

From: Taillon, Jeff

To: Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>

Stirling, Bryan <BryanStirling@gov.sc.gov>

Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>

Walker, Madison <MadisonWalker@gov.sc.gov>

Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>

Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>

Pitts, Ted <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>

Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>

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By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN

Dr. Jackie Epps was appointed to the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees by Gov. Nikki Haley this week.

He replaces Matthew Richardson, who resigned in April, according to university spokesperson Ashley Elliott.

Epps, who attended committee meetings at the university on Tuesday, previously served on the board as Gov. Mark Sanford's appointee from July 2010 until April 2011.

Epps said he's pleased to serve the university that provided him with a foundation to succeed in the corporate world.

"I'm here to try to help hammer out some solutions to the challenges the university faces at this time," he said.

Epps worked for 33 years at Kraft Foods, where he developed hundreds of products including Maxwell House coffees, Cool Whip toppings and Crystal Light beverages.

He graduated from S.C. State in 1962 with a bachelor's degree before going on to Rutgers State University, where he earned his master's and doctorate.

In 2007, he was appointed interim president of the Division of Institutional Advancement at S.C. State. In January 2010, he became director of the Student Leadership Academy. He held that position until he was appointed to the board of trustees.

Epp's seat on the 13-member board was one of three that has been empty for several months. Richardson and Gen. Walter Johnson III, Haley's designate on the board, resigned in April and Lancelot Wright stepped down in May.

In September, Haley named Dennis Nielsen to replace Johnson. Wright's position is still vacant.

Jeff Taillon

(803) 734-5129|Direct Line

(803) 767-7653|Cell