

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STAFF SENATE MEETING**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
PRESIDING: Cami Reid, Vice President

**Call to Order** – *Cami Reid, Vice President*

**Roll Call/Attendance Report** – *Michaela Taylor, Secretary*

Secretary Taylor checked the roll after taking attendance. The meeting started at 3:01 PM. According to the attendance report, 39 senators were in attendance, 14 senators were absent or online, and no senators gave proxies.

**Establish Quorum** – *Jessica McCormick, Parliamentarian*

Based on the attendance report, Parliamentarian McCormick declared a quorum was established and declared business could be conducted.

**Approval of Minutes** – *Cami Reid, Vice President*

There were no changes to the December 9, 2025, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Dotter made a motion to accept the general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Morgan seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. All senators were in favor. The motion was adopted and carried, and the minutes were accepted as written.

**President's Update** – *Cami Reid, Vice President*

**Information**

- Dean Rohit Verma of Darla Moore School of Business is stepping down. Professor Greg Niehaus is interim. National search coming Fall 2026.
- USC transitioning to the SC state revised pay band system

**Upcoming General Body Speakers**

- Feb. 2026 – President Michael Amiridis. Please RSVP through form by noon on Monday, Jan. 19.

**Opportunities**

Midlands Heart Walk

- March 28 at Segra Park, share information with constituents!

Consider seeking an Executive Committee position for 2026-2027.

**Celebrations**

- Shout out to the membership committee for putting forth an apportionment proposal today!

- Shoutout to the Community Projects Committee for a successful Families Helping Families and four large bags of winter coats donated to the Gamecock CommUnity Shop!
- Shoutout to the Senators who participated in the HR Communications focus group last year.

**Connect. Empower. Lead**

- A reminder to continue to connect with your constituents and meet with leadership.

**Treasurer’s Report - Manda Fontenot Tuk, Treasurer**

Working on a process map for requesting funds through the Executive Committee. Also establishing a process for “emergency funds” that are time sensitive that need to be approved before a next Exec meeting is held.

Please submit any feedback about these potential processes to Treasurer Tuk.

**Guest Speakers:**

**Emily Cato (Director, Healthy Carolina) Ayanna Thomas (Health Education Specialist)**

Services offered to employees

- State health plan worksite wellness screening, wellness coaching and workshops
- Group offerings: Employee meetings and trainings, walking/running groups, cooking demonstrations

Sign up for the monthly Employee Well-Being newsletter to hear about programs and resources. For any assistance or inquiries, feel free to reach out to the team at [LiveWell@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:LiveWell@mailbox.sc.edu).

**Theresa Harrison, Executive Director, Community Engagement**

The Office of Community Engagement works to develop deep and impactful relationships between the university and our statewide community to propel USC to be one of the nation’s leading community-engaged institutions.

Developed the 1801 Community Engaged Fellows Society for faculty and staff to apply and elevate community engagement work. The CEFS begins in May with a week-long retreat. More information to come.

Reach out to the Community Engagement office for ways to get involved at [engage@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:engage@mailbox.sc.edu) and learn [more on their website](#).

**Reports of Committees:**

**Membership – Katie Annan**

The membership committee has analyzed Senate apportionment to improve consistency and reflect current staff growth. An amendment to Article III, Section 1 is being proposed.

For those who are interested in running for executive officer positions, we have planned two information sessions later this month. Jessica McKie will send out the Teams link.

- Monday, January 26th at 10:00 am
- Thursday, January 29th at 2:00 pm

#### **Communications** – Emily Miles & Thom Harman

- Please send your headshot photo to the Communications Committee to have it added to the website.
- Committee will be working to ramp up communications for Staff Appreciation Day soon.
- Look for more staff news to be shared in the USC Today emails soon.

#### **Staff Policy and Well-being** – Kelsey Chambers & Caroline Hulett

- Reviewed [HR Policy 1.61 - USC Tuition Assistance](#)
- Bright Horizons Daycare: Scheduling meeting with La Tasha (Manager) and Renee (Regional Manager) to discuss how to move forward with a potential partnership.
- Met with Staff Ombuds
  - o Office is much busier this year
  - o Learned about the grievance process. Learned it's okay to contact other HR reps (or central HR) for any grievances.
- Staff Policies: Compiling policy list to link in centralized location for ease of access – will link through Office of Provost to have most up to date policies.

#### **Professional Development** – Jalen Fuller & Brett Williams

Please take the following survey to share the professional development opportunities available in your unit: [Professional Development Survey](#)

Updates from conversations with DoIT / OPD / AI educators: plan to amplify AI learning opportunities as they relate to our staff; seeking opportunities for AI team to speak at a body meeting.

#### **Community Projects** – Amanda Minnet Colie & Alexis Watts

- We are doing a ***spice drive*** in February for the Gamecock CommUnity Shop! Bring donations to the next meeting or to 7th floor at 1600 Hampton in February!
- Join Student Service Saturday - MLK Day of Service on Saturday, January 17 from 8 am - 11 am. Find the sign up link on our linktree: <https://linktr.ee/USCVolunteer>

#### **By-Laws** – Stephanie Richards

- Thank you to Senator Annan for attending the December meeting to discuss some ideas that we hope to implement this spring regarding nominee information sessions.
- Confirmed committees that identified the need for possible verbiage updates to their description in the Bylaws. We are working with Exec for preferred next steps and Committee chairs will receive an email this week regarding those steps.
  - o These committees include Membership, Professional Development, Communications, Scholarship & Fundraising, Bylaws, Staff Appreciation & Recognition and Community Projects.

**Staff Appreciation and Recognition Committee** – Adrienne White & Brian Shelton  
Please complete the survey to volunteer to help with Staff Appreciation Day! [Complete the survey here.](#)

**Scholarship and Fundraising Committee** – Savannah Britz & Terrence Gilmore  
Meeting next year to establish Spring opportunities.

### **Order of Business**

New apportionment language is proposed for more equal representation for divisions and colleges.

### **Proposed language changes:**

The Staff Senate will be composed of employees from each organizational unit, with representation proportional to the total staff, as determined by data provided annually by the Division of Human Resources.

- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 1 – 149 staff members will have one (1) Senator.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 150 –299 staff members will have two (2) Senators.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 300 – 449 staff members will have three (3) Senators.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 450 – 599 staff members will have four (4) senators.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 600 – 749 staff members will have five (5) Senators.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 750 or 899 staff members will have six (6) Senators.
- Divisions and Colleges/Schools with 900 or more staff members will have seven (7) Senators.
- ~~Academic Affairs will have 1 staff member per organizational unit~~

### **Announcements / Good of the Order**

None

### ***Adjourn***

Senator Watts made a motion to adjourn. Senator Brown seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.

**Next meeting of the new Staff Senate term: Tuesday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Michaela Taylor**  
Secretary

Staff Senate