



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
UNION

*A Regional Palmetto College*

FO Minutes

April 29, 2022

- Dean's Report (below)
- Academic Dean's Report (below)
- Dr. Lownes: Faculty Handbook Revisions (FO voted in the affirmative to revisions)
- Prof. Emswiler: Committees Update (See below)

In attendance:

Dr. Fouts

Dr. Aziz

Dr. Lowell

Greta Bailey

Dr. Maire-Afeli

Prof. Ivey

Prof. Emswiler

Neill Hance

Dr. Morris

Dr. Lownes

Dr. Pisano

Prof. Gale Ashmore

Prof. Torres

Dr. Anderson

Dr. Lowe

Dr. Deb Hudson

Dr. Dave Hudson

Lynn Edwards

Courtney Pinnell

Dr. Schafer  
Sarah Joseph  
Sandy Philips Long

Randy Lowell, USC Union  
Dean's Report  
April 29, 2022

### **SACS Update**

- We had our SACS site visit here on campus this week, which went extremely well and received all positive feedback from Columbia and SACS reps who were here. Special thanks to everyone who helped to prep for the visit and especially to everyone who accompanied and presented along the tour route, including Dr. Aziz, Jennifer Emswiler, Christen Mayes, Brad Greer, John Michael Greer, Dr. David Hudson, Lynn Edwards, and Courtney Pinnell.

### **COVID Updates**

- Free COVID testing continues to be available on campus, coordinated by Anita Whitney, typically on Tuesdays. Please give her a heads up the day before if you know that you'll be getting a test from her so that she can prep the labels and tubes to make collection go faster ([apeccko@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:apeccko@mailbox.sc.edu)). Frequency of this testing may slow down over the summer, depending on demand.
- DHEC continues to be on campus every Thursday from 2:00-6:00 in the Main Building with all of the COVID vaccines for anyone from the campus or the community who would like to get a shot. They will likely continue into the summer as well, but if that changes we'll keep you posted.
- Continue to contact Amber Ivey in Academic Affairs regarding contact tracing efforts for the campus if you test positive for COVID or believe that you may have had a direct exposure to someone else who is positive, or have someone indicate that they have encountered either of these scenarios ([AII@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:AII@mailbox.sc.edu), 864-424-8061). Fortunately, we have not had a confirmed positive case on campus since mid-February.

### **Students**

- Enrollment for Summer and Fall are both ahead of where we were this time last year, coming off consecutive semesters of record enrollments last semester and this semester.
- Congratulations to junior BLS student, Caden Jackson, who was selected as a 2022-2023 Magellan Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Research in Columbia. Caden also presented on his research with Dr. Aziz and Dr. Lownes in the morning poster session at the Discover USC event in Columbia last week; and his work with me in the PALM Psyc Lab at the afternoon poster session at Discover USC. He won a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Presentation Award in his Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences group for that afternoon presentation of his Magellan Scholar funded PALM Lab work.
- Sophomore, Blaine Newton, received an Honorable Mention Award for his Discover USC poster presentation last week in Columbia, for his Tsanta work with Dr. Morris, in his Biology & Biomedical Sciences group. Dr. Morris also had BLS senior, Travis Wendel, present on their crayfish work at Discover USC. And Dr. Schafer had former students Madisen Brewington and Kaitlynn Horton present their work on ACES at Discover USC as well.
- Former USC Union students, Madisen Brewington and Kaitlynn Horton received Magellan Voyager Grants from the Office of Undergraduate Research in Columbia to support their travel associated with presentation of their research with Dr. Schafer.
- Former USC Union associates and BLS graduate, Kelsey Granger, will be graduating this Spring with her Master of Health Science degree from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

- Former USC Union associates graduate, Sarah Taylor, has been accepted into UofSC Columbia's Masters of Social Work for Fall 2022, as she finishes up her bachelor's degree there this semester.
- Bantams Baseball will kickoff conference tournament play next Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, against Louisburg College in Lexington, SC at 10:00am, at the Blowfish Stadium.
- The Bantams Softball team will kickoff their conference tournament play next Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> as well, against Harford Community College in Sumter, SC at 12:00pm, at Patriot Park.
- The Bantam Anglers are competing this weekend in the Big Bass Tour at Lake Murray.
- Research Club and Study Abroad students raised almost \$800 at their Car Wash fundraiser, and another few hundred dollars this week through their Bake Sales.

