



PALMETTO COLLEGE

Palmetto College Faculty Senate

Microsoft Teams

Friday, November 10, 2023

Morning Session 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Welcome, Dr. Andy Yingst

Report from the Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins

(The Campus Deans and the Associate Provost will Submit Written Reports.)

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 12:30pm
- II. Attendance
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes: [September 8, 2023](#)
Microsoft Teams
- IV. Reports from Standing Committees
 - A. Rights and Responsibilities – Professor Rebecca Freeman
 - B. Welfare – Professors Katie Klik & Emily Schafer
 - C. System Affairs – Professor Jerrod Yarosh
- V. Executive Committee
 - A. Chair - Professor Andy Yingst
 - B. *Palmetto College Faculty Manual* Liaison Officer – Kajal Ghoshroy
- VI. Reports from Special Committees
 - A. Committee on Libraries – Professor Mac Jones
 - B. Committee on Curricula and Courses – Professor Sarah Sellhorst
 - C. Committee on Faculty Welfare – Professors Katie Klik/Emily Schafer
 - D. Faculty-Board of Trustees Liaison Committee – Professor Andy Yingst
 - E. Palmetto College DEI Council – Dean Ron Cox
 - F. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Matt Rashotte
 - G. Other Committees
 - Conflict of Interest Committee – Professor Yasmina Vallejos-Moreno
 - Carolina Core Approval Committee – Professor Christine Sixta Rinehart
- VII. Unfinished Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

Minutes of the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate

Meeting Date: November 10, 2023

Conducted via Microsoft Teams

Morning Session

I. Chair Andy Yingst called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

II. Report from the Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins

A. Full report appended to minutes.

B. The highlights of the Chancellor's report include:

- 1) Enrollment: Palmetto College's overall headcount is up 17% with enrollment numbers over 7000 for the first time in our history, largely due to the growth of the campuses who have seen a 21% increase with a record enrollment of over 6000. Most of this growth is attributable to dual enrollment programs, but there has also been an increase in traditional students on all campuses. Chancellor Elkins praised Dr. Amber Novotny in particular, who has excelled in her new role as Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management & Student Success.
 - (i) Lancaster is over 2000 for first time in its history.
 - (ii) Salkehatchie continues to rebuild, with an increase in head count and a slight decrease in FTE. The campus has hired new recruiters and is working on their infrastructure.
 - (iii) Sumter is at their highest numbers at 1663.
 - (iv) Union is at record enrollment of over 1300.
 - (v) Palmetto College Columbia's Pathways Program's enrollment is up 10%. Palmetto College's enrollment increase accounts for more than half of the overall increase across the system.
- 2) Budget: The budget for fiscal year 2025 is in progress, and each campus has 3 months or more in reserve.
- 3) Strategic Plan: Palmetto College is in the final stages of work with Kennedy and Company, in conjunction with the Columbia and system campuses, for the strategic plan. The final draft should be ready by winter break with a projected roll out in January.
- 4) Faculty and Staff Welfare. Palmetto College will have an operating Staff Senate by next academic year. Chancellor Elkins has worked with Drs. Katie Klik and Emily Schaeffer, co-chairs of the Welfare Committee, to understand the recommendations from the faculty welfare survey, which she wants to align with the strategic plan. The recommendations are in the appended slides.
- 5) Chancellor Elkins also thanked Dr. John Catalano for his 43 years of service to the Senate and announced that he is retiring at the end of the semester.

III. Campus Deans and Associate Provost reports appended to minutes.

IV. Adjourn to standing committees at 10:03am.

Afternoon Session

I. Chair Andy Yingst called the afternoon session to order at 12:30pm.

II. The Secretary called roll for attendance and to be sure technology for each representative was functioning.

A. PC Columbia

Elliot Vittes, Matt Rashotte, and Chris Nesmith in attendance.

B. Lancaster

Jerrod Yarosh, Deborah Rowell, Rebecca Freeman, and Brittany Taylor-Driggers in attendance.

Stephen Criswell and Kim Richardson not in attendance.

Nahid Swails attended as an alternate for Sahar Aghasafari.

Li Cai attended as an alternate for Brittany Taylor-Driggers in the morning session.

C. Salkehatchie

Brian Lindmark, Kirsten Iden, Lokendra Paudel, and Yasmina Vallejos-Moreno in attendance.

D. Sumter

Hayes Hampton, Soumyadip Acharyya, Kajal Ghoshroy, Mark Roberts, and Sher Chhetri in attendance.

Tania Hazra attended as an alternate for Andrew Kunka.

E. Union

Andrew Kettler, Tekla Johnson, Emily Schafer, and Katie Klik in attendance.

F. Executive Committee

Andy Yingst (Chair, Lancaster), Steve Lownes (Chair Elect, Union), Shelley Jones (Secretary, PC Columbia), Carmella Gottesman (Member-at-Large, Salkehatchie), and Sami Varjosaari (Member-at-Large, Sumter) in attendance.

III. Correction/Approval of Minutes from [September 8, 2023](#).

Approved as submitted.

IV. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Rights and Responsibilities, Chair Rebecca Freedman

- i. New charge for researching whether Senators should be delegated by faculty numbers instead of student enrollment.

- ii. Motion coming in New Business. As it is a change in the manual, the motion will be presented today but voted on next meeting.
 - iii. Looking at revising a section on post-tenure review, currently bullet 5 in the manual, for clarification.
- B. Welfare, Co-Chair Katie Klik
- i. T & P Workshop is set for January 12th in the Carolina Room at Columbia campus. Dr. Kirsten Iden presenting on Third Year Review.
 - ii. Setting up the ad hoc awards committee. Need 2 representatives from each campus, minus Lancaster whose two winners from last year will automatically be on the committee. Email names of volunteers to Dr. Klik. The time commitment is a 1-hour virtual meeting and a little time outside to review files.
 - iii. The Faculty Welfare Survey was distributed to each campus's representatives on the Welfare Committee, FO Chairs, and the campus Deans. Dr. Klik offered to answer campus specific questions at FO meetings.
- C. System Affairs, Chair Jerrod Yarosh
- i. Brief presentation in today's meeting from Dr. Christine Sixta-Rhinehart on how to leverage assessment data in conjunction with the Courses and Curricula Committee.
 - ii. Will bring a motion in New Business to approve a new PCAM course, Success in College Nursing, brought to System Affairs by Dean April Cone, Dr. Sarah Miller, and the nursing program coordinator, April Wolfe from Salkehatchie
 - iii. Continuing conversation on grievance procedures that do not involve T&P. The committee is soliciting ideas from faculty. Email Chair Yarosh.
 - iv. Brought a new charge by the Academic Advisory Committee to look at the need and rationale for a dual degree as opposed to double major for BOL/BLS.

V. Executive Committee

A. Chair Andy Yingst

- i. Conversation about our relationship with Columbia Faculty Senate and which committees Palmetto College should have representation on. Chair Yingst will reach out to the Chair of Columbia Faculty Senate with our requests.
- ii. Need a replacement member for the Courses & Curricula Committee. Chair Yingst is looking into whether the other candidate who volunteered for the position can be automatically approved without a second, formal vote.
- iii. Motion upcoming to amend sabbatical procedures to remove Provost approval since the approvals should come from the campus deans.

