

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

March 4, 2025

Senior Associate Dean’s Report – Dr. Caughman Taylor

No report.

Operational Finance and Administration Report – Derek Payne

USC School of Medicine Educational Trust: The 2025 Compensation Agreement process continues. Interim financial statements and bond compliance certification documentation are due at the end of the month.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: The three-year financial plan is under development in preparation for the Provost’s Blueprint meeting next month. Unit level budget work will begin later this month.

Facilities Update: Parking continues to be a challenge on the VA campus. Federal return to work orders will exacerbate this problem in the coming days and weeks. SOM leadership is actively working with the VA to identify additional parking solutions on the campus. We will distribute updated instructions to all employees and students as soon as we receive definitive guidance from the VA. Current larger project status updates are as follows:

1. Medical Park 15 – Medical Park 15 remains closed for renovations.
 2. Renovation work continues on the future home of the Continuous Professional Development and Strategic Affairs department on Farrow Road. Completion is expected this month.
 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

No report.

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

No report.

Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

Match Week is March 17-21. SOAP is on the 17th. Hopefully it will be small, but we have advisors on standby to help the students that day. There was a pre-SOAP meeting on Thursday, March 6, which hopefully let some get a heads-up on the process. The Match Day festivities are Friday the 21st at noon at Central Energy.

The third annual Student Semi-Formal will be this coming Friday at the State Museum.

64 positions have been awarded through SOAR. There was a total of 89 applications. Some of those who applied took positions with Lexington, the law school, and the peds department.

Hooping is Thursday, May 8 at 9am for the grad school and 3pm for the MD students at the Convention Center. Commencement is on Friday, May 9 at noon at the Koger Center.

Students were notified to apply for institutional committees this past Friday. Selections will be finalized by May.

Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

Announcements: Residents from the core USCSOM clinical departments participated in the recent School of Medicine LCME site visit.

Our residency programs are looking forward to a successful NRMP Match on March 21.

Accreditation: All Prisma Health/USCSOM residencies and fellowships have received notification from their respective review committees regarding their accreditation status. All Midlands residences received notice of continued accreditation.

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs – Dr. Matt Orr

The CPDSA office continues to meet with department and faculty leaders to assess the needs for structure and resources for faculty development. Aim is to ensure departments and SOM are organized for success and are structured to support effective professional development for faculty.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee held its quarterly meeting on February 19. Leaders from the four strategic priority working group areas described updated actions regarding enhancing faculty engagement, educational innovation, research visibility, and health equity initiatives. Key actions/outcomes included the reconstitution of the Faculty Affairs Committee, formation of the Communications Advisory Council, initiation of community-based partnerships, and increased grant submissions. A key topic of discussion was related to instituting recognitions among faculty for attributes/actions that embody and promote the desired culture and vision of the SOM, including around innovation, the process of which can be messy and take many tries before a concrete outcome is achieved, if at all.

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

Research Infrastructure/Administration:

- No Report

Clinical Graduate Programs:

1. General:

- a. All programs completed FY26 budgets.

2. Program-specific:

a. Counseling and Rehabilitation:

- i. Counseling and Rehabilitation Program's Professional Speaker Series event featuring Paige Shaffer, PhD., MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the UMass Chan Medical School Department of Medicine, Division of Health Systems Science, February 21, 2025. As part of the University of South Carolina—School of Medicine community, the Counseling and Rehabilitation Program is dedicated to improving the lives of all South Carolinians.
- ii. Saturday was LCS. Presentations were offered by students, graduates of the program, and community partners. Great time had by most.
- iii. Allie Ledbetter elected to be Student Representative of ARCA.

b. Genetic Counseling:

- i. The Genetic Counseling program hosted the Amelia Craver Special Lecture on 2/18. We had 54 attendees, 25 of which were alumni. The topic was Stories Behind the Sequencing: Why Compassion Matters as much as Computing in the Genomics Age and was presented by Anna Hurst, a MD geneticist who got her MS in GC here before going on to her MD.

c. Nurse Anesthesia:

- i. No report.

d. Physician Assistant:

- i. No report.
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Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Fiona Hollis

Report from the President:

- The President has been meeting with legislative committees in the house and feels that the requests for funding have been well-received. He will meet with subcommittees of the senate in March. We won't know the final outcomes of these meetings until June and much may change but he feels like it's a good start.
- The Board of Trustees has a retreat coming up that will focus on long-term directions in finances, projections for the next 4-5 years, and the master plan. The President stressed that

he will emphasize the need to move quickly for funded projects and more cautiously for projects that still need funding.

- New VP of Marketing and Athletic Director have started and will speak to the BoT at the retreat about marketing and athletics
- The President recognizes that there is a lot of activity at the federal level. The University is monitoring the ever-changing situation and will communicate new regulations and their impact on universities, as well as any adjustments that need to be made.

Q: Does the President have a plan for those working on federal funding given that positions and grants are being frozen?

A: The President can't predict at this time. He knows that there is a significant review of agencies that provide funding to universities. At this time, we have to wait and see the outcome.

Report from the Provost:

- The search finalists for Vice provost for faculty affairs have been selected. There were 80 applicants that have been narrowed to 3 external finalists. Finalists will visit campus next week. Faculty can meet with them every morning at 9am on Feb 10-13 at the Thomas Cooper Library or live streamed (link will be provided on the Provost Office's search website). Additional information can be found here:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/leadershippositions/positions/vice_provost_for_faculty_affairs/index.php
- Provost reiterated that we are living in a period of uncertainty at federal level. She reiterated points about working daily with govt liaisons to keep communication open. Additionally, as a member of the APLU, she meets frequently with other Provosts who are living in Washington and keeping provosts apprised of information. We will continue to do our mission. Information will be shared as it comes. Every day is a new day and there is not much forewarning. The Provost is taking suggestions for how to best help each other and keep our community.
- This past Fall 2024: 52,000 applicants from 7300 different high schools. Yielded 7200 student commitments, with more than half from SC. The two USC initiatives (Top 10% of every high school, and financial coverage of tuition and fees for less than 80K families) have increased underrepresented students and first gen students.
- We are in the final stages of Carnegie classification system -apply for every 10 years. In going through the material for the classification, the Provost realized that USC has incredible faculty.
- Faculty being recognized by national organizations – midst of reviewing awardees, Mungo awardees will be named soon. The Provost is impressed by demonstrative evidence of excellence in nominations.

Reports from faculty standing committees

- Curriculum and courses:
 - new course : IT course for global Carolina: passed
 - UNI202, 303: Courses unanimously approved (no SOM courses) – postponed until April meeting
- FAC:
 - Notice of faculty manual change: Palmetto College faculty representation in committees. To include Will vote on this in March.

Report from the Senate Chair:

Provost office provided informational slides about small pilot in relation to authorized vs sponsored activities. Educational activities outside of classroom for which a student may/may not

be excused from the commitments. Formal determination of where authorization would come from currently performed in Student advocacy center – decision being moved to division of the course. See slides here under the February meeting materials:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/

- Announcement of new ad hoc committee: arose out of recent discussion about course marking for low-cost courses. Proposal to the steering committee for ad hoc committee on promoting affordable access to low-cost course materials. Charge: identify barriers to equitable access to course materials and effects on learning, identify best practices for promoting affordable access to course materials in higher Ed and USC. Finite lifespan. Report due by end of fall 2025 semester. Full charge will be posted to the senate website.

Unfinished Business

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Unfinished business: in April 2024, the senate approved faculty manual changes for professional track faculty. An update on the status of changes was requested. From the Senate President: Informally: The new titles were approved at state level and currently being built into modified ACAFs. It might be in public commentary period but not sure. Today, according to UCPTF, currently only one set of unit criteria approved – 9 other sets of criteria that are in hands of provost and vice provost and will go to UCPTF for final review and approval. Outstanding PTF criteria that need to be approved.

New Business

- Committee vacancy on standing committee: faculty welfare committee; Claire Bryant from School of Music submitted as replacement to fill vacancy.
- Reminder to look at faculty senate interest survey due this Friday – prompt colleagues to fill out survey and submit so that we can staff standing committees.
 - a. Please complete the [Faculty Senate Committee Interest Form](#)
 - b. Complete descriptions of each committee and their roles in shared governance can be found on [pages 5 -12 of the current Faculty Manual](#). You can also reach out to the current chair of any committee if you have questions about their function or workload. They are listed here on the [committees page of the Faculty Senate website](#).
 - c. You *do not* have to be a faculty senator to participate in a committee. There is a tenure and rank requirement for the Faculty Appellate Panel and for the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion (UCTP). In most other cases, both professional track faculty and tenure track faculty at any rank are eligible to serve on the standing committees.

3. Current senate secretary stepping down. Looking for new senate secretary to finish out term.

Good of the Order

- o INDEV gave report on Explorance blue – the new student evaluation system that is currently under pilot. They have scheduled several town halls for students and faculty:
 - In Person: Feb 18 and April 9, Russell house theater 10-4pm, drop-in
 - VIRTUAL: Feb 19 and April 10: evening teams drop in town hall – 7-8pm teams link going out soon.

- Inaugural course experience week – INDEV + provost office holding survey week April 21-25 events connected to this to encourage students to complete surveys (free coffee, etc). New thing to boost participation/completion rates for student evaluations.
- AAUP – Monday evening joined the national association of diversity officers to sue Federal administration’s DEI orders. Reach out to Mark Minette if need to learn more. Join AAUP to build community: <https://www.aaup.org> Consider joining now more than ever

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at Russell House Theater at 3 PM.

Staff Senate Report – Brandon Brown

No report.

Interim Dean’s Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. Carolina Day 02/11/2025 Legislature - Update/Thanks
2. Health Science Campus Groundbreaking 02/25/2025 - Update/Thanks.
3. LCME Site Visit - Update and Thanks
4. Executive Session Needed