutional Advancement Campaign, which will be a workshop facilitated by Dan Frezza during the Advancement Committee meeting on 3/26/26, 8:30 – 10:00am. This will be followed by a presentation on the Riley Center (Kendra Stewart), Hospitality & Tourism Program (Dan Guttentag) and the Bachelor of Professional Studies (10:00 – 11:30am).

Chair Romberger also mentioned that there has been a call for graduation attire for students participating in the May 2026 ceremonies. Trustees can donate to the Student Emergency Fund if they would like to contribute (Elizabeth will send out the information shortly after the board meeting).

Chair Romberger closed her report by thanking Dean John White and the Department of Special Collections for their assistance in compiling a listing of Board members since 1970. The list will be distributed and a plaque with the names of all board members since 1970 will be displayed in the Randolph Hall Boardroom by the October Board Meeting.

### **Housekeeping Items**

Elizabeth Kassebaum shared a few housekeeping items:

- The March 2026 Board meetings will be held back in TATE 202
- Upcoming Events:
  - Women’s Basketball 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1/25/26, 1:00pm, TD Arena
  - Cougs on Deck Baseball Fundraiser: 1/20/26, 6:00pm, Windjammer IOP

### **Executive Session (BOT, President Hsu, President’s Cabinet, Board Staff and IT Staff)**

The motion to resolve into Executive Session was made by Trustee Toya Pound and seconded by Trustee Shawn Holland 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
- Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed purchase/lease of property
- 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.

The motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Shawn Holland and seconded by Trustee Penny Rosner. All in favor. No action was taken in Executive Session.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The motion to adjourn the full board meeting was made by Trustee Derrick Williams and seconded by Craig Thornton. All in favor.