

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

April 1, 2025

Senior Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Caughman Taylor

Faculty Evaluations Discussion- Provost Office approval pending, a more simplified evaluation document is drafted for professional track clinical faculty. A draft document is being presented to the CAC at its next meeting in April.

Faculty Appointment Letters Update- Appointment letters for clinical faculty reflect USC employed, Prisma Health, McLeod, or other faculty at affiliated hospitals or in affiliated clinical practices. This is being present to CAC at its next in April.

Clinical Learning Environment discussions with LMC- we are having ongoing discussions with LMC around their desires to have more of our students.

New professional clinical track appointment and promotion criteria to be presented to both SOM promotion committees (Greenville and Columbia) for their approvals which aligns our two schools' promotion criteria as directed by the University, and that match the updated University's faculty handbook. Want to thank especially Drs. David Rotholz and JT Thornhill for all their assistance as we have worked through this over the last year and a half. These criteria will need SOM promotion committee approvals, followed by the University approvals.

Operational Finance and Administration Report – Derek Payne

USC School of Medicine Educational Trust: The 2025 Compensation Agreement process continues. Please reach out to your chair if you have not yet signed your agreement. Interim financial statements and bond compliance certification documentation have been completed and submitted.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: The three-year financial plan was presented at the Provost's annual blueprint and budgets meeting earlier today. Margins remain extremely tight due to fixed revenues and inflationary impacts on expenses. The State budget process is continuing to progress through the Legislature. The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to take up the budget on April 9th, with the full Senate floor debate commencing on April 23rd.

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

Facilities Update: Parking remains a challenge on the VA campus. The VA is currently estimating the completion of the work on parking lot 19 in late April or early May.

Current larger project status updates are as follows:

1. Medical Park 15 – Medical Park 15 remains closed for renovations.
2. Renovation work is substantially completed on the new 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

No report.

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

1. UME office is finalizing the search for the Standardized Patient Manager position. Hiring a Standardized Patient Manager will significantly elevate our program by ensuring high-quality, consistent clinical training experiences, streamlining operations, and strengthening our ability to deliver reliable, competency-based assessments. We expect to have the position filled by July 1st.
 2. We are in the process of initiating a national search for the Assistant Dean for Pre-Clinical Curriculum as Dr. Kelly will be retiring in October. The search process will offer valuable opportunities for all members of our community—faculty, students, and staff—to interact with and provide feedback on the candidates during their campus visits.
 3. U.S. News & World report official ranking will be released on April 4th.
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Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

2025 Match:

Three students (two OB and one ortho) had no match by the SOAP. After SOAP, both OB students had a transitional year and the ortho student had a research fellowship.

One student pre-SOAP had a diagnostic radiology PSY 2 position, but no PGY 1 position. Post-SOAP, he had a PGY 1 position as well.

One student had a PGY 1 position, but no PGY 2 position in diagnostic radiology. He is currently communicating with unfilled DR programs.

Overall, 97% of students were fully or partially matched pre-SOAP, and 99% post-SOAP. 37% are going into the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, or some combination of the three. 27% will remain in South Carolina. Of those, 42% are going into one of the three primary care specialties mentioned.

The national match average Pre-SOAP was 93.5%.

Hooding is Thursday, May 8 and Commencement Friday, May 9. Look for faculty and staff RSVPs soon.

Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

No Report.

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs – Dr. Matt Orr

The SOMC Faculty Affairs Committee, which is managed by the Office of Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs, will be hosting a **Faculty Town Hall** in collaboration with the Culture and Climate Committee, Wellness Promotion Committee, and Women in Science & Medicine Committee on from **5:30-6:30pm, April 22 in the 2MP Lower Level Lecture Hall and via Teams**.

To ensure we hear from as many faculty members as possible—especially those unable to attend the Town Hall in person—we will also be conducting a **confidential Pre-Town Hall survey** which faculty should have recently received by email. Even for those attending the town hall we wanted to provide an opportunity for them to articulate their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions in writing ahead of the forum. We will be using this information and the discussions from the Town Hall to inform the strategic direction of these four committees whose work directly impacts faculty experience.

It is the intention of these committees to work with the Staff Council to provide such a forum for SOMC staff in the near future as well as to hold forums for faculty and staff together, as indicated.

