

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA STAFF SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDING: Megan Colascione, President

Call to Order – Megan Colascione, President

President Colascione officially called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. President Colascione welcomed staff senators and visitors to the staff senate meeting.

Roll Call/Attendance Report – Julia Hodge, Secretary

Secretary Hodge checked the roll after taking attendance. According to the attendance report, 37 senators were in attendance, 14 senators were absent or online, and no senators gave proxies.

Establish Quorum – Julia Bellon, Parliamentarian

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

Approval of Minutes – Megan Colascione, President

There were no changes to the February 11, 2025, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Bellon made a motion to accept the general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Epps 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 – Megan Colascione, President

- Be mindful of all the uncertainty surrounding higher education at the moment. Currently, USC is evaluating remote work and research grants at this time.
- Celebrate
 - Welcome Senator Brandon Brown!
 - Representing School of Medicine – Columbia
 - USC Staff Awards Update (Megan shared on behalf of Caroline Agardy, VP HR)
 - Background
 - Staff Senate Award Program – 3 years
 - President's desire to expand the program after the 2024 Staff Senate Award Ceremony.
 - Project Team
 - Staff Senate Representatives
 - Megan Colascione
 - Chris Burkett
 - Ashley Dantzler
 - Vice Presidents
 - Caroline Agardy
 - Rex Tolliver
 - Scott Verzyl

- More information:
 - https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/human_resources/staff_excellence_awards/
- 10 Awards
 1. Excellence in Customer Service Award
 2. Excellence in the Student Experience Award
 3. Excellence in Innovation Award
 4. Commitment to People Award
 5. Excellence in Collegiality Inclusion Award
 6. Gamecock Spirit Award
 7. Excellence in Collaboration Award
 8. Rising Star Award
 9. Legacy of Excellence Award
 10. Excellence in Community Impact Award
- Timeframe
 - **Eligibility:** For Columbia Campus, Palmetto College and Schools of Medicine staff employees in FTE, RGP and Time-Limited positions; no temporary or contract employees. Must have one year of service at USC.
 - **Nomination Period:** April 1- April 16
 - **Communication:** Link to nomination form on dedicated website and multiple communication avenues.
 - **Awards Ceremony and Reception:**
 - When: Monday, May 19, 2025 at 2:00-3:30 p.m.
 - Where: **Capstone Campus Room**
 - **Invited:** Award winners, nominators, supervisors of recipient, Staff Senate Officers, members of the executive committee, and members of the Cabinet
 - **Review Committee:** 5 panelists to review the nominees
 - **Award:** Plaques and a one-time \$3,000 cash award
- Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Executive Committee
 - President: Chris Burkett, Ed.D.
 - Vice President: Cami Reid, M.Ed.
 - Treasurer: Manda Fontenot Tuk
 - Secretary: Michaela Taylor
 - Parliamentarian: Jessica McCormick, M.Ed.
 - Past President: Megan Colascione, M.Ed.
- Collaborate
 - Search Committees: Staff Senate Representation
 - Push for a seat at the table
 - President Amiridis to speak with Staff Senate on April 8
 - Campus Recreation collaboration for Wellness Spaces
- Innovate
 - Upcoming USC Employee Insights Survey
 - Administered through email by ModernThink from March 17-31
 - Champion participation and share your thoughts
 - Estimated time to complete: 18-20 minutes

Guest Speakers – Amanda Castles, MPH, Director of Employee Well-Being & Wendy Chiles, PharmD, Pharmacy Manager

- Office: Employee Well-Being strives to offer comprehensive training, programming, resources and services to the faculty and staff at the University of South Carolina to enhance the overall well-being of our employees.
- SHP Worksite Screening
 - All USC employees along with covered spouses/partners who are enrolled in the State Health Plan are eligible for an annual preventive health screening.
 - Tests included are basic metabolic profile (glucose), lipid (cholesterol) panel and complete blood cell count. Additional tests can be added for a fee. Screening also includes blood pressure measurement.
 - Appointments are available Monday – Friday mornings (8:00-9:00) in the Center for Health and Well-Being, Suite 104 and can be scheduled via your MyHealthSpace account.
- [Gamecocks Caregiver Network](#)
 - Here to foster a compassionate and inclusive community where you can find support, share resources, and gain valuable insight from others who are also in a caregiver role.
- [Grief Support Group](#)
 - A new Grief Support Group is forming - a peer-led space where you can connect, share and find comfort among others who understand. Whether you want to share your story, learn about resources, or simply be in a space with compassion, this group offers a time for connection and mutual support.
 - Meeting: Thursday, March 13 at 12-1 on Teams
- [Well-Being Champions](#)
 - Join us for an info session to learn how to become an Employee Well-Being Champion and spread the well-being message in your departments.
 - Meeting: Wednesday, April 16 at 12-1 on Teams
- Coming Soon
 - More appointment-based services, including wellness coaching
 - Support group for parents
 - June is National Employee Wellness month – we'll have activities planned all month long
- Join the monthly newsletter!
 - <https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx>
- Pharmacy (2nd Floor)
 - Your On-Campus Pharmacy
 - Established in 1981
 - Conveniently located at the center of campus
 - Proudly serving the University of South Carolina community
 - Providing services for students, faculty, and staff
 - Our Core Services
 - Prescription Filling: Fast, reliable, and accurate prescriptions
 - Over-the-Counter Medications: A wide range of health products available on-site

- Medication Counseling: Personalized advice to ensure proper medication use
 - Easy Prescription Transfers
- Why choose the Center for Health and Well-Being Pharmacy?
 - Affordable prices on prescription and over-the-counter medications
 - Most major pharmacy insurance plans are accepted
 - Easy refills using the “South Carolina Pharmacy” app
 - No waiting. We will text you when your prescription is ready
 - Free 30 Minute parking for pickup
 - Drug Take-Back Box
 - On-campus delivery (on the way)
- Questions?
 - Visit: CHW Building (M-F 8:30am – 5:00pm)
 - Call: 803-777-4890
 - Website: www.uhsrx.com
 - Amanda Castles: castlesa@mailbox.sc.edu
 - Wendy Chiles: chilesw@mailbox.sc.edu

Reports of Committees:

Membership: Kathryn Kenard/Andrea Avant

- General Elections Timeline
 - March 17: Nominations and Applications Open
 - March 24: Nominations Close
 - March 31: Applications Close
 - April 14: Election Opens
 - April 28: Election Closes

Communications: Michaela Taylor/Lori Carey

- Filming for Staff Senate history video with founders took place last Friday. Editing now and hoping to have it on the website by the end of the semester.

Staff Policy and Well-Being: Jason Cone/Cami Reid

- RGP Grievance Process Transparency
 - Molly Peirano referenced CR 1.00 – applies to all USC community members – very broad scope, which includes RGPs
 - The Title IX and Civil Rights Office will work with RGP employees to identify options and, with the university’s Research Office, will notify the appropriate federal agencies.
 - Next steps: How can we help with transparency for RGPs? Can this be updated on the offer letters?
- Employee Well-Being
 - Lactation Spaces are back on the university’s website
- Email access for post docs
 - Gathering support from Faculty Senate, MCEC, Research, Public Health to find solutions, perhaps a forwarding system to avoid confusion with affiliate statuses
 - Reaching out to Coastal and Clemson to see how they handle this
- Mental Health Spaces (AKA Wellness Spaces)

- Cami & Megan met with Director of Campus Rec, Jim Walczyk, to discuss options of mental health spaces in his areas for fac/staff
- Jim is open to identifying space(s) in Blatt and/or Wellness & Fitness Center
- Jim has experience with these types of spaces and has a colleague, John, who designs them nationwide that is coming to campus soon
- Megan & Cami will meet with Jim and John
- Blatt Pool for staff/faculty use
 - Contacting the aquatics director to see if there are opportunities for staff to utilize Blatt, perhaps identifying certain times each week for staff/faculty only
- Continuing Education
 - Have connected with Hilary Brannon, Continuing Education Director, and next step is to meet with Shannon Means in the Provost Office to discuss options

Professional Development: Khristina DeLorenzo/Simone Keller

- New Senator on the committee – Brandon Brown (USC SOM Columbia)
- Reviewed charter and aligned with our goals (all looks good!)
- Working on securing a speaker from the Office of Professional Development for an upcoming meeting
- Next meeting: Wednesday, March 19 at 2:30 PM

Community Projects: Chakira Hogan/Alexis Watts

- We have a [sign up link](#) with all volunteer opportunities through summer.
- The Student Success Center also asked with some help with their school supply drive, so we are promoting that too and will accept donations at the next staff senate meeting!
- Here are volunteer dates:
 - **Friday, March 28** – Cocky's Reading Express at Windsor Elementary
 - **Saturday, March 29** – The Big Event (sponsored by Student Affairs)
 - **Tuesday, April 8** – Bring school supplies to meeting for the Student Success Center
 - **Wednesday, April 23** – Cocky's Reading Express at Harbison West Elementary
 - **Friday, April 25** – Garden volunteer at campus Sustainable Carolina Garden
 - **Saturday, May 17** – Keep the Midlands Beautiful Street Cleanup
 - **All hands on deck to help with Staff Appreciation Day on **May 22**!**
 - **Wednesday, May 28** – Ronald McDonald House Tab Donation followed by time to make a meal for families at the house

Bylaws: Marissa Buck/Manda Fontenot-Tuk

- No report at this time.

Staff Senate Awards and Recognition Committee: Ashley Dantzler

- Save the Date for Staff Appreciation Day: May 22 (11 AM – 2 PM)
 - Location: Russell House Davis Field
 - Updates:
 - Catering has been ordered (pulled chicken, pulled pork and pulled jackfruit) and Pelicans will be there too.
 - Looking for volunteers for specific shifts on the day

- Parking has been secured in Bull Street Garage (complimentary for staff with valid USC parking permit)
- Entertainment: looking into swag items, small raffle items, and various music options. Also looking into having coaches attend.

Staff Senate Scholarship/Fundraising Committee: Michelle Knight

- Actively seeking donation items for silent auction
- Have a letter we can share if you know of someone/business that may donate
- Asking for all senators to share Staff Senate request during Give 4 Garnet

Additional Announcements

- HR is going to include announcement in USCToday and HR Supervisor Newsletter about the new staff awards.
- Chris Burkett received the Jennifer Wilson Teaching Excellence Award through SCAMLE for middle level education.
- Thank you to Bri Newton for this year's service! We wish you the best of luck moving on to a new position outside of the university.

Adjourn

Senator Rose made a motion to adjourn. Senator Shelton seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 8 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hodge
Secretary
Staff Senate