

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

October 1, 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 year-end financial statement audit was completed and submitted to the University with a clean opinion. The 5500 filing on the retirement plan will be submitted ahead of the October 15th deadline. Work on the form 990 tax filing is underway. Professional liability insurance renewals for State-employed providers are in process. Updated certificates and letters will be distributed as soon as they are available.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: Distributions of provost commitments and some State funds are still outstanding at this time. Work continues on the AAMC faculty salary survey (due in mid-October) and the annual financial questionnaire (due in December).

SOM Human Resources will hold a benefits fair on October 7th. In addition to receiving your flu shot, representatives from Colonial Life, EMPOWER/SC Deferred Comp, TIAA, the Columbia YMCA, CARO, Brain Health, and others will be on site to share information and answer any questions.

Facilities Update:

Current larger project status updates are as follows:

1. Medical Park 15 – Medical Park 15 remains closed for renovations.
 2. The Cage Wash replacement project has been assigned a project manager and budget. Project work will commence later this year.
 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**

- SOMC will participate in the annual Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) SCOPE

Survey. First administered in 2023, SCOPE survey is a national questionnaire administered by the AAMC and AACOM. It collects medical education program data regarding curriculum structure, content, organization, process, and evaluation. Data from the Curriculum SCOPE Survey supports the AAMC and AACOM missions and advocacy work, informs medical school strategic plans and evidence-based curriculum decisions, and facilitates scholarship and dissemination. Customized visually benchmarked and analyzable reports are made available to participating medical schools. UME office will coordinate filling out the survey and the submission process.

- Please be on the lookout for requests for information. Intended submission date: Monday, November 11, 2024.

Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

- Despite Hurricane Helene, we held a virtual Family and Friends session last Friday morning.
- The White Coat Ceremony will, for the third time in five years, be a double header in 2025. The date is TBD.
- Five students from the class of 2028 have committed to Florence. Twelve are on the interested list.
- We are looking into having April Buchanan from the Greenville campus conduct the training for the new Academic Review Committee.
- Once again, alumni funded all white coats and stethoscopes for the Class of 2028. This is the second year the students have not had to purchase either of those.

Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

Announcements:

The GME office remains without an office location on campus and some of our staff are in a temporary location in 3 MP pending renovation of the new permanent location in 9 MP. The move date to the permanent location was anticipated to be in late May or early June, but that timeline has been shifted to due to competing projects. The current anticipated date for permanent relocation is undetermined at this point.

Residency/Fellowship expansion proposals remain on hold by Prisma Health, and positions are presently frozen at the current number of trainees as of July 1. Non-ACGME fellowships are still being considered. State level advocacy is ongoing with DHHS. There were funds appropriated to DHHS to support residency training in SC. There is a workgroup developing what a program would look like, but there are limited specifics at this juncture.

Accreditation Activities:

All residency and fellowship programs have submitted their annual updates requesting ongoing accreditation to their respective ACGME review committees.

The OBGYN program in the Midlands underwent a Special Review by the Prisma Health GMEC. The report was approved by the Prisma Health GMEC on August 26. The program is actively implementing the objectives of the Special Review as well as other improvements already underway prior to the Special Review.

The ACGME has issued a draft revision of the Institutional Requirements. These draft revisions will require a substantially greater integration of GME within and commitment by Sponsoring Institutions and clinical learning environments. The draft is currently in the public review and comment period. These can be viewed at this link: <https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/programs/review-and-comment/>

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs – Dr. Matt Orr

No report.

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

Research Infrastructure/Administration:

- No Report

Clinical Graduate Programs:

1. General:

- a. No report.

2. Program-specific:

- a. **Counseling and Rehabilitation:** Dr. Sacco-Bene helped revise the US Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook definition of Rehabilitation Counseling.
- b. **Genetic Counseling:** 2nd year students attended the Annual Education Conference for the National Society of Genetic Counselors in New Orleans
- c. **Nurse Anesthesia:** no report.
- d. **Physician Assistant:** Student (Class of 2021) passed away unexpectedly.

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Fiona Hollis

General Faculty Meeting Notes from September 4, 2024

Report from the President:

- The President is excited about the tenure-track faculty hires and looks forward to increasing faculty excellence
- Welcome to the new Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health, Dr. Tara Sabo-Attwood
- Some records were made this year:
 - Students are back on campus. This year, we welcomed 7,250 students – a class size similar to our previous year of 7300, which ensures capacity. This brings us to a record student population of 38,300 students. Next year, the anticipation is that we will hit 40,000 students on campus.