## **Faculty & Staff**

- Jennifer Emswiler, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts
  - o Did an artist talk at the most recent USC Union Research Club Colloquium.
  - o Held a successful Art Club event for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention in support of denim day by having students decorate jean squares and making a jean quilt from it.
- Randy Ivey, Senior Instructor of English
  - o Short story "The Gift of Gab" was published in the Winter issue of the prestigious literary journal Still: A Journal.
  - o In early April, poem "May Day Haiku" was recognized by the Poetry Society of South Carolina.
- Dr. Steve Lownes, Assistant Professor of World Languages
  - o Submitted the PRAGDA Spanish Film Club grant to support the third annual Latin American Film Festival, which will take place from August 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Lee Morris, Assistant Professor of Biology
  - o Abstract accepted for "Biases towards and against specific groups of organisms in more than 45 years of biodiversity surveys in South Carolina" to the Citizen Science Association's 2022 C\*Sci Virtual Conference in May.
- Dr. Andrew Pisano, Associate Professor of English
  - o Presented paper on "Narrative Reckoning: Jay Atkinson's Massacre on the Merrimack and the Critique of Anti Indian Memorialization" at the Society for the Study of Multi Ethnic Literature of the U.S. (MELUS), on March 24, 2022, in New Orleans, LA.
- Dr. Emily Schafer, Assistant Professor of Psychology
  - o Presented a poster on "Perceived discrimination in school: A longitudinal look at the impact on expectations and health" at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual James E. Clyburn Health Equity Lecture in Columbia, and received the 2022 New Investigator Award. This work was also recently published in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.
  - o Awarded a RISE grant this cycle to expand ACEs research to additional two-year campuses.
  - o Presentation accepted to the International congress of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN: Trauma-Informed care training in public schools: Does it help?) This meeting is scheduled to take place in Tallinn, Estonia, so it may be postponed because of the war in Ukraine.
- Kevin Torres, Instructor of World Languages
  - o Organized a remote presentation on campus by Pieter Kohnstam at the end of March, who is a Holocaust survivor and childhood neighbor and friend of Anne Frank before fleeing the country.
- Had a great Spring Fling event on campus in Patron's Park earlier this week, alongside a job fair that featured a number of employers from around Union County, multiple food trucks, and games and activities. This event was open to the public and had great attendance from the community and the campus, and the planning for it was spearheaded by Anita Whitney and Christen Mayes.
- On campus interviews completed with finalists for full-time Instructor of Mathematics position to start in August. On campus interviews scheduled for finalists for new Assistant Professor of

Psychology position, and for new Assistant Professor of History position, to start in August. Ad for new full-time Instructor of Nursing position has been reposted for August.

- Full-time staff searches underway for Dual Enrollment Coordinator and Financial Aid Counselor are preparing to post. New hire for security will join staff on July 1.
- Commencement tomorrow will start in Patron's Park at 6:00pm, with processional lineup starting closer to 5:00pm. Kim Lawson has done a great job spearheading that Commencement planning and a big thanks to everyone else who has pitched in thus far and will contribute to these efforts tomorrow.

### **Facilities**

- Compressor was installed last night in the back part of the bookstore (student lounge).
- Painting wainscoting has started in the Main Building (from purple to Fine Wine).
- Carolina Room (C201) has been painted.
- Rear exterior wall of Truluck gym has been painted.
- Softball outfield was leveled and seeded, and equipment shed was built and painted at City Park.
- New mannequin in Nursing Simulation Building that can simulate live birth.
- New furniture installed in student study area outside of Academic Success Center in Main Building.
- Work on Jonesville gym continues to progress as our indoor training facility out there.
- New slate of projects in preparation from most recent round of state appropriation funds, including on projects to address elevators, new beaming classrooms in the Nursing Simulation Lab building, etc.

### **Budget**

- Revenues and expenditures are trending on target with budget predictions. The campus expects to end the fiscal year with a positive fund balance. Fall and Spring tuition revenue came in at 2.05% over budget and Summer tuition revenue is expected to meet or exceed budget projections.

## **Academic Dean's Report APRIL 2022**

Majdouline Aziz: [azizma@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:azizma@mailbox.sc.edu)

Christen Mayes: [englance@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:englance@mailbox.sc.edu)

Amber Ivey: [ai1@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ai1@mailbox.sc.edu)

### **Spring 2021 FACULTY ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Final Exams:**

- Final exams for full semester classes are to be given ONLY at the regularly scheduled time listed on the final exam schedule.
- In any course or laboratory that meets weekly, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last class session before the regular examination period. In any course or laboratory that meets two or three times a week, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last two class sessions before the regular examination period. In any course or laboratory that meets more than three times a week, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last three sessions before the regular examination period.

#### **Final Grades:**

- When entering final grades in Self-Service, if a student had stopped attending that class at some point (or stopped logging in the case of an online class), you will need to enter a grade of "FN" (rather than just an "F"), as well as their last date of attendance/login for that student. Those

unearned/walk-away FN's are tracked by Financial Aid to determine if the student owes additional money and that information needs to be as accurate as possible when those grades are entered.

- Final grades are submitted and posted to students' academic records using Self Service Carolina. Final grade rolls will be available 2-3 business days before the last day of class and are due no later than 72 hours after the date of the scheduled final exam. Grades submitted late may affect a student's academic standing, eligibility for financial aid, or ability to graduate.

#### **Advising:**

- Summer and Fall 2022 schedules are live.
- Please be sure to review your courses on these schedules and reach out to your advisees to schedule advising appointments.

#### **Course Materials and Syllabi:**

- Be sure to get information about any required course materials for your summer and fall courses to Tanja Black as soon as possible, ideally using the online submission portal to submit textbook information. If you are not requiring students to purchase any materials for your class, also let her know so they can convey that to the students as well.
- Always be sure to submit summer and fall syllabi (by the first day of each semester) to Christen Mayes and Amber Ivey as soon as you have them prepared.

