

NEWS RELEASE

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FROM: Rette Stokes, Administrative Assistant to Chuck Allen

RE: U of SC presidential search

DATE: July 16, 2019

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve the University of South Carolina during my career. From representing my alma mater as a student athlete to serving on the Board of Trustees, the honor has always been profound.

It is needless to say the events of the last several weeks have been troubling for me. At our April 26, 2019 board meeting, I fully supported General Caslan to be our next president. General Caslan appeared to be a man of character and integrity. And although I was impressed with General Caslan's presentation, recent developments prevent my continued support. My reticence now stems from the multiple risks of harm the University is now confronted with. Alumni objections, accreditation risks, donor reaction, faculty opposition, a divided student body and athletic concerns form the basis of my judgment.

As always when I discharge my fiduciary responsibilities as a trustee my sole guiding principle is the best interests of the University. I have simply concluded that supporting the current candidate is not in the best interests of the University at this time. It is no reflection on the candidate. I am also concerned about a bad precedent being set regarding the selection process.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my friend and fellow Gamecock, Governor Henry McMaster, for his support of our beloved University.

Note: Trustee Chuck Allen represents Anderson and Oconee Counties on the

Board of Trustees. He was elected in 2008 and has served continuously since. He received his BA degree in 1982 and his Juris Doctorate degree in 1985, both from U of SC. His public service career includes the S. C. House of Representatives and three (3) terms on the Board of Trustees. He was a football team captain and honorable mention All American in 1980. He was elected to the U of SC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017. He is the managing senior partner of The Allen & Allen Law Firm in Anderson, South Carolina.

