

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 21st, 2025

Library 237

Call to Order after General Faculty Meeting

Dr. Murray Skees (chair) called meeting to order at 4:44pm once quorum of 9 was reached.

Welcome to Visitors and Special Acknowledgements

Eric Skipper

Chair recognized Dr. Skipper and moved to receive his comments by general consent

Approval of the Minutes of the February 21st, 2025, Meeting

Chair called for motion to approve minutes

MOTION put forward by Kim Kelley: approve February 21st minutes

Seconded and carried

Committee Reports – see Appendix 1

Chair recognized Alayne Lawson and moved to receive report by general consent – Additional Report: Library on April 21st – handouts have more information

Chair recognized Carmen Farrell and moved to receive report by general consent – Additional Report: 15 study abroad applications, 10 awards ranging from \$300-800. Students were emailed this morning with their mentors cc'd on it.

Unfinished Business

Murray Skees: Call for a motion to make the Committee Guidelines and End-of-the-Year template (both are in the Appendix) official documents of the Faculty Senate.

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Lynne Hutchinson: adopt these documents as documents of the Faculty Senate

Seconded and carried

New Business

C3 Committee – voting; See Appendix 1 for full report

Chair recognized C3 Committee and moved to receive their recommendation by general consent

Committee Recommendation: The Courses and Curricula Committee recommend the following proposals for the Faculty Senate's approval.

Proposals

Proposals are organized by department so representatives can readily address questions should there be any.

Hospitality HRTM B235 - Course Change - Update Name Bulletin Description

Global Studies GLST B399 - Course Change - Update Credit Hours Bulletin Description
Sociology
SOCY B358 - New Course Proposal - Perspectives in Criminology and Law
SOCY - New Program - Criminology Concentration Proposal
SOCY - New Program - Criminology Certificate Proposal
Communications COMM - Program Modification - Modify BA course requirements• Proposals
Psychology
PSYC B441 - Course Change - Update Prerequisites Bulletin Description
Cross listed: PSYC, SOCY, HMSV
PSYC B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy
SOCY B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy
HMSV B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Su Gibson: approve hospitality course change
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Sarah Swofford: approve course change global studies
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Su Gibson: bundle proposals from sociology
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Kim Kelley: approve bundle
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Jo Kuehn: approve communication studies program modification
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Lynne Hutchinson: approve course change psychology
Seconded and carried

Chair called for motion

MOTION put forward by Jo Kuehn: approve cross listed course PSYC SOCY HMSV
Seconded and carried

Adjournment

Chair called for motion to adjourn

MOTION put forward by Sarah Swofford: adjourn the meeting
Seconded and carried by unanimous consent at 5:14pm

Committee Reports – Appendix 1

USC System Faculty Leadership Council

Kim Kelley: The SFLC met on March 7th.

Introducing a new member: Cheryl Addy is a new member of SFLC for USC Columbia. Professor Addy is currently the chair of the College of Nursing.

Ombuds: Professor Addy was previously in administration and was involved with the faculty ombuds. She indicated that the policy had changed in 2022 to have the ombuds position focus on USC Columbia only. The SFLC will hear from VP Julian Williams at its next meeting in April on what the current policy is and whether the USC Columbia ombuds could be available to other USC campuses except Upstate who have their own ombuds. As a reminder, VP Williams stated that faculty from other USC campuses could reach out to him if they have an issue they think would benefit from a discussion with an ombuds. The SFLC will also ask VP Williams the reasoning behind the policy change in 2022 to remove access to other USC campuses to the USC Columbia ombuds.

Legislative Update: The USC campuses have been following the DEI legislation in the House: South Carolina Bill 3927. The group was interested in the status, and whether their campus chancellors were speaking to them about the bill and its status. Some USC campuses are receiving information from their chancellors. The bill is not yet in the Senate. The campuses are waiting to see if the bill progresses to the Senate.

Dear Colleague Letters: Several campuses have been impacted by the Department of Education's "[dear colleague letter](#)." USCB's education department's grant was defunded. USCB is currently appealing the decision. Faculty are encouraged to look at several documents to get more familiar with the implications of these letters including: [Frequently Asked Questions](#) from the Department of Education and a [memorandum signed by law professors regarding DEI programs](#).

Distance Education Policies. The SFLC reviewed the report by a sub-committee on policies regarding how many courses USC faculty may teach across the system. The group decided that the variability was appropriate for the various campuses based on specific needs and no action by SFLC was needed.

Academic Steering Committee

No report.

Budget Committee

No report.

Courses and Curricula Committee

Ron Erdei: The Courses and Curricula Committee (C3) met on Friday March 7, 2025, and bring the following proposals for the Faculty Senate's approval under New Business.

Proposals

Proposals are organized by department so representatives can readily address questions should there be any.

Hospitality

HRTM B235 - Course Change - Update Name Bulletin Description

Global Studies

GLST B399 - Course Change - Update Credit Hours Bulletin Description

Sociology

SOCY B358 - New Course Proposal - Perspectives in Criminology and Law

SOCY - New Program - Criminology Concentration Proposal

SOCY - New Program - Criminology Certificate Proposal

Communications

COMM - Program Modification - Modify BA course requirements• Proposals

Psychology

PSYC B441 - Course Change - Update Prerequisites Bulletin Description

Cross listed: PSYC, SOCY, HMSV

PSYC B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy

SOCY B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy

HMSV B368 - New Course Proposal - Intro to Victim Advocacy

Next C3 Meeting: Friday April 11th, 2025, at 3:00 PM (1 week prior to the Faculty Senate Meeting).

