

CS 3.2.5 - Board Dismissal

The governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.

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. There are 17 voting members on the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees [i]. Of these, 16 are elected by the South Carolina General Assembly from each of the state's 16 judicial circuits. One at-large member is appointed by the Governor. Ex-officio members of the Board are 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 [ii]. The General Assembly and the Governor make the Trustee appointments based on merit, and regardless of race, color, creed, or gender. They strive to ensure that the membership of the Board is representative of all citizens of the State of South Carolina. The regular term of office of each elected trustee is four years, with the terms commencing on July 1 of the year of election and expiring on June 30 four years thereafter. However, the trustee continues to function as a trustee after the term has expired until a successor has been elected and qualified.

In case a vacancy should occur in the board among the members elected by the General Assembly, the Governor may fill it by appointment until the next session of the General Assembly [iii]. Any vacancy occurring in the office of the member appointed by the Governor shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment in the same manner of original appointment. Each member of the board shall draw such per diem and expenses as from time to time may be allowed boards, commissions, and committees. Elections to fill vacancies which are caused by the death, resignation, or removal of an elective trustee may be held earlier than the first day of April of the year in which the unexpired term terminates, but the term of the person elected to fill the vacancy expires on the last day of June of the year in which the term of the former member would have expired.

Board members can be removed only according to the South Carolina Constitution Article XV Section III [iv].

Articles of Impeachment:

"For any willful neglect of duty, or other reasonable cause, which shall not be sufficient ground of impeachment, the Governor shall remove any executive or judicial officer on the address of two thirds of each house of the General Assembly: Provided, that the cause or causes for which said removal may be required shall be stated at length in such address, and entered on the Journals of each house: And, provided, further, that the officer intended to be removed shall be notified of such cause or causes, and shall be admitted to a hearing in his own defense, or by his counsel, or by both, before any vote for such address; and in all cases the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and be entered on the Journal of each house respectively."

As stated in an e-mail [[v](#)] from the Board of Trustees Office, no board members have been removed in the history of the University of South Carolina.

Supporting Documentation

- i [Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina](#)
- ii [Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina System -- Composition](#)
- iii [South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 59-117-30 -- Vacancies; Compensation.](#)
- iv [South Carolina Constitution Article XV Section III](#)
- v [E-mail from Board of Trustees Office](#)