



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

PALMETTO COLLEGE

Palmetto College Faculty Senate

Microsoft Teams

Friday, September 10, 2021

Morning Session 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Welcome, Dr. Ernest Jenkins

Remarks, Interim President Harris Pastides

Remarks, Interim Provost Stephen Cutler

Report from the Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins

Report from the Associate Provost, Dr. John Catalano

Reports from Palmetto College Campus Deans

Dean Ron Cox, USC Palmetto College Columbia

Dean Walt Collins, USC Lancaster

Dean Chris Nesmith, USC Salkehatchie

Dean Michael Sonntag, USC Sumter

Dean Randy Lowell, USC Union

Recognition of New Senators

Standing Committees 10:30 - 12:00 PM

I. Rights and Responsibilities

II. Welfare

III. System Affairs

Executive Committee 10:30 - 12:00 PM

Deans Meeting 10:30 - 12:00 PM

Break 12:00 - 12:30 PM

Afternoon Session..... 12:30 - 3:00 PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order at 12:35
- II. Attendance
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes: [April 16, 2021](#)
Blackboard Collaborate
- IV. Reports from Standing Committees
 - A. Rights and Responsibilities – Professor Andy Yingst
 - B. Welfare – Professor Bettie Obi-Johnson
 - C. System Affairs – Professor Blane DaSilva
- V. Executive Committee
 - A. Chair - Professor Ernest Jenkins
 - B. *Palmetto College Faculty Manual* Liaison Officer – Professor Andy Yingst
- VI. Reports from Special Committees
 - A. Committee on Libraries – Professor Rebecca Freeman
 - B. Committee on Curricula and Courses – Professor Lee Morris
 - C. Committee on Faculty Welfare – TBD
 - D. Faculty-Board of Trustees Liaison Committee – Professor Ernest Jenkins
 - E. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Lee Morris
 - F. Palmetto College Academic Advisory Council – Professor Steve Lowe
 - G. Other Committees
 - Conflict of Interest Committee – Professor Yasmina Vallejos-Morena
- VII. Unfinished Business
 - A. Columbia Faculty Senate Welfare Committee replacement
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Resolution to support advertising a 100% online option for AA and AS degrees
 - B. [Representation for the System Faculty Leadership Council](#)
 - i. [Columbia Faculty Manual](#)
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

MINUTES - DRAFT

Palmetto College Faculty Senate
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Morning Session 9:30 - 10:30 AM

- I. Welcome, Dr. Ernest Jenkins
- II. Remarks, Interim President Harris Pastides
- III. Remarks, Interim Provost Stephen Cutler
- IV. Report from the Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins
- V. Report from the Associate Provost, Dr. John Catalano
- VI. Reports from Palmetto College Campus Deans
 - Dean Ron Cox, USC Palmetto College Columbia
 - Dean Walt Collins, USC Lancaster
 - Dean Chris Nesmith, USC Salkehatchie
 - Dean Michael Sonntag, USC Sumter
 - Dean Randy Lowell, USC Union
 - Recognition of New Senators
- VII. Adjourn Morning Session

[Video Recording For Morning Session](#)

I. Call to Order and Welcome by Dr. Ernest Jenkins. Ernest Jenkins called the morning meeting to order at **9:30 A.M.** and thanked all for attending and taking part in the work this year.

II. Remarks from President Harris Pastides – President Pastides thanked the Palmetto College Campus Faculty Senate for our work and noted how important the work is that Palmetto College does and the service that it provides. He said that he is happy to be back to guide the university in this time of transition. He reported that the university has been asking the General Assembly for some of the Covid Recovery Funds. Pastides noted that despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the faculty’s commitment, student enthusiasm, and the beauty of the campus remains strong. He also finds that there is now an increase in societal conflict at this moment, and perhaps an erosion of trust – but that he knows of no institution that has not been significantly affected by COVID-19. Noted that we wear mask to protect ourselves, our children, our neighbors – and noted that we are working in different ways, we cannot socialize like we used to, which makes things seem different. But that behind all of these COVID changes, we are still the same university and remain committed to our goals.

President Pastides said he does not view Palmetto College as an appendage, but that it is at the heart of our community and university. He noted that his commitment to highlighting the importance of the regional campuses was part of his first term as president and Palmetto College grew from that.

“With the missteps of Carolina Online,” there was a fear that Carolina Online would take-over Palmetto College. “Of course that was not well-conceived.” Pastides said that he wants us to know that will never happen, even while Columbia may consider additional baccalaureate degrees. The presence and structure of Palmetto College “will remain as it is today.”

President Pastides stated that he knows there are enrollment pressures everywhere.

President Pastides acknowledged that his decision to call for a mask requirement was a “bit daring” given the state budget proviso. Mask requirement was dropped given the Attorney General’s opinion, but that it was readopted the very same day that the SC Supreme Court ruled that our mask mandate did not violate the state budget proviso. He also noted that he would strongly consider a vaccine mandate if he could, but that has been clearly proscribed by the General Assembly. He noted that East Illinois has a vaccine mandate, but only 70% of their campus is vaccinated due to religious and medical exemptions.

Speaking from his expertise as an epidemiologist, President Pastides believes the Delta variant will eventually decline and decline quickly, but that there will be other variants – the character of those variants is unknown. He would like to rescind the mask mandate at some point, but that will have to be precipitated by better public health conditions.

President Pastides also cautioned that this cannot be just “a year to get through,” this has to be an “excel-year” – we have to take care of our students, offer the student life that our campuses are known for, engage with our communities all over the state. “Please don’t view this as a year to get through.” Rather, find new ways to challenge ourselves and set high-bars, so that when we begin to get past covid we will emerge as “the best of who we are.”

III. Remarks from Interim Provost Stephen Cutler. Provost Cutler thanked the PCCFS for the chance to join us. He expressed his appreciation to President Pastides for the vision that he had ten years ago to create Palmetto College to serve SC with accessible and affordable baccalaureate degrees – and to serve underserved, rural parts of South Carolina and non-traditional, underserved students. He gave thanks to Chancellor Elkins for her work for Palmetto College and for helping as the university evaluates the status for Carolina Online.

Provost Cutler praised the impact that faculty are having on our campuses and students; and noted remarkable feedback from our students when surveyed about the impacts that faculty are having on them and their development. He knows that things are difficult amid the pandemic, but “I want to thank you for helping us to deliver on our promise to provide students with a world-class educational experience.”

Provost Cutler noted that he was Dean of the School of Pharmacy when the saliva-based COVID-19 test was developed; he also noted the success of sewer monitoring. He reiterated that we cannot mandate a vaccine, but that situation is possibly changing with policies coming from White House. He reported that our positivity rate is about 4% for the tests we are doing on campus every day. He credited the vaccination rate with the incentive program created by President Pastides.

Provost Cutler closed his remarks expressing his deepest appreciation to us for what we do.

IV. Report from the Palmetto College Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins

Chancellor Elkins began her remarks by thanking the members of the PCCFS for the work they do to support Palmetto College through Faculty Senate, particularly amid our teaching, research, and other service work. “You change lives across this great state, every day.”

Chancellor Elkins thanked President Pastides and Provost Cutler for being with us and for their support for Palmetto College; and she expressed that she is glad President Pastides is back with us as we celebrate 10 years of Palmetto College. Chancellor Elkins thanked Ron Cox and PC-Columbia for hosting this senate meeting.

Chancellor Elkins began with an update on COVID-19. She reminded all that safety and well-being is the number one priority amid COVID-19. She thanked President Pastides for the mask requirement, noted our frequent testing, and vaccine clinic availability. She noted a survey that was conducted this past summer – the majority of respondents said that we need to follow the CDC guidelines as much as possible. She noted that the leadership of Palmetto College meets regularly to respond to COVID-19 safety needs.

Course delivery is back to a more normal range (30% online, 67% face-to-face). Each week Palmetto College reports COVID-19 numbers. Last week Palmetto College had 23 total cases across all of PC (21 students and 2 employees). This week’s numbers will be reported later this afternoon.

Chancellor Elkins then provided an enrollment update. She noted that enrollment and budget issues plagued the regional campuses when Palmetto College began. We had record enrollment last year (topping 6,500). The headcount, as of yesterday, for Fall 1: Overall Palmetto College enrollment is 6,396. Associate degree enrollment is 4714. 2+2 Bachelors completion programs 142. PC Columbia – Pathway Program has 93 students. Fort Jackson is down - BLS is down a little 129, BOL is 142 (These do not include Fall 2). Online Bachelors Degree Completion Online is at 1,261. We have seen about a 20% increase in headcount on our 5 campuses over the last 10 years, when our technical college counterparts have had a 21% decrease.

