

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA STAFF SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
PRESIDING: Chris Burkett, President

Call to Order – *Chris Burkett, 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, 43 senators were in attendance, 10 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 – *Chris Burkett, President*

There were no changes to the November 11, 2025, staff senate meeting minutes. Senator Dotter made a motion to accept the general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Cox 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 – *Chris Burkett, President*

Information

Consider seeking an Executive Committee position for 2026-2027 Staff Senate term.
More information to come in January.

Upcoming Staff Senate speakers include the following:

- January: Director of Employee Well-Being, Emily Cato and the Executive Director of Community Engagement, Dr. Teresa Harrison
- February 2026: USC President, Dr. Michael Amiridis

Opportunities

[RSVP for the MLK Breakfast.](#)

Don't forget to volunteer with the community projects committee. [View opportunities.](#)

Celebrations

Shoutout to Stephanie Richards, Katie Anna, Derenzo Thomas, Pam Lawson, the Scholarship and Fundraising Committee and Jenell Peoples for their numerous contributions to Staff Senate and beyond!

Connect. Empower. Lead

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

Treasurer's Report - Manda Fontenot Tuk, Treasurer

Foundations raised over \$445 during the cornhole tournament! A formalized process will be coming soon on how to request funding.

Guest Speakers:

Jared Evans, Chief Experience Officer for the USC Alumni Association

The USC Alumni Association shared information about what the association offers and membership benefits and events.

The association has established a Faculty and Staff membership discount for anyone who wants to join! There are many benefits and perks to membership. [Learn more.](#)

Derek Gruner, University Architect, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction

Shared information on the Master Plan and upcoming construction renovations. There are many goals to this plan including activating the Horseshoe and surrounding areas, renovating McKissick, renovating Barnwell College, continued South Main Street improvements, Thomas Cooper Library renovations and completing the Bull Street Health Sciences Campus.

[Learn more about current projects.](#)

Reports of Committees:

Membership – Katie Annan

Met with the University of Kentucky's Staff Senate Executive team to learn about how they recruit and retain members. Plan to make suggestions next year for USC Staff Senate.

Communications – Emily Miles & Thom Harman

Look for digital signage to advertise Staff Senate meetings across campus.

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

Continue to review university policies that concern staff, meeting with Bright Horizon's management soon and reviewing staff concerns with parking.

Professional Development – Jalen Fuller & Brett Williams

- Clarification: In the previous meeting, we mentioned AI Learning Circles. We have since learned that we have new AI Educators who are instead engaging AI Champions across campus to build trainings for new AI users. Reach out to Jalen/Brett to get in contact with these educators.
- Developing a survey for Staff Senators to help determine what professional development opportunities our units provide if any.
- A representative from Continuing Education & Conferences is joining the PD Committee meeting in December to discuss potential PD opportunities.

- Committee members are working on inclusive professional development and exploring non-traditional communication channels.

Community Projects – Amanda Minnet Colie & Alexis Watts

Thank you for joining the many volunteer events this semester. Next semester schedule is coming soon!

By-Laws – Stephanie Richards

Committee by-laws edit recommendations are being collected and will be presented to the executive committee and then voted on by the general body. Thank you to the committees who reviewed these.

Staff Appreciation and Recognition Committee – Adrienne White & Brian Shelton

- Save the date for Staff Appreciation Day on May 14, 2026

Scholarship and Fundraising Committee – Savannah Britz & Terrence Gilmore

The Staff Cornhole Tournament was a success! Looking to building the event in the future.

Order of Business

None

Announcements / Good of the Order

None

Adjourn

Senator Brown made a motion to adjourn. Senator Harman seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM.

Next meeting of the new Staff Senate term: Tuesday, January 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaela Taylor

Secretary

Staff Senate