

**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2026**

The MUSC Board of Trustees convened on February 13, 2026, with the following members present: Charles Schulze, Chairman; Dr. Melvin Brown, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Terri Barnes; Mr. Jim Battle; Dr. Fritz Butehorn; Dr. Guy Castles; Dr. Richard Christian; Dr. Paul Davis; Dr. Don Johnson; Mrs. Barbara Johnson-Williams; Dr. James Lemon; Dr. Murrell Smith; Mr. Michael Stavrinakis; and Mr. Tom Stephenson.

**Item 1. Call to Order.**

There being a quorum present, Chairman Charles Schulze called the meeting to order at 8:49 a.m.

**Item 2. Roll Call for the MUHA and MUSC Board of Trustees.**

Ms. Katherine Haltiwanger, Board Secretary, called the roll and stated that “in compliance with FOIA, the notice of meetings and agendas were furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.”

**Item 3. Date of Next Meeting.**

Ms. Katherine Haltiwanger, Board Secretary, announced the date of the next regular meeting is April 10, 2026.

**Item 4. Approval of Minutes.**

Chairman Schulze called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2025, and December 12, 2025.

*Board Action: Vice Chairman Melvin Brown moved for approval; the motion was seconded and unanimously carried.*

**GENERAL INFORMATIONAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Item 5. General Informational Report of the President.**

President David Cole called on Dr. Timothy Stemmler, Vice President for Research, who introduced Dr. Gerard Sylvestri, Professor of Medicine and the George C. and Margaret M. Hillenbrand Endowed Chair. Dr. Sylvestri shared reflections on his 31-year career, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve and emphasizing the Board’s critical support for the cancer center and its efforts to achieve comprehensive cancer center status. He introduced key members of his team—Michael Falasone, Cassie Frazier, and Dr. Nicole Tanner—and highlighted their roles in research coordination, statewide screening programs, and lung cancer screening leadership, including Dr. Tanner’s oversight of VISN 7 screening services across South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. He reviewed the history of MUSC’s involvement in lung cancer screening beginning with the National Lung Screening Trial in 2004 and the program’s subsequent growth across multiple regions as screening sites expanded and APPs were trained and integrated into a statewide hub-and-spoke model. Dr. Sylvestri presented outcomes data showing a significant stage shift toward early-stage lung cancer detection, with MUSC’s program achieving nearly 70% stage-one diagnoses among 6,000 screened patients, as well as strong screening participation among African American communities at 25%, closely aligned with the state’s

demographics. He emphasized lessons learned, including the importance of local engagement, consistent follow-up, maintaining program quality across sites, and adopting an approach that prioritizes listening to community partners. Dr. Silvestri then outlined the research benefits linked to the screening program, noting that more than 3,000 patients have been enrolled in trials since 2023, resulting in \$8 million in grant funding and 35+ peer reviewed publications. He described ongoing work on blood-based biomarker development and the establishment of a new biorepository made possible by philanthropic support, including a recent \$1 million donation. He concluded by underscoring the importance of protecting the MUSC brand, carefully expanding clinical trials, and recognizing the institution's national leadership in cancer screening.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 6. Other Business.**

None.

**RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: MR. MICHAEL STAVRINAKIS, CHAIRMAN**  
*(Detailed committee minutes attached.)*

**Item 7. Office of Research Report.**

Mr. Michael Stavrinakis reported that Dr. Timothy Stemmler, Vice President for Research, gave a brief update on research activities and the student winners of the 3-Minute Thesis contest presented their winning theses.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 8. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**EDUCATION, FACULTY, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: MRS. BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS, CHAIR**  
*(Detailed committee minutes attached.)*

**Item 9. Provost Report.**

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reported that Dr. Jesse Goodwin, Chief Innovation Officer, presented on health innovation and transformation and Dr. Marylyn Ritchie, Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer, presented the AI center's strategic goals.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 10. Center Establishment and Naming for Approval.**

A motion was made by Mrs. Johnson-Williams to establish and name the MUSC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center for Health Innovation and Informatics.

