



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
UNION

A Regional Palmetto College

FO Agenda

February 25, 2022

- Dean's Report (below)
- Academic Dean's Report (below)
- Dr. Lownes: Faculty Handbook Revisions (see previous email; no vote)

In attendance:

Dr. Charles
Dr. Fouts
Dr. Aziz
Dr. Lowell
Dr. Maire-Afeli
Prof. Ivey
Prof. Emswiler
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

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
February 25, 2022

COVID Updates

- Free COVID testing continues to be available on campus, coordinated by Anita Whitney, every Tuesday, usually 11:00-1:00. If it's a week in which she anticipates a large number of students/employees testing, then she will do this in Truluck gym. Otherwise, with smaller numbers, she will usually do this outside her office in the Student Services Building. 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 (apecsko@mailbox.sc.edu).
- DHEC will 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. Yesterday was their first day of this and they will continue with it every Thursday at least through the end of the semester, but possibly through the summer as well.
- In line with the recent mask policy change in Columbia, as of earlier this week, masks are still required in classrooms on our campus. Outside of classrooms, we can still encourage their use.
- 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 (A11@mailbox.sc.edu, 864-424-8061).

Students

- As of yesterday, compared to this time last year, headcount for Spring was at 1,223 (up 7.9%), and FTE was at 715 (up 12.7%). This is already up from the final enrollment numbers for Spring last year (headcount: 1,138; FTE: 635), and we still have the opportunity for additional students to start in Spring II. Applications for Fall 2022 are also up by 34 compared to this time last year (+29.8%), and on par with admits. Around the system, Columbia is down from last Spring's undergraduate enrollment (-0.75% headcount; -1.11% FTE); Aiken is down for undergrads (-4.38% headcount; -2.94% FTE); Beaufort is up for undergrads (+6.67% headcount; +2.92% FTE); Upstate is down for undergrads (-10.34% headcount; -9.11% FTE); and for the Palmetto Campuses, Lancaster is up (+4.08% headcount; +2.22% FTE); Salkehatchie is down (-5.88% headcount; -18.88% FTE); and Sumter is up (+6.34% headcount; +10.34% FTE).
- Another update on arrangements with the Psychological Services Center in Columbia for some additional help with mental health counseling. The advanced practicum doctoral student who they have identified to be our dedicated provider starting in August (if not over the summer), will provide our campus up to 20 hours per week, which should allow enough time to accommodate about 15 appointments per week. These appointments will be telepsych appointments and, in addition to being free to our students, we have confirmed that our faculty and staff will be eligible to utilize this for free as well. If campus usage surpasses 20 hours per week, then students will receive priority scheduling in that case.
- With the Aiken campus undergoing their SACS accreditation visits, we had two of their representatives and the Aiken Nursing director on campus in Union to learn more about our BSN program. Our BSN students did a great job representing us and letting them know how lucky we are to have Lynn and Courtney. The SACS team had no recommendations for us and were very pleased with what they observed here.
- Congrats to senior BLS student, Annalee Wyatt, who recently received her acceptance into UofSC Columbia's online Master of Communication Disorders in Speech-Language Pathology program that she'll start in August.
- Congrats to the Bantams Baseball team who has started the season 5-1, including a doubleheader sweep of 4th ranked Catawba Valley.

- The Lady Bantams Softball team got off to a rough start, but have begun to turn it around with a couple of impressive wins over Gaston College, featuring a record 15-strikeout performance by Brooke Andrew.
- The Bantams Men's Soccer Team has been busy recruiting international student-athletes, with a few having already joined us this semester and by August, a total of 9 international student-athletes on the soccer team will be with us on campus. This includes students from Europe and South America.

Faculty & Staff

- Faculty Accomplishments:
 - o Gale Ashmore:
 - Accepted into UofSC Columbia's Ph.D. program in Spanish starting in the Fall.
 - o Randy Ivey:
 - Short story "The Brief, Miserable Existence of Gay Dobbin" appeared in The Adelaide Literary Magazine in November.
 - o Dr. Steve Lownes:
 - Presented "Where Theory Meets Practice: Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* as Primer for Language Learning and Service-Learning"-International Academic Forum (IAFOR) International Conference on Education, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, January 6-9, 2022.
 - In collaboration with Dr. Majdouline Aziz and student, Caden Jackson:
 - Poster "Global Citizenship and Multiculturalism: Do Core Classes Work?" accepted to AAC&U Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 17-19, 2022. This session comes from research funded by the PURE grant.
 - o Dr. Andrew Pisano:
 - Presented a conference paper at the Hawaii University International Conferences in Honolulu, on January 6, 2022. Paper titled, *Cuisine de Composition: Experiential Food Writing in the First Year College Composition Classroom*
 - o Dr. Emily Schafer:
 - Paper accepted: Schafer, E.S. (2022, accepted, under revision). Perceived discrimination in school: A longitudinal look at expectations and health. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*
 - Paper presented: Schafer, E.S. (2022, January). Examining the Impact of Trauma-informed Care Training on Educators' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior: A Qualitative Study. *2022 Annual International Conference on Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education*, Honolulu, HI.
 - Continuing Education Seminar: Schafer, E.S. (2022, March). The traumatic and ongoing legacy of slavery and racism. Continuing Education Seminar at *2022 Annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA)*, Hilton Head, SC.
 - Poster presentation accepted with two student mentees from the PURE grant: Schafer, E.S., Brewington, M., & Horton, K. (2022, June). Adverse childhood experiences and mental health in college students on two-year campuses. Poster presentation at the *2022 meeting of the American College Health Association*, San Diego, CA.
 - o Kevin Torres:
 - Presented "Medical Interpreting as a Profession" at Surry Community College, January 2022.
 - Planned a virtual talk through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with Holocaust Survivor Irene Fogel Weiss on campus on January 31.
 - Organized and is teaching Hungarian language classes for students and faculty participating in the upcoming study abroad to Eastern Europe.

- Brandon Simpson:
 - Organized an Art and Poetry night last night for Black History Month with his African American Alliance student organization.
- Special thanks to Anita Whitney for the series of student events and activities that she has put together this semester, including open gym opportunities and college night activities on Thursday nights.
- Full-time staff searches are still underway for an Academic Affairs Admin and a Financial Aid Counselor. The Dual Enrollment Coordinator search was canceled after consulting with Admissions and Academic Affairs on what would best serve their needs. In its place, a search will be launched toward the end of the semester for a full-time Recruiter and Retention Specialist instead.
- The faculty search for an Assistant Professor of African-American Studies and History is coming to a close after having had both finalists in for their campus visits and teaching presentations. Special thanks to that committee for their excellent work in narrowing the field to these candidates. The faculty searches for another Assistant Professor of Psychology, Instructor of Mathematics, and another Instructor of Nursing are also still in progress.

Budget

- Budget is still in good shape for the year. Michele Lee has also just submitted an application for an additional allotment of HEERF dollars that could be used to further support our students and improve the campus.

Facilities

- ADA restroom upgrade/renovation project anticipating having first floor restrooms in Whitener Central Building in use starting next week, switching over at that point to the renovation of the second floor restrooms in the building. As part of that switchover, during Spring Break, they will likely need to cut off the water to those restroom pipes in the whole building in Whitener that week and take the restrooms offline while that change out the pipes that run between the first and second floors. They then plan to finish the second floor restrooms by the end of the semester, and hopefully begin work on Main Building restrooms this summer.
- ADA/security hardware project to update knobs/locks on door around campus anticipated to occur over Spring Break, including going from knob to lever and/or to allow for locking of door from inside via bolt or button on handle.
- The Palmetto College iCarolina Lab at USC Union (the Apple lab), will have a Ribbon Cutting event today after this meeting at the Carnegie Library to officially launch its use. If you are available, join us for this event, which is scheduled to start at 11:00.

Academic Dean's Report

March 2022

Academic Affairs:

- Progress reports are due Feb. 25.
- Annual Administrative Reviews are due by Feb. 11 (extension from 1/31).

Advising:

- Summer and Fall 2022 advising will begin March 21. Please be sure to review your courses on these schedules and reach out to your advisees to schedule advising appointments.

Adjunct Mentoring:

- As we identify and hire new adjuncts, I will be reaching out to senior faculty members to serve as mentors for them.

New Spring II course offering:

- We have added ARTH 106 as a Spring II (3/14-5/4) offering. The course will be taught in a hybrid format. Students will meet in-person on TTH 2:30-3:45, and the remaining contact hours will be completed online asynchronously. This course counts as a Carolina Core AIU credit. A new instructor, Geoffrey Thomas, will be teaching the course for us. I've included a short bio below should your advisees inquire about the instructor.

- Geoffrey Thomas is a native of the Upstate and has over a decade of experience teaching courses in art history and the sciences in the USC system, at Dorman High School in Spartanburg County, and at Clover and Nation Ford High Schools in York County. He earned his graduate degree in art history from USC-Columbia after an undergraduate career in art history and biology at Wofford College. Mr. Thomas greatly enjoys introducing or deepening the appreciation of visual culture to students of all backgrounds and encourages his students to use artistic monuments to enhance their conception of world history.

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 syllabi to Christen Mayes and Amber Ivey as soon as you have them prepared (by the first day of each semester).

Peer Reviews:

- Peer reviews will resume this semester. I have reached out to several of you to help conduct those reviews. Thank you to all who have agreed to assist. Please have the reviews completed by the end of this semester.

- The peer review committee will be working on updating the online peer