

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

September 2, 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 financial statement audit is wrapping up, with a final report due this Friday. The retirement plan audit remains in progress with the report due in October.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration: E fund and other rollforward balances have been populated in PeopleSoft for FY2026. We will be working through the remaining carryforward items during the month of September.

The SOMC Benefits Fair and Flu shots will be held on Tuesday, October 21st from 12-4 pm. Vendors TBD, stay tuned

Open enrollment starts October 1st- October 31st.

Highlights for 2026

- [Active employee](#) and [funded retiree](#) health insurance premiums will not increase in 2026.
- Dental Plus premiums will increase in 2026.
- Dental Plus option to enroll or drop
- Vision option to enroll or drop
- CVS Caremark will be the pharmacy benefits manager effective January 1, 2026, instead of Express Scripts. New cards will be issued
- MoneyPlus flexible spending account administrative fees will reduce to \$1.10 per account per month.
- Health Savings Account participants will no longer pay a monthly administrative fee.

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 remains 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](#)

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**

The search for the new Assistant Dean for Pre-clerkship curriculum is ongoing. The second candidate will be coming for an on-campus interview September 7-9th. Please try and attend (in person or virtual) their presentation on September 8th at 11:15am.

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:

USCSOM-C residencies and fellowships have already begun annual recruitment processes. Residency programs are preparing for the interview season.

Accreditation:

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

Prisma Health/USC School of Medicine Columbia residency and fellowship programs in the ACGME non-case log group have submitted their annual updates for ongoing accreditation to the ACGME. Case log specialties will submit this month.

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

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will be meeting on September 29th to continue monitoring progress toward current goals. We will be working with the Dean to organize a steering committee to begin working on the next (5-year) strategic plan.

Research and Graduate Education Report

Dr. Leo Bonilha & Dr. Paul Toriello

Research Infrastructure/Administration (Bonilha):

Research Funding Updates

General update:

Overview of funded research projects

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

1. General: Drafting vision and principles for enhancement and growth. Will meet with senior leadership to develop a shared vision.
 2. Program-specific:
 - a. Counseling and Rehabilitation:
 - i. Largest student body ever.
 - ii. Dr. Walsh voted for the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Certification Commission.
 - b. Genetic Counseling: 408 hours of volunteer hours during 24-25!
 - c. Nurse Anesthesia:
 - i. Marcia Iszard was selected and recognized as a Fellow for the American Association of Nurse Anesthesia at their Annual Congress this month.
 - ii. Started a student newsletter: "*The Drip: A Steady Flow of Staying in the Know.*"
 - iii. Applications up another 17% over last year.
 - d. Physician Assistant:
 - i. 125 applicants (top 10% of all applicants) were interviewed.
 - ii.
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Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Cameron McCarthy

No report. First faculty senate meeting scheduled for August 27th – will provide update verbally.

Staff Senate Report – Emily Miles

For Staff Senate:

- Save the Dates:
 - HR/Well-Being Expo is set for September 30, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Russell House
 - 2025 State of the University with President Amiridis is scheduled for September 17, at 10 a.m., in the Russell House Ballroom

- Jennifer Whetstone-Jackson, Assistant Director for Basic Needs of the Community Shop at the University of South Carolina was the guest speaker at the August Staff Senate General Body Meeting
 - If you know of a student in need, submit a referral at go.sc.edu/basicneeds.
 - Students, Faculty and Staff are able to access the Gamecock Community shop and are given 40 points a month for food, clothing, school supplies, houseware and more
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Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. Townhall Lookback
2. Admissions Ad Hoc Task Force Update
3. Organizational Structure Update
4. Committees Ad Hoc Task Force Update
5. Student Success & Wellness Ad Hoc Task Force Update
6. HSC Construction Update
7. Other general updates