Board Action: The motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 11. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**MUSC AND MUHA FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: MR. JIM BATTLE, CHAIRMAN**  
*(Detailed committee minutes attached.)*

**Item 12. MUSC Integrated Academic Health System Financial Report.**

Mr. Jim Battle reported that Mr. Doug Lischke, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC Health, gave the integrated academic health system financial report for the six-month period ending December 31, 2025.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 13. MUSC Health Budget Realignment Requests for Approval.**

A motion was made by Mr. Jim Battle to approve the following budget realignment requests:

- **Chester Medical Center Boiler Replacement - \$510,000**  
Request to fund equipment to replace a boiler that is no longer operational. Funding source is the swap of funds approved for Catawba energy plant electrical upgrades.
- **Midlands EP Lab Budget Increase - \$989,000**  
Request to increase the Midlands EP lab budget from \$5.0M to \$5.989M to support increased costs from the electrical system. Funding source is the swap of funds approved for Columbia NE OB/GYN project.
- **Energy Consultant - Up to \$300,000**  
Request to fund an energy consultant to support the development of a long-term energy strategy on the Charleston peninsula. Funding source is the swap of one-time funds approved for strategy operating budget.
- **Community Needs Assessment - \$106,000**  
Request to fund a community needs assessment to support strategic planning in eleven counties. Funding source is the swap of one-time funds approved for strategy operating budget.

Board Action: The motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 14. MUSC Financial Report.**

Mr. Jim Battle reported that Mrs. Susie Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC, gave the MUSC financial report for the six-month period ending December 31, 2025.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 15. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**HOLLINGS CANCER CENTER COMMITTEE: DR. DON JOHNSON, CHAIR**  
*(Detailed committee minutes attached.)*

**Item 16. Hollings Cancer Center Update.**

Dr. Don Johnson reported that Dr. Ray Dubois, Director of the Hollings Cancer Center, gave an update on progress toward achieving comprehensive NCI status and clinical trials. Dr. Jason Newman and Kristin Mensonides reported on system clinical trials goals, access, and physician recruitment.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 17. New Cancer Hospital Update.**

Dr. Don Johnson reported that Mr. Adam Bacik, Chief Officer of the Cancer Hospital, provided a status update on the timeline of the new cancer hospital project.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 18. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Item 19. Approval of Consent Agenda.**

Chairman Charles Schulze called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Board Action: Vice Chairman Melvin Brown made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 20. Executive Session.**

On Thursday, a motion was made by Mr. Jim Battle to move into closed session to discuss the following: negotiations of contracts related to the development of energy services in Charleston County, clinical services in the Tricounty area and Horry/Georgetown counties, construction services in Horry County, and possible purchase or sale of real property in Charleston County; Strategy and trade secrets; development of Information Security personnel or devices; Personnel matters; and Legal advice on matters covered by the attorney/client privilege.

Board Action: The motion made by Mr. Battle was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried. The Board of Trustees moved into closed session following the conclusion of the MUHA and MUSC Board of Trustees Committee meetings.

**Item 21. New Business for the Board of Trustees.**

None.

**Item 22. Report from the Chairman.**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: MR. MICHAEL STAVRINAKIS, CHAIRMAN**

**Item 23. MUSC Foundation/Institutional Advancement Fundraising Report.**

The MUSC Foundation/Institutional Advancement fundraising report was provided for information.

Board Action: Received as information.

**EDUCATION, FACULTY, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: MRS. BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**Item 24. Affiliate Faculty Appointment.**

The following affiliate faculty appointment was presented for approval:

College of Health Professions

**Christopher Robinson, M.D.**, MSCR, FACOG, Affiliate Associate Professor, in the Department of Clinical Sciences, Division of Genetic Counseling, effective December 1, 2025.

Board Action: Mrs. Johnson-Williams made a motion to approve; her motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 25. Change in Faculty Status.**

The following change in faculty status was presented for approval:

College of Medicine

**Katherine E. Twombly, M.D.**, from Professor to Adjunct Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Nephrology, effective October 14, 2025.

Board Action: Mrs. Johnson-Williams made a motion to approve; her motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 26. Emeriti.**

The following request for emerita appointment was presented for approval:

College of Medicine

**Rayna Grothe, M.D.**, from Clinical Associate Professor to Professor Emerita, in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Gastroenterology, effective October 1, 2025.

Board Action: Mrs. Johnson-Williams made a motion to approve; her motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**Item 27. Faculty Appointments.**

The following faculty appointments were presented for approval:

College of Medicine

**Tiffany R. Chang, M.D.**, as Professor on the Clinician Educator track in the Department of Neurosurgery with a dual appointment in Neurology, effective March 1, 2026.

**Chad Crigger, M.D., MPH**, as Clinical Associate Professor, in the department of Urology, effective January 1, 2026.

**Noel Warfel, Ph.D.**, as Associate Professor on the Academic Educator track, in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, effective December 2, 2025.

