

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

August 5, 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 Trust's books have been closed for FY 2025 and the financial statement audit has begun. The retirement plan audit is ongoing with the report due in October.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: The University's audit has begun. We will be working through carryforward issues and budget maintenance over the next several weeks. The University has engaged an external firm to assist with enrolling employees in benefits. More information will be coming from USC and SOM Human Resources.

International Travel Reminder: International travel requires advance approval by the Office of the Dean and grant or other external funding.

Facilities Update: Parking continues to be a challenge on the VA campus. Work has been temporarily paused on Lot 19 pending approval on some modifications.

Current larger project status updates are as follows:

1. Medical Park 15 – Medical Park 15 remains closed for renovations.
 2. 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](#)
 3. 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 – any interim or more final items will be presented verbally.

Undergraduate Medical Education Report **Dr. Predrag "PK" Krajacic**

No report – any interim or more final items will be presented verbally.

Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

No report – any interim or more final items will be presented verbally.

Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

Announcements:

None

Accreditation:

There are no pending ACGME site visits for Prisma Health/USCSOM residencies.

Prisma Health/USC School of Medicine Columbia residency and fellowship programs in the Midlands will submit their annual updates for ongoing accreditation to the ACGME in August and September.

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs – Dr. Matt Orr

No report – any interim or more final items will be presented verbally.

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

Research Infrastructure/Administration (Bonilha):

Research Funding Updates

General update:

- **Total Awards Across All Sources** increased substantially, rising from **\$30.32 million** to **\$44.37 million**, which represents a **46.4% increase**. This represents growth in funding from non-federal sources (e.g., state, foundation, industry).
- **Proposals Submitted** rose from **239** to **256**, indicating about a **7% increase** in research proposal activity.

Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) update:

The HERD research funding data from 2022 to 2025 shows both fluctuations and notable growth in specific research categories:

- **Applied Research** more than **doubled** over the period, rising from **\$1.82 million in 2022** to **\$3.45 million in 2025**, indicating a strong upward trend in funding for practical, application-oriented projects.

- **Basic Research** grew steadily from **\$19.38 million in 2022** to a peak of **\$22.12 million in 2024**, but then **declined to \$19.04 million in 2025**, showing a recent contraction of approximately **14%** from its peak.
- **Research Training** experienced **consistent growth**, nearly tripling from **\$35,089 in 2022** to **\$102,953 in 2025**, reflecting increased investment in training initiatives.
- **Research Development** saw the **largest relative growth**, expanding from just **\$4,210 in 2022** to **\$418,863 in 2025**— more than a **100-fold increase**, suggesting a growing emphasis on developing new research capabilities.
- **Total HERD Funding** increased from **\$21.24 million in 2022** to **\$24.95 million in 2024**, but then **fell slightly to \$23.02 million in 2025**, reflecting the drop in basic research funding.

Summary Insight:

While total HERD funding dipped slightly in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024, the trend over four years shows **expanding support for applied research, research development, and training**, suggesting a diversification of research priorities beyond basic science.

Clinical Graduate Programs (Toriello) (Counseling & Rehab, Genetic Counseling, Nurse Anesthesia, PA)

1. General: No report
2. Program specific:
 - a. Counseling and Rehabilitation:
 - i. Student awarded APA Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship (\$12k per year for two years). In return, the student commits to working to address the behavioral health needs of racial and ethnic minorities for two years.
 - ii. Dr. Sacco-Bene was promoted to Clinical Professor!
 - b. Genetic Counseling:
 - i. Whitney Dobek attended the GCEA (Genetic Counselor Educators Association) Annual conference in Denver. Topics included considerations for instructing neurodivergent students, AI in GC education, and DEI in uncertain times.
 - ii. Ms. Dobek was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor!
 - c. Nurse Anesthesia: No report.
 - d. Physician Assistant:
 - i. ~1000 applicants for 30 slots.
 - ii. Dr. Rita was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor!

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Cameron McCarthy

No report. First faculty senate meeting scheduled for late August.

Staff Senate Report – Emily Miles

For Staff Senate:

- We held our first Senate meeting in July, which was mainly introductory and highlighted by a presentation from the original founders of the Senate
 - Each committee presented their early goals for the year-long session
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Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. Admissions Project Update
2. Reminder on Evals for Faculty
3. MS Orientation Lookback and Facts on New Medical Students
4. Committees
5. Ollie Johnson Memorial I-95 Health Fair Lookback
6. HSC Construction Update
7. Other general updates.