#### **PURE Grant:**

- \$12,500 available in funds.
- I am pleased to announce that the Palmetto Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) grant program has been renewed for this year. As you may recall, this grant program provides students at the four Palmetto College campuses with the opportunity to conduct research during the summer under the mentorship of a faculty member. The goal of this program is to encourage and enhance student-faculty mentoring and joint research efforts.
- I emailed for your review a FAQ page. Please review this page carefully. I also emailed you the application for funding. The application dates for 2022 are **May 2, 2022 through June 10, 2022.**
- Applications are evaluated and awarded on a rolling basis (pending available funds). Please note that these applications are to be completed by the student but will require a signature and letter of recommendation from the faculty mentor. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications/letters of recommendation should be emailed directly to me.

#### **Updates to Key Documents:**

- Updates to the Academic Bulletin have been submitted.
- I will update the Student Handbook and the Faculty Orientation Guide and send those out as soon as they are ready.

#### **PreMed Partnership Pathway (P3) Program:**

- The [P3 website](#) is finally live! Students are now able to apply for the program so we highly encourage you all to tell students who you think may be interested. The application is open from April 1- 30th.
- Program is designed to identify, educate and prepare underrepresented undergraduate students from South Carolina colleges and universities to successfully enter and matriculate through the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. The program will

provide longitudinal mentorship, formal guidance and mentoring, summer research experiences, summer educational programs, test prep and other resources to participating undergraduate students.

## COMMITTEES UPDATE 2022

### Faculty Senate

(Senators: 3-year term)

- Courtney Pinnell (System Affairs)...term ending spring 2024
- Greta Bailey (Rights & Responsibilities)...term ending 2023
- Emily Schafer (Faculty Welfare)...term ending spring 2024
- Sandy Phillips Long (System Affairs)...term ending spring 2025
- Prospective New Faculty Member (Faculty Welfare) term ending spring 2025
- Prospective New Faculty Member (alternate) annually appointed
- Andrew Pisano (Alternate)...annually appointed
- Steven Lownes (Executive Committee, Member at Large)...2022-2023

Columbia Faculty Senate Representative: (2-year term)

- Kevin Torres (term ending in 2023)

Palmetto College Faculty Senate Research and Productive Scholarship Committee: (2-year term)

- Sandy Phillips Long (term ending spring 2023)
- Lee Morris (term ending spring 2023)

Provost's Palmetto College Campuses Advisory Committee: (2-year term)

- Helene Maire-Afeli (term ending spring 2023)
- Chris Rinehart (term ending spring 2023)

Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate Academic Advisory Committee: (2-year term)

- Steve Lownes (term ending spring 2023)

Palmetto College Campuses Grievance Committee: (1-year term)

- Chris Rinehart

Local Campus Tenure and Promotion Committee:

- Avery Fouts (chair)

Palmetto College Tenure and Promotion Committee: (3-year term)

- Steve Lowe
- Andrew Pisano

Current Local Union Committee Rosters

(In addition to filling vacancies, open for discussion for any faculty seeking to rotate on or off of any of these local committees. Year-by-year appointment)

USC Union Faculty Organization:

- Andrew Pisano (Chair)
- Kevin Torres (Vice Chair)
- Gale Ashmore (Secretary)

USC Union Faculty Advisory Committee:

- Andrew Pisano (FO Chair)
- Steve Lownes (Academic Affairs Chair)
- Randy Ivey (Student Affairs Chair)
- Emily Schafer (Welfare Chair)
- Avery Fouts (Financial Affairs Chair, Peer Review)
- Andrew Pisano (DEI Committee)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Academic Affairs Committee:

- Steve Lownes (Chair)
- Emily Schafer
- Lee Morris
- Gale Ashmore
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Student Affairs Committee:

- Kevin Torres (Chair)
- Sandy Phillips-Long
- Tekla Johnson
- SGA President
- SGA Vice-President
- SGA Secretary
- Brad Greer (ex officio)
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Faculty Welfare Committee:

- Emily Schafer (Chair)
- Helene Maire-Afeli
- Joe Anderson
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Scholarship Committee:

- Avery Fouts (Chair)
- Sandy Phillips Long
- Kevin Torres
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)

- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union SAP Committee:

- Brad Greer (Chair)
- Steve Lownes
- Kristie Roberson
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Peer Review Committee:

- Avery Fouts (Chair)
- Sandy Phillips Long
- Lee Morris
- Randy Ivey
- Helene Maire-Afeli
- Andrew Pisano (ex officio)
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

USC Union Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee:

- Andrew Pisano (Chair)
- Emily Schafer
- Steve Lownes
- Gale Ashmore
- Zach Simmons
- Michael Sumner
- Maggie Aziz (ex officio)

CARES Committee:

- Maggie Aziz (Chair)
- Emily Schafer
- Tony Gregory
- Lynn Edwards
- Brandon Simpson

Academic Intervention Committee:

- Maggie Aziz (Chair)
- Steve Lownes
- Anita Whitney
- Brandon Simpson
- Randy Ivey
- Bobby Holcomb
- Christen Mayes