College of Nursing

**Patricia Kelly, Ph.D., MPH, RN**, as Clinical Professor, in the College of Nursing, Department of Nursing, effective January 1, 2026.

**Nancy Rudner, DrPH, MPH, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP**, as Professor, on the Educator/Clinician track, in the College of Nursing, Department of Nursing, effective January 1, 2026.

Board Action: Mrs. Johnson-Williams made a motion to approve; her motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.

**MUSC AND MUHA FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: MR. JIM BATTLE, CHAIRMAN**

**Item 28. MUSC Physicians and MUSC Health Partners Financial Report.**

The MUSC Physicians and MUSC Health Partners financial report through December 31, 2025, was provided for information.

Board Action: Received as information.

**Item 29. FY2026 Consulting, Contractual Services, and Professional Services Contracts over \$50,000.**

A summary of contractual, professional, and consulting services contracts over \$50,000 through December 31, 2025, for MUSC, MUHA, and MUSC Physicians through was provided for information.

Board Action: Received as information.

There being no further business, the meeting of the MUSC Board of Trustees was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine S. Haltiwanger*

Board Secretary

**Research and Institutional Advancement Committee**  
**February 12, 2026**

**Item 7. Office of Research Report.**

Dr. Timothy Stemmler, Vice President for Research, shared updates from MUSC's research division. Dr. Stemmler highlighted advancements with the I3 Common Cores and MUSC's recent joining of the Institute for Research on Innovation & Science (IRIS), which provides data demonstrating the public value of sponsored scientific research. Additionally, he provided the following updates on MUSC faculty:

- Parneet Grewal, MD, was awarded the Robert A. Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials Career Development award to strengthen community relationships and boost participation in the Southeast Collaborative Alliance for Stroke Trials (SE-CoAST).
- Leonardo M.R. Ferreira, PhD, received the top award at the inaugural Catalyst by Beemok Live Pitch Competition for the biotechnology startup he co-founded which advances new ways of treating solid tumors.
- Sumit Yadav, PhD, recently joined the College of Dental Medicine where he will serve as the Associate Dean for Research and Chair of the Department of Advance Specialty Sciences.

Dr. Michael Bouchard, Dean, College of Graduate Studies, introduced the Three-Minute Thesis winners who presented their winning theses to the committee. The students and their topics were Erin Alsbrook, Built Environments Build Healthy Futures; Chloe Mattila, Finding What Actually Matters; and Judit Jimenez-Sainz, How to Save a Life.

Committee Action: Report received as information.

**Item 8. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

**Item 23. MUSC Foundation/Institutional Advancement Fundraising Report.**

The MUSC Foundation/Institutional Advancement fundraising report was provided for information.

Committee Action: Report received as information.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carla Stipe*

Office of Research

**Education, Faculty, and Student Affairs Committee**  
**February 12, 2026**

**Item 9. Provost Report.**

**Driving Innovation and Health Transformation**

Dr. Jesse Goodwin, Chief Innovation Officer, shared an update on MUSC's goal of driving innovation and health transformation highlighting recent successes related to commercialization and entrepreneurship. Dr. Goodwin was joined by Mr. Todd Headley, CEO of MUSC's Zucker Institute and Mr. Bob Crutchfield, Managing Director of MUSC Foundation's 1824 Health Ventures.

MUSC's innovation and commercialization efforts were discussed, highlighting progress in accelerating discovery, translating research into market-ready solutions, and strengthening South Carolina's life sciences ecosystem. Leadership reported strong performance in technology transfer activities from FY20–FY25, including 944 invention disclosures, 547 patents filed, 190 patents issued, 120 options and licenses executed, \$30M in federal small business funding, 67 active startups, and 72 products on the market. FY25–FY26 highlights included nine startups formed, 35 licenses executed in FY25, 100 invention disclosures and 70 first-time inventors in FY26 year-to-date, along with multiple national and state recognitions for MUSC-affiliated companies and technologies.

The committee received an overview of a new venture creation and investment strategies designed to bridge the “valley of death” between discovery and commercialization. Updates included the launch and early progress of 1824 Health Ventures and the South Carolina Health Innovation Fund, with one investment made, 43 companies in the pipeline, and seven deals in diligence since August 1, 2025. A key milestone highlighted was August 29, 2025, closing of the Leukogene transaction and the FDA's November 5, 2025, Orphan Drug Designation for its lead AML therapy, representing a significant value inflection point. The presentation emphasized institution-wide collaboration, statewide alignment, and external investment partnerships as critical enablers of continued innovation, economic growth, and health impact.