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

Research Infrastructure/Administration:

- No Report

Clinical Graduate Programs:

1. **General:** No report.
2. **Program-specific:**
 - a. **Counseling and Rehabilitation:**
 - i. Dr. Sacco-Bene was named Rehabilitation Counselor Educator of the Year by the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association. Student Allie Ledbetter was named Rehabilitation Counseling Student of the Year by the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association.
 - b. **Genetic Counseling:**
 - i. Added new members to its advisory council.
 - c. **Nurse Anesthesia:**
 - i. No report.
 - d. **Physician Assistant:**
 - i. Pam Wilson successfully defended her dissertation for Doctor of Education. Congratulations, Dr. Wilson!

Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Fiona Hollis

Report from the President:

- The President recognizes that this has been a very active period from the federal government as well as increased legislation activity in the statehouse. Change creates a lot of uncertainty. So, he wanted to address potential questions that faculty may have.
 1. IDC costs being capped at 15%: This is being debated in the courts. IDC currently at 49% used for infrastructure costs. A 15% reduction would result in a \$25 million decrease in funding for the University. President has asked upper admin from colleges to estimate the effects on their unit under a few scenarios:
 - a. What if IDC is enforced at 15% for NIH only? What about 30%?
 - b. What is IDC decrease is enforced for NIH only?
 - c. For all federal funding agencies? For all funding agencies?
 2. 6 programs have been terminated in the last couple weeks – all focused on DEI: (5 from Columbia, and 1 from Beaufort) Total loss: \$6.7 million (\$4million Columbia)
 - a. USAID programs for work performed here.
 - b. Dept of State
 - c. Dept of Education
 3. 16 grants received stop order currently since they have DEI components (that were required at the time of submission). The President believes they will be activated again with DEI components removed.
 4. The University received a “Dear Colleague” letter from Dept of Education that had to do with DEI. It was followed up 3 days ago by a FAQ document—clarifying some issues, since the first letter was quite complicated. We’re still trying to decipher what the DOE is asking from us. Our Board has asked the University to review policies and practices to ensure compliance.
 5. At the state level, we have 2 DEI-focused bills in the House – one from Repub caucus and one from Freedom caucus. Both attempting to eliminate DEI overall at state level (Repub caucus: eliminates DEI office/units, no preferential hiring, enrolment, no required statements as part of employment, students, or scholarships; Freedom caucus: no training, no contractors who support DEI). Both currently being debated in House. To be clear we cannot operate without following state and federal laws. We are already mostly compliant with the charges in these bills, but we will have to see which bill gets passed.

There were many questions for the President from faculty:

Q: Asking for president to be careful to not pass costs of decreased IDC to grants that are not being affected by the change in IDC rates. A: President said it is his intention to not make changes like that, but that the university will have to be sure to use IDC as intended (equipment, infrastructure – not general operations)

Q: A prof from music asked about DEI bills and their effect on accreditation. A: He responded that both bills exclude changes that affect accreditation and academic freedom. There was much skepticism in the audience about whether this is accurate.

Q: Aaron Dicker from English asked about Resolution 3795 (related to requiring 70% of applications to be from in-state students)? A: President had not heard of it. Later in the meeting he responded that this bill is sponsored by only 1 person. Not likely to move forward.

Q: Mark Minette wanted to go on the record that the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) interprets the previous bills as excluding underrepresented groups, low-income groups, but not protecting activities as related to sex, gender, race (particularly referencing the bill from the Freedom Caucus). Also points out that these bills protect course instruction, not curriculum. "Our academic freedom is at risk here." He also asked about ability of student groups to continue to exist (for instance women in STEM group?).

A: President responded that much is unclear and we all need more information for a full understanding. He thinks curriculum will be exempted. He thinks student organizations are separate and not impacted but recognized that the statements in the bills are contradictory.

Q: Someone expressed concern for Departments such as Women and Gender Studies and Dept of African American Studies. Is the Univ. behind the scenes trying to protect graduate students and address these issues. Does the Univ have a plan of action?

A: President responded that grad students should not be paid from IDC. BUT other schools have stopped accepting NEW graduate students. This surprised the President. The loss of funding is significantly higher for those institutions than it is for us. His intention has always been to support existing students until they finish. "It is our responsibility to help grad students to finish. I always did that, and we will rectify that. But also, we should not accept grad students without support."

Q: A professor from Women and Gender studies asked for a public statement from the president that they are working behind the scenes to fully support that department and others that may be impacted. A: The President responded that a public statement about working behind the scenes is contradictory and he can't do that.

