Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Committee
September 14, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 11:00 AM in Petigru 305

I. Welcome and introductions

Attendance: Fabi Poulain, Alex Herrera, Leland Spencer, Charlie Mactutus, Jeff Twiss, Alysia Bridgman.

Regrets: Sasha Monin, Jessie Barnes, Meena Khalili

II. Approval of minutes from April 2026

Minutes approved without correction.

III. Priorities for 2026-27 academic year
   A. Main priorities for college research staff
      1. Grant management
      2. Fellowship tracking: **Please put fellowships in USCERA even when they are paid to the faculty member directly to help with tracking.**
      3. Defining, publicizing, and rewarding productivity beyond grants (public scholarship, awards, other achievements)
         a. **Ideas: Can the college pick up where USC Today leaves off (i.e., publish notices of faculty awards, publications, grants, and other achievements in the college newsletter)?**
         b. **Existing models: Humanities Collaborative (book signings), Presidential Reception for book authors.**
         c. **Is there a better way to collect data about achievements since annual reports stay at the department?**
   B. Other topics of discussion
      1. External communication (from the college)
         a. **Ideas: Could the college hire a science writer or media professional to get the word out about faculty research achievements in publicly accessible ways?**
         b. **Status Quo: Departmental social media accounts exist but are uneven/inconsistent.**
      2. Internal communication (within the college)
         a. **Consensus: Communication from the college about grant opportunities is sufficient and plentiful.**
         b. **Questions: Does the college newsletter duplicate the VPRI newsletter? No consensus here: some people appreciate seeing all the opportunities while others would prefer a more tailored approach.**

3. Events (need or not?)
    a. **Idea: Maybe an event to celebrate achievements (grants, fellowships, books); could be good to invite lawmakers and other leaders to see the value of what we do at the university.**
    b. **Idea: Grant workshop for humanities projects (perhaps modeled on Propel); would be helpful if past recipients could review and comment on draft proposals.**
4. University resources: **Most people are subscribed to VPRI emails.**
5. Implications of university AI policy (see the booklet distributed by Provost Fitzpatrick on 8/5/26: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/provost_reports/3/)
    a. **Feedback: Document is too long and likely to change quickly.**
    b. **Feedback: Not enough about integrity and plagiarism.**
    c. **Feedback: Faculty have differing views about the appropriateness of any AI use, with some integrating it into their workflows and others avoiding it.**
6. Updates about USCERA: **New system coming in December.**

IV. Future meetings: Leland will circulate a poll for the next meeting.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM