

# USC Union, Dean's Report to the Faculty, 08/20/19

## **Students**

So far Fall 2019 enrollment looks to be flat from 2018. Full employment and declines in Pacer Pathway and women's soccer will slow growth this year. The third privately owned and operated student housing site right across the street is now open for fall 2019. Six students studied sociology in Ireland in May. International study plans for next summer are underway. Two students presented their research to the USC Union Partnership Board in May and were well received. A new shooting team is planned for the Fall. Both soccer and baseball will now play in Jonesville.

## **Faculty & Staff**

We have hired new faculty in Speech, Foreign Language, and Psychology for fall. Our athletic director and softball coach Amanda Warley, the women's soccer coach, and J.C. Fore from Admissions all left USC Union this summer. Zach Simmons will serve as the new Athletic Director, Dr. William Royce is the new softball coach, and we will hire a new student activities coordinator who will plan and oversee student events. Tiffany Turner who has been part time will now

## **Facilities**

We have met with architects to develop final plans for the conversion of the old library space to classrooms and faculty offices, using the space primarily for language arts and humanities instruction. We should have the space ready by Fall 2020. Preliminary architectural plans are being drawn to convert the old Post Office Building to a fine arts building, including classrooms and faculty offices, a print room, kiln, and gallery space. Plans are also being drawn to convert the corner building next to the Bookstore at 317 East Main St. It will be the new USC Union Welcome Center, housing Admissions and Financial Aid. We have added a third PC classroom to Union and Laurens sites and upgrade the four older PC rooms this summer. This year we hope to renovate all restrooms in the CB & MB, including handicapped accessibility upgrades. Science and Nursing Building improvements are ongoing. Several grants, including a BC/BS grant of \$150K has been awarded toward nursing simulation. The UC/LC CHE purchased the large white house on the corner of Faith and Pine and demolished it. They also received Mrs. Rippey's building at 125 East Main St. as a gift.

## **Budget**

The USCU budget is in good shape, due mainly to recent enrollment increases, and both revenues and expenditures are very close to budgeted figures. We ended the fiscal year meeting our goal of maintaining a three-month reserve balance. SC continuing appropriations will get a bump this year thanks to Doug Gillam's efforts in Columbia. USC Union has also seen some one time appropriations designed to renovate current facilities.

## Academic Dean's Report - 8/20/2019

### Faculty Hires for Fall

- Steven Lownes: New Assistant Professor of World Languages (PORT/SPAN).
- Emily Schafer: New Assistant Professor of Psychology.
- Neill Hance on full-time to fulfill our SPCH 140 needs, as well as THEA and a production each semester.

### Syllabi, Office Hours, and Attendance Tracking

- If you haven't already, remember to submit a copy of the syllabus for each class that you are teaching this Fall as soon as possible to Academic Affairs (send to Randy [lowell@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:lowell@mailbox.sc.edu); and Christen [englance@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:englance@mailbox.sc.edu)). Remember to include your Office Hours on your Syllabi so that Christen can compile those into a single reference document of those hours.
- Remember to closely monitor your class attendance over the first few weeks of class, and by the end of the second week of classes, send in an attendance report to Academic Affairs, noting any students who are on the roster and not attending (or any students who are attending, but not on the roster). We will attempt to contact those students to resolve any issues as early as possible in the semester.

### TAO Self-Help/Self-Enroll Update

- Our USC Union TAO is active for campus wide use. It is available for free unlimited use by any USC Union faculty/staff/student, just by using the USC Union email address to register. Details on registration had been emailed out and will be posted around, but let me know if you want me to send them to you directly. I'd love to see this get a lot of use, as it's a great tool for mental health maintenance on your own.

### Important Dates:

- Start of Classes: 8/22
- Safety Training: 8/23, starting at 9:00, in the Auditorium
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W' (first-8-weeks class): 8/25
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W' (full semester class): 8/28
- Labor Day (no classes): 9/2
- USCU Research Club Interest Meeting: 9/3, 12:00-1:00, Community Room
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W/F' (first-8-weeks class): 9/25
- PC Faculty Senate: 9/27 (Columbia)
- Founders Day: 10/4, starting at 11:00
- Fall Break (no classes): 10/10-10/11
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W' (second-8-weeks class): 10/17
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W/F' (full semester class): 11/6
- PC Faculty Senate: 11/8 (Lancaster)
- Last Day to Drop a class without getting a 'W/F' (second-8-weeks class): 11/21
- Thanksgiving Break (no classes): 11/27-11/29
- Last Day of Classes: 12/6
- Final Exams Week: 12/9-12/16

### Research Club

- We will have our Club interest meeting on 9/3 from 12:00-1:00 in the Community Room, with free pizza and snacks. The goal of this meeting is to start identifying students who are interested in research and in engaging in the Club's activities for the coming year, but to also have faculty present who are engaged in research so that they can quickly summarize those interests for students who are there, giving students a chance to follow up with particular faculty on potential research collaborations outside of the Club as well. A planning meeting will be scheduled for a later date based on the availability of those who express interest in being involved with the Club at this interest meeting. If there are any faculty/students who want to be involved with this Club, but cannot make it to this interest meeting, definitely make sure they contact me.
- At least 2 different experiments will be up and running starting in September in the PALM Psyc Lab, and both will be recruiting volunteer participants. This includes Tomi LaChance's experiment on social media/personality/meditation, which she is getting some help with by a Union County concurrent student, Nicole Lee. The other experiment is Kelsey Granger's experiment on perceptions of sexual assault using the eyetracker, with her getting some help from Dani Bradley on that data collection. If you are open to offering extra credit for students who participate in either/both of these experiments, all the better.