Chancellor Elkins noted our priorities for the Fall 2021 to Spring 2022: 1) To safely fully-reopen. 2) Continue to improve recruitment, enrollment, and retention. 3) Searches for President and Provost 4) Pay attention to the Faculty Welfare Survey and work to move recommendations forward. She also noted that Columbia has just started a staff senate and perhaps it is time for us to create a Palmetto College staff senate. 5) 10th Anniversary of Palmetto College Launch Celebration will be observed Spring 2022. We will continue that celebration throughout the year that follows the April anniversary.

Chancellor Elkins reported that SACSOC is coming back to follow-up from their virtual visits.

Chancellor Elkins reported that Apple Community Labs should open next spring.

Chancellor Elkins noted some of the successes over the last decade that has resulted from collaboration between PC administration leadership and Faculty Senate Leadership. 1) Hiring Jean Carrano. 2) Fixing 2-way video classrooms, including acquiring grants for upgrades. 3) Creating and implementing faculty awards, not just for teaching, but also for service and scholarship. 4) We have worked on improving communication. We have improved the website, have newsletters, townhalls, and we want to continue improving communication. 5) We established the Palmetto College Salary Study Committee, completed the 2018-9 Salary Study and implemented the first round of salary improvements for faculty and staff just as the pandemic hit.

Finally, Chancellor Elkins thanked Ernest Jenkins for his hard work leading the PC Senate, but also for representing us on the Presidential Search Committee. Bianca Rowlett is representing Palmetto College on the Provost Search Committee.

V. Report from the Associate Provost, Dr. John Catalano. Dr. Catalano reported that all of our 2020-2021 applicants for tenure and promotion were accepted. He noted that his reported was submitted to PC Senate Secretary in writing and encouraged the other deans to be brief.

VI. Reports from Palmetto College Campus Deans

A. Report from Dean Ron Cox, USC Palmetto College Columbia. Professor Mac Jones reported on Dean Ron Cox's behalf. The report noted the impressive success rate of last year's Palmetto Pathways cohort. The 2021-2022 cohort have 92 students in the cohort and there is a goal to expand.

Jones reported the PC-Columbia Campus is working with the Lexington Transfer Center to offer what is needed for Lexington, for example upper level foreign language dual credit and more dual credit opportunities in general. They are also working on a new Memorandum of Understanding with Fort Jackson to offer and market more degree program opportunities.

Finally, he noted that several USC courses are designated as "REACH Act Compliant." Sample syllabi are available for faculty who are teaching those courses within Palmetto College (Poli Sci 201 and HIST 111).

B. Report from Dean Walt Collins, USC Lancaster. Dean Collins noted that he was submitting his report in writing. He introduced the Lancaster campus senators. He then noted some faculty accomplishments: Adam Biggs finished his PhD in history at Harvard in June 2021 and is beginning a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for the next year. Pat Lawrence, Chris Bundrick, and Kate Holland were successful in their bids for tenure and promotion. Tenure track searches for English, History, and Art. Instructor or Tenure Track search for an archivist.

C. Report from Dean Chris Nesmith, USC Salkehatchie. Dean Nesmith noted that he would submit a longer written report. Salkehatchie is using weekly saliva testing and are requiring student

athletes to be vaccinated. Salkehatchie has local campus-level promotions to encourage vaccines and has held vaccine clinics. Dean Nesmith reported new hires on the staff: Brooke Williams has been promoted to serve as our Coordinator of Education Partnerships. Jackson Alexander is the new Director of the USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute. Bretticca Moody is directing the Opportunity Scholars Program. Brandon Wright is the new Director for Student Success and Engagement. Dean Nesmith reported that Genesis Healthcare has pledged a \$50K gift for the nursing program and scholarships. He announced a series of USDA Grants to benefit the Criminal Justice Program. Salkehatchie also received grants from the Coastal Community Foundation Winthrop Fund to start a food pantry on the Allendale Campus. Faculty accomplishments were highlighted, including: Carmella Gottesman presented at the Vision Science Conference over the summer. And Sarah Miller received a PURE Grant and undertook research studying Pon Pon Chapel of Ease this summer.

D. Report from Dean Michael Sonntag, USC Sumter. Dean Sonntag noted there was so much good news at Sumter that it is hard to be brief. He introduced the Sumter senate delegation. He thanked faculty for their hard work amid Covid-19. He then highlighted some faculty accomplishments. Twelve faculty members have produced 22 publications or other types of scholarly work. Dean Sonntag noted that his reported will be submitted to the senate secretary.

E. Report from Randy Lowell, USC Union. Dean Lowell first introduced the Union senate delegation. Dean Lowell highlighted some faculty accomplishments including: Jennifer Emswiler's paintings that are on exhibit, Steve Lowe published a book *The Slow Undoing* with USC Press, Christine Rinehart has also had a number of publications and book reviews.

Dean Lowell noted the Union campus has record enrollment at the moment. The first cohort of upper division Nursing Students is on campus. He reported on the "Fresh Check Day" campus event. And he reported on the recipients of PURE Summer Research fellowships. Dean Lowell then described campus athletics. He noted campus efforts to test for COVID-19 and incentives for testing and vaccinations. He closed by lauding their 81.6% success right and high graduation rate among 2-year institutions.

VII. Morning Session Adjourned. Professor Jenkins suggested that we will reconvene for the afternoon session at 1:00 P.M. so that committees have time to do their work and so that everyone has time for lunch. Professor Jenkins closed the morning session and senators were moved into their committees at **10:55 A.M.**

AFTERNOON SESSION

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

III. Correction/Approval of Minutes: [April 16, 2021](#)

IV. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Rights and Responsibilities – Professor Andy Yingst
- B. Welfare–Professor Bettie Obi-Johnson
- C. System Affairs– Professor Blane DaSilva

V. Executive Committee - Chair - Professor Ernest Jenkins

Palmetto College Faculty Manual Liaison Officer – Professor Andy Yingst

VI. Reports from Special Committees

- A. Committee on Libraries – Professor Rebecca Freeman
- B. Committee on Curricula and Courses–Professor Lee Morris
- C. Committee on Faculty Welfare –TBD
- D. Faculty-Board of Trustees Liaison Committee – Professor Ernest Jenkins
- E. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Lee Morris
- F. Palmetto College Academic Advisory Council – Professor Steve Lowe
- G. Other Committees
 - Conflict of Interest Committee – Professor Yasmina Vallejos-Morena

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Columbia Faculty Senate Welfare Committee replacement

VIII. New Business

- A. Resolution to support advertising a 100% online option for AA and AS degrees
- B. [Representation for the System Faculty Leadership Council Columbia](#)

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

[Video Recording for Afternoon Session](#)

I. Call to Order. Chairperson Ernest Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

II. Attendance. Secretary David W. Dangerfield called the roll.

Senators Present:

PC-Columbia – Elliot Vittes, Matt Rashotte, Mary Hjelm, Mac Jones

Lancaster – Bettie Obi-Johnson, Li Cai, Jarrod Yarosh, Stephen Criswell, Andy Yingst, Britany Taylor-Driggers, Rebecca Freeman, Ernest Jenkins

Salkehatchie – David W. Dangerfield, Justin Mogilski, Francis Burns, Carmela Gottesman

Sumter – Kristina Grob, Mark Roberts, Matthew Holley, Katie Klik, Blane DaSilva, Sher Chhetri, Bianca Rowlett

Union – Emily Schafer, Jennifer Emswiler, Steven Lownes, Christine Rinehart

III. Correction/Approval of Minutes: Minutes from meeting held [April 16, 2021](#)

Chairperson Jenkins called for any corrections to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chairperson Jenkins ruled the minutes approved.

IV. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Rights and Responsibilities – Professor Andy Yingst

Professor Yingst reported the Rights and Responsibilities Committee will work on revising the post-tenure review process, specifically how the manual should handle / what committee should receive when a tenured faculty member receives an unsatisfactory post-tenure review.

B. Welfare – Professor Bettie Obi-Johnson

Professor Obi-Johnson reported the committee's charges for the year include: arranging the TP workshop (to be held January 28, 2022 in the virtual format). 2) Giving the system awards for teaching, research, and service. Each campus nominee needs to be sent in by Dec. 7th to Bettie Obi-Johnson. The nominations for those awards are open. The committee is going to assemble a rubric for evaluating the award nominees. 3) Consider the financial concerns of the faculty, including salaries, research money, ect. The committee asks for clarification on the expected timeline for implementing salary adjustments. The committee would like to continue with an annual welfare survey, but move toward bi-annual reports on the welfare survey. Members of the committee will work on improving how the data from the survey is gathered and evaluated. 4) Continuing to oversee and coordinate our Palmetto College Faculty Welfare Resources webpage. 5) The Committee proposes using funds saved from in-person meetings to benefit untenured faculty or all faculty senate members in some way (bonus, gift card, or assistance with tenure file preparation).