B. *Palmetto College Faculty Manual* Liaison Officer

- i. No motions to bring today.

VI. Reports from Special Committees

A. Committee on Libraries – Professor Mac Jones

- i. The committee discussed the extensive renovation and recent reopening of the South Caroliniana Library. The committee has an upcoming tour of the Thomas Cooper Library on the Columbia campus set for December 8th and will hold “a

brainstorming session on how to improve digital and physical spaces.” Whether these digital improvements apply to Palmetto College is yet to be seen.

- B. Committee on Curricula and Courses – Dr. Sellhorst
 - i. Submitted a written report to Chair Yingst which he will distribute.
- C. Committee on Faculty Welfare – Professor Katie Klik
 - i. No issues of relevance to Palmetto College.
- D. Faculty-Board of Trustees Liaison Committee – Professor Andy Yingst
 - i. Has not met. No report.
- E. Palmetto College DEI Council – Dean Ron Cox
 - i. Submitted report to Secretary. Appended to minutes.
 - ii. Council has met twice to talk mainly about the University’s “re-branding” efforts on DEI, which are characterized as “re-branding,” but not “retreating.” The Council’s recommendation, after consulting with our campus’s committees, was to rebrand our efforts as well, replacing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Access, Opportunity, and Engagement. The advantage is that it incorporates language that is historically significant for Palmetto College and regional campuses. This proposed change, which is not a change in goals but in verbiage, was presented to a meeting on November 7, 2023, with the Chancellor and deans. Henceforth, this report will be from the AOE Council.
 - iii. In conjunction with the deans, Dean Cox is preparing a report, 117.133, requested by CHE, regarding our enrollment and retention goals, performance targets for underrepresented minority groups, and expenditures.
- F. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Matt Rashotte
 - i. No Report.
- G. Other Committees
 - Conflict of Interest Committee – Professor Yasmina Vallejos-Moreno
 - i. No Report.
 - Carolina Core Approval Committee – Professor Christine Sixta Rinehart
 - i. Submitted report to Secretary. Appended to minutes. Six new Carolina core courses have been approved and six more courses are on the agenda for Courses and Curricula for this month.

VII. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

VIII. New Business

Motion from Rights and Responsibilities:

- A. Motion clarifying bullet 5 under post-tenure review. Proposing to add a clause that ensures everyone understands that this is for the six-year review process and to make small corrections to spelling and grammar.
 - a. As a manual change, voting on this motion will occur next meeting.

Motion from System Affairs:

- A. Assign a permanent course number, PCAM 102, to Success in College and Nursing. The course has been taught successfully as a special topics course to combat a high attrition rate.
 - a. Motion to suspend bylaws to vote on this motion today passes unanimously.
 - b. After discussion about whether the course number should be 100, 102, or 110, the motion was brought to the floor as written and passed unanimously.

IX. Announcements

Reminder that PC is lacking a Courses and Curricula committee member. Chair Yingst will check the bylaws to see whether the runner up in the previous election can be slotted in without a second election. If not, he will email to ask for volunteers and add the election to April's Senate meeting.

X. Adjournment at 1:09pm.

USC Palmetto College Update

Presented to

**Palmetto College Campuses
Faculty Senate**

by

Dr. Susan Elkins

Chancellor, Palmetto College

November 10, 2023



Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
Chancellor's Report – November 10, 2023 - Susan Elkins

- **Thank YOU for your service to the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate!**
- **Fall 2023 Student Headcount Compared To Same Day Last Year – 10/26/2023**
 - **Palmetto College Overall:** Headcount up from 6,464 to 7, 594 (+1,130, +17.5%)
 - **Palmetto College Campuses Associate Degrees:** Headcount up from 4,987 to 6,035 (+1,048, +21%)
 - **Palmetto College Campuses Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs:** Headcount currently 155 down from 175 last year. (-20, -11.4%)
 - **Palmetto College Columbia:** Palmetto Pathway – 98 (89-Fall 2022); BLS – 101 (105, Fall 2022); BOL – 94 (100 – Fall 2022)
 - **Palmetto College Online Baccalaureate Degree Completion Programs:** Headcount up to 1,404 from 1,302 (102, 7.8%)
- **2023-2024 Priorities/Fall Semester Planning and Actions**
 1. **Recruitment/Enrollment/Retention/Budget**
 2. **New Palmetto College Strategic Plan**
 3. **Faculty and Staff Welfare/Staff Senate Development and Implementation**



Student Headcount / FTE Report

Comparison of Fall 2023 to Fall 2022 (dates as specified below)

			Headcount					FTE					
			Fall 2022		Fall 2023			Fall 2022		Fall 2023			
Campus Type	Campus	Level	Prelim Oct 20, 2022	Freeze Oct 20, 2022	Prelim Nov 1, 2023	WY-WY Change +/-	WY-WY Change %	Prelim Oct 20, 2022	Freeze Oct 20, 2022	Prelim Nov 1, 2023	WY-WY Change +/-	WY-WY Change %	
Flagship Campus	USC Columbia	Undergraduate	27,280	27,280	28,432	1,152	4.22%	27,072	27,072	28,398	1,326	4.90%	
		Law	629	629	604	-25	-3.97%	656	656	640	-16	-2.44%	
		Medicine (Columbia)	375	375	397	22	5.87%	375	375	397	22	5.87%	
		Medicine (Greenville)	419	419	421	2	0.48%	419	419	421	2	0.48%	
		PharmD	421	421	389	-32	-7.60%	465	465	442	-23	-4.95%	
		Masters	4,111	4,111	3,955	-156	-3.79%	3,016	3,016	2,927	-89	-2.95%	
		Doctoral	2,355	2,355	2,351	-4	-0.17%	1,405	1,405	1,404	-1	-0.07%	
	USC Columbia - Total	35,590	35,590	36,549	959	2.69%	33,408	33,408	34,629	1,221	3.65%		
Flagship Campus - Total			35,590	35,590	36,549	959	2.69%	33,408	33,408	34,629	1,221	3.65%	
Comprehensive Campuses	USC Aiken	Undergraduate	3,133	3,133	3,107	-26	-0.83%	2,675	2,675	2,666	-9	-0.34%	
		Masters	692	692	747	55	7.95%	342	342	338	-4	-1.17%	
	USC Aiken - Total			3,825	3,825	3,854	29	0.76%	3,017	3,017	3,004	-13	-0.43%
	USC Beaufort	Undergraduate	2,051	2,051	2,058	7	0.34%	1,808	1,808	1,866	58	3.21%	
		Masters	71	71	54	-17	-23.94%	25	25	18	-7	-28.00%	
	USC Beaufort - Total			2,122	2,122	2,112	-10	-0.47%	1,833	1,833	1,884	51	2.78%
	USC Upstate	Undergraduate	4,453	4,453	4,448	-5	-0.11%	3,899	3,899	3,841	-58	-1.49%	
		Masters	432	432	471	39	9.03%	216	216	236	20	9.26%	
		Doctoral	0	0	4	4		0	0	0	0		
	USC Upstate - Total			4,885	4,885	4,923	38	0.78%	4,115	4,115	4,077	-38	-0.92%
Comprehensive Campuses - Total			10,832	10,832	10,889	57	0.53%	8,965	8,965	8,965	0	0.00%	
Palmetto College Campuses	USC Lancaster	Undergraduate	1,681	1,681	2,237	556	33.08%	1,123	1,123	1,382	259	23.06%	
		USC Lancaster - Total			1,681	1,681	2,237	556	33.08%	1,123	1,123	1,382	259
	USC Salkehatchie	Undergraduate	732	732	780	48	6.56%	462	462	438	-24	-5.19%	
		USC Salkehatchie - Total			732	732	780	48	6.56%	462	462	438	-24
	USC Sumter	Undergraduate	1,502	1,502	1,663	161	10.72%	899	899	990	91	10.12%	
		USC Sumter - Total			1,502	1,502	1,663	161	10.72%	899	899	990	91
	USC Union	Undergraduate	1,072	1,072	1,353	281	26.21%	635	635	775	140	22.05%	
USC Union - Total			1,072	1,072	1,353	281	26.21%	635	635	775	140	22.05%	
Palmetto College Campuses - Total			4,987	4,987	6,033	1,046	20.97%	3,119	3,119	3,585	466	14.94%	
Overall - Total			51,409	51,409	53,471	2,062	4.01%	45,492	45,492	47,179	1,687	3.71%	



