

Executive Committee Meeting Reports

January 13, 2026

Senior Associate Dean's Report – Dr. Caughman Taylor

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

Operational Finance and Administration Report – Derek Payne

USC School of Medicine Educational Trust: Calendar year 2026 Trust compensation agreements are due. Interim financial statement preparation will begin this month.

School of Medicine Finance and Administration:

- *Purchasing Cards:* Purchasing and the Controller's Office will be distributing procedures this week for access to procurement for individuals whose purchasing cards were deactivated as part of the State audit requirement.
- *HR Blackout:* On January 9th, USC HR began a blackout period for pay actions to implement the new market structure for FTE, RGP, and TML staff positions and employee actions. The projected date for lifting the blackout is January 29th. Please refer to the handout from SOM HR Director, Susan Herndon, for more details.
- *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 on Lot 19 has resumed and is scheduled for completion this month.

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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Faculty Affairs Report – Dr. J.T. Thornhill

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

Undergraduate Medical Education & Academic Affairs Report Dr. Predrag "PK" Krajacic

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

Student Affairs Report – Dr. Eric Williams

1. Match Day for the MD students – Friday, March 20, 2026 – Boyd Plaza (Museum of Art)
 2. The Hooding Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 11 am at the Convention Center for the graduate students and 3pm for the MD students. Commencement is on Friday, May 8, 2026, at noon at the Koger Center. Faculty RSVPs will be solicited soon.
 3. Student Affairs staff update – presenting verbally
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Graduate Medical Education Report – Dr. Chuck Carter

Announcements:

Prisma Health will begin a Urology Residency on the Greenville campus in academic year 2026. This program has Initial Accreditation from the ACGME.

Fellowship matches complete in January, and the categorical residency programs are wrapping up interviews ahead of the upcoming NRMP main match in March.

Strategic Initiatives & Accreditation - Dr. Bobby Miller

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

Continuous Professional Development & Strategic Affairs

Dr. Matt Orr

Healthcare Continuing Education Professionals Day™ will be celebrated on Friday, January 23, 2026. This is a day dedicated to recognizing the professionals who play a critical role in shaping the future of healthcare by facilitating lifelong learning and professional development. Join us in celebrating their contributions and commitment to advancing quality patient care.

We have activities planned to celebrate our team internally. Externally, our office will be featured in our School of Medicine and Prisma Health communication channels. We will also be acknowledging our CE/CPD partners at the School of Medicine Greenville and celebrating with them later this Spring.

Physician Leadership Institute – The 13 participants of the 2025 cohort of the PLI will be completing their year-long experience in their final session and closing ceremonies on January 15th. Participants will be engaging as part of a panel in which they will discuss their leadership projects followed by a reception and celebratory dinner with senior leaders of the SOMC and Prisma Health and former graduates of the PLI.

Upcoming CME Opportunities:

- **32nd Annual Alcohol & Drug Issues Conference for Clinicians** - January 10, 2026 - Double Tree by Hilton, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC
- **AI Ethics in Medicine and Law Symposium** - Friday, January 9, 2026, 9:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Joseph F. Rice School of Law.
- **16th Annual South Carolina Pediatric Trauma & Injury Prevention Symposium** - February 6, 2026 - Hyatt House, 560 Kings Street, Charleston, SC

For More Professional Development Opportunities:

- Please see the December Carolina Compass Faculty Development Newsletter : [December 2025 Carolina Compass Faculty Newsletter](#)
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Research Report - Dr. Leo Bonilha

2025 Office of Research Annual Report – separately shared.

Graduate Education Report - Dr. Paul Toriello

1. General: No report
 2. Program-specific:
 - Counseling and Rehabilitation: 14 new students start this semester. 47 qualified applicants
 - Genetic Counseling: Continuing 40th anniversary festivities & fund raising
 - Nurse Anesthesia: 44 new students starting (largest class ever). 125 interviews.
 - Physician Assistant: 30 new students starting. 120 interviewed.
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Faculty Senate Report – Dr. Cameron McCarthy

Dec 3rd, 2025 Meeting

Senior Leadership Updates

- President reported continued engagement with alumni, foundations, and state representatives.
- Emphasized importance of faculty representation at commencement ceremonies.
- Provost reported 157 applications submitted to the internal research competition across three grant mechanisms.
- Professional-track faculty guidelines remain under development.

Academic Freedom

- Guest presentation from Scott Bauries, Joseph F. Rice School of Law, addressed academic freedom, including historical and legal context related to recent faculty firings/suspensions at peer institutions (e.g., Clemson).
- Emphasized institutional responsibility to protect academic freedom and due process.

Student Support

- Jennifer Whetstone-Jackson from the Basic Needs Team presented on the Gamecock CommUnity Shop and consultation services addressing food insecurity and basic needs.

Faculty Governance

- Standing committee updates provided from:
 - Curriculum and Courses
 - Faculty Advisory Committee
- Steering Committee provided operational updates.

Faculty Senate Chair Updates

- Faculty Senate elections to be held in Spring to allow adequate onboarding time.
- Nominations for Faculty Senate Chair-Elect forthcoming.

- Commencement reminder: Ticket required unless serving as hooding faculty (Dec. 15).
- Explorance Blue course evaluations open through December 5.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

Staff Senate Report – Emily Miles

Staff Senate December Meeting Highlights:

- Registration is open for the USC Annual MLK Breakfast- More information can be accessed [HERE](#)
 - Guest Speaker, Jared Evans, Chief Experience Officer with the USC Alumni Association, reminded all staff of the special Alumni Association membership rates exclusively for USC staff and faculty- More information can be accessed [HERE](#)
 - Guest speaker, Derek Gruner, USC Architect, Shared information regarding the USC campus master plan and capital projects- More information can be accessed [HERE](#)
 - Reminder: Save the date for Staff Appreciation Day on May 14, 2026
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Interim Dean's Report – Dr. Gerry Harmon

1. Action – Admissions Plans and Update
2. Action – USCSOMC Workgroup on Committees restart up this month/January
3. Action – Brain Health Center Update
4. Action – Health Sciences Campus Update
5. Discussion – Pediatric Healthcare Regional & National Concerns
6. Discussion – IT hardware & other cost increases – Dr. Lindsie Cone
7. Discussion – Purchasing Cards – Derek Payne
8. Reflection – Topping Out Event (December 17th) – HSC & Beam Signing
9. Reflection – LCME Virtual Consultation – December 11th & 12th
10. Reflection – December Commencement
11. Search – PMI Chair search underway
12. Search – USCSOMC Dean underway
13. Reminder – Use of the School calendar for events
14. Reminder – University/National Holiday – MLK Day – January 19th
15. Reminder – Next Executive Committee Meeting – February 3rd
16. Other General Updates