- This year, USC's retention rate of first-year students was 92% - highest
- First year with the university's two new initiatives in place: automatic acceptance of the top 10% of SC high school students and the USC Commitment grant (tuition for top 10% of SC high school students with family income below \$80k). An extra 100 students enrolled at USC as a result of this Commitment grant.
- Record research funding: \$309 million in sponsored awards -representing a 27% increase from last year, which was also a record funding year.
- Doubled the # of donor financial gifts resulting in named colleges (Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing is the latest addition) \$131 million raised – back to strong pre-2018 levels and gaining momentum needed for a capital campaign.
- Board of Trustees approved the Master Plan in August. Addresses anticipated needs in next 10 years, including the needs of students (housing, study areas, dining, meeting spaces, recreational areas) and academic needs – classrooms, labs, new health sciences campus on Bull St. soon – medical school break ground in Jan 2025 or even end of this year.
- The President took the opportunity to address the controversy surrounding the Roast of Vice President Harris later this month. This event is not endorsed (and is even denounced) by the university. However, the governor has gone on record that the University has the responsibility and no choice but to allow the event to occur to protect 1st amendment rights. Some individuals asked if we could invoke the Carolina Creed as a way to prevent this event from occurring, however the Carolina Creed is an aspiration, not a university policy. And we cannot have a policy that contradicts constitutional law.

Report from the Provost:

- New faculty were introduced by respective chairs – welcome to our new SOM faculty:
 - Dr. Shaquria Adderley - Clinical Associate Professor and Medical Educator
 - Dr. Janel Hagar - Clinical Associate Professor and Medical Educator
 - Dr. Predrag Krajacic - Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education
 - Dr. Bobby Miller - Sr. Assistant Dean for Education Projects, Executive Director of Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Dr. Travien “Trae” Capers - Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of Educational Program Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Dr. James “Rob” McMahon - Clinical Assistant Professor
 - Dr. Avery Dingle - Clinical Assistant Professor
 - Dr. Taryn Richardson - Clinical Assistant Professor
- T&P report:
 - 33 Assistant Professors applied for tenure – 30 were awarded
 - 29 Associate Professors applied for promotion - 27 were awarded
 - 1 librarian applied for tenure – 1 was awarded

Percent Agreement for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

	Dean	Provost	UCTP	President
Chair*	94%	94%	94%	97%
Dean		91%	97%	94%
Provost			94%	100%
UCTP				94%

Percentage Agreement for Promotion to Professor

	Dean	Provost	UCTP	President
Chair*	96%	96%	96%	96%
Dean		100%	100%	100%
Provost			100%	100%
UCTP				100%

- Faculty salary compression analysis was concluded this year. Salaries were compared to peer universities and nearly 200 faculty salaries were adjusted to be competitive.

Report from the Senate Chair:

- Moving to towards a new LMS after our contract with Blackboard expires
- Committee interest survey will be sent out shortly – please have faculty respond as soon as possible

President faculty dinner set for Oct 23rd at 6pm.

Faculty Senate Meeting Notes from September 11, 2024

Report from the President: very similar report to last week’s general meeting

- The President provided an executive summary of State of the University today – thanks to all that came
- 51 of 100 Presidential TT hires concluded. 49 to go for this coming year.
- Completed compression study – 200 faculty salaries adjusted to be within competitive range
- Approved changes to faculty manual regarding professional track faculty titles and promotions
- Board of Trustees approved the Master Plan in August.
 - Currently in “Phase 0”: projects already in progress—housing, library, and academic facilities
 - Encouraged faculty to look at Master Plan: <https://sc.edu/about/master-plan/>
 - Thanked the faculty for their contribution to the success of USC
- The President reiterated the inability of the university to restrict the holding of the controversial Roast of Vice President Harris on Sept 18 (Uncensored America).

Report from the Provost:

- 92% retention of students from 1st to 2nd year. Our goal for this year is 94%
 - If a student drops out in the 1st year, only 1 in 50 will come back and finish a 4-year degree
 - 94% will put us in line with University of Georgia and other schools in the region.
 - Provost asks faculty to help with the following items to improve retention:

1. Early grading—please provide graded feedback early in semester while students can withdraw without GPA penalty (W vs WF date)
2. Let students know about 1st generation support center
3. To help lower DWF rates, please be ready to utilize “Circle In”, a new program that theoretically increases student engagement and success. The CEO and Co-founder (Gerald Meggett) presented a bit about the vision and functioning of this product, including a PPT file:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/about/news/2024/9_11_24.pptx

Reports from faculty standing committees

- Committee on Courses and Curricula—5 total changes were approved (3 CAS, 1 College Information and Communications, and 1 Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing) None SOM-related

Report from the Senate Chair:

- Senate officers busy behind the scenes managing upcoming responsibilities. We have a “potentially busy season” ahead of us.

