MEMORANDUM

TO:     Presidents, South Carolina Public Institutions of Higher Learning

FROM:  Jeff Schilz, Interim President and Executive Director

DATE:  July 30, 2018

SUBJECT:  Proviso 11.23. of the 2018-19 Appropriations Act

Proviso 11.23 requires the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to print and distribute the definition of anti-Semitism to all S.C. public colleges and universities. As specified in the proviso, the definition of anti-Semitism includes:

1. A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;
2. calling for, assisting, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews;
3. making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective;
4. accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;
5. accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;
6. accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations;
7. using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis;
8. drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis;
9. blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions;
10. applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation;
11. multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations; and
12. denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist, provided, however, that criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

The proviso further provides:

“South Carolina public colleges and universities shall take into consideration the definition of anti-Semitism for purposes of determining whether the alleged practice was motivated by anti-
Semitic intent when reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of a college or university policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion.”

If you have any questions, you or your staff can contact Katie Philpott, Government Affairs Manager, via email at kphilpott@che.sc.gov or phone at (803) 606-7496.