

# **SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT LEGISLATURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



November 15, 2024

To the esteemed executive committee and 2024 delegates,

You may recall that last fall (2023), a resolution was passed to establish a Board of Directors for SCSL. The purpose of the Board is primarily to establish SCSL as a 501c3 organization once more, so we can receive donations from alumni and earmarked funds from the state government. The Board aims to provide organizational continuity by submitting annual tax documents, maintaining SCSL emails and drives, and purveying resources and guidance to maximize operational efficiency. This will ensure that nothing falls to the wayside with the constant turnover in leadership that the student organization naturally experiences.

Weston Watts is acting chairman of the Board of Directors, as appointed by Governor Bergmann. Over the summer, he prepared an application for Board members and distributed it in the official SCSL alumni Facebook group. We saw great interest from alumni in participating on the board and received more applications that we could accommodate.

This fall, the sitting members of the Board—Weston Watts, Cody Simpson, Felicity Ropp, and Robert Cathcart—met to review the applications and fill additional board seats. We tried to get a representative board from as many schools as possible, as many ages as possible, and as many occupations as possible. Our finalist list represents Bob Jones University, Charleston Southern University, The Citadel, North Greenville University, and Clemson University, and most excitingly includes a corporate attorney who has extensive professional experience with establishing and maintaining nonprofit organizations. As we are still in the process of extending official offers to applicants and receiving their acceptances, we cannot make a public announcement of those members quite yet, but we are very excited about the interest and passion shown by alumni who care deeply about this organization and its mission.

Once these members are officially selected, they will draft bylaws for the Board, as well as language to be adopted in SCSL's constitution and bylaws to codify the Board and its responsibilities. The tentative plan is that it will be composed of 8 alumni members, serving rotating terms. All SCSL chapter advisors will serve as non-voting members and are free and invited to attend Board meetings. The Governor will serve as a voting member of the Board.

There will be more updates coming soon on this front, and we look forward to working closely with the next Governor to continue the mission of the Board of Directors and establish SCSL as a lasting and sustainable presence in South Carolina. We thank the Executive Committee for their support of this mission, and if any delegates have questions about the work of the Board, Governor Bergmann is welcome to share contact information for Weston Watts or Felicity Ropp.

In your service,

Weston G. Watts, acting Board chair

Felicity N. Ropp, Board member