**MUSC AI Center for Health Innovation and Informatics**

Dr. Marylyn Ritchie, Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer, provided an update on the strategic plan for the center for AI. The proposed center aligns with the OneMUSC Strategic Plan by advancing innovation and health transformation, empowering healthy communities, and reshaping the future workforce. Dr. Ritchie outlined the center's mission to safely and securely scale artificial intelligence and informatics across healthcare, research, and education, with the goal of setting a national standard for AI-powered medicine.

The Chief AI Officer will serve as director of the center and will report to the Provost and the Chief Physician Executive. Initial priorities include development of an enterprise AI strategy and governance framework with a focus on risk mitigation, investment in AI infrastructure, enterprise-wide education, and workforce development, hiring of Center staff, and expansion of state, regional, and academic partnerships. Leadership has secured resources to support the center. Dr. Ritchie thanked Mr. Stavrinakis for being the Board's liaison in AI efforts. Dr. Don Johnson requested that a MUSC Board of Trustee member have a seat on the Executive AI Strategy and Governance Council, and Chairman Schulze concurred.

Committee Action: Received as information.

**Item 10. Center Establishment and Naming for Approval.**

Dr. John Marymont, Provost, requested approval of the establishment and naming of the MUSC Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center for Health Innovation and Informatics.

*Committee Action: Recommend approval.*

**Item 11. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

**Item 24. Affiliate Faculty Appointments.**

Approval was requested for the following affiliate faculty appointments:

College of Health Professions

Christopher Robinson, M.D., MSCR, FACOG, Affiliate Associate Professor, in the Department of Clinical Sciences, Division of Genetic Counseling, effective December 1, 2025.

*Committee Action: Recommend approval.*

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*Committee Action: Recommend approval.*

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*Committee Action: Recommend approval.*

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**Patricia Kelly, Ph.D., MPH, RN**, as Clinical Professor, in the College of Nursing, Department of Nursing, effective January 1, 2026.

**Nancy Rudner, DrPH, MPH, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP**, as Professor, on the Educator/Clinician track, in the College of Nursing, Department of Nursing, effective January 1, 2026.

*Committee Action: Recommend approval.*

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robin R. Hanckel*

Office of the Provost

**MUSC and MUHA Finance and Administration Committee Minutes**  
**February 12, 2026**

**Item 12. MUSC Health Integrated Academic Health System Financial Report.**

Mr. Doug Lischke, MUSC Health Chief Financial Officer, presented the December year-to-date financial results for the MUSC integrated academic health system. These integrated financials include MUHA, MUSCP, and MUSC (University) to align strategy, operations, and finance in support of the OneMUSC vision. On October 1, 2025, MUHA obtained 85% membership interest in Tidelands Health. Tidelands will consolidate as part of MUHA, but is being reported separately, as leadership actively manages the financial turnaround plan.

Overall consolidated operating performance was strong, with EBIDA (Earnings before Interest, Depreciation, and Amortization) of \$371M, favorable to budget by \$102M and an operating margin yielding 4.9%. A consolidated view of the balance sheet was also shared, demonstrating stability and sufficient debt service coverage across all entities. Mr. Lischke reported that both the clinical enterprise and academic enterprise EBIDA were both favorable to budget: \$78.0M and \$23.5M, respectively.

Mr. Lischke then reviewed the clinical enterprise key performance indicators. Total discharges in Charleston were strong, but slightly below budget largely due to unit opening delays. While inpatient volumes for Tidelands were down, Tidelands demonstrated solid outpatient surgical performance to budget, due primarily to the recruitment of additional physicians. Further details of the Charleston network, as well as the community hospitals, were presented.

*Committee Action: The Committee received this as information in its capacity as the MUHA Finance and Administration Committee.*

**Item 13. MUSC Health Budget Realignment Request for Approval.**

Mr. Doug Lischke, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC Health, requested the MUHA Finance and Administration Committee's approval of the following budget realignment requests:

- **Chester Medical Center Boiler Replacement - \$510,000**  
Request to fund equipment to replace a boiler that is no longer operational. Funding source is the swap of funds approved for Catawba energy plant electrical upgrades.
- **Midlands EP Lab Budget Increase - \$989,000**  
Request to increase the Midlands EP lab budget from \$5.0M to \$5.989M to support increased costs from the electrical system. Funding source is the swap of funds approved for Columbia NE OB/GYN project.
- **Energy Consultant - Up to \$300,000**  
Request to fund an energy consultant to support the development of a long-term energy strategy on the Charleston peninsula. Funding source is the swap of one-time funds approved for strategy operating budget.
- **Community Needs Assessment - \$106,000**  
Request to fund a community needs assessment to support strategic planning in eleven counties. Funding source is the swap of one-time funds approved for strategy operating budget.