C. System Affairs – Professor Blane DaSilva

Professor Blane DaSilva reported that System Affairs did not have specific charges, but it did appoint Professor Carmela Gottesman as a liaison for promoting use and updating the Palmetto College advising webpage. They discussed the 100% online AA/AS degrees – they have specific questions about four issues: 1) How funding will be distributed across campuses, including both in-state and out-of-state students? 2) How online courses will be listed to ensure equal student access to courses on all campuses. 3) How students in the online programs will be made aware that they can take both face-to-face and online courses. 4) How face-to-face courses will continue to be emphasized and encouraged.

An extended discussion followed on these questions and other questions related to the 100% Online AA/AS Degrees.

Dean Eric Reissenauer responded: These courses will be offered as courses on each of the four campuses individually. These will not be similar to Palmetto College courses that are shared across campuses.

Dean John Catalano responded: “I don't look at these as online programs, these are our AA/AS degrees.” We are simply looking to advertise that they can be attained online. The tuition would be the same. The only students who would be “distributed around” will be ones whose applications come from out of state, and Joe Mews would divvy those up among the campuses as evenly as possible.

Professor Bettie Obi-Johnson commented (in chat): I think the online AA and AS degrees are great ways to recruit more students! I would like to see students on one campus having the ability to take online

courses offered by other campuses but not theirs.

Professor David W. Dangerfield asked how many campuses can offer the 100% online degree completely in-house. Dean Catalano responded that it would be difficult to do so within 2 years for the student.

Dean Reisenaur responded with a follow-up that they are working on a template for that program of study.

Professor Jennifer Emswiler asked Dean Catalano, asked what this will look like in the future if we are forced to offer a bigger and bigger ratio of online teaching. Does that mean the number of face-to-face offerings suffer? Dean Catalano indicated they do not know the definite answer for that yet, but they envision increasing the number of students will then increase the scale for what our campuses are doing.

Professor Andy Yingst asked about more specifics regarding money. For example, what do we do with a student who needs a class not offered on their campus – but the course is offered on two other campuses, who gets the student? Dean Catalano responded the students would be directed by the advisor, and they would probably end up going wherever the advisor sent them. The advisor chooses and helps that student pick a schedule. How the money would work out is still to be determined.

Professor Francis Burns asked in the chat for an explanation about “LTAP” terminology. Dean Catalano responded that refers to lottery scholarships.

Professor Blane DaSilva asked: Hypothetically, what if we advertise the online AA/AS’s and somebody from a county like Greenville sends their application into Sumter and that campus gets that student. Dean Reisenaur answered that Joe Mews has presented a map that divides the entire state and links each county to a campus.

Professor David W. Dangerfield asked about how military students would be divvied up – why would a military student from, say Charleston, not go to Salkehatchie but go to Sumter. Dean Catalano responded that the deans agreed to the distribution as Joe Mews presented it.

Professor Bianca Rowlett wrote in the chat that “Geographic proximity favors higher enrollments among certain campuses over others.”

Chancellor Elkins noted that this initiative is born out of our desire to adapt and continue to grow enrollment. She noted that it is a tough market and students are getting fewer and fewer. She also noted that USC-Columbia and Clemson waived their admission test requirements during COVID, which has affected our pool of potential students.

Professor Steve Lowe commented in the chat that “As I recall, having a separate category for military students applies primarily to the BLS/BOL so they can go into the P19 section.”

Professor Blaine DaSilva commented that we are all committed to growing out campuses and enrollment, but what monies and what efforts are we specifically using to sell the advantages of face-to-face with our potential students.

Chancellor Elkins responded that each of the campuses can speak to their own marketing efforts and that there is nothing she would like more than to see our face-to-face students grow. But much of that marketing is locally to the local campuses. She noted the campus deans meet each week to talk about enrollment and that the commitment to face-to-face students is unchanged. She encouraged the deans to speak up and speak to their face-to-face marketing efforts.

Dean Catalano said that 10 years ago we did not have the emphasis on athletics, nursing, housing, ect. All of these things were brought about from an interest in having students on campus. We have spent a lot of money bringing athletics and creating the nursing programs / nursing labs to bring good students to campus. But it has not been enough, we also have to supplement this with online students.

Chancellor Elkins spoke up to add to the picture of the overall enrollment status among our system state-wide. Our campuses are among the only institutions with increases at the undergraduate level for the entire statewide USC system.

V. Executive Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee, Chair - Professor Ernest Jenkins

Chairperson Jenkins reported that the Executive Committee also discussed concerns about the 100% Online AA/AS Degrees. Some of those will be discussed later in the meeting.

B. Palmetto College Faculty Manual Liaison Officer – Professor Andy Yingst

The manual changed from last semester was approved and is online. Yingst anticipates some small changes to the manual may arise this year,

VI. Reports from Special Committees

A. Committee on Libraries – Professor Rebecca Freeman - No report.

B. Committee on Curricula and Courses – Professor Lee Morris

Professor Morris announced there will be some changes to the process for submitted changes to an existing course or for a new course. There will be a new system that is coming forward soon.

She announced they are working on some “help documents” to assist faculty as they propose new courses / course changes to ensure their proposed syllabi have the material that is needed.

Noted changes that occur from the Columbia campus, but that affect Palmetto College campus courses. They are working to make sure we are not left out of those discussions/changes.

C. Committee on Faculty Welfare – TBD - No report.

D. Faculty-Board of Trustees Liaison Committee – Professor Ernest Jenkins

Chairperson Jenkins reported that, yesterday, an update went out from the Presidential Search Committee. He announced there will be at least one more opportunity, likely more, for listening sessions. They are working with the search firm to create an interest form for potential candidates.

E. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Lee Morris - No report.

F. Palmetto College Academic Advisory Council – Professor Steve Lowe

Professor Lowe reported they committee will meet next Friday. They will report comprehensively at the next PCCFS meeting.

G. Other Committees

1. Conflict of Interest Committee – Professor Yasmina Vallejos-Moreno - No Report

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Columbia Faculty Senate Welfare Committee Replacement. We have an opening for our representative on this committee. Katie Klik has offered to serve on this committee. There are no other nominees. The senate voted on Katie Klik's nomination to serve on the Columbia Faculty Senate Welfare Committee – **the vote was unanimous to approve Professor Klik as our representative to the Columbia Faculty Senate Welfare Committee.**

VIII. New Business

- A. Resolution to support advertising a 100% online option for AA and AS degrees

A resolution to support advertising a 100% online option for AA and AS degrees was shared with the senate. Chairperson Jenkins noted that the executive committee shared some advice and some questions about this and that he would like to compile the questions/answers and make those explanations widely available to prepare to vote on this at the next meeting.

Professor Carmela Gottesman asked if the information that we received today from the administration will be incorporated in the resolution. Jenkins responded that we can try to incorporate that into the resolution after we compile it.

Professor Steven Lownes asked what the timeline was for when the administration wishes to begin advertising these degree options. Dean Catalano responded that there is not a set timeline, but that it would really help spring enrollments if we approved the resolution today; otherwise advertising would have to wait until next year.

Professor Bettie Obi-Johnson moved that we vote on a version of this resolution today. Professor Elliot Vittes seconded the motion. Discussion: Professor Steven Lownes noted that he believes all campuses have approved a universal admissions process. Professor Carmela Gottesman asked if anything could be added to the resolution, she would specifically like to see language added that would encourage students to stay with their home campus for online class and to take face-to-face classes if possible.

Professor David W. Dangerfield suggested we return to discussing if we want to vote on this resolution today. And then, perhaps, discuss if we want to wordsmith it.

The motion to vote on a version of this resolution today passed.

A discussion followed that edited or “wordsmithed” the resolution document. There was agreement that there did not need to be language about the admission process.

Professor Francis Burns moved to remove a section from the draft that discussed admissions requirements. Bettie Obi-Johnson Seconded. The motion passed.

Professor Carmela Gottesman moved to include a clause that notes we will encourage students to take classes in-person if possible. The motion was seconded by Professor Elliot Vittes. Professors Andy Yingst and Kristina Grob noted this language could undermine the outreach for online students that

we are aiming toward – that we are implying online learning is less desirable. **The motion did not pass.**

The Resolution was then presented for a vote, as a motion coming out of executive committee as a seconded motion. The motion passed and the resolution approved.

Resolution: “Whereas the University of South Carolina Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate has supported and the Board of Trustees has approved Palmetto College participation in 100% online delivery of the baccalaureate degrees in Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership; and

Whereas the Board of Trustees has approved the University of South Carolina Palmetto College and its campuses to offer the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees for 100% online delivery; and

Whereas the students enrolled in these online programs are not barred from taking in-person classes from any of the Palmetto College campuses; and

Whereas the students will be engaged to a local campus based upon geographic proximity; now, therefore be it

Resolved that the University of South Carolina Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate supports the online degree completion programs for the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees, and that advertising these programs should be done in a uniform manner that benefits the Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College as a whole.”

