



University of South Carolina



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
SACS

South Carolina's Flagship University

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**Comprehensive Standard 3.2.3**

**The board has a policy addressing conflict of interest for its members.**

**Judgment:** Compliant

**Response:**

The University of South Carolina Board of Trustees members are public officials, and must therefore abide by the South Carolina Code of Laws. As stated in the Code of Laws, [Section 8-13-700](#):

No public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. This prohibition does not extend to the incidental use of public materials, personnel, or equipment, subject to or available for a public official's, public member's, or public employee's use which does not result in additional public expense.

No public official, public member, or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his office, membership, or employment to influence a governmental decision in which he, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated has an economic interest.

In addition, Board members must follow the South Carolina State Ethics Commission [Rules of Conduct](#). The Rules of Conduct further delineate the expected ethical conduct of public officials, and also specify the penalty for misconduct: "Anyone who is found guilty of violating these rules is subject to prosecution by the State Ethics Commission and the Attorney General's Office."

Also, each member of the Board of Trustees is required to file the [State of South Carolina State Ethics Committee Statement of Economic Interest form](#) with the State to ensure that there are no known external conflicts of interest for these members. There is a \$100 fine for each day that the form is late.

If a possible conflict of interest arises, it must be reported as specified in Board of Trustees Policy [BTRU 1.18](#):

In circumstances in which it is necessary and in the best interests of the University for any University official to conduct business with the University, the University official shall report in writing such business activities to the Internal Auditor of the University with a full description of the nature of such activities and the full amount of compensation and/or remuneration received.

There are no cases on record of any conflict of interest involving Board members. All Board members are apprised of the conflict of interest policies during orientation for new members, and all Board members complete the Statement of Economic Interest Form at this time.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Source	Location
<b>State of South Carolina</b>	
Section 8-13-700, <i>et seq.</i>	<a href="http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t08c013.htm">http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t08c013.htm</a>
State Ethics Commission Rules of Conduct	<a href="http://ethics.sc.gov/rulesofconduct/">http://ethics.sc.gov/rulesofconduct/</a>
State Ethics Committee Statement of Economic Interests form	<a href="http://ethics.sc.gov/economicinterests/">http://ethics.sc.gov/economicinterests/</a>
<b>University Policies &amp; Procedures Manual</b>	
Board of Trustees BTRU Policy 118	<a href="http://www.sc.edu/policies/btru118.pdf">http://www.sc.edu/policies/btru118.pdf</a>
Board of Trustees Annual Ethics Form Letter	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/EthicsFormLtr.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/EthicsFormLtr.pdf</a>

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