Deadline for Submitting Proposals: Friday April 4th, 2025, at 5:00 PM (1 week prior to C3 meeting).

USCB 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 Courses and Curricula Meetings			2024-2025 Faculty Senate Meetings		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
August 30, 2024	3:00 pm	TEAMS	September 6, 2024	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
October 4, 2024	3:00 pm	TEAMS	October 11, 2024	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
November 1, 2024	3:00 pm	TEAMS	November 8, 2024	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
December 6, 2024	3:00 pm	TEAMS	December 13, 2024	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
January 17, 2025	3:00 pm	TEAMS	January 24, 2025	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
February 14, 2025	3:00 pm	TEAMS	February 21, 2025	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
March 7, 2025	3:00 pm	TEAMS	March 21, 2025	3:00 pm	LIBR 237
April 11, 2025	3:00 pm	TEAMS	April 18, 2025	3:00 pm	LIBR 237

Faculty Grievance Committee

No report.

Faculty Library Committee

James Shinn: Nothing to report. The Faculty Library Committee will meet sometime in late March/early April and submit a report for the April 2025 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Faculty Manual Review Committee

John Thrasher: The Faculty Manual Review Committee received feedback on two additional changes that needed to be made to the Faculty Manual this month. We updated the list of committees that do not have 5 members to include the System Faculty Leadership Council. We updated the ex officio members of the General Education Committee. We otherwise did not receive any feedback, so we are prepared to discuss and vote on the manual at the General Faculty meeting this week.

Faculty Welfare Committee (from our cancelled January meeting)

No report.

General Education Committee

No report.

Promotion and Tenure Committee (from our cancelled January meeting)

Sean Barth: We have finished 3rd year reviews, post tenure reviews, and Associate to Full professor. Our last meeting is March 28th to consider assistant to associate applications. I will be setting a meeting in April to do a “prepare for T&P” training session. I will email that out as soon

as I have all the details. You can always email me at barthse@uscb.edu with any T&P questions or concerns.

Committee for Academic Integrity (Ad hoc)

No report.

Honors Steering Committee (Ad hoc)

Mac James: The Honors Steering Committee met on Feb. 25, 2025. We discussed changes to the Honors Student Handbook, Honors applications from current students and Honors admission criteria for incoming Freshmen (Fall 2026). We ask senators to please share the following information with your departments.

- HSC received 67 Honors Contract proposals this spring with students working with 32 different faculty members. HSC approved 66 Honors Contracts.
- HSC has dismissed 1 student and placed 26 others on probation after Fall 2024 grades were submitted (as of Spring 2025 there are 159 Honors students).
- Current HSC membership includes Mercer Brugler, Jo Kuehn, Davide Fusi, Babet Villena-Alvarez, Kim Dudas, Gary Sutton and Mac James.
- Honors continues to be a powerful retention tool, boasting a 6-year retention of 55%, compared to the institutional rate of 39% as of October 16, 2024.

International Programs Committee (Ad hoc)

Kyle Messick: We have 56 Internationals as of Jan 15, 2025, from 25 countries (8 India, 5 Jamaica, 5 UK, 4 Norway, 4 Sweden, 3 Venezuela, 3 Honduras, 3 Canada, etc.). Most of them are athletes.

IPC Meeting Feb 26, 2025 – Michael Weiss reported that some had reached out to him with concerns regarding being able to return after summer with current political climate; he mentioned issues with Venezuela in particular.

Funding was discussed – Study Abroad scholarships and international activities

Study Abroad: perhaps 10 for the Gerace Research Institute Bahamas for Maymester (BIOL, Kim Ritchie); 2 to Poland PUMS paid (MOU, BIOL, Babet contact); 10 students confirmed to France, (GLST, FREN, Babet); Mandatory Orientations: caution with international trips

Study Away: South Dakota (NURS, Lynne H), Florida (partly funded -HRTM, Sean Barth, Kim D)

Fulbright student scholars – session with Kim C, sometime April. We may provide an update on this since the situation with Fulbright has gotten complicated following funding freezes and the disbanding of federal departments that play a role in the dispersion of those funds.

Student Research and Scholarship Day Committee (Ad hoc)

No report.

Student Scholarship and Fellowship Committee (Ad hoc)

Carmen Farrell: The Student Scholarship and Fellowship committee Study Abroad Grant deadline was 3/15 and the committee will meet this week to review applications. Please encourage any students working on research over the summer at USCB to apply for the SRE grant. See below:

Do you have a student who is participating in research over the summer that is *not* connected to a summer course? The Summer Research Experience is a \$1000 award for students who are working with faculty mentors on a research project over the summer months that is not part of any course requirements. Applications for this will be reviewed with a deadline of March 31st at 5pm. Updated guidelines and submission form can be found under “Summer Research Experience Grant” on this website: <https://academics.uscb.edu/research/student-research/index.html>

Do you have a student who is traveling to present research at a conference? Our Sand Shark Voyager Award is a \$500 award for research related travel. If you have a student who will be traveling for research between July 1st and September 30th, 2025, the application for that cycle will open from May 1 through May 8th, 2025. Information about this award, application cycles, rubric, and the submission form can be found under “Sand Shark Voyager Awards” on this website: <https://academics.uscb.edu/research/student-research/index.html>

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please reach out to Carmen Farrell at cf28@usb.edu.
SS&FC Committee – Carmen Farrell (chair), Dave Hall (ex-officio), Kim Cavanagh, Tye Pettay, Jim Sidletsky, Babet Villena-Alvarez

Committee for the Creation of Guidelines for Faculty Governance at USCB (Ad hoc)

No report.