Palmetto College

Enrollment Trends | Fall 2008 - Fall 2023 (As of 11/1/2023)

HEADCOUNT

Associate Degree Programs through Palmetto College Campuses (100-300 Level)	2013*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
USC Lancaster	1,811	1,738	1,722	1,845	1,910	1,523	1,640	1,810	1,729	1,681	2,239
USC Salkehatchie	1,021	1,076	1,109	1,137	1,011	927	964	878	817	732	778
USC Sumter	924	879	901	805	1,002	1,110	1,360	1,387	1,407	1,502	1,664
USC Union	484	679	569	839	903	1,093	1,153	1,071	1,218	1,072	1,354
SUBTOTAL	4,240	4,372	4,301	4,626	4,826	4,653	5,117	5,146	5,171	4,987	6,035
2+2 Onsite Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs Offered by Palmetto College Campuses, Conferred by USC Flagship and Comprehensive Campuses (300-)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Business - Aiken (Sumter)	38	32	21	36	26	19	14	6	2	0	-
Education - Aiken (Salkehatchie)	12	10	10	9	12	5	16	4	23	10	10
Education - Aiken (Sumter)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	21	19	23
Education - Upstate (Sumter)	44	21	21	29	26	13	4	-	-	-	-
Industrial Process Engineering - Aiken (Salkehatchie)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9
Nursing - Aiken (Sumter)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	20	19
Nursing - Aiken (Union)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	27	23
Nursing - Beaufort (Salkehatchie)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	27	28	17
Nursing - Columbia (Lancaster, Salkehatchie)	73	78	78	69	67	74	73	**	**	**	**
Nursing - Columbia (Lancaster)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	45	47	54
Fort Jackson	9	19	19	10	16	10	7	**	**	**	**
Concurrent Students (Columbia nursing Taking Lab at Lancaster - 1 Semester)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
SUBTOTAL	176	160	149	153	147	121	116	104	142	173	155
2+2 Online Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs Offered by	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applied Computer Science, Cybersecurity - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	30	41	63
Business Administration, Accounting - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Business Administration, Finance - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Business Administration, Management - Aiken	28	78	118	146	177	200	216	287	285	289	157
Business Administration, Marketing - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	21	33	31
Communication, Public Relations - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	55
Criminal Justice - Upstate	17	57	79	78	92	111	105	123	106	101	115
Criminal Justice Crime Analysis - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Elementary Education - Columbia	12	33	46	56	43	34	45	40	52	58	63
Emerging Media - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8
Engineering Technology Management - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	49	35	24	34
English - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	23
Health Informatics - Upstate	-	-	-	-	13	25	30	60	49	36	18
Hospitality Management - Beaufort	-	-	-	1	12	20	28	32	29	26	17
Human Services - Beaufort	6	42	54	70	86	90	64	64	64	51	59
Information Management and Systems - Upstate	-	-	-	5	33	52	59	72	54	44	41
Liberal Studies - Columbia	184	216	219	210	193	186	166	146	131	104	102
RN-BSN Program - Upstate	137	139	112	108	168	173	171	161	164	132	151
Organizational Leadership - Columbia	119	124	123	127	144	144	148	151	143	100	94
Political Science	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Political Science, Law and Justice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Psychology - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	31	41	43
Psychology - Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	38	67	87
Public Health - BS Beaufort	-	-	-	5	19	27	36	37	43	43	67
Public Health - BA Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Sociology - Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	16	19
Special Education - Aiken	-	-	-	-	4	9	15	19	29	26	32
SUBTOTAL	503	689	751	806	984	1,071	1,120	1,272	1,310	1,302	1,404
GRAND TOTALS	4,919	5,221	5,201	5,590	5,957	5,845	6,353	6,522	6,623	6,462	7,594



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Additional Important Updates 2023-2024 Priorities

- **Salary Updates**
 - State Legislated General Salary Increase - 3% beginning FY23
 - Palmetto College Salary Study Implementation - Second \$100k implemented beginning of Fall Semester 2022
 - State Legislated Bonus - \$1,500 Bonus on October 31, 2022
 - USC Market Titles/Market Pay Structure - Effective January 1, 2023, USC Market Pay Structure second phase implemented following the Market Title implementation October 31, 2022, when each employee's position was assigned a Job Family, Function, Title, and Level specific to the work they perform. New Market Titles priced compared to external market, USC internal hierarchy, and in compliance with State classification system. Palmetto College had 56 employees impacted, totaling \$278,784 to align their salaries with the new market range minimum.
 - New Institutional Minimal Rate - Effective January 1, 2023, the university moved to a new institutional minimum rate of \$14/hour for staff employees.
 - USC Market Titles/Market Pay Structure – Continues to be evaluated across USC System
 - State Legislated General Salary Increase – 5% beginning FY24
- **Legislative Appropriations**
 - USC System, including Palmetto College Campuses, fared well in legislative appropriations
 - PC Campuses received approximately \$6.9 million in recurring A Funds, nearly double their requests of approximately \$3.6 million, in addition to receiving substantial funding for capital projects for each campus
 - FY25 Budget Submission in Progress
- **Strategic Planning Updates**
 - USC Columbia Strategic Plan facilitated by Huron Consulting completed and on website
 - USC System Strategic Plan facilitated by Kennedy & Company in progress
 - USC Palmetto College Strategic Plan facilitated by Kennedy & Company and Huron (Imagine Carolina Student Retreat) in progress
- **Staff Senate Development**
 - Palmetto College Staff Senate being developed in conjunction with new Columbia Staff Senate
 - Mr. Jason Darby represented PC Columbia and PC Central Staff on new Columbia Staff Senate; PC Staff Senate Planning Committee appointed March 2023 - Blake Faulkenberry, Lancaster; Jean Carrano, PC Columbia; Haley Row, Salkehatchie; Brad Rogers, Sumter; Blake Wilson, Union; Jason Darby, PC Central
 - Committee started meeting in Summer 2023 to begin initial work; will continue to report as the work progresses
- **Palmetto College Location Expansions**
 - USC Union – Laurens Location opened a new site on August 15, 2023, in Clinton at the Bell Street School in partnership with School District 56
 - Eight PC iCarolina Learning Labs now complete and in operation across PC, with over 13,000 visitors as of September 30, 2023



2023 Faculty Welfare Survey: Systems Report



Kathleen Klik, PhD, USC Union, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Emily Schafer, PhD, USC Union, Associate Professor of Psychology

Research conducted by the co-chairs of the PC College Senate Faculty Welfare Committee,
Drs Katie Klik and Emily Schafer, with input from the 2022-2023 campus representatives sitting on



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1.5 Key Recommendations from Executive Summary

PC administrators will work with the PCCFS Welfare Committee to develop and prioritize actions to address the following recommendations.