Committee Action: The Committee recommended approval in its capacity as the MUHA Finance and Administration Committee.

**Item 14. MUSC Financial Report.**

Mrs. Susie Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC, presented the December year-to-date financial results for the University. She reported operating cashflow of \$15.2 million and noted that the University maintained 127 days of operating cash. The operating margin was (\$2 million), which is \$23.5 million favorable to budget, resulting in a (0.4%) operating margin. Mrs. Edwards provided an overview of key budget-to-actual variances, highlighting that operating revenues were \$9.6 million favorable to budget, while operating expenses were \$13.9 million favorable primarily due to vacancies and timing of medical and other supplies.

Committee Action: The Committee received this as information in its capacity as the MUSC Finance and Administration Committee.

**Item 15. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

**Item 28. MUSC Physicians and MUSC Health Partners Financial Report.**

The MUSC Physicians and MUSC Health Partners financial report through December 31, 2025, was provided for information.

Committee Action: The Committee received this as information in its capacity as the MUSC Finance and Administration Committee.

**Item 29. FY2026 Contractual, Professional and Consulting Services Contracts over \$50,000.**

A summary of contractual, professional, and consulting services contracts over \$50,000 through December 31, 2025, for MUSC, MUHA, and MUSC Physicians was provided for information.

Committee Action: The Committee received this as information in its capacity as the MUSC and MUHA Finance and Administration Committee.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jane L. Scutt*

Assistant Board Secretary

**Hollings Cancer Center Committee**  
**February 12, 2026**

**Item 16. Hollings Cancer Center Report.**

Dr. Ray DuBois, Director, Hollings Cancer Center, provided updates on progress toward NCI comprehensive designation and clinical trial performance. Clinical trial efforts show strong momentum, with female enrollment increasing to 44% through strategic recruitment in OB-GYN and breast oncology, and projections indicating achievement of a 50/50 gender balance by 2026. The Cancer Center continues to expand its investigator-initiated trials and NCORP network, supported by institutional investments in protocol development, regulatory staffing, and the clinical scholars program. Faculty achievements were highlighted, including a major Department of Defense grant awarded to Dr. Sprague for bladder-cancer therapeutics. Educational initiatives, such as the BLOCKS program with the College of Charleston and the forthcoming master's and PhD pathways in cancer biology, continue to grow. Dr. Jason Newman, Chief, Cancer ICCE, and Ms. Kristin Mensonides, System Administrative Officer, Cancer ICCE, reported significant improvements in access, including increased inbound call volume, a reduced abandonment rate near 2%, and rising patient-experience scores related to ease of contacting and scheduling. AI-enabled call-quality monitoring was implemented to support service consistency. Leadership emphasized ongoing challenges in patient navigation, particularly following diagnoses in emergency settings and the need for rapid referral pathways across the system. Statewide oncology expansion continues across multiple regions, with new recruits, enhanced tumor boards, quality programs, and clinical trial activation in Florence, Lancaster, Okatie, Orangeburg, and Pee Dee, along with planning for new cancer facilities. The system remains focused on creating a seamless, statewide cancer-care experience.

Committee Action: Received as information.

**Item 17. New Cancer Hospital Update.**

Mr. Adam Bacik, Chief Officer of the Cancer Hospital, provided an update on the new cancer hospital project, which remains on schedule as schematic design progresses. Seven multidisciplinary committees which include patient and family advisors, are actively shaping workflows, supportive services, technology integration, and operational planning. A preliminary cost estimate of slightly over \$1 billion was noted, supported by extensive architectural and engineering analysis. Plans include a \$250 million capital campaign. Conceptual renderings and drone-based site views illustrated anticipated patient environments, with inpatient units on upper floors and direct connectivity to expanded parking. The hospital will consolidate inpatient and outpatient cancer care into one facility and serve as a signature anchor in the innovation district. Dr. Johnson reiterated the importance of the new hospital and statewide expansion in achieving NCI comprehensive status to ensure that South Carolinians can receive fully comprehensive cancer care without leaving the state.

Committee Action: Received as information.

**Item 18. Other Committee Business.**

None.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jane L. Scutt*  
Assistant Board Secretary