

**Dennis J. Nielsen, Ed.D.**  
**11 Oketee Court**  
**Hilton Head Island, SC 29926**

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

I first wish to thank you for appointing me to the Board of Trustees (BOT) at South Carolina State University (SCSU). I have served to the best of my ability to help SCSU return to a stable organization that has the opportunity to once again become a viable institution for the benefit of its students, the community, and the state of South Carolina. Needless to say, it has been a difficult task.

With the recent SC Senate and House considering the removal of the present Board of Trustees, I wish to resign my appointment to the BOT of SCSU at the time the BOT is officially removed. I will stay for the present time, as some members of the Board are directing changes to the Organizational Chart.

My resignation will provide you with an open position for a new appointment.

As I leave the BOT, one of my biggest concerns is the future of the 1890 Land Grant sector of SCSU. As the Committee Chair of the 1890 Extension, Research and Economic Development, I have worked very hard to separate the 1890 Land Grant Agency (Designated as an Agency in 1999) from the Education and General (E&G) budgetary division of the University. This separation has placed financial accountability of 1890 separate from the main portion of the University to prevent further inappropriate use of 1890 federal funds for E&G purposes. The present Executive Director (Mr. Delbert Foster) has worked hard to institutionalize this change as well as numerous other significant changes that place SCSU 1890 in a positive light at both the federal and state levels.

- Mr. Foster has maintained an excellent reputation with Federal, national, state and Clemson officials. In fact, as a testament to his efforts, he has recently been appointed as the Chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) that recommends institutional policies to ALL Land Grant Institutions. Mr. Foster is only the 4<sup>th</sup> Chair selected from an HBCU institution in over 100 years. This committee is selected from ALL

Land Grant Institutions in the United States and Possessions. In fact, ECOP met in Charleston, SC on March 17, 2015 for their annual meeting. The changes made to the separation of E&G and 1890 Land Grant accounting at SCSU has been noted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and has designated this organizational structure to be a model for all Land Grant Universities.

My concern is the future of this organizational separation at SCSU as some present Board members wish to move the 1890 unit under the E&G Provost which would, again, place control of federal funds in a position where easy unacceptable transfers of monies, as in the past, could take place without federal approval.

As I step down from the SCSU BOT, my one request is to have the opportunity to meet and discuss with your new appointee the institutional knowledge I possess concerning SCSU 1890 Land Grant history, federal guidelines, and dangers of combining this vital part of SCSU with the E&G division.

Thank you again and I sincerely hope the efforts of the new BOT will have long-lasting positive change for SCSU's students, faculty, community, and the state of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Nielsen", written in a cursive style.

Dennis J. Nielsen