Report from the Provost:

- Breaking good news: a judge just ruled to prevent cut in NIH funding.
- She represented the university in a conference of the American Talent Initiative. Some interesting findings she wanted to share—most Americans:
 - a. Support the importance of 4 year degree
 - b. Are concerned about the costs of 4 year education and in a shift of importance from academic excellence to social issues.
 - c. Mostly supportive of higher ed in general
 - d. That higher education promoted upward mobility.

These are important findings because we are supporting more students from a diversity of socioeconomic status with free tuition and fees (particularly Pell eligible students.)

- She is looking forward to announcing major faculty awards tomorrow.
- A technical report she read verbatim—related to transfer courses and equivalencies. Basically, expanding the transfer course list between schools. This will not change the current process, but will bring more attention to how the equivalencies are processed. Key details are that 11 new courses are already in our Carolina Core; 14 don't current have equivalencies but they are being classified; 20 will not have equivalencies and will be brought in as electives.

Questions? None.

Faculty Welfare Committee:

Asked Chief of Police to come talk about an email reporting an increase in focus on pedestrian safety. Apparently, there were many emails asking why they were concerned about pedestrian safety and not driver safety. He made the point that drivers and cars are not hurt in accidents involving pedestrians. He noted that in the University's area of influence (Rosewood to Gervais and Harden to the railroad

tracks), they collect data on collisions.

On average, 895 collisions annually. On average, 25 annually involve pedestrians or mopeds. Last year that was lower. In 20% of the collisions, the motorists were not at fault. They (the police) do observe and recognize pedestrians/mopeds participate in unsafe behavior. BUT the pedestrians have “skin in the game” and are impacted more than the drivers and their vehicles. They are initiating a pedestrian safety campaign.

Reports from faculty standing committees

- Curriculum and courses: All course changes passed
- FAC: lots of items on agenda. Mostly these are proposals to be voted on next meeting.
 - 1) Modifications to manual to align language about grievance process to be similar between professional track faculty and tenure track faculty (TTF have 4 grounds of grievance, PTF only had 2. This proposal will make them similar in language and function.
 - 2) Modifications to Faculty Manual related to Professional Track Faculty Committee. Revised the “Charge” to the committee. Also changing the makeup of the committee to include 12 members, not more than 3 can be tenure track.’
 - 3) Proposal to expand Steering committee. Change from 9-11 chairs of the other committees. Attempt to add more voices in steering committee.
 - 4) Proposal stemming from suggestions last meeting (by Stephanie Ackerson) to allow PTF to serve as Fac Sen Secretary. The proposal was considered. There was a need to disentangle some language related to elections to make it possible to elect a PTF member as Fac Sen Secretary. This change will require a 2/3 majority vote to pass—will be voted on next meeting.

Report from the Senate Chair:

- 1) Next meeting the CIO and the VPR will be invited to April meeting to discuss potential use of AI on campus. Please submit questions to Wayne Outten so that they can be addressed in the next meeting.
- 2) There will be an employee survey deployed soon from “ModernThink”. Please complete this survey.
- 3) Reminder that the new Ad Hoc committee on Affordable Access to Course Material is looking for interested individuals. Please reach out to Wayne Outten before April 1 to express interest to serve on this committee.
- 4) Another survey in a few weeks to determine preliminary interested in serving on two new committees (Carolina Core committee and Committee on Research)

Unfinished Business: none

New Business :

- Slate of nominees that steering committee has put together for fall 2025: all voted in
 - From SOM:
 - a. Dr. Swapan Ray (PMI) = Bookstore committee
 - b. Dr. Jay Potts (CBA) for Faculty Appellate Panel
 - c. Dr. Claudia Grillo (PPN) PTF committee

Good of the Order

1. Mark Minette promoted USC’s chapter of the AAUP. Please join. “We are under attack from Federal and State government.” There are ways to fight back.
For more info email AAUP.USC.Columbia@gmail.com
2. The next senate meeting April 2nd, 3pm.

Staff Senate Report – Brandon Brown

No report.

Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

General updates.

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia
Executive Committee Meeting
April 2025

Graduate Medical Education Report

Announcements:

All Prisma Health/USCSOM C programs filled in the NRMP Match process.

Accreditation:

All 27 Prisma Health/USCSOM C residency and fellowship programs have ACGME Continued Accreditation status.