B. Representation for the System Faculty Leadership Council

Chairperson Ernest Jenkins turned this agenda item over to Professor Christine Rinehart to discuss. She noted that the USC System Faculty Leadership Council was created by the System Chairs Council. Our senate chair would serve on this committee, but also one representative from Palmetto College. Once this committee meets, they will construct their own by-laws.

We need to approve a way of appointing or electing our representation from Palmetto College, potentially having staggered terms. Executive will continue discussing this and a plan will be presented at the next senate meeting.

IX. Announcements. There were no announcements.

X. Adjournment. Professor Andy Yingst moved to adjourn. Professor Elliot Vittes seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
David W. Dangerfield, PCCFS Secretary

Attachments:

Chancellor's Report – Palmetto College – Chancellor Susan Elkins

Campus Dean's Report – USC Palmetto College Columbia – Dean Ron Cox

Campus Dean's Report – USC-Lancaster – Dean Walt Collins

Campus Dean's Report – USC Salkehatchie – Dean Chris Nesmith

Campus Dean's Report – USC Sumter – Dean Michael Sonntag

Campus Dean's Report – USC Union – Dean Randy Lowell

Palmetto College Campus Senate Welfare Committee Presentation to Senate - 9/10/21

Approved Resolution for 100% Online AA/AS Degrees

PALMETTO COLLEGE CAMPUSES FACULTY SENATE

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

SUSAN ELKINS

- Thank YOU for your service to the PCC Faculty Senate, as always! Many thanks to Palmetto College Columbia and Dean Cox for hosting!
- COVID-19 Mitigation Activity Fall Semester Planning and Monitoring
 - **Number One Priority:** *Safety, health, and well-being of faculty, staff, and students.*
 - **Planning and Preparation:** Protocol aligned with Columbia, with masks required, frequent testing, and vaccines available on all PC campuses; PC Faculty, Staff, & Students surveyed in summer in preparation for Fall 2020, with majority recommending that CDC guidelines be followed; Weekly meetings of PC Emergency Management Team followed by Friday update from the Chancellor; PC Town Hall to be scheduled for updates and future planning
 - **Course Delivery Fall Semester:** 31.1% Online, 67.0% F2F, 1.9% Hybrid
 - **Decision Matrix/Dashboard/Campus Conditions:** Continual monitoring of key conditions for decision making; adjustments as needed; weekly reporting through PC Dashboard in Chancellor's Friday Updates; number of cases from Aug. 16 - September 1, 23 total cases, including 21 students & 2 employees
- **Fall 2021 Student Headcount (as of 8/9/21) Compared to Same Day Last Year – Additional Fall II Enrollment in Process; Final Census late October**
 - **Palmetto College Overall:** Headcount increased from 6,099 to 6,396 (+297; +4.87%)
 - **Palmetto College Campuses Associate Degrees:** Headcount increased from 4,734 to 4,962 (+228; +4.82%)
 - **Palmetto College Campuses Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs:** Headcount increased from 104 to 142 (+38; +36.54%)
 - **Palmetto College Columbia:** Palmetto Pathway – 93 (46-F20); Ft. Jackson 92 (249-F20); BLS – 129 (146-F20); BOL – 142 (146-F20)
 - **Palmetto College Online Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs:** Headcount increased from 1,261 to 1,292 (+31; +2.46%)
- **2021-2022 Priorities/Fall Semester Actions/Spring Semester Planning**
 - **1. Campus Reopening/Risk Mitigation, 2. Recruitment/Enrollment/Retention/Budget, 3. President/Provost Search, 4. Faculty Welfare Study/Staff Senate, 5. 10th Anniversary of Palmetto College Launch - Spring Semester 2022**



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
PALMETTO COLLEGE

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT UPDATES

- **SACSCOC**
 - Results of last year's report and virtual visit will be presented at December 2021 SACSCOC Meeting
 - Virtual campus visits from last year will be followed by physical campus visits in Spring 2022
- **Apple Community Labs**
 - \$3M from Governor's GEER Funding for Apple Community Labs on PC Campuses received in Spring 2021
 - Planning efforts underway since summer, locations identified, equipment and furniture ordered, programming being developed
 - Ribbon cutting ceremonies and grand openings being planned for late Fall 2021 and/or early Spring 2022
- **Past Successes Resulting from Senate Leadership and Collaboration**
 - Created the position of Faculty Senate/Academic Affairs Coordinator to assist with coordination of the work of the Senate and hired Ms. Jean Carrano for the position.....an outstanding Coordinator!
 - Completed final upgrades to all two-way video classrooms across Palmetto College this summer from funding secured for the second USDA Rural Utilities Services Grant, with the combined value of the two grants totaling approximately \$1M. The need for the upgrades was identified in the Faculty Welfare Study in the first years of Palmetto College. A huge thank you to Mr. Bob Dyer for writing and administering the grants, along with the entire IT Team across Palmetto College, for their many contributions! Both faculty and students are seeing tremendous improvements!
 - Created and implemented PC faculty awards for both scholarship and service to accompany the teaching award already in existence, thanks to the outstanding leadership and diligent work of the Senate Welfare Committee!
 - Improved communications across PC based on a recommendation from an early Faculty Welfare Study by working with the Senate to create a PC newsletter, making continual improvements to the PC website, and adding communication opportunities like the PC Town Halls and Chancellor's Friday Message. Many thanks to the Senate Welfare Committee, Mr. Jason Darby, Mr. Bob Dyer, Ms. Jean Carrano, and others involved!
 - Established a PC Salary Study Committee, completed the 2018-2019 Salary Study, and implemented the first round of salary adjustments for faculty and staff, based on recommendations from the Faculty Welfare Study. Thanks again to those who served on the Salary Study Committee and the Welfare Committee for their excellent work on behalf of all faculty and staff across Palmetto College!
 - President Search Committee – Dr. Ernest Jenkins, PCFS Chair Representing Palmetto College - Thank You!
 - Provost Search Committee – Dr. Bianca Rowlett, Chair-Elect of PCFS Representing Palmetto College – Thank You!
- **Thank YOU!!!**
 - PCCFS Chair Jenkins, Senate Executive Committee, and Senators for your outstanding efforts!





UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
PALMETTO COLLEGE

M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Dean
USC Palmetto College Columbia
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Palmetto College

**REPORT TO THE PALMETTO COLLEGE CAMPUSES FACULTY SENATE
10 September 2021 C.E.**

My apologies to the Senate for my absence, but I am currently out-of-state at a family gathering (the first since Christmas 2019) that was scheduled before the Senate had selected its meeting dates for the 2021-2022 academic year. My sincere thanks to Professor Dawson Jones for agreeing to present my report.

Normally this would be the meeting hosted by Palmetto College Columbia, so I do want to take the opportunity to welcome you to this virtual gathering. I offer my thanks to everyone who worked to make this gathering possible, especially the Senate Executive Committee, the incomparable Jean Carrano, and the fantastic IT crew at Palmetto College.

I. Palmetto Pathway

- 2020-2021: Year 2 of the program; 49 students enrolled in FALL 2020; 47 students enrolled in SPRING 2021 (96% retention rate)
- 33 students completed 30+ UofSC credit hours prior to FALL 2021; 32 did so with GPA of 2.0 or higher (65.31% success rate); all 32 of these have been admitted to UofSC Columbia for FALL 2021 as sophomores:

College/School	Total Admitted	Declared Major	Number by Major
Arnold School of Public Health	06	Public Health Exercise Sci.	03 03
Arts & Sciences	12	Biology Criminal Justice Media Arts Psychology	01 04 01 06
Education	02	Elementary	02
Engineering & Computing	01	Comp. Sci	01
Hospitality, Retail, Spt. Mgmt.	06	Hosp. Mgmt. Sport Mgmt.	05 01
Moore School of Business	04	Accounting Finance Marketing	01 01 02
Social Work	01	SOWK	01

- Five students from the cohort remain enrolled with a Palmetto College campus; one student is enrolled at USC Upstate; another at USC Aiken – so 39 of 49 students (79.59%) remain within the UofSC system.

- 2021-2022 Cohort: 94 students enrolled in program – 26 different academic courses taught by faculty representing all of the Palmetto College campuses;
- Goals for the Future:
 - Expansion of cohort to 150 students for 2022-2023
 - Program admission controlled by Palmetto College
 - Equitable division of students among the PC campuses
 - Acquisition of additional dedicated classroom space on the Columbia campus

II. BLS/BOL

- Chancellor Elkins' report included the most recent enrollment figures for both the BLS & BOL degree programs.
- Looking at a more refined marketing – especially for BLS; marketing which stresses career paths associated with different major concentration or cognate areas; overcome the challenge of trying to explain exactly what the value of a Liberal Studies degree
- Discussion of re-visiting the concept from years ago of “Back to Carolina” – look at students who started at USC but never completed a degree, reach out to them about coming back and completing their degree with Palmetto College

III. Lexington Transfer Center

- Still exploring options for working with Lexington School District, which has expressed interest in working with Palmetto College to offer upper-level foreign language (SPAN) courses for dual credit in the district's language immersion program. Challenges include course instructor approval and Phase II testing process required for upper-division courses.

