

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

November 5, 2024

Senior Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Caughman Taylor

No report.

Operational Finance and Administration Report – Derek Payne

USC School of Medicine Educational Trust: The 5500 filing on the retirement plan was submitted ahead of the deadline last month. All information for the form 990 tax filing has been submitted to the auditors. Updated certificates and letters on professional liability coverage for USC employed providers were distributed to the clinical departments and clinical partners last month. We will soon begin working with the medical group on 2025 member compensation agreements.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: Data verification has been completed on the 2024 AAMC faculty salary survey. We are working on the annual financial questionnaire for submission in December.

Facilities Update:

Current larger project status updates are as follows:

1. Medical Park 15 – Medical Park 15 remains closed for renovations.
 2. Renovation work has begun on the future home of the Continuous Professional Development and Strategic Affairs department on Farrow Road.
 3. Security Reminder – A webpage is live to list training opportunities, call lists, and other information: [Security - My School of Medicine Columbia | University of South Carolina](#)
 4. Reminder – Updated Emergency Plan for USCSOM-C may be found at: [Emergency Management - My School of Medicine Columbia | University of South Carolina](#)
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Academic Affairs Report – Dr. J.T. Thornhill

LCME Update: The self-study phase of the SOM's preparation for our LCME accreditation site visit is now complete with all of the required documents having been sent to both the LCME and the Provosts' Office. Dr. Bobby Miller is overseeing preparing our faculty and students for our mock site visit which will take place on the 18th and 19th of this month. Our institutional self-study is on the agenda for review/discussion. The institutional self-study as well as the independent student analysis and the data collection instrument are all posted on our LCME webpage for review.

Faculty Promotions: Promotion and Tenure guidelines for both the Library faculty and Basic Science Tenure-track Faculty are under review in the Provosts' Office. Professional-track files for promotion are under review with the appropriate committees with a deadline of May 1st for the files to be received by the Provosts' Office.

Undergraduate Medical Education Report **Dr. Predrag “PK” Krajacic**

No report.

Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

- SOAR and other summer activities will open up on November 14 for the M1s.
 - The M1s have elected their class officers:
 - President: Travis Jabackumar
 - Vice President: Njasi Oji
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Jordyn Lombardo
 - OSR Representative: Nick McCormick
 - Alumni Representative: Copeland Jones
 - SAVE THE DATE: White Coat for both the class of 2028 and the incoming class of 2029 will be held on Friday, September 26 at 5:30pm and 3pm respectively, at the Koger Center.
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Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

No updates this month.

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs – **Dr. Matt Orr**

Applications are open for 2025 PLI, information has been shared with Clinical Chairs. All SOM-Prisma Health clinical departments are eligible to participate.

Research and Graduate Education Report **Dr. Leo Bonilha & Dr. Paul Toriello**

Research Infrastructure/Administration:

- No Report

Clinical Graduate Programs:

1. General:

- a. Ms. LaVonn Scott started 10/16 as Administrative Coordinator for Clinical Graduate Programs.

2. Program-specific:

- a. **Counseling and Rehabilitation:**

- i. Nationally renowned expert in addiction counseling - Amanda Giordano was this Fall Speaker Series presenter on October 11
 - ii. Two C&R students (Jerzy Zito and Skylar Linder) will be going to the SACES conference in Dallas to present at a Round Table with faculty (next week)
- b. Genetic Counseling:**
- i. Students and faculty volunteered at the Go Leo Halloween Run, and the proceeds support SMA.
 - ii. We hosted a table at the Walk for Life, which was successful and saw a lot of foot traffic.
- c. Nurse Anesthesia:**
- i. Applications increased 20% over last year.
 - ii. Florence expansion proposed.
- d. Physician Assistant:**
- i. The admission cycle has closed, and we have 30 students set to start in Jan. We had over 1000 applicants
 - ii. Didactic students also participated in a health fair for the employees at Spirax Sarco (manufacturing plant in Blythewood)- students discussed different health topics with the employees, such as preventative screening tests, diabetes, hypertension, stress management, etc. It was part of their research class. Groups of 3-4 students researched topics and had to create a patient education pamphlet. Feedback from the company was overwhelmingly positive, and they want to have the students back in the spring.

