Summary of justifications for Faculty Manual changes

Creation of the Committee on the Carolina Core (CCC): The proposed standing committee arose from the recommendations of the 2023 report of the Carolina Core Review and Revision Committee (CCRRC). That committee was tasked with providing a recommendation for how best to ensure the regular review, maintenance, and enhancement of the Carolina Core. The CCC will be more centrally focused on regular review of the Core, enhancement of the make-up and administration of the Core, and more effective communication of the Core's value and mission. The Committee on the Carolina Core will work to fulfill the Core's mission and also institute better habits around the governance of general education. It will be more responsive to the needs and concerns of stakeholders and to emergent opportunities and issues around general education. The CCC also provides a signal to the broader community that USC is committed to meaningful and effective general education. The CCC was approved by the Faculty Senate on November 6, 2024. Meeting documents and minutes can be found here:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/meeting-archive.php

Creation of the Faculty Committee on Research: Research and scholarly productivity are conducted by faculty and are criteria for tenure and promotion. Currently there is no shared governance mechanism to facilitate faculty involvement in strategic research decisions, to foster interdisciplinary research collaboration, or to systematically integrate research with student experiential learning. Many of our peer and aspirant institutions have faculty research committees or councils at the level of a faculty standing committee. This list includes the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, University of Tennessee, and Clemson University (peer institutions) as well as the University of Iowa, University of Maryland-College Park, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the University of Virginia (aspirant institutions). A standing Faculty Committee on Research will provide faculty a voice in the research and planning enterprise of the university. The Faculty Committee on Research was approved by the Faculty Senate on January 15, 2025. Meeting documents and minutes can be found here:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/index.php

Modification of the charge and composition of the Instructional Development (InDev) Committee: With the creation of the Carolina Core Committee, the InDev charge to review and initiate policies governing general education requirements has become redundant with the CCC charge. Therefore, that specific InDev charge is removed. In addition, a representative of the Palmetto College is added to the InDev committee composition. The Palmetto College Campuses share a curriculum, some support unit services with USC-Columbia, and are subject to many of USC-Columbia's Academic Affairs policies. Based on this significant overlap, it is reasonable to have a formal PC representative on InDev. The changes to InDev's charge and composition were approved by the Faculty Senate on December 4, 2024 and March 5, 2025 respectively. Meeting documents and minutes can be found here for December 4, 2024:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/meeting-archive.php

and here for March 5, 2025:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/index.php

Modification of the charge and composition of the University Committee on Professional-Track Faculty (UCPTF): The committee charge was changed to better reflect the language in the new Professional-Track Faculty and Related Policies section in the Faculty Manual on pages 45 and 49 (June 19, 2024 edition). Second, the committee membership was expanded from five to nine elected faculty members in order to better deal with the committee's responsibilities to review unit PTF criteria and policies. This change also allows for more robust representation of professional-track faculty university-wide. The composition change seeks to balance the need for a diversity of professional-track experiences and viewpoints, with the challenges of staffing the committee. The change to the UCPTF charge and composition was approved by the Faculty Senate on April 2, 2025. Meeting documents and minutes can be found here:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/index.php

Expansion of Palmetto College representation on several standing committees: Changes to Palmetto College representation were recommended for the following committees:

- Committee on Curricula and Courses (C&C) – The Palmetto College Campuses share a curriculum with USC-Columbia. This change formalizes the inclusion of Palmetto College faculty, which is currently informal practice. Moreover, the Committee on Curricula and Courses has a significant workload, and expanding the formal roster of the committee is useful in meeting that workload.
- Committee on Libraries – This change makes it clear that all Palmetto College faculty are eligible to serve on the committee, including faculty who are librarians. The current language led to confusion around who qualifies as "teaching faculty" and what purposes the "teaching" constraint serves.
- Senate Steering Committee – The Palmetto College Campuses share a curriculum and a good deal of support services with USC-Columbia and are subject to many of USC-Columbia's Academic Affairs policies. In practice, the Senate Chair's appointment is currently used to appoint a Palmetto College faculty representative to the Senate Steering Committee. This change codifies Palmetto College faculty representation on the committee and allow the chair to appoint a separate faculty member to the Senate Steering Committee, which is likely to lead to broader faculty representation. In addition, the InDev and UCPTF are both highly active committees with wide-ranging responsibilities that would benefit from permanent representation on the Steering committee.

The changes to the C&C and Libraries committees were approved by the Faculty Senate on March 5, 2025. The changes to the Senate Steering Committee were approved by the Faculty Senate on March 5, 2025 with further modification on April 2, 2025. Meeting documents and minutes for both can be found here:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/meetings/index.php