

CS 3.2.4 - External Influence

The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies, and protects the institution from such influence.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) is governed by the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina System. The South Carolina Code of Law, Section 59-117-10 [i] states, “The board of trustees of the University of South Carolina shall be composed of the Governor of the State (or his designee), the State Superintendent of Education, and the President of the Greater University of South Carolina Alumni Association, which three shall be members ex officio of the board; and seventeen other members including one member from each of the sixteen judicial circuits to be elected by the general vote of the General Assembly as hereinafter provided, and one at-large member appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall make the appointment based on merit regardless of race, color, creed, or gender and shall strive to assure that the membership of the board is representative of all citizens of the State of South Carolina.

The USC Board of Trustees is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence. Board members are prohibited from seeking pecuniary gain as a result of their affiliation with the University and must report any tangible gifts or services of a value exceeding \$100.

The Board protects the institution by establishing policies and procedures regarding affirmative action, equal opportunity in education and employment, sexual harassment, discriminatory harassment, and discrimination on the basis of personal characteristics such as age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability status, and sexual orientation. South Carolina state law forbids nepotism [ii].

As a public body, the Board adheres to the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act [iii]. All books, papers, maps, photographs, cards, tapes, recordings or other documentary materials associated with the Board, unless closed to the public or otherwise exempted, are considered part of the public record and are publicly available

A listing of all members of the Board with biographical information, terms of office, and committee assignments is available online at the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees website[iv].

Supporting Documentation

[i The South Carolina Code of Law, Section 59-117-10](#)

[ii South Carolina State Ethic Commission Statement](#)

[iii Freedom of Information Policy Statement](#)

[iv USC Board of Trustees Members](#)