Unfinished Business—

- Some standing committee vacancies were nominated and filled.
- Question about changes in teaching professor titles was asked. All were approved by President and Board. Now waiting on approval at the state legislative level, for one of the titles that did not previously exist.

Good of the Order

- Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, at 3 PM (*moved to the second Wednesday due to conflict with Rosh Hashanah)
- Health and Wellness expo upcoming: Sept 24 from 8am-2pm. See benefits website for details.
- Faculty encouraged to become active in AAUP (American Association of University Professors). Kickoff meeting Sept 20th @ 2pm in Wardlaw 125. (contact Mark Minette minett@mailbox.sc.edu for more information)

Staff Senate Report – Whitney Williams

President’s Update – Megan Colascione:

- There is a new ex officio representative for Staff Senate: Shannon Means, vice provost for strategy and innovation.
- Health and Wellness Expo: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- State of the University was Wednesday, Sept. 11 – **recap at end of email!**
- Partnership with university leadership to expand Staff Senate awards; potentially would go from three awards to 46
- Partnership with the provost’s office to revamp the Women’s Leadership Institute; ad hoc committee opportunity

Guest Speakers: Amanda Therrell, director of the Graduation and Retention Network (GARNET), and LaNae’ Budden and Melissa Kupfer, director and assistant director, respectively, of the First-Generation Center. Therrell spoke first, covering her office’s mission and goals, including developing initiatives to increase retention and graduation rates and increasing resources for first-gen students (20 percent of the

student body), which included opening the First-Generation Center. Budden and Kupfer then spoke about first-generation students at USC and their goals and work with the First-Gen Center. USC was recently announced as a First-Gen Forward Network Leader for its efforts in this area. [Powerpoint linked here.](#)

Committee Updates + Announcements: Staff Policy and Well-Being: We'll be collaborating with Facilities on mental health spaces across campus. There should be updates for the HR website this week. They've reached out to Title IX to join one of their meetings soon. Dependent tuition reduction policy work is moving forward, and it looks very positive. Community Projects: Staff Senate is asking for continued donations to the CommUnity Shop. The focus is on household linens (twin/full sized sheets) and toiletry items. For the next month, they are collecting clothes for Carolina Closet. They've adopted a teacher at Irmo Middle School and will be collecting school supplies for them. The collection of pull tabs from cans for the Ronald McDonald House will continue this year. The committee is discussing getting involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Bylaws: They are having conversations about the attendance policy and how that may be tweaked.

Other Business:

Changes were approved that clarify the language around the terms and succession of Staff Senate vice presidents, presidents and immediate past presidents.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 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.

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY RECAP FROM USC TODAY

President Michael Amiridis said the university is well positioned to weather a turbulent time in higher education as he celebrated USC's accomplishments and laid out his vision for the future in the annual State of the University address on Wednesday (Sept. 11).

Record enrollment: This fall, university enrollment topped 38,000 for the first time — including more South Carolina students than ever.

Record-setting research: USC reached an all-time high of \$309 million in sponsored awards, a 27 percent increase over last year.

Looking toward the future: In August, the Board of Trustees approved the USC Next campus master plan, establishing an ambitious vision for future growth and development on the school's Columbia campus.

What he's saying: "Institutions are facing challenges in enrollment, in finances and in public trust. But in the midst of all this, USC is thriving." — President Michael Amiridis

[Read or watch the SOTU speech](#)

Flu Shot / Wellness Clinic

LOCATION:
USC SOM / VA CAMPUS
Building #1 Classroom B67

Open Enrollment from October 1 – 31, 2024

During open enrollment from October 1 – 31, eligible employees may explore their benefits and insurance options for 2025 by visiting the Public Employee Benefits Authority (PEBA) Open Enrollment website and by watching Human Resources' **open enrollment video**. Any benefit changes made during this time will be effective January 1, 2025. Employees may:

- Enroll in or make changes to health and vision coverage.
- Enroll in or increase Optional Life and Dependent Life-Spouse coverage with medical evidence.
- Apply for or make changes to Supplemental Long Term Disability coverage without medical evidence.
- Add or remove dependents from your coverage.
- Enroll in or make changes to your health savings account and flexible spending accounts for dependent care, Medical Spending Account, and Limited-Use Medical Spending Account.

Keep in mind, changes to existing dental coverage can be made during open enrollment in odd-numbered years only. Your next opportunity to make a change will be in October 2025 or within 31 days of a special eligibility situation.

Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. HSC Update
2. LCME Update
3. DCI Update
4. Mock Site Visit will occur November 18-19, 2024
5. Brain Health Center Update – Estimated time for opening is 2026