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Fiona Hollis

General Faculty Meeting Notes from September 4, 2024

Report from the President:

- Thankful for minimal damage from hurricane Helene on campus. Upstate and Aiken had it worse with damage to infrastructure and without power for at least 5-6 days and didn't recover until earlier this week (Oct 6). There was significant damage in UNC and sister institutions in Western NC. It will take longer to recover. Very proud of our students who took the initiative to collect food, clothes, and basic needs. These were delivered to counties in Western NC.
- Faculty hires: at the final stages, next 51 tenure-track faculties within 2 years, making a total of 100 new hires (49 already assigned). Note: these are net new positions.
- Vice President for Marketing hire: at the final stage
- 9 big projects (each > \$25 million): including the following:
 - New medical school: expected completion in summer 2027, \$330M
 - Brain health center (clinic): expected completion in summer 2026, \$35M
 - Science & technology building (classrooms and labs): completion summer 2025, \$30M
 - Thomas Cooper Library renovation: first changes starting in summer 2026, completion in summer 2028, funded by reserves
 - Jones Physical Science Center (2-3 floor): completion in summer 2026, funded by reserves
 - MacBride will disappear in next 1-2 years – one of oldest dorms in center of the campus. Will be rebuilt with significantly higher capacity of beds.

- Honors dorm was built missing a wing – will be finished. Both paid by student tuition and increased number of beds will make a difference
- Significant renovation in Russell House – increasing dining, relocation of bookstore; completion fall 2025
- Renovation of Barnwell and McKissick: Barnwell – renovation of spaces/offices and importantly new classrooms added. McKissick building – enhancement of building façade to be more transparent and visible. Enhancement of side – accessible patio on top and coffee shop lounges for student and classrooms. McKissick museum to exhibit in areas of life.

Report from the Provost:

- Provost Arnett thanked faculty for teaching remotely during 2 days of intense storms and the week that followed.
- Biweekly check-ins ongoing. The Provost always ends each check-in with a shoutout to a unit doing something exceptional. Let her know if your unit deserves a shoutout.
- Donald Myles: US News Ranking - #1 public university 1st year experience and international business, #4 nursing; Rose 3 spots to #61 for Public university – hope to get to the top 50.
- Held Fall Retreat with 160 faculty and staff attending. Discussed prioritization and goal of 94% retention of freshman/sophomore (to get us on par with UGA and UA). Presentation will be available on retreat website soon:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/news_events/provostmeetings.php
- Faculty professional development program Garnet & Black – new training/mentoring program for Associate professors seeking promotion to Full Professors.
- Faculty award nomination deadline) November 11.
- Student evaluation: integrated into Blackboard using Explorance Blue, rolling out summer 2025.

Report from Director parking services: Brian Favela

- Parking Guidance Systems - Bull street garage: in ParkUSC app; 2200 spaces; install start from 10/2024, complete in Spring 2025
See details:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/about/news/2024/100924_facultysenate_presentation.pptx

Mental Health Absence Pilot study

This is a pilot that will be rolled out on campus in the coming few weeks after midterms. The gist that was relayed to faculty senate was the following:

- The Office of Student Advocacy currently provides guidance and has forms for student excused absences in certain categories:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_initiatives/academic_success/ombuds_services/our_services/class_absences/index.php
 - Death of a friend, Death of immediate family member, Legal obligations, mandatory interviews for employment or professional school, medical care of immediate family member, medical condition or illness, military duty or obligation, participation in an authorized university activity where the student has a formal role and required visa or other immigration appointments.
 - **This pilot would expand their role to include the collection of a form for students to request an excused absence for “wellbeing and/or mental health”**