IV. Fort Jackson

- Still waiting on progress with the MOU between UofSC and Fort Jackson to allow us more flexibility in marketing and recruiting into BLS, BOL, and other PC bachelor degree programs.
- Dip in enrollments – partly due to increased competition from online sections being offered by UofSC Columbia, and partly (probably mostly) due to the added requirement for special enrollment permission for Columbia students wishing to take courses at Fort Jackson
- We did experience a flurry of SERF forms in the last days of registration, and several course sections have been moved to FALL II to allow time for increased enrollment (and to provide options to students who perhaps drop a 16-week course but need to remain enrolled on a full-time basis).
- PC Columbia faculty had a spirited discussion at our Administratively-called meeting on August 20 – many ideas about how to better market our courses and serve more students.

V. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- CADO still meeting; Julian Williams one of the few remaining top officials still in place; data collection from USC Columbia and the PC campuses are included; helpful in terms of student marketing & recruiting, retention & success, etc.
- PC Diversity Council met over the summer; working on a “Diversity book club” program (local ones exist at Salk and Lancaster – not sure about Union or Sumter) but this would be done virtually and open to all campuses; also working on – I hope – a resolution to take to Faculty Senate calling on all campuses to require a diversity statement of some type from all candidates who apply for faculty positions

VI. REACH Act

- Passed by General Assembly and signed by Gov. McMaster in April 2021; in effect for all baccalaureate students entering UofSC in FALL 2021 and thereafter
- Several UofSC courses have been designated “REACH Compliant” – the ones which most affect our campuses are HIST 111 and POLI 201.
- Sample syllabi are available for perusal by faculty who are teaching these courses, to provide ideas of how the stipulations of the legislation may be accomplished.
- UofSC Columbia hosting a series of online workshops for faculty teaching these courses; also developing a centralized repository of resources to assist. These are open to faculty on the PC campuses.

VII. And, finally, the introduction of Palmetto College Columbia’s Senate Delegation:

- Professor Mary Hjelm – Rights & Responsibilities
- Professor Elliot Vittes – Faculty Welfare
- Professor Matt Rashotte – System Affairs
- Professor Patrick Saucier - Alternate
- Professor R. Mac Jones – Executive Committee (at large)

My appreciation to the Senate for permitting me this time to report on some of the happenings at UofSC Palmetto College Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Ron Cox, Jr.

M. Ron Cox, Jr., Dean
Palmetto College Columbia



Dr. Walter P. Collins, III
Regional Palmetto College Dean

Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
Meeting virtually and hosted by Palmetto College Columbia
September 10, 2021

USC Lancaster Senate Delegation for 2021-2022:

Executive Committee Chair

Ernest Jenkins

Senators

Bettie Obi-Johnson (2022)
Li Cai (2022)
Jerrod Yarosh (2023)
Stephen Criswell (2023)
Andy Yingst (2023)
Brittany Taylor-Driggers (2024)
Rebecca Freeman (2024)

Alternates

Fernanda Burke (2022)
Kate Holland (2022)
Patrick Lawrence (2022)

COVID-19

SC DHEC continues to coordinate drive through COVID testing for the community on the USC Lancaster campus in the parking lot on the east side of Carole Ray Dowling. Testing is available Monday-Friday, 9:00 to 4:00.

USC Lancaster will host on-campus **vaccine clinics** throughout the semester. DHEC will administer the vaccines with all three available vaccines as options. Our [Campus Health](#) page contains all of the details.

Ongoing testing: We are in the process of finalizing a plan for ongoing testing for Fall 2021.

Between May and July 2021, USC Lancaster distributed federal funds to students received from the **CARES Act for colleges and universities**. Approximately 513 students received funding amounts of either \$363 or \$763 depending on other financial aid factors. A total of \$285,565.00 was distributed to assist our students with financial hardships related to the global pandemic. Though no funds have been awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year yet, we do anticipate a 3rd distribution of funds.

People

Enrollment

As of September 9, 2021, the Fall 2021 USCL headcount enrollment stands at 1,657 (up about 3.89% over this same day last year). We continue to enroll students for Fall II.

New to USC Lancaster—We welcome the following new faculty and staff members:

Prof. McKenzie Lemhouse (tenure track Assistant Librarian) who completed the Master of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Andrew Shreiner is serving as Assistant Baseball Coach.

Mr. Brad Young is serving as Assistant Soccer Coach.

Faculty Searches in progress:

Tenure Track: English, History, and Art

Instructor or Tenure Track: Archivist

Staff Searches in progress or soon to be in progress:

Librarian, Licensed Personal Counselor, Student Life Director, Assistant Registrar, and Academic Advisor

Congratulations to the following faculty for their USC Service Anniversaries:

10 Years

Nicholas Lawrence

Brittany Taylor-Driggers

30 years

Dwayne Brown

Congratulations to Dr. Adam Biggs (history) who has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship for this academic year in the History of Medicine Department at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Congratulations to the following faculty members for successful bids at tenure and promotion:

Dr. Patrick Lawrence (English): promotion to Associate Professor with tenure

Dr. Kate Holland (psychology): promotion to full Professor

Dr. Christopher Bundrick (English): promotion to full Professor

Congratulations to the following faculty:

Dr. Shemsi Alhaddad (mathematics) has been appointed as USC Lancaster's Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research and has recently completed our yearly state Accountability Report.

Prof. Jill Castiglia has written a CHEM 101 lab manual which, in addition to being used on our campus, is being adopted by USC Sumter.

Dr. Stephen Criswell received a grant from the SC Arts Commission's Folklife and Traditional Arts Program for a project involving Alex Osborn photographing Catawba artists who have been in our art residency programs. He has also been appointed to the Lancaster County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee as the Cultural Community representative.

Distinguished Professor Emerita Fran Gardner is the new SC chapter president of the National Association of Women Artists. She has work being exhibited with NAWA shows. She has one piece titled "Practicing the Runes" in a virtual show titled "Layering" that features collage artists. She also has a piece titled "Signs and Riddles" in the 132nd National Members exhibition at One Art Space in Tribeca and will be featured in their quarterly magazine due out in October.

Dr. Lisa Hammond published "Faithful." *Twelve Mile Review* 1.1 (Spring/Summer 2021): 28.

Dr. Allan Pangburn is 1 of 10 participants who have been accepted to participate in AECT 2021 Early Career Symposium through the Research and Theory Division. This Symposium is designed to help faculty get prepared for research intensive positions.

USC Lancaster in our Communities

The **Town-Gown Advisory Group** will meet again on September 30.

Indian Land Location: Renovations to the automotive technology building at the former Indian Land High School for our permanent use have begun. The new space will include 4 classrooms, office space, restrooms, and storage areas. We will host a ribbon cutting and open house upon completion for the Spring 2022 semester.

Facilities

Campus Building and Area Updates:

Hubbard Hall and Starr Hall parking lots – Construction has been finished and asphalt striping was completed just in time for the first day of classes. This is a great improvement for campus parking.

Gregory tennis courts – renovation is complete, and all the courts have been resurfaced, wind screens replaced, and awnings installed. Three generous community partners donated to this effort: Founders Federal Credit Union, Comporium, and Nutramax Laboratories.

The Starr Hall renovation projects should conclude in the next few weeks.

Work over the Summer months:

- Remodeling Starr Hall lobby and Business Office; installed automatic door openers on three exterior doors (to be complete by the end of September)
- Resurfacing main parking area in front of Starr, Medford and Hubbard
- Renovating Indian Land High School automotive shop into USC Lancaster's own classroom building
- Contracted out Crawford Rose Garden redesign options based on feedback in Campus Master Plan.
- Pressure washed Bradley, Founders, Medford, and the USC Lancaster sign at the bypass intersection
- Completed roof work on Bradley, Medford and Starr
- Replaced HVAC unit for Founders Hall
- Renovated Student Center in Starr – removed fabric wall, installed sheetrock and painted, installed new ceiling tiles, lighting, and water feature on patio
- Converted storage closet in Student Center into a faculty/staff canteen
- Painted Medford computer lab, security office, and Palmetto College office in Hubbard (added new graphics to Palmetto College glass entrance)
- New flooring in security office
- New furniture in Medford glass study room
- Resurfaced tennis courts, new canopies, windscreens and practice wall, installed new sponsor boards, repaired fencing, trimmed trees around courts, refurbished benches
- General landscaping improvements
- Wi-Fi and computer lab upgrades; addition of campus webcam focused on Crawford Rose Garden area
- Creating an Apple lab in Bradley for campus and community use
- New graphics on USCL bus
- New admissions recruitment kiosk purchased for Starr Hall

Other items...

