

**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 8, 2025**

The MUSC Board of Trustees convened on August 8, 2025, with the following members present: with the following members present: Charles Schulze, Chair; Dr. Melvin Brown, Vice Chair, Terri Barnes, Jim Battle; Dr. Fritz Butehorn; Dr. Guy Castles; Dr. Richard Christian; Dr. Paul Davis; Dr. Don Johnson; Barbara Johnson-Williams; Dr. James Lemon; Dr. Murrell Smith; Michael Stavrinakis, Tom Stephenson, and Dr. Bart Witherspoon.

**Item 1. Call to Order.**

There being a quorum present, Chairman Schulze called the meeting to order.

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

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.**

Katherine Haltiwanger reported that the date of the next meeting is October 10, 2025.

**Item 4. Approval of Minutes.**

Chairman Schulze called for a motion to approve the minutes of May 16, June 2, June 20, July 9, and July 14, 2025.

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMATIONAL REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT**

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

President David Cole presented the MUSC President's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for information. Dr. Cole highlighted significant achievements and initiatives across various domains:

**Institutional Overview:** MUSC has 201 years of service, 3.21 million annual patient encounters, and 17 hospitals serving 46 counties. The university employs 33,866 people and supports over 50,000 jobs. It operates six colleges with 1,069 residents and fellows across 41 degree programs.

**Academic Growth:** New state-of-the-art facilities for the College of Health Professions and the College of Medicine are under construction. MUSC has increased scholarships by 28% over five years and offers various financial support programs to reduce student debt.

**Research Excellence:** MUSC is a Carnegie R1 institution leading in sponsored research with over 1,200 clinical trials. It ranks 53rd in NIH Blue Ridge and 96th in NSF HERD national rankings. The university has developed five Integrated Innovation Institutes focusing on key areas like cancer and neuroscience.

**Healthcare Expansion:** MUSC Health is opening new medical offices and hospitals, including a comprehensive cancer hospital planned for 2030. It maintains top state and national hospital rankings, with six specialties nationally ranked.

**Enterprise and Employee Support:** FY25 marked MUSC's most successful fundraising year with \$134M raised. Employee benefits include Care.com memberships and wellness spaces to support workforce well-being.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 6. Other Business.**

None.

**RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE - CHAIR: Michael Stavrinakis**  
*(Detailed committee minutes are attached.)*

**Item 7. MUSC Foundation Report.**

Mr. Michael Stavrinakis stated that Mr. Stuart Ames, MUSC Foundation CEO, and Carol Shannon, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, provided updates on the Foundation's status regarding investments, contributions, and donations, while also focusing on the Foundation's development team's fundraising success.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 8. Office of Research Update.**

It was reported by Mr. Stavrinakis that Dr. Timothy Stemmler presented his research accomplishments since the April Board meeting, including receiving new R01 grants and Foundation support. While federal funding is generally down, MUSC is far exceeding its peers in continuing to receive funding. Mr. Stavrinakis mentioned that Dr. Denis Guttridge reported on his research, which focuses on skeletal muscle conditions in relation to pancreatic cancer patients.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 9. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**EDUCATION, FACULTY, and STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – CHAIR: MS. BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS**  
*(Detailed committee minutes are attached.)*

**Item 10. Provost Report.**

Ms. Barbara Johnson-Williams reported that Dr. Sarandeep Huja, Dean of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, presented regarding the college's faculty and staff growth and positive graduate satisfaction rates. Tuition reduction for in-state students and an increase in research funding were two exciting topics that Dr. Huja discussed. He also expressed thanks to Dr. Lisa Saladin as her retirement draws near and focused on ceremonial events such as the 2025 Alumni Weekend.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

Ms. Barbara Johnson made a motion to approve three new program proposals as follows:

**Item 11. New Program Proposal for Master of Science in Health Quality and Safety (MSHQS) for Approval.**

**Item 12. New Program Proposal for Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Intelligence and Administration (BS-AHIA) for Approval.**

**Item 13. New replacement program proposal for Master of Health Administration (MHA).**

*Board Action: The motion made by Ms. Johnson-Williams was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 14. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - CHAIR: MR. JAMES A. BATTLE, JR.**  
*(Detailed committee minutes are attached.)*

**Item 15. MUSC FY2025 Financial Report.**

Mr. Jim Battle reported that Susie Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC, gave an update on MUSC's financial status through June 30, 2025.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 16. MUSC and AHEC FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets for Approval.**

Mr. Battle made a motion to approve the MUSC and AHEC FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets.

*Board Action: The motion made by Mr. Battle was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 17. MUSC Health Consolidated Financial Report.**

Mr. Battle reported that Doug Lischke, Chief Financial Officer, MUSC Health, gave an update on MUSC Health's financial status through June 30, 2025.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 18. MUHA FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets for Approval.**

Mr. Battle made a motion to approve the MUHA FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets.