- **Office of Student Advocacy will collect data on how, when, and why students are requesting excused absences due to mental health. Office will also provide resources to promote mental health to the student following submission of the request.**
 - The goal is to empower students to be more proactive during their mental health absence. Examples that were given include: asking the student if they would like information on mental health resources; asking if they would like to talk to a counselor.
 - Other schools offer a limited number of excused absences for mental health/wellbeing to their students
 - UNC offers 5 wellbeing days – UNC is being used as a potential model of what we at USC might want and not want to do

Reports from faculty standing committees

- Committee on Courses and Curricula—8 total changes were approved (7 CAS, 1 Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing) None SOM-related

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 3 p.m. in the Russell House Theater

Staff Senate Report – Whitney Williams

President’s Update – Megan Colascione:

- Celebrate: Thank you to everyone that volunteered and or donated for Stuff the Bus in support of Hurricane Helene recovery.
- Collaborate: Donations are still needed for the Gamecock CommUnity Shop AND a local teacher. More below.
- Innovate: There will be 2 new MLK Social Justice Awards to be given out during the MLK Breakfast on January 17, 2025. Please **nominate faculty, staff, or a student by October 31st** [here](#).

Guest Speakers: **In partnership with Staff Senate, the USC Alumni Association is proud to announce the launch of a new discounted membership program for faculty and staff at the University of South Carolina!** *Whether a graduate of the University or not, all faculty and staff are welcome to become members of the Alumni Association and enjoy the benefits offered.* [Some of the benefits of membership include](#) discount on a Horseshoe brick, 20% off Addam’s Gamecock gear and Gamecock Apple iHub, National Discount Program, early access and discounted tickets for athletics, tailgates, and more.

Annual rate (\$30 off regular price) Individual - \$25 | Dual - \$35

Life rate (\$200 off regular price) Individual - \$700 | Dual - \$900

Join here: <https://support.uofscalumni.org/faculty-and-staff-membership>

Meet the Organizational Excellence Office - The Organizational Excellence Office was established in November 2022 with four people. The primary focus was to create user friendly services, efficient processes, and effective use of resources. Their services include the following:

- Improvement Guidance
- Operational Strategy
- Project Facilitation

- Knowledge and Skill Building

The Organizational Excellence Office is willing to work with your department in person and via Teams. **Learn more about their organization [here](#).**

Committee Updates + Announcements: The membership committee is working with the executive and bylaws committees to make sure we have the correct number of staff per unit.

Staff Senate is asking for continued donations to the CommUnity Shop. The focus is on household linens (twin/full sized sheets) and toiletry items.

We've also adopted Ms. Leydi West, a first-year teacher & College of Education graduate. She teaches Spanish to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Irmo Middle School.

Supplies Needed: Pencils, colored paper, markers, bleach wipes, scissors, chart paper, index cards/flash cards, expo whiteboard erasers, Kleenex, watercolor paint sets

SAVE THE DATE | Staff Appreciation Day will be held at Russell House Davis Field on **May 22, 2025** from 11:00am-2:00pm. More details to come!

Support Staff Senate! Receive a pair of Carolina Confetti socks If you [donate \\$20.24 or more](#).

Announcements/Good of the Order: The Veterans' Day Breakfast will be held on November 8, 2024, in the RHUU Ballroom from 7:30-9:00am. [RSVP here](#).

The MLK Commemorative Breakfast will be held on January 17, 2025, in the RHUU Ballroom from 7:30-9:00am. The keynote speaker will be Clint Smith. [RSVP here](#).

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

If you have any issues or concerns that you would like Staff Senate to address, please let me know.

Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. Any items needing or requiring voting related to operations and or as part of current projects
2. LCME Update
 - a. Mock Site Visit will occur November 18-19, 2024
3. Brain Health Center Update – Estimated time for opening is 2026
4. HSC Townhalls and updates
 - Monday, Nov. 4:
12-1 p.m.: Faculty and Staff Focused Town Hall
 - Wednesday, Nov. 6:
12-1 p.m.: Student Focused Town Hall

- Students from all SOMC programs are encouraged to attend
5. New Hospital Concept Specializing in Neurological Care