- The 2022 rankings are just out, and **USC Lancaster was again ranked the #1 two-year campus in South Carolina by niche.com**. This is the fifth year in a row that we have been so ranked. Congratulations to our faculty and staff for their dedication to the success of our students and to the fulfillment of our campus mission.
- As of last week, USC Lancaster's **Annual State Accountability Report** has been completed. Many thanks to **Dr. Shemsi Alhaddad** for her dedication in completing the report with thoughtful and meaningful narrative and data.
- Update on the virtual **Summer 2021 DEIA Internship Program**: The program ran this past summer between June 1 & July 23 with 14 interns (3 were from USCL). Seventeen USCL faculty members and 3 staff members participated as facilitators and mentors. Thanks to the Arras Foundation for this collaborative opportunity.
- Led by our campus DEI committee and committee chairs, USC Lancaster faculty and staff recently participated in a **reading and discussion group** using bell hooks's book *Teaching to Transgress*.



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
SALKEHATCHIE

USC Salkehatchie Dean's Report
Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
Sept. 10, 2021

COVID:

We have had 42 positive cases among students, and 6 employees since the start of the school year. In addition to them, we have placed about 110 students in quarantine at various times.

We are conducting testing every week on both campuses, and requiring our athletes to be tested weekly, while encouraging all students and any employees to take advantage of it as well.

In addition to testing, promoting vaccinations has been a big effort. We held a vaccine clinic on both campuses August 25 and 26 and have another planned soon. We also have various incentives for students and employees to get vaccinated.

Personnel:

Brooke Williams has been moved from Palmetto College Coordinator to Coordinator of Education Partnerships. In this role she will be our main point of contact and liaison for our high schools for dual credit and be the face of Salkehatchie with our guidance counselors.

Jackson Alexander is our new Director of the USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute

Bretticca Moody is our new Director of the Opportunity Scholars Program

Brandon Wright is our new Director of Student Success and Engagement

Enrollment:

We continue to see some negative impact from COVID on our fall enrollment, for sure, but the current projections are for us to be slightly down from last year.

We know that COVID is the main factor because the student type that was most affected was new freshman, whereas we maintained or increased other student types. The national trend among two-year campuses was a drop in enrollment this fall, but we were less affected than some. We did a good job in retention last year and in transfer students, and our dual enrollment appears to be on track to be even with last fall as well. This all portends well for our enrollment

efforts going forward as we build on and emphasize our relationships with our service area high schools and districts.

Development and Fundraising:

We have a commitment from Genesis Healthcare for a \$35,000 gift now and \$15,000 in January (\$50,000 total) for our Salk Nursing program for scholarships.

We recently received a USDA grant with three \$50,000 matching grants totaling \$150,000 to purchase equipment needed to train criminal justice students in the areas of drug testing, fingerprinting and DNA analysis. John Peek and Francis Burns were both involved in assisting with that effort in developing the case for this equipment.

We also were awarded a grant and donations totaling \$7,000 from the Coastal Community Foundation Winthrop Fund to equip a student food pantry on its Allendale campus. The pantry will serve an estimated 400 students making it easier for them to remain focused on their classwork and to be successful in college. The pantry will open in Fall 2021 and Suzanne Goodson and Jackson Alexander are working with that. We plan to open a food pantry in Walterboro at some point in the near future as well.

Campus facilities:

Significant IT infrastructure and computer updates and replacements in labs this summer and ongoing; two major roofing projects are under contract and ready to start; major parking lot improvements on both campus are in planning and design phase; we have a landscape contractor coming to look at some beautification projects; we are about to begin phase two of our Student Commons and conference Center renovation in Walterboro.

Faculty News:

Dr. Carmela Gottesman presented at the Vision Science Conference over the summer. I know we had many faculty engaged in grant-supported research this summer and several of them traveled as part of that research as well, but I did not get the details in time to include. If I receive more information soon I will include it with my written report.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Nesmith



OFFICE OF THE
DEAN

Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate Report
 September 10, 2021
 Michael E. Sonntag, Ph.D.

USC Sumter Palmetto College Faculty Senate Members, 2021-2022
**denotes new senators*

Kristina Grob	Sumter	2022	Div. of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	
Mark Roberts	Sumter	2022	Div. of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering	
Matthew Holley	Sumter	2023	Div. of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering	
Katie Klik	Sumter	2023	Div. of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	
Blane DaSilva*	Sumter	2024	Div. of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	
Sher Chhetri*	Sumter	2024	Div. of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering	
Soumyadip Acharyya	Sumter	2022	Div. of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering	Alternate
Dan Kiernan	Sumter	2022	Div. of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering	Alternate

Bianca Rowlett	Sumter		Div. of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	Chair-Elect
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OFFICE OF THE
DEAN

Faculty

Since last Senate meeting (April 16, 2021), 12 faculty produced 22 publications, presentations, or other scholarly works, or won awards and other recognition for scholarly work or service:

Soumyadip Acharyya

- Acharyya, S., Acharyya, S. K., Bharati, R., & Deb Ray, A. (In press). Some Algebraic and Topological Properties of Rings of Measurable Functions. *Houston Journal of Mathematics*.

Mary Ellen Bellanca

- Conference proposal accepted: "Dorothy Wordsworth, Victorian Children's Writer," Victorians Institute Conference, Charlotte, October 2021.
- Invited reviewer: Manuscript article submitted to e-Rea, *Revue Électronique d'Études sur le Monde Anglophone/Electronic Journal for the Study of the Anglophone World*: "Using Animal Retribution Fiction for the Promotion of Environmental Awareness: The Case for a Reinterpretation of Daphne Du Maurier's 'The Birds.'" Review submitted 27 April 2021.
- Invited reviewer: Revised article submitted to journal *Medical Humanities*: "A 'prodigious latitude' of Words: Vocabularies of Illness in 18th-Century Medical Treatises and Women's Writing." Review submitted 20 July 2021.
- Invited to review "Dorothy Wordsworth's Lakeland Writings," a book-length digital edition to be published by *Romantic Circles*, a peer-reviewed online scholarly resource for studies in the Romantic Era

Carol Black

- Black, C.F. (2020). Sociological and cultural factors placing rural women at risk for AIDS in East and Southern Africa. In O. Nnaemeka and J. Thorington Springer (Eds.), *Rethinking Gender, Culture and Health: Perspectives from Africa and the African Diaspora* (pp.169-187). Glassboro, NJ: Goldline & Jacobs Publishing.

Sher Chhetri & Becky Hillman

- Sher Chhetri and Becky Hillman were Invited Speakers at the 6th Annual International Higher Education Flipped Learning Conference (held virtually) on June 3 and 4. They talked about their recently published paper titled "A Comparative Study of a Partially Flipped Model to Traditional and Fully Online Introductory Statistics Course" and

highlighted the possible modifications of the targeted flipped mathematics/statistics classes in the “new normal” semesters after COVID. The theme of the conference was “Flipped Learning Post COVID-19: Evolution of the classroom”.

Pearl Fernandes & Daniel Kiernan

- *Castleberry S, *Freeman J, Fernandes PR and Kiernan D. 2021. Effect of Exercise on Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Student Athletes at USC Sumter. Poster Presentation. Abstract published in: 2021 Discover UofSC Research/Scholarship/Innovation Collected Abstracts. Pg. 36.
- *Castleberry S, *Freeman J, Fernandes PR and Kiernan D. 2021. Effect of Exercise on Heart Rate and Blood Pressure in Student Athletes at USC Sumter. Oral Presentation. Abstract published in: Bulletin of the South Carolina Academy of Science Vol XCII, Pg. 26.

**Samara Castleberry and John Freeman are USC Sumter students.*

Kajal Ghoshroy

- Kajal Ghoshroy received the SMART Project grant for working with minority student Ngaru Ngom, on plant research work for summer 2021.
- Dr. Ghoshroy and undergraduate students Ngaru Ngom and Celine Anstey received the PURE grant to work on the project Studying the Uptake of Lead by Mustard Seedlings for summer 2021. The work was done in collaboration with the EM center, USC Columbia.
- Undergraduate student Ngaru Ngom received a Magellan grant for working on the project Lead Uptake by Germinating Seeds of Mustard for May-Aug, 2021 with Dr. Ghoshroy. This work was done in collaboration with the EM center, USC Columbia.

Dan Kiernan

- "Led by Dr. Dan Kiernan, USC Sumter’s Mad About Science Summer Camp celebrated its 11th year this summer by being back to an in-person format with COVID-19 precautionary measures (masks, social distancing, sanitation etc.). With teaching help from individuals like Dr. Pearl Fernandes, the camp was a big success!

Andrew Kunka

- Kunka, Andrew J. "Lords, Masters, Aces, and Knights: Doug Moench and the Advancement of Comics in the 1980s." *The Other 1980s: Reframing Comics' Crucial Decade*. Edited by Brannon Costello and Brian Cremins. Louisiana State University Press, 2021, pp. 39-52.
- Dr. Kunka will be on a panel about Will Eisner's graphic novel [A Contract with God](#) for the Comic-Con International San Diego's ComicCon@Home event. The panel will be streamed starting at 1:00 pm on July 25, and it will be available for viewing after. [https://www.eventeny.com/events/comicconhome-1456/?action=schedule-item&action_ops\[item_id\]=7110](https://www.eventeny.com/events/comicconhome-1456/?action=schedule-item&action_ops[item_id]=7110)

Ray McManus

- Binder Podcast is a project Ray McManus has been working on this past summer as Writer in Residence at the Columbia Museum of Art. This particular season, the pilot season, focuses on the Hindsight 20/20 Exhibit (you can find out more about it here: <https://www.columbiamuseum.org/view/hindsight-2020>). The pilot season is a six episode season featuring curators, photographers, and poets, with additional bonus content of interviews in their entirety. Episode 3 features our own Michele Reese! Binder Podcast is available wherever you podcast. You can also find it directly at the Columbia Museum of Art website here: <https://www.columbiamuseum.org/view/hindsight-2020#layer-spotlight-2043>
- "Diehards" was published in POETRY Magazine in June 2021.
- "F**k It" has been accepted for publication in the anthology *What Things Cost: an anthology for the people* which will be published by University Press of Kentucky Fall 2022.
- "When You Can't Tell the Vine from the Branches" has been accepted for publication in *Fall Lines*, forthcoming Fall 2021.

Bianca Rowlett

- Book review of *Big Sister: Feminism, Conservatism, and Conspiracy in the Heartland* published in the *Journal of American Studies* (Vol. 55, Issue 2) May 2021, E16
- Podcast Interview with Laura Boersma entitled "Who was Jeane Kirkpatrick and why is democracy so fragile? A Chat with Historian Bianca Rowlett" *She's History* , Episode 28, posted June 6, 2021. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ep28-who-was-jeane-kirkpatrick-why-is-democracy-so/id1509084412?i=1000524428829>

Lukasz Szatkowski

- Publication in the leading journal from American Chemical Society (ACS): Lukasz Szatkowski, Rohith Anand Varikoti, and Ruxandra I. Dima, Modeling the Mechanical Response of Microtubule Lattices to Pressure, *Journal of Physical Chemistry B* 2021, 125, 19, 5009–5021
- Invited presentation for the Quantum Theory Group (the Garashchuk and Rassolov groups) at the USC Columbia campus. The presentation was given on 05/17/2021. The presentation title was: "Mechanical stability of microtubule lattices"
- Presentation at the USC Sumter Faculty Seminar (07/16/2021): "How Computers Help Us Understand Chemistry"

Campus

- COVID-19 numbers continue to be moderately low on our campus. This past week we reported 3 student positives and one employee positive. Throughout the entire pandemic, no infection has been traced to campus contact.

- USC Sumter was recently ranked the #2 community college in South Carolina by Niche.com. This is the fifth year in a row that the campus has earned this honor.
- Our new Nursing Lab is completely furnished and simulation manequins have been installed. Nursing classes began in Fall 2021.
- Updated over 20 classrooms with new technology to support video capture, streaming, and other pedagogies to adapt to COVID 19 and changing needs of faculty and students.
- Have held several sessions of in-person new student orientations over the summer. This is the first time since August 2019 that we have been able to host these types of events due to COVID restrictions.

Athletics

- USC Sumter Women's Volleyball team kicked off their inaugural season in August
- Several USC Sumter athletes were named to the 2020-21 NJCAA All-Academic Teams
- Men's Tennis – Made the 3rd appearance in program history at the Men's Tennis National Championship Tournament in Texas. The team finished 13th. Finished as a NJCAA and ITA Academic-All American teams. We have International student-athletes from Samoa, New Zealand, Canada, Argentina, France, and Spain.
- Women's Tennis – Made history with qualifying for Women's Tennis National Tournament in Arizona. The team finished 26th. Finished as a NJCAA and ITA Academic-All American teams. We have an international student-athlete from France.
- Women's Golf – Second time a player has qualified for the National Tournament. It was hosted in Ormond Beach, FL. Finished with a NJCAA Academic All American.
- Softball – Finished runner-up in the NJCAA Region 10 Conference Tournament. NJCAA and NFCA Academic All American team. Finished 12-13 overall.
- Men's Golf – Competed in the District Tournament in Alabama and finished 11th. NJCAA Academic All American team. New coach, James Morrison.
- Women's Soccer – Back after a few years hiatus. The last women's soccer season was in 2012.
- Men's Soccer – Back after a season hiatus. They have international student-athletes from Germany and England. Recently beat our friends at Salkehatchie 4-1.
- Baseball – 32(W)-24(L) spring 2021 season

Enrollment

Fall 2021 (YTD) as of Thursday, September 9, 2021:

- Fall 21 HDCT = 1,335 vs. Fall 20 HDCT = 1,379 (3.3% decrease)
- Fall 21 FTE = 828 vs. Fall 20 FTE = 829 (<1% increase)
- Good news: we are up in first time, fulltime freshmen, and up in BOL/BLS students

Palmetto College Campuses

Faculty Senate

September 10, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
UNION

A Regional Palmetto College

USC Union Delegation



- Dr. Christine Sixta Rinehart, Immediate Past Chair
- Dr. Steve Lownes, Member-at-Large
- Senators:
 - Jennifer Emswiler
 - Dr. Emily Schafer
 - Courtney Pinnell
 - Greta Bailey
 - Dr. Andrew Pisano, Alternate

Faculty Accomplishments



- Jennifer Emswiler, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts
 - Painting currently displayed at The Spartanburg County Library in Spartanburg as part of their annual juried show. It is titled "Lillies in an Amber Vase".
 - Accepted to participate in Bullets and Band-aids. It is a travelling show that pairs an artist with a Veteran. The Veteran writes out their story and the artist, poet, writer creates a piece of artwork.
- Dr. Steve Lowe, Professor of History
 - Published *The Slow Undoing: Race, Law, and Civil Rights in South Carolina, 1940-1970*. University of South Carolina Press, 2021
 - Appeared on the South Carolina Lede podcast, August 14, 2021
 - Scheduled to appear on SCETV Radio's Walter Edgar's Journal, September 16, 2021
- Dr. Steve Lownes, Assistant Professor of World Languages
 - Received grant funding for a second consecutive year to put on a Latin American Film Festival at USC Union. Due to COVID, this will again be a virtual film festival for students and employees, including virtual faculty-led discussions of the films.
- Dr. Andrew Pisano, Associate Professor of English
 - Serving as guest editor for a special issue on Race and American Gothic Literature for the peer-reviewed journal, */Humanities/*. Publication expected in May 2022.

Faculty Accomplishments (continued)



- Dr. Christine Sixta Rinehart, Professor of Political Science
 - Rinehart, Christine Sixta. (June 15, 2021). “Escaping Atonement in Sunni Islam: Death by Jihad for Deliverance.” *Expeditions* (Marine Corp University). <https://doi.org/10.36304/ExpwMCUP.2021.03>
 - Rinehart, Christine Sixta. (May 25, 2021). “Homegrown: ISIS in America.” By Alexander Meleagou-Hitchens, Seamus Hughes, and Bennett Clifford. *The Strategy Bridge*. <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2021/5/25/reviewing-homegrown-isis-in-america>
 - Rinehart, Christine Sixta. (May 21, 2021). “Moral Responsibility in Twenty-First-Century Warfare: Just War Theory and the Ethical Challenges of Autonomous Weapons Systems.” By Steven C. Roach and Amy E. Eckert (Eds). *Perspectives on Politics* 19(2). <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/S1537592721000396>
- Dr. Emily Schafer, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 - Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) grant recipient to mentor 2 students in conducting research. Working on the following project: Adverse childhood experiences and mental health in college students on two-year campuses.
 - Diversity Equity and Inclusion Curriculum (DEIC) grant from CTE to create a course centered around DEI principles in order to diversify course offerings at the University. Course title, PSYC 598: Global Perspectives on Child Advocacy.
 - Completed the National SEED Project (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) New Leaders 6-week facilitator training.
 - Acceptance of a paper in the Journal of American College Health (JACH) entitled Adverse childhood experiences and risky behavior in male college students.

Student News



- As of September 9, 2021:
 - Headcount: 1198 (*up 247, or 26% from same time last year; also up 127, or 12% from final total for Fall 2020*)
 - FTE: 725 (*up 146, or 25% from same time last year; also up 92, or 14% from final total for Fall 2020*)
 - Note: Previous record enrollment was 1162 in Spring 2020, and best previous Fall semester enrollment was 1153 in Fall 2019. Still have until enrollment freeze in mid-October after Fall II starts to add to these numbers. Also, this includes increase in new regular freshmen on campus over last Fall's final numbers.
- First cohort of 16 Upper Division BSN juniors (via partnership with UofSC Aiken) began their studies on campus this semester.
- Fresh Check Day 2021 outdoor event on campus for students, focusing on mental health and suicide prevention awareness and sponsored by the Jordan Porco Foundation, was held on September 2 in Patron's Park. Close to 200 students engaged with the activities and visited vendor tables regarding local resources over the course of the 3-hour event.
- Caden Jackson awarded Magellan Scholar Grant for research in Dr. Lowell's PALM Psychology Lab
 - Jackson, C.*, Lowell, R. (2021). *Meditation as a means of reducing aggression and racial implicit bias with an eyetracking shoot/no-shoot task*. Magellan Scholar Grant Program, Office of Undergraduate Research, USC Columbia.



Student News (continued)



- **PURE Summer Research Grant Recipients**
 - Project Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Mental Health in College Students on Two-Year Campuses (\$5000 awarded)
 - Students: Madisen Brewington and Kaitlynn Horton
 - Faculty mentor: Dr. Emily Schafer
 - Project Title: Survey of Crayfish Species in Union County, SC: Emphasis on Documenting the Spread of Invasive Crayfish Species (*Procambarus clarkii*). (\$2500 awarded)
 - Student: Travis Wendel
 - Faculty mentor: Dr. Lee Morris
 - Project Title: Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: The Carolina Core Compared to other State Flagship Universities' Multicultural Curricular Interventions and Programs. (\$2500 awarded)
 - Student: Caden Jackson
 - Faculty Mentors: Dr. Steven Lownes and Dr. Maggie Aziz
 - Project Title: Analyzing Hair and Fibers from a Commercial Tsantsa (Shrunken Head). (\$2500 awarded)
 - Student: Blaine Newton
 - Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lee Morris

Student News (continued)

- Bantams Men's Soccer kicked off their season with two conference wins, putting them at 2-2 in NJCAA conference play.
- We look forward to cheering on our other NJCAA student-athletes this season in baseball, softball, and women's volleyball.
- We continue to support our club teams as well, including our rifle team, bass fishing team, and e-sports.



COVID Updates



	COVID-19 <u>Vaccine Incentives</u> @ USC Union ↓	COVID-19 <u>Testing Incentives</u> @ USC Union ↓
<u>Students</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide proof of vaccination in campus Business Office (in Whitener Central Building) during Fall 2021 semester and receive \$45 loaded onto Carolina Card.• With proof of vaccination, also become eligible for drawing for \$500 USC Union Scholarship in October, and again in December, for Spring 2022 semester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in campus COVID-19 testing during semester, regardless of vaccination status, and become eligible for that week's Testing drawing for one of five \$50 Gift Cards.• Eligible for drawing for \$500 USC Union Scholarship in October, and again in December, for Spring 2022 semester (regardless of vaccination status).
<u>Employees</u>	Provide proof of vaccination during Fall 2021 semester and become eligible for drawing for one of 3 iPad Minis in October, and again in December.	Participate in campus COVID-19 testing during semester, regardless of vaccination status, and become eligible for drawing for one of 2 iPad Minis in October, and again in December.

Testing available on campus in Union every other Tuesday afternoon.

Next vaccine clinic on campus in Union on September 22, courtesy of DHEC, from 10:00-12:00.

Facilities



- The old library renovation project completed and those new classrooms and offices are in use this semester, along with the new HVAC for the first floor of Whitener Central Building.
- Athletics staff are fully relocated to old Admissions and Financial Aid suites in Whitener Central Building, on the second floor.
- Conversion of Founders House into a Fine Arts space progressing with art studio classes being held in that space as we work on some final modifications to that space.
- Project to create new Sim Labs for the BSN program on campus in old post office building is almost complete and is projected to be completed within the next few weeks for use by Upper Division nursing students later this semester.
- ADA restroom work first floor restrooms of Whitener Central Building is behind schedule and will continue to be worked on through the semester. Once those are completed, project will shift to second floor restrooms, and after those are completed will shift over to Main Building restrooms.

Facilities (continued)



- Work continues on the gym in Jonesville, which will serve as an indoor training facility for baseball and soccer, and continues to be a powerful recruiting tool for prospective student-athletes.
- Apple Lab for Union campus set to be located inside of Carnegie Library after consultations with Apple team and Carnegie staff. Equipment has been ordered and Taylor Atkinson has ordered furniture for the space.
- The Campus Food Pantry in the Student Lounge behind the Bookstore is looking great and continues to be extremely well-stocked with food items, toiletries, etc.
- Budget in good shape through combination of encouraging tuition revenue trends, increased appropriations from the state, and optimization of COVID-19 relief funds.

Good News!

- USC Union #1 in South Carolina for a second year in a row among two-year institutions in Success Rate, up from 80.2% last year, to 81.6% this year.
 - The CHE Success Rate, in addition to the graduates included in the graduation rate cohort, includes as part of the completion group those students who are still enrolled at the same institution during the Fall term following 150% of program time and students who transfer to other institutions before 150% of program time.
- Also an increase in Graduation Rate, moving up from #9 to #3 in the state among those same 20 institutions.



PCC FACULTY SENATE WELFARE COMMITTEE UPDATE

September 10, 2021

Welfare Committee Members

- Bettie Obi Johnson, Lancaster, Professor of Chemistry, Chair
- Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Lancaster, Assistant Professor of Art
- Kristina Grob, Sumter, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Katie Klik, Sumter, Assistant Professor of Psychology
- Francis Burns, Salkehatchie, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- Emily Schafer, Union, Assistant Professor of Psychology
- Elliot Vittes, Columbia, Associate Professor of Political Science

Welfare Committee Action Items

1. Arrange the Tenure and Promotion Workshop.
 - Friday January 28, 2022. Virtual
2. Conduct the process for giving our system awards for Teaching (Duffy Award), Research (Shaw Award), and Service (Plyler Award).
 - Each campus nominee for each award is due to welfare chair by Dec 7
 - PLEASE inform your faculty that the nomination processes are open.
 - Forms will be updated to not be year-specific
 - Committee will devise rubric for more objective streamlined review process

Welfare Action Items (cont'd)

3. Consider financial concerns of the faculty, including salaries, fringe benefits, support for teaching and research.
 - Welfare Committee Requests clarification on timeline for implementing salary adjustments
 - Committee would also like to review 2018-2019 appendix/reference info from Salary Study
 - Welfare surveys will continue yearly with biannual reports. Improvements to survey makeup to gather more meaningful data over time with a focus on quantitative analysis.

Welfare Action Items (cont'd)

4. Continue oversight and coordination of our Palmetto College Faculty Welfare Resources webpage.
 - Welfare will include COVID-19 relief measures for faculty on webpage, and will seek clarification on scholarship relief measures
 - Will work to make webpage more accessible for faculty on all campuses
5. The committee proposes using funds saved from in-person meetings to benefit untenured faculty or all faculty senate members in some way (bonus, gift card, assistance with file preparation).

Proposed Resolution to Support an Option for 100% Online Delivery of AA and AS Degrees
 Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
 University of South Carolina

Brief Title of Proposed Change	100% Online Option for Delivery of AA and AS Degrees
Committee Proposing Revision	Executive Committee
Date of Presentation to Senate	September 10, 2021
Senate Approval Date	September 10, 2021

Rationale for Proposed Revisions

- This resolution supports an option for 100% online delivery of associate degrees for students who may need it.

Summary of Proposed Revisions

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Proposed Resolution

Current	Proposed
	<p>Whereas the University of South Carolina Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate has supported and the Board of Trustees has approved Palmetto College participation in 100% online delivery of the baccalaureate degrees in Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership; and</p> <p>Whereas the Board of Trustees has approved the University of South Carolina Palmetto College and its campuses to offer the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees for 100% online delivery; and</p> <p>Whereas the students enrolled in these online programs are not barred from taking in-person classes from any of the Palmetto College campuses; and</p> <p>Whereas the students will be engaged to a local campus based upon geographic proximity; now, therefore be it</p> <p>Resolved that the University of South Carolina Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate supports the online degree completion programs</p>

	<p>for the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees, and that advertising these programs should be done in a uniform manner that benefits the Palmetto College campuses and Palmetto College as a whole.</p>
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