



USC Faculty Senate

Fall 2024



Faculty Senate Fall 2024

Your Faculty Senate has been working hard this semester. Over 194 faculty have been taking part in university-level faculty governance through faculty committees and/or as Faculty Senators.

24 New or Re-elected Senators

24 new or re-elected [Senators](#) began service in August 2024. Orientation to Senate and a time for questions was held on Aug. 28th. New Senators included ten faculty from Arts and Sciences, two from Palmetto College, four from Education, two from SOM Greenville and one from Business.

CircleIn

[CircleIn](#) is a social and study connection app that began pilot testing in Chem 333, Acct 225 and Math 141 in Spring 2024. Engagement surpassed 87% in Chem and Acct with activity in the app significantly related to higher course grades. This did not hold for Math 141. Fall 2024 expands the pilot to three additional courses. This is part of the initiative promoting student engagement and course success. The pilot groups are those courses with the highest DFW rates (30%). The App has been particularly successful for first generation and Pell grant students.

Curricula & Courses

The Curricula and Courses committee of Faculty Senate was busy this semester and reviewed 345 proposals. These proposals included 252 course proposals and 93 program changes. All proposed changes were approved by Faculty Senate. Curricula and Courses conducts a large amount of work and encourages you to work with your unit [Academic Program Liaison](#) on your proposals to make sure they meet all requirements.

Fall 2024 Proposals submitted to Courses and Curricula

	<i>Course Proposals</i>	<i>Program Proposals</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Arts & Sciences</i>	158	22	180
<i>Business</i>	5	9	14
<i>Education</i>	5	3	8
<i>Engin. & Comp.</i>	23	31	54
<i>Honors</i>	2	0	2
<i>Hosp. & Retail</i>	16	6	22
<i>Info. & Comm.</i>	30	10	40
<i>Interdisciplinary</i>	0	4	4
<i>Music</i>	9	5	14
<i>Nursing</i>	0	2	2
<i>Pharmacy</i>	0	1	1
<i>Public Health</i>	2	0	2
<i>Social Work</i>	2	0	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>345</i>

Professional-Track Faculty Titles

As part of a larger addition to the Faculty Manual, changes in profession-track faculty (PTF) titles were approved in Spring 2024 by the Senate, and in Fall 2024 by the Division of State Human Resources, SC Department of Administration, allowing for implementation. Unit by unit adoption of the titles is dependent on submission and approval of unit PTF criteria that follow the recent changes in the Faculty Manual. Guidelines for unit professional-track faculty criteria and a link to submit criteria can be found [here](#).

New Teaching Evaluation System

Class Climate will not be available after Spring 2025. Over the last year and a half, The Instructional Development (InDev) committee has been working with a committee in the Provost's office to pilot a new student teaching evaluation system ([Explorance Blue](#)) and to develop new evaluation questions that follow best practices. The new questions are based on an in-depth InDev review of the literature on student evaluations as well as feedback from a Summer 2024 pilot. The new questions and software will

continue to be refined in pilots in Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, with full implementation of Explorance Blue scheduled for Summer 2025.

Athletics

Effective immediately, faculty and staff will no longer be able to attend USC baseball games for free. Starting with the 2025-2026 season, faculty and staff will no longer be able to attend women's basketball games for free. Both changes are driven by efforts to prepare for significant upcoming changes to athletics funding that will be felt throughout college athletics. Discounted tickets will be available through www.govx.com. For more information on faculty and staff ticketing to all other USC athletics events, please visit the [Faculty and Staff Ticket Page](#).

Parking

[Parking](#) at USC can sometimes be a challenge. The parking office is working on creating smart parking on campus, beginning with the Bull St. garage. Repairs and increased lighting are underway in several garages.

Accessibility: If you need a USC handicapped [permit](#) you must first obtain a DMV handicapped permit (clinician letters are no longer accepted). [Paratransit](#) Services are available to employees who have requested [accommodations](#) through HR. Once approved by HR, the [Transloc](#) App can be used to schedule paratransit services.

First Generation Center

USC's First-Generation Center, located in Maxcy College, offers programming, housing and services to first generation students. Students work closely with student and faculty mentors to navigate the university and plan for their future career. Learn more about opportunities for faculty to be involved in the center [here](#).

Committee on the Carolina Core (CCC)

The Carolina Core Review and Revision Committee's 2023 report recommended adding a standing faculty Committee on the Carolina Core (CCC) that reports to the Senate. This recommendation was approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), presented for notice at the November Senate meeting, and passed by the full Senate in December 2024. It will require a Faculty Manual change, which will be presented to the General Faculty on April 30, 2025 and, if approved, will go before the Board of Trustees for a final decision in June, 2025. Once affirmed, this committee will review core courses on an ongoing (vs. historically episodic) basis. The new CCC will work in close collaboration with the Carolina Core Approval Committee (CCAC) within the Provost's office, but the CCC [charge](#) will be broader and more integrated with the Senate.

Consider Serving on a Faculty Committee

Calls for self-nomination to serve on a [faculty committee](#) will come out after the holidays. University service on a committee is one avenue to contribute to faculty governance. Please investigate your options and consider serving on a committee. Without faculty involvement, we lose our voice in shared governance of the university!