

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA STAFF SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, July 8, 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. According to the attendance report, 48 senators were in attendance, 4 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 June 10, 2025, staff senate meeting minutes. Treasurer Tuk made a motion to accept the general body staff senate minutes as written. Senator Minnet 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*

President Burkett welcomed the new senators to their first general body meeting.

Information

- Palmetto College Leadership: Dr. Craig Wilson, Chancellor
- New Accreditation body

Opportunities

- Employee perks reminder
- Free access to Headspace
- Volunteer for events to welcome new students
- Input was requested from Staff Senate members to express interest in attending a Fireflies game as a test run for a possible USC Staff Appreciation Day event for all USC Staff– September 11, 2025, is the date for Staff Senate members. If there is enough interest, more information will be shared at the next General Body meeting.

Celebrations

- Senator Stovall and Chambers won the bingo game at Staff Senate Orientation
- 2% state salary cost of living increased passed and will be reflected in July 15 paychecks

Connect. Empower. Lead

- This is the theme of Staff Senate this year

- Senators are encouraged to communicate and make time for constituents, encourage support on Staff Senate projects and meet with their leadership regularly
- Senators were given a Senator Checklist and went through a team exercise at the end of the meeting to help shape dialogue and future conversations

Housekeeping – *Michaela Taylor, Secretary*

- Review Senator information on the website
- Select headshot for website
- Co-chairs should review attendance and minute information for committee body meetings, Senator Taylor will reshare information with Co-chairs
- Premiered the Staff Senate history video

Guest Speakers – *Angela Wright and Leena Holt, Staff Senate Founders*

Leena and Angela shared about the founding of Staff Senate and encouraged Senators to think about why they joined Staff Senate.

They also shared how they were able to form the first Senate, how the body has changed and grown, and the many accomplishments over the years.

Encouraged Senators to continue their great work at the start of the fifth year.

Reports of Committees:

Committees shared their goals for this year and when they plan to meet.

Membership – Katie Annan

- Goals: Looking at how to engage Staff Senators, continue to review unit representation from prior leaders and bylaws
- Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:30 PM on Team

Communications – Emily Miles & Thom Harman

- Goals: Making sure staff communications are reaching all groups, exploring Staff focused newsletter to improve communications on campus
- Meeting on the third Monday of the month at 9:30 AM on Teams

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

- Goals: Continue collaboration with Human Resources and the faculty wellbeing committee. Researching tuition and continuing education assistance, child and senior care opportunities on campus as well as establishing a Staff Appreciation Day mini event for Fall.
- Meeting on fourth Tuesday of the month at 3 PM on Teams

Professional Development – Jalen Fuller & Brett Williams

- Goals: Review the employee insights survey, looking into leadership development opportunities on campus, and learn what Professional Development means for all staff members.
- Meeting on third Tuesday of each Monday at 2 PM on Teams

Community Projects – Amanda Minnet Colie & Alexis Watts

- Goals: Working on the full Fall schedule to share with Senate and constituents.
- Meetings on third Tuesday of every month at 3 PM via Teams

By-Laws – Stephanie Richards

- Goals: Review and maintain existing bylaws, educate Senators on Bylaws, support structural improvement and collaborate with all senate committees
- Meetings on second Thursday of every month at 2 PM on Teams

Staff Appreciation and Recognition Committee – Adrienne White & Brian Shelton

- Goals: Analyze what was successful for last year's Staff Appreciation Day and work to improve the future event.
- Meetings on third Wednesday of every month at 2 PM on Teams

Scholarship and Fundraising Committee – Savannah Britz & Terrence Gilmore

- Goals: Working to develop ideas to raise fundraising
- Meetings on third Wednesday of every month at 3 PM on Teams

Order of Business

None

Announcements / Good of the Order

None

Adjourn

Senator Chambers made a motion to adjourn. Senator Brown seconded the motion to adjourn. All senators were in favor. The formal meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM.

Next meeting of the new Staff Senate term: Tuesday, August 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Lumpkin Auditorium, Close-Hipp Building, 8th Floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaela Taylor

Secretary
Staff Senate