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University of South Carolina  
Ad Hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees

Called Meeting

July 10, 2018

The Ad Hoc Committee on Honorary Degrees of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees convened in a called meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, by telephone conference hosted from Room 206-B of the Osborne Administration Building.

Members participating were: Ms. Leah B. Moody, Chair; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield (who was present in the room); Mr. Toney J. Lister; and Dr. C. Dorn Smith.

Others present in the room for the meeting were: Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; and Board of Trustees staff members Leah Kososki and Ina Wilson.

I. Call to Order

Chair Moody called the meeting to order and stated notice of the meeting had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been circulated; and a quorum was present to conduct business. No media was present for the meeting.

II. Review – University Policy BTRU 2.01 Honorary Degree Recipients

Chair Moody called on Secretary Heath and Mr. Parham to discuss the current BTRU 2.01 Honorary Degree Recipients policy and the strategy to add a revocation procedure to it. Secretary Heath said the revocation procedure will become section "I" of the current policy.

Chair Moody and Trustee Cofield each drafted a proposed update to the current policy and circulated it to the group. Policies from other institutions also was shared. Everyone agreed the term "living honorary degree recipients" should be used as part of the revocation language.

III. Review – Board of Trustees Bylaws References to Honorary Degrees

Chair Moody called on Secretary Heath and Mr. Parham to discuss the process of adding the honorary degree revocation process to the Board's bylaws. Discussion included the role of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee's Honorary Degree Subcommittee and whether it should have the authority to deny a requested revocation before such a request is referred to the full Board.

IV. Action Items and Next Meeting Date

Chair Moody asked Mr. Parham to draft an update to the existing policy, combining elements of draft policies written by Trustee Cofield and herself. Once Mr. Parham's draft is prepared and circulated for review, the committee's next meeting will be scheduled. In addition, Mr. Parham was asked to work with Secretary Heath to prepare an amendment to the Board's bylaws, making them consistent with the updated language proposed for the University's BTRU 2.01 Honorary Degree Recipients policy.

V. Adjournment

There being no other agenda items, Chair Moody adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.  
Secretary