1.5.1 Enhance Campus Climate

Shared Values and Approach. It is recommended that administrators at Palmetto College assess, align, and transparently communicate core values, missions, and approaches while regularly engaging faculty in strategic discussions.

Enhancing Faculty Relations. It is recommended that campuses establish mentorship programs, recognize faculty achievements, and promote open dialogue, clear communication, and conflict resolution. Additionally, supporting professional development, collaboration, and diversity initiatives will strengthen faculty cohesion.

1.5.2 Professional Development Opportunities

Bridge the Disconnect. It is recommended that PC leadership implement listening groups for faculty to voice concerns. Further we recommend that transformational leadership training be implemented across PC.

Professional Develop Programs. It is recommended that comprehensive professional development programs encompassing feedback, recognition, skill sharing, mentorship, networking, and collaborative learning are developed and implemented, as well as ensuring accessibility across Palmetto College to the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE).





Thank YOU!!!

PCCFS Chair Yingst and members of the Faculty Senate --

THANK YOU for your outstanding leadership and collaboration!!!!

Associate Provost John Catalano

Report to the PCCFS

11/10/2023

Regular meetings have been ongoing with the SC CHE, CAAL, F&F, ACAP, CAD, CAT, CADE, APL, AAC, the Chancellor's Cabinet, the Provost Council, and the PCC Academic Deans. Jean Carrano keeps the agendas and meeting notes on file for most of these groups and you are welcome to see any of the above.

The Tenure and Promotion process is ongoing. For this academic year, there are 2 candidates for tenure and promotion to associate professor and 3 candidates for promotion to full professor. All candidates have submitted their files by the November 1 deadline.

We are in the process of collecting Fall 2023 syllabi for REACH Act compliance.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Sixta Rinehart and Bob Dyer, assessment continues to go well on our campuses. The process is different this year and Dr. Rinehart will keep you informed of new policies coming from the Provost's Office. Please continue to contribute as we strive to improve.

This is my last report to the PCCFS as I will retire at the end of December 2023 after 43 years working at USC.



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LANCASTER

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

Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
November 10, 2023

People

Enrollment

Fall 2023 enrollment froze at an historic high and up in both traditional on-campus students and dual credit students. **As of October 26, we are at 2239 for headcount enrollment (up 33.19% over last Fall semester's enrollment freeze).** Registration for Spring 2024 is now underway.

Faculty search continuing:

Instructor of Business (with responsibilities for AS in Business accreditation oversight)—**interviews took place on campus on November 6 and 7.**

Faculty searches beginning:

Assistant Professor of History/African American Studies

Assistant Professor of Library/Director of Archives

Athletics

The men's soccer and volleyball seasons have concluded. **The men's soccer team ended the season as Region Tournament runners up.**

Congratulations to the women's soccer team members who won their Region Tournament and are 2023 Region Champions! They played last weekend in Atlanta in the District Tournament and were runners-up. Congratulations, Lancers!

The following soccer players have been recognized for **All-Region Awards:**

Men Region X All Region Players:

First Team-

Sam Macy (MF)

Second Team-

Beckham Boomershine (GK)

Oseas Andre (F)

Honorable Mention-

Wesley Mendoza (F)

Women Region X All Region Players:

First Team-

Lilly Lupton (Defender)
Hadley Scherer (Defender)
Julie Eskes (Midfielder)

Second Team-

Karol (Liz) Shaw (Defender)
McKenzie Bundy (Midfielder)
Sage Losee (Forward)

Honorable Mention-

Chloe Jewell (Forward)

Volleyball finished with an overall record of 19-13 and a Region 10 regular season finish in second place. The women lost to Monroe College from Rochester, NY in the semifinals of the Region X Tournament.

Receiving All-Region First Team recognition are Tristan Craine and Trista Lindler.

Receiving All-Region Second Team recognition are Olivia Gandy and Olivia Noffsinger.

Congratulations!

Faculty Accomplishments

Sahar Aghasafari (graphic design) is presenting at two conferences:

Aghasafari, S. (Livestream 2023). Presenting Virtual Visual Arts Integration and Biology: More Favor or Challenges for Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers. *STAR Global Conference 2023-Uvigo UNESCO Chair: Transformative Education for an Interconnected and Equitable World*. University of Vigo, Spain.

Aghasafari, S. (2023). Presenting Exploring the Intersection of Media Arts and Science: A STEAM Learning Journey. *AERI Art Education Research Institute*, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Additionally, Sahar was accepted as a Signature Membership (Juried) at the National Association of Women Artists, Inc. (NAWA), 2023.

- Sahar participated in an Online Group Exhibition, "Persian Tigress Serenade: The Velvet Bond" National Association of Women Artists (NAWA), 2023.
- Sahar serves as a reviewer, *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE24)*, 2023.
- Sahar was invited to review proposals for the ISTE 24 conference, backed by the largest and most competitive educational technology journal. Her role involves evaluating proposals on educational technology.
- Sahar is a reviewer for the *Science Education Journal*, 2023- present. She was invited to review papers in the STEAM field for the Science Education Journal and she recently completed a review for a paper in this area.

Connor Austell (music) will be writing concert reviews for *The Lancaster News* on a somewhat regular basis (whenever concerts are held at the Cultural Arts Center or another local venue), so community members can look for those when they are interested in what's going on musically here in Lancaster. His first article appeared in the September 20 edition of the paper.

Marybeth Berry (speech and theatre) performed one of the leads in *Quilters* the musical recently at the Arts Center for Kershaw County as part of their weeklong MAD Extravaganza.

<https://artscenterkc.org/ac/quilters/>

Tracey Mobley Chavous (UNIV 101) has been invited by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition to serve on the proposal review committee for the

upcoming 43rd Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience to be held February 18-21, 2024 in Seattle, Washington.

Erin Moon-Kelly (music) presents: Christmas in the City Musical Finale! Dec. 3, 2023 2:00 PM, Historic Springs House, produced by EMK Music and the Lancaster County Council for the Arts.

Evan Nooe (history and Native American Studies) was invited to join the editorial board for the *International Journal of Disney Studies*. **Evan's** forthcoming book *Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South* won the 2022 McMillan Prize from the University of Alabama Press for the best book in Southern History. He also presented a research paper titled *Crafting "Classic Florida Fare" at Disney Springs: Foodways as Theme at Art Smith's Homecomin' Restaurant* at the 2023 Northeast Popular Culture Association annual conference on October 14.

Amy Gerald (English) presented a paper titled "Southern (Dis)comfort: A White Woman's Critique of a Black Woman's Work," as part of the panel "White Privilege and Coalition Building: Embrace Discomfort and Do the Work" at the Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference at Spellman College in Atlanta, Sept 30-Oct 3. At the same conference, she also presented a poster based on her Business Writing class's partnership with the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood: "Navigating the Town and Gown Trope: Community Partnerships through Project-Based Learning."

Chris Judge (anthropology and archaeology) presented lectures offered by the Historic Port Royal Foundation on October 26. Chris' talks were for the first annual Dr. Lawrence S. Rowland Lecture Series. The topics were: "Precontact Native American Societies on the Lower SC Coast" and "South Carolina Native American Societies after Contact."

Tamika Lewis (psychology) presented at the 11th Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference in Atlanta, GA on October 21, 2023. The presentation topic was, "Analyzing Systemic Factors When Counseling Black Women of Christian Faith in the United States."

McKenzie Lemhouse (assistant librarian) recently completed the Certificate in Open Education Librarianship program offered by the Open Education Network. She is also transitioning into the head editor role for *South Carolina Libraries* as of November.

Nahid Swails (physics) gave a talk related to her research, titled "Advances in Joining Materials Using Innovative Welding Techniques," at the Southern Atlantic Coast Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (SACS AAPT) conference on October 19th.

Other items...

- **Native American Studies Week** ran November 1-10 with a theme of Native American Sports and Athletes. [This link](#) lists all associated activities.
- USC Lancaster's 3rd Annual **First-Generation College Student Celebration** was held on Wednesday, 11/8.
- The annual **Dr. Richard Gannaway Scholarship Luncheon** was held on Wednesday, November 1 at noon in the Arnold Special Events Room. We had approximately 250 in attendance. We have awarded nearly \$300,000 in scholarships this year.



M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Dean
USC Palmetto College Columbia

**Report to the Palmetto College Faculty Senate
10 November 2023**

I. BLS/BOL

- FALL 2023 ended with 46 classes (including multiple sections of some) being offered for students in BLS & BOL.
- Academic advisement for SPRING 2024 is underway and will continue into January.
- According to the Admissions Report (11.02.23) BLS & BOL had 196 students enrolled for FALL 2023 (102 BLS & 94 BOL). For SPRING 2024, BLS has received 13 applications (6 admitted) and BOL has received 8 applications (5 admitted). This represents an increase (+4) in BLS applications and a decrease (-4) in BOL applications over this time last year for SPRING 2023.
- A proposal is currently under consideration by the USC Faculty Senate (after approval by C&C) to permit students to enter the BLS & BOL degree programs after having earned 30 credit hours (as opposed to 45, which is the current requirement). This will put these degrees in line with other bachelor's degrees awarded by USC Columbia.

II. Fort Jackson & Palmetto College Military Programs

- As of the FALL 2023 freeze date, we ended the program with 15 classes offered and 38 students enrolled.
- Regularly-admitted (non-military) USC Columbia students are still prohibited from enrolling in any course/section offered by Palmetto College without special permission of the Provost's Office & Undergraduate Advisement Center.
- A proposal to allow transfer students to enroll in the courses/sections at Fort Jackson was rejected by the College of Arts & Sciences. We continue to look for ways to serve students through this program.

III. Palmetto Pathway

- Palmetto Pathway still has all 98 students enrolled in the program (no attrition so far of which we are aware).
- A Halloween "bash" complete with a baked potato bar, Halloween costume contest, and musical bingo game was held on Tuesday, October 21. Approximately 40 Pathway students (as well as numerous faculty & staff from Palmetto College) participated or attended the event. An end-of-term event is also being planned.
- The SPRING 2024 Pathway academic schedule is up and running and we will begin advising students for their classes next week. Again, courses are being offered by faculty from across Palmetto College as well as from USC Columbia.

IV. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (for now)

- A separate report will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for the afternoon session.

V. Miscellaneous

- We at Palmetto College Columbia extend our sincere congratulations and our warmest wishes to Dr. John Catalano and Dr. David Hunter, both of whom will officially retire (yet again) from the University of South Carolina effective December 31, 2023. Their combined 148 years of University experience will be sorely missed. Yes, I know. I just wanted to see if you were actually reading.

With thanks to the Senate for the opportunity to share this report, I am

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Ron Cox, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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



**Palmetto College Faculty Senate
November 10, 2023
Campus Dean's Report**

Recruiting and enrollment continue to be the primary focus at USC Salkehatchie. Fall headcount at freeze (778) was approximately 6% above last year's freeze number (732), and we experienced a decrease of approximately 5% in FTE headcount (437) at freeze compared to this time last year (462). The enrollment services department continues to focus on recruitment for spring and fall, 2024, by conducting retargeting campaigns and hosting multiple recruiting events.

Campus Highlights:

- USC Salkehatchie hosted a "Just Sharing: Building Community through Stories of Our Past" program on Monday, September 11 at 6pm in the atrium on the Allendale campus. Historians from USC and Clemson presented stories intended to strengthen our community by building empathy and preventing distrust. There was a moderated panel discussion with time for audience participation. The program was supported by South Carolina Humanities with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce's Propel Business Lab Pitch Competition was held at the Carolina Theatre in Allendale on Saturday, September 23, where 2 entrepreneurs were presented with \$10,000 each to start their business.
- We are working with Pure Theatre from Charleston to bring the Septima Tour to the Carolina Theatre on Feb. 27, 2024. We are partnering with Allendale County Schools for K-12 students to participate in a daytime play with a second play being produced in the evening for community members.
- Our annual scholarship banquet was held on Thursday, October 26 in the Atrium on the Allendale Campus. Approximately \$79,000 worth of scholarships were awarded to 87 students. There were approximately 120 students, donors, faculty, and staff in attendance.
- The USC Salkehatchie Volleyball team advanced to the Region 10 Tournament. One of our players was named 2nd Team All-Region, with three of our players being nominated for the Region 10 Division I All-Star Team.
- The USC Salkehatchie Men's Basketball team is currently undefeated.

HR Updates:

- New Hires:
 - Recruiters – Maurice Crowder and Tiffany Zorn
- Currently interviewing for:
 - Leadership Institute Director
 - OSP Director

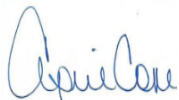
Facilities Updates:

- Continuing to work with USC facilities to begin the next phase of the Student Commons Building project on the Walterboro campus.
- Environmental studies have been completed and several dilapidated buildings on the Allendale campus are anticipated to be demolished by the end of the year.
- New campus directional signage has been ordered and we will begin working on designing new entrance signs.