*Board Action: The motion made by Mr. Battle was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 19. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**HOLLINGS CANCER CENTER COMMITTEE – CHAIR: DR. DONALD R. JOHNSON II**  
*(Detailed committee minutes are attached.)*

**Item 20. Hollings Cancer Center Update.**

Dr. Don Johnson reported that Dr. Ray DuBois gave an update on the Hollings Cancer Center and its goals, objectives, and progress toward achieving comprehensive NCI status. He also stated that Dr. Jason Newman presented on growth, access, recruitment, and innovation. Dr. Johnson remarked

that Tom Crawford offered a timeline of milestones for the design and build of the new comprehensive cancer hospital.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 21. Other Committee Business.**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Item 22. Approval of Consent Agenda.**

Approval of the consent agenda was requested.

*Board Action: Chairman Schulze called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Brown, the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 23. Performance Evaluation of the MUSC President.**

Chairman Schulze stated that this item was discussed in executive session.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

**Item 24. Executive Session.**

A motion was made by Mr. Battle to move into closed session to discuss the following items: discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion of an employee or a person regulated by a public body, or the appointment of a person to a public body; discussion of cybersecurity personnel or devices; and discussion of negotiations pursuant to proposed contractual arrangements, purchase of real property, and strategy and trade secrets.

*Board Action: The motion made by Mr. Battle was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

*Chairman Schulze announced that the Board of Trustees would move into closed session following the conclusion of the MUSC Board of Trustees Committee meetings.*

**Item 25. New Business for the Board of Trustees.**

None.

**Item 26. Report from the Chairman.**

None.

## Consent Agenda

### **RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIR: MR. MICHAEL STAVRINAKIS**

#### **Item 27. Institutional Advancement Update (Consent Item).**

Mr. Michael Stavrinakis reported that Carol Shannon provided a report reflecting Institutional Advancement's gift count.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

### **EDUCATION, FACULTY, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – CHAIR: MS. BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS**

#### **Item 28. Affiliate Faculty Appointments (Consent Item).**

Approval was requested for the following Affiliate Faculty appointments:

##### **College of Medicine**

**Megan (McMurray) Hays, Ph.D.**, as Affiliate Associate Professor, in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Sleep, Mood, Anxiety Research and Treatment Division, effective May 5, 2025.

**Ashley L. (Jackson) Slappy, M.D., MSc**, as Affiliate Professor, in the Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, effective May 1, 2025.

*Board Action: The motion made by Ms. Johnson-Williams was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

#### **Item 29. Change in Faculty Status (Consent Item).**

Approval was requested for the following changes in faculty status:

##### **College of Medicine**

**Michael Jin Casey, M.D., MS**, from Professor to Affiliate Professor, in the Department of Medicine: Division of Nephrology, effective June 1, 2025.

**Michael R. McCart, Ph.D.**, from Adjunct Associate Professor to Professor, on the Academic Clinician track, in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center (NCVRTC), effective October 1, 2024.

**Donald L. (Hugh) Myrick, M.D.**, from Affiliate Professor to Clinical Professor, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Military Science, effective July 1, 2025.

**Santosh Nagaraju, M.D.**, from Clinical Associate Professor to Associate Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery, effective July 1, 2025.

**Chelsey A. Petz, M.D.**, from Associate Professor to Adjunct Associate Professor, in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, effective July 1, 2025.

**Susan Sonne, PharmD**, from Research Professor to Professor, on the Academic Clinician track, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Addiction Sciences, effective November 1, 2024.

**Graham W. Warren, M.D., Ph.D.**, from Professor to Adjunct Professor, in the Department of Radiation Medicine and the Department of Pharmacology and Immunology, effective April 11, 2025.

*Board Action: Ms. Johnson-Williams moved for approval, and the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 30. Distinguished University Professor (Consent Item).**

Approval was requested for the following Distinguished University Professor:

**College of Health Professions**

**Lisa K. Saladin, PT, Ph.D.**, Distinguished University Professor, effective August 8, 2025.

*Board Action: Ms. Johnson-Williams moved for approval, and the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 31. Emeriti (Consent Item).**

Approval was requested for the following Emeriti:

**College of Health Professions**

**Lisa K. Saladin, PT, Ph.D.**, Distinguished University Professor, effective August 8, 2025.

**College of Medicine**

**Alexander W. Chessman, MD**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Family Medicine, effective September 2, 2025.

**Phillippe B. Cunningham, PhD**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Global and Community Health Division, effective July 1, 2025.

**Airody Keshava Hebbar, MBBS**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Family Medicine, effective September 1, 2025.

**Yan Huang, MD, PhD**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, effective July 2, 2025.

**Steven W. Kubalak, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Regenerative Medicine and Cell Biology, effective July 1, 2025.

**Michael B. Lilly, MD**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, effective July 1, 2025.

**Jacqueline Frances McGinty, PhD**, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Neuroscience, effective July 1, 2025.

**College of Nursing**

**Joy Lauerer, DNP, APRN, PMHCNS-BC**, for appointment as Professor Emerita in the Department of Nursing, College of Nursing upon her retirement on June 30, 2025.

*Board Action: Ms. Johnson-Williams moved for approval, and the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

### **Item 32. Endowed Chair Appointments (Consent Item)**

Approval was requested for the following Endowed Chair Appointments:

#### College of Medicine

**Russell William Jenkins, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, for appointment to the Cecilia and Vincent T. Peng Endowed Chair in Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Research, effective July 1, 2025.

**Arman Kilic, M.D.**, Professor, in the Department of Surgery, for appointment to the Fred A. Crawford, Jr., M.D. Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery, effective August 8, 2025.

**Mark Katz, M.D.**, Professor in the Department of Surgery, for appointment to the John M. Kratz, M.D. Endowed Chair in Cardiac Surgery and Research, effective August 8, 2025.

**Benjamin A. Toll, Ph.D.**, Professor in the Departments of Public Health Sciences and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, for appointment to the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, effective August 8, 2025.

#### College of Nursing

**Tatiana M. Davidson, Ph.D.**, Professor in the Department of Nursing, for appointment to the Endowed Chair for the College of Nursing Center of Behavioral Health, effective August 8, 2025.

*Board Action: Ms. Johnson-Williams moved for approval, and the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

### **Item 33. Faculty Appointments**

Approval was requested for the following Faculty Appointments:

#### College of Dental Medicine

**Christopher Cotterill, DMD**, Associate Professor, on the Academic Clinician Track, in the Department of Advanced Specialty Sciences, Division of Applied Craniofacial Sciences, effective July 14, 2025.

#### College of Health Professions

**Hermes Florez, M.D., Ph.D., MPH**, Professor, Department of Healthcare Leadership & Management, effective August 1, 2025. This will be a secondary appointment in the College of Health Professions. Dr. Florez's primary appointment rests in the College of Medicine.

**Brian Sady, DMSC, PA-C, DFAAPA**, Associate Professor, Academic Educator Non-Tenure Track, Department of Clinical Sciences, Division of Physician Assistant Studies – Hybrid Program, effective April 14, 2025.

#### College of Medicine

**Katherine Antel, M.D.**, Associate Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, effective September 16, 2024.

**Kevin Becker, M.D., MMM**, Associate Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, effective September 1, 2024.

**Lesley Flynt, M.D.**, AS Associate Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Radiology and Radiological Science, effective March 1, 2025.

**Sanjay Raj Jain, MBBS, MS, Ph.D.**, as Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, effective May 1, 2025.

**Russell William Jenkins, M.D., Ph.D.**, as Associate Professor, on the Academic Investigator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology, with a joint appointment in the Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, and a secondary appointment in the Department of Pharmacology and Immunology, effective July 1, 2025.

Dr. Jenkins' primary appointment rests in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology.

**Alka Kohli, M.D., MBA**, as Clinical Associate Professor, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Gynecology Specialists, effective June 1, 2025.

**Sam H. Mardini, M.D., MBA, MPH**, as Clinical Professor, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, effective July 1, 2025.

**Jigme Michael Sethi, M.D.**, as Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, with dual appointment as Professor, in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Sleep, Mood, Anxiety Research and Treatment (SMART) Division, effective January 15, 2025. Dr. Sethi's primary appointment rests in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

**Erik C. Summers, M.D.**, as Associate Professor, on the Clinician Educator track, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hospital Medicine, effective September 23, 2024.

**Mihály Tapolyai, M.D., Ph.D.**, as Clinical Associate Professor, in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, effective January 1, 2025.

College of Nursing

**Michelle Mollica, Ph.D., MPH, RN, OCN**, as Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, Department of Nursing on the Educator/Researcher track, effective August 1, 2025.

*Board Action: Ms. Johnson-Williams moved for approval, and the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - CHAIR: MR. JAMES A. BATTLE, JR.**

**Item 34. MUSC Physicians FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets (Consent Item).**

*\*Please note a correction to the agenda item – Item 34 should have read “MUSC Physicians FY2026 Capital Budget for Approval” only, as the MUHA/MUSC Board of Trustees does not approve the MUSC Physicians Operating Budget.*

The MUSC Physicians FY2026 Capital Budget was presented for approval.

*Board Action: Mr. Battle made a motion to approve; the motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously carried.*

**Item 35. FY2025 Consulting, Contractual Services, and Professional Services Contracts >\$50,000.00 (Consent Item).**

Mr. Battle stated that Doug Lischke presented a consolidated report of contracts.

*Board Action: Received as information.*

There being no further business, the meeting of the MUSC Board of Trustees was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine S. Haltiwanger*  
Board Secretary