Faculty and student accomplishments, provided by Dr. Sarah Miller:

- On Thursday, September 28, Dr. Larry Strong utilized the iCarolina Lab in Allendale to present his archeological findings at the Topper Site. Approximately 30 faculty, staff, students, and community members were in attendance.
- Dr. April Cone, Prof. April Wolfe, and Prof. Anna Carol Ptacin will present at the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Annual Conference next Thursday, Nov. 16. Their presentation is entitled "Educating Rural South Carolina's Nursing Workforce."
- Dr. David W. Dangerfield presented his paper "Performing Whiteness in Gray: Free Men of Color, the Confederate Military, and Race in the South Carolina Lowcountry" at the British American Nineteenth Century Historians Conference held at the Queen's College - Oxford University on September 23.
- Dr. Dangerfield was featured in a web-published interview with Dr. Ramon Jackson of the South Carolina State Museum discussing William Turpin, a lesser known but important abolitionist. Dangerfield previously has published about Turpin and is also a consultant for the museum.
- Dr. Dangerfield also completed research for a proposed South Carolina Historical Monument to be placed at Burton's Ferry on Highway 301 at the Savannah River. The monument was proposed by the Allendale County SC 250 Committee and has been accepted for placement by the South Carolina Office of Historic Preservation.
- Dr. Justin Mogilski's original research manuscript *Polygamous interest in a mononormative nation: The roles of sex and sociosexuality in polygamous interest in a heterosexual sample from the UK* has been accepted in the Archives of Sexual Behavior.
- Dr. Mogilski was interviewed for the Modern Wisdom Podcast and has a popular article "A Sex Researcher's Guide to Non-Monogamy" published in Queer Majority.
- Dr. Wei-Kai Lai and his student attended the Regional Mathematics and Statistics Conference at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, where Nishant Chinnasami presented a talk entitled "A Student of Tricolored Towers of Hanoi."
- Dr. Sarah E. Miller presented three presentations on Pon Pon Chapel of Ease. The first was at the historic site for the Drayton Hall Field Trip tours, the second was about the history of the people and the site for Cottageville Conversations at the Cottageville branch of the Colleton County Library, and the third was about the history and preservation of the chapel to the Festivelo (part of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition).

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. April Cone
Dean



OFFICE OF THE
DEAN

PC Faculty Senate Report
November 11, 2023
Michael E. Sonntag, Ph.D.

Faculty

Since last Senate (September 8, 2023), 11 faculty produced 19 publications, presentations, or other scholarly works, or won awards and other recognition for scholarly work or service:

Sher Chhetri

- Sher Chhetri presented a paper entitled "Some Generalized Family of Probability Distributions" at the Carolina Math Seminar (Fall MAA State Dinner at Allen University, Columbia, SC) on November 3, 2023.

Pearl Fernandes

- "Vick, L.L., Mitchell, S., Fernandes, P., Tavakoli, A., *Samuels, K., Jenerette, C. (2023). Nurse practitioners' competencies and attitudes towards patients with sickle cell. Accepted in the *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*.
*Samuels, K (Kara) is the undergraduate student from USC Sumter

Pearl Fernandes and Dan Kiernan

- Presented in October 2023 at the Association of College and University Biology Educators conference. "Plankton exploration at Swan Lake Iris Gardens: A mentoring summer research project for students"

Vincent Frontero

- Poem "After Another Panic Attack" has been accepted for publication in *The McNeese Review*.

Jessica Gonzalez, BA, BSN, MSHAPI, MSN, DNP candidate, PhD student, RN

- Sumter Student Nurse Association, growing expediently, raising over \$500 for the March of Dimes in September of 2023 with the March for Babies. The Sumter SNA continues to grow and should achieve national student nurse association constituency status as of February, 2024. Raised funds, conducted vital sign measurement, and advocated for cardiovascular health in the Heart Walk in May of 2023.

Kristina Grob

- Presented "Beyond 'War': Limiting and Liberating Metaphors for Sexual and Reproductive Justice" at the National Women's Studies Association's 43rd Annual Conference on October 29, 2023.

Louis “Luke” Hall

- Interview on community and police relationships with Diversity Works magazine Oct. 2023 issue
- Presenter in situational awareness and body language for the South Carolina Public Defenders conference, September 2023 Myrtle Beach
- Presentation on safe campus protocols for Marlboro County Schools, SC, August 2023
- Presentation on safe campus protocols for Florence school district 1, September 2023.
- Presenter for Stop The Violence conference, Camden SC, April 2023
- Conducted six campus security and safety audits throughout South Carolina 240 total hours.

Andy Kunka

- "Crime: From EC Comics to Ed Brubaker," in *The Cambridge Companion to the American Graphic Novel*, edited by Jan Baetens, Hugo Frey, and Fabrice Leroy, Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. 106-121.

Damien Picariello

- Book--*The Western and Political Thought: A Fistful of Politics*, edited by Damien K. Picariello (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023)
- Chapter in book--“The Mutants, the Sons of Batman, and the Long Shadow of the Bat,” in *Batman’s Villains and Villainesses: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Arkham’s Souls*, eds. Justin Martin and Marco Favaro, Lexington Books, 2023
- Chapter in book--“‘This Place Isn’t a Prison’: Institutions, Choice, and the Case of Arkham Asylum,” with Anthony P. Spanakos, in *Batman’s Villains and Villainesses: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Arkham’s Souls*, eds. Justin Martin and Marco Favaro, Lexington Books, 2023
- Book review--Review of Christina M. Knopf, *Politics in the Gutters: American Politicians and Elections in Comic Book Media*, in *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, Volume 7, Issue 1 (Spring 2023).

Hennie van Bulck

- Hennie will be presenting “Strategic Positioning for the Firm: Tools for Leverage,” at the Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting Professionals SYNERGY Conference in Aurora, Colorado, November 8-11, 2023. SYNERGY is the premier TR conference for tax and accounting professionals with a focus on leading edge content-enabled technology. Hennie will be repeating his presentation during two separate sessions.

Sami Varjosaari

- Presented his latest RISE grant funded research on the structure of Pinckneyin, a potential anti-malarial/antipyretic substance, at the South Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society hosted in Durham, NC.

Campus/Accolades

- USC Sumter is excited to announce they have reached their highest ever enrollment this fall with 1,664 students.
- We hosted a Grand Opening and Naming Celebration for our nursing labs and classroom. Several donors were honored by the unveiling of spaces that were named after their organizations.
- The USC Sumter Call of Duty Esports team is currently ranked in the top 4 nationally. They will compete in the national tournament beginning December 28.

- This semester, USC Sumter awarded over \$128,000 in merit scholarships to deserving students.
- USC Sumter along with Clemson University and Morris College hosted the Call Me Mister Recruitment Showcase for high school students to encourage more men of diverse backgrounds to enter the teaching profession.
- USC Sumter celebrated National First Generation Day with a week full of activities that culminated in a community celebration with live music, activities, and food trucks.
- USC Sumter earned the 2023-2024 Gold Military-Friendly School designation.
- This summer, the USC Aiken at Sumter Nursing Program graduated its first class of Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) students; all passed their NCLEX exams and have jobs in our community
- The USC Sumter Bookstore was recognized in the July/August edition of *The College Store* by the National Association of College Stores, showcasing how the store has improved and used sales to gain excitement about the store in the student body and community.

Athletics

- Men's Soccer broke more school records this year. They ended the season 9-4-3 (most wins in a season), finished second in NJCAA Region 10, earned a bye to the semi-final round of the Region 10 Conference Tournament, 7 student athletes were selected to the 1st and 2nd All-Region teams, had representatives from 12 countries from around the world (all continents other than Antarctica).
- The Women's Soccer program was able to raise over \$10,000 this year! Head Coach Leah Huelsing received the United Soccer Coaches Foundation 2024 Convention Scholarship (Michael L. Curry Scholarship Fund) which includes registration and travel to Anaheim, California for their national convention.
- Leah Huelsing, Women's Soccer Coach, applied for the United Soccer Coaches Foundation 2024 Convention Scholarship (Michael L. Curry Scholarship Fund) and was just notified that she has been awarded the scholarship.
- Volleyball finished the year with double their wins from last year.
- Student athletes have volunteered with the Evening Optimist Club, United Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, and more.
- The Nettles Building gym floor has been completed and has already proven to be a great recruiting tool.
- Added a full-time, on campus Athletic Trainer which has also proven to help recruiting and retention.

Fall Enrollment (as of census date):

Fall 23 HDCT = 1664 vs. Fall 22 HDCT = 1502; highest enrollment in our history beating previous record of 1627 in 1992.

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
November 10, 2023

Faculty/Staff News

- Bobby Holcombe put on his annual Guidance Counselor Luncheon on 9/29, which was attended by guidance staff from a number of difference high schools from around the state. They were provided with updates on Palmetto College and USC Union from Chancellor Elkins and Dr. Aziz, as well as financial aid updates by staff from the SC CHE.
- For Constitution Day in September, the USC Union Research Club hosted a great presentation by Dr. Tekla Johnson, Assistant Professor of African-American Studies, on women and the Constitution. With an assist from student Research Club member, Jessica Dawkins.
- Alongside the other PC Campus Deans and Chancellor Elkins, we presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) in Charleston in October, on the progress of the iCarolina Labs that were established by all of the campuses around the state.
- Anita Whitney, Student Activities Coordinator, put together a mini Fresh Check Day event for mental health and suicide prevention awareness at our Laurens Location in Clinton on October 17.
- USC Union's Upcountry Literary Festival was revived in October as an in-person event on campus featuring authors from near and far, after having been postponed from the Spring semester. Senior Instructor of English, Randy Ivey, spearheaded this event as usual and had a nice turnout on 10/3 and 10/4 for it.
- On November 8, we held a day-long series of events to celebrate First-Generation College Students Day on campus. Dr. Aziz and Amber Ivey did an amazing job planning for these activities and executing on them, including a Morning Mingle (trivia and biscuits) event, a campus Resource/Discipline Expo in the middle of the day with Mac Attack and an Italian ice food truck for lunch, and a first-gen party to wrap up the day with a campus scavenger hunt and ice cream bar.
- Multiple searches underway for faculty and staff, including Instructor of Psychology, Instructor of Art, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Instructor of Mathematics, Assistant Professor of English, and Palmetto College Coordinator, Academic Success Center Coordinator, with a few more in the pipeline.
- Randy Ivey, Senior Instructor of English:
 - o Had two poems, "Early September" and "Anomaly," published in the national publication *CHRONICLES: A MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN CULTURE* (Oct. 2023).
- Dr. Andrew Kettler, Assistant Professor of History:
 - o Conferences and Presentations:
 - Presented at the Society for the History of Discoveries in September
 - Presented at the Latin American Film Festival at USC-Union in September
 - o Publications:
 - For the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, Chapter Author: "Recuperative Archives, Critical Resistance, and the History of the Senses in the Atlantic World," Published, October 2023.
- Dr. Steve Lowe, Professor of History:
 - o Will be a judge for the 2024 George C. Rogers award for the best book of South Carolina history published in 2023. Received the Rogers award in 2022.
 - o Will serve as a member of the internal university grant review committee for the Excel Funding Program for Liberal Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
- Dr. Andrew Pisano, Associate Professor of English:
 - o Guest-edited Special Issue "Gothic American Imaginaries: The Gothics of Race in American Literature and Film" for the journal *Humanities* should hit the press by December 2023.

Students

- Final Fall enrollment numbers surpassed last year's final totals and represent a Fall semester record high, and an overall record high for USC Union. Headcount is 1,353 (up 26.21% over last Fall's total at freeze of 1,072), and FTE is 775 (up 22.05% over last Fall's total at freeze of 635). This exceeds the previous Fall record of 1,218 from the Fall 2021, as well as the previous overall record of 1,228 from Spring 2022. Particularly exciting is that this includes increases in traditional student headcount (especially new freshmen), as well as increases in dual enrollment student headcount.
- We had a great Scholar & Donor Luncheon at the Main Street Junction in Union on October 26. As usual, Bobby Holcombe did a great job planning this event, and also a great job by four of our current students speaking on their experiences. Also, local donor, Barbara Rippy, presented a check for \$20,000 to create new endowed scholarships for students moving forward.
- Current BLS student, Za'Kyah Jeter-Walton, recently added another accolade onto her list of accomplishments in Union, winning the Miss Union County Fair crown at the fair in Union. Additionally, a number of male students will be competing tomorrow in the first ever Mr. USC Union Pageant on campus, with scholarship prize money on the line. Organized by Bobby Holcombe, this is intended to complement the Spring Miss USC Union Pageant that he has put on for many years on campus.
- Men's Soccer had their best season, finishing with a winning record for the first time and with their highest tournament seeding as the #4 seed. Additionally, for the second year in a row the Bantams have the NJCAA Region 10 Player of the Year and first-team All-Region, freshman Mila Mzamane from South Africa (last year's winner was USC Union's freshman, Nico Steinweg, from Germany). Coach Marc Curlee was also voted in as Region Coach of the Year by his peers. Additionally, 1st Team All-Region Ben Roder; 2nd Team All-Region Adrian Williams, Bryan Garcia, and Jay Brunson; 3rd Team All-Region Maximus Moriarty; and Honorable Mention Donovan Cobb.
- Lots of success of late for our USC Union Bass Fishing Team. At the end of October, Mark Kershaw and Jacob Butts finished 2nd place out of 250 boats at the MLF5 National College Tournament on Lake Hartwell, punching their tickets to the MLF National Championship at Lake Toho in January. Additionally, Isaac Greene and Bryson Holderness, had a top finish at an event in early October at the Clemson Bass Fishing Trail "Lake Keowee" event. Also, Cole Hunter finished 4th at the PBC College Tournament Trail event at Lake Lanier last weekend, with a 17.66lb sack, and Clay Nix finishing 14th with a 14lb sack. At a different event over the weekend, the teams of MJ Lutz/Thomas Smith and Kyler Murray/Chase Rogers both had Top 10 finishes.
- Sophomore Rifle Team Captain, Bianca Monteith, finished second place in the Razorback Shootout last month, finishing ahead of five of the six Clemson rifle team members at the event.
- The Bantam Gazette campus paper released its first issue in October after being resurrected by Macy Petty and the student article contributors who she has recruited and worked with on those stories look to continue the momentum going with more issues forthcoming.
- Our new cohort of junior BSN students, in partnership with USC Aiken, had their Dedication of Hands Ceremony in September, as they prepared to begin their clinical experiences for that program. This event was organized by our local nursing staff/faculty, with participation from Aiken nursing staff/faculty.

Facilities

- The Whitener Central Building second floor project is nearing completion, with most faculty and staff moved or moving back into the space. Over the winter break, one end of the first floor will receive some updates on flooring, paint, etc. to be brought up to par with the rest of the building.
- Next phase of Truluck renovation has begun, including new roof and exterior painting.
- Creation of the new wet lab space in the Nursing Simulation Lab building is near completion, with testing of the new fume hoods nearing, and final inspections/finishes.
- Preparations for other major capital projects are underway in various stages, such as the Main Building project and the athletic fields.

Budget

- The campus met budget projections for FY23 and ended the year with a positive fund balance. For FY24, tuition and fees are once again frozen, with no increases for the 5th year in a row. The campus will receive \$5 million in critical care & maintenance funds to address deferred maintenance and facility needs on campus. These state capital funds are managed by the main campus' facilities department with guidance from the campus. We have submitted budget requests to the Governor's Office for additional deferred maintenance and operating funding for FY25, as well as continued tuition mitigation funds so that tuition and fees can remain the same next year.

Proposed Revisions to the *Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Manual*
 Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate
 University of South Carolina

Brief Title of Proposed Change	Clarify Bullet Five Under Post Tenure Review
Committee Proposing Revision	Rights and Responsibilities
Date of Presentation to Senate	November 10, 2023
Senate Approval Date	

Rationale for Proposed Revisions

- To clarify that bullet five under Post Tenure Review is referring to the review faculty undertake every six years after receiving tenure and to correct minor grammatical and spelling errors.

Summary of Proposed Revisions

- Clarify bullet five to indicate the process refers to the post tenure review that is undertaken every six years after the faculty member receives tenure. The word timetable is updated from time table to timetable and a ‘the’ is added before “implementation of such plans.”

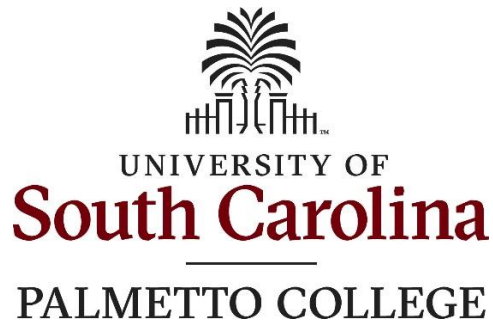
Section and page numbers of the current *Manual* for proposed revisions

Current	Proposed
Post Tenure Review, page 18 5. When a tenured faculty member receives an overall rating of unsatisfactory, the file will be referred to a local campus committee which will work with the faculty member to develop a plan and time table for correcting deficiencies. Within budgetary constraints, the local campus will provide reasonable fiscal support for implementation of such plans.	Post Tenure Review, page 18 5. <u>In the sixth-year post tenure review, w</u> When a tenured faculty member receives an overall rating of unsatisfactory, the file will be referred to a local campus committee which will work with the faculty member to develop a plan and time-table for correcting deficiencies. Within budgetary constraints, the local campus will provide reasonable fiscal support for <u>the</u> implementation of such plans.

Curricula and Courses

Faculty Report 11/10/2023

- C&C met on Wednesday, November 8th where we reviewed 151 course and program proposals.
- Minor wording changes to the Associate of Arts (Fort Jackson) and Associate of Science (Fort Jackson) were approved.
- Courses of note to the Palmetto College Faculty
 - MATH 120 – New Course Proposal - Provide a non-calculus-focused course which cultivates quantitative literacy especially for students whose course plan requires such literacy but who do not need calculus.



M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Dean
USC Palmetto College Columbia
Associate Dean for Access, Opportunity, and Engagement

**Report to the the Palmetto College Faculty Senate
10 November 2023**

The Palmetto College DEI Council met twice thus far – September 15 and October 03 – to share information and to discuss the University’s “re-branding” of its diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Council members recognize the political and social environment within which the University operates. At the same time, there is sincere concern that USC’s “re-branding” is a “slippery slope” which essentially means “watering down” the language and may indicate (or imply) less than full commitment to addressing systemic issues of inequality and discrimination. Or, as one disgruntled faculty member put it, “It will sound like a cop-out to me.”

It will be extremely important for Palmetto College officials to reassure faculty, staff, and students that the new language in no way detracts from our basic mission of serving and educating ALL students, and to strive toward creating a welcoming culture for ALL who are associated with Palmetto College, both on and off campus. In the words of VP Julian Williams, “re-branding does not mean retreating.” The work goes on.

Nevertheless, the proposal as put forward – with reservations and concerns noted – is for Palmetto College to replace “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)” with “Access, Opportunity, and Engagement (AOE).”

This incorporates language long used by Palmetto College and its campuses (e.g., the unofficial motto of PC includes “accessibility,”; many of the campuses have “Opportunity Scholars” programs; and all campuses are committed to engagement with their students and their communities). The Palmetto College campuses have long valued diversity and inclusion, even if we did not use those specific words, and therefore this does not change anything about our goals and our founding mission of service to ALL. We recognize, however, that even the “new” language could easily come under scrutiny and encounter opposition, but we feel that “AOE” has sufficient institutional history within Palmetto College to counter any criticism that might be forthcoming.

The Council is further working on a revised charter for itself to better specify its role (and processes) in promoting “Access, Opportunity, and Engagement” on the PC campuses, across Palmetto College, and throughout the University of South Carolina.

Despite the noted concern and reservations, approval for the “re-branding” has been received from the local committees at:

PC Columbia	Not enthusiastic about the change, but agrees that the renaming is the best way forward; 10.24.23
USC Lancaster	“Takes issue” with the changes, but no outright opposition was expressed; 10.23.23
USC Salkehatchie	Not particularly thrilled, but recognizes the change is needed in order to continue the work; 10.23.23
USC Sumter	Approved unanimously; campus is already using the new language in house until it is officially approved – 10.16.23
USC Union	Approved, but with concerns noted about expressing commitment to the continued work – 10.11.23

This proposal was presented to the Palmetto College Chancellor and campus deans on Tuesday, November 07. After discussion, agreement was reached that Palmetto College will move forward with the new language, and that this notification would be presented to the PC Faculty Senate at this meeting.

The Chancellor and campus deans reiterate that **this change in verbiage will in no way detract from our commitment** to serving all students, and to creating a welcoming environment across Palmetto College that enables all students, faculty, staff, and partners to succeed.

The PC AOE Council (gotta get used to that new name) is also working on development of a more formalized charter which will better specify and clarify the role and responsibilities – as well as the operational structure and format – of the Council. This is currently in process.

Palmetto College is also working on a response to SC Budget Proviso 117-133, which requires institutions of higher education to respond to specific questions about enrollment and retention goals, performance targets for underrepresented minority groups, and expenditures made toward these goals.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Ron Cox, Jr.

Carolina Core Committee Report

The Carolina Core courses approved in AY 2022-23 are:

- SOST 201: Introduction to Southern Studies 1580-1900 GHS
- SOST 202: Introduction to Southern Studies: The Twentieth Century GHS
- CHEM 107L: Introduction to Forensic Science Laboratory SCI
- CHEM 107: Introduction to Forensic Science SCI
- POLI 304: Contemporary Political Theory VSR

The following courses have been approved by the Carolina Core Committee and are on the Curricula and Courses agenda for this month so they should be considered at the December Faculty Columbia Senate meeting:

- ALSG 121 Elementary American Sign Language GFL
- ASLG 122 Basic Proficiency in American Sign Language GFL
- CYBR 101 Internet and Society in a Connected World GSS and VSR
- CHEM 106 Chemistry and Modern Society II SCI
- ISCI 215 Ethics in the Era of Big Data VSR
- GLST 101 Introduction to Global Studies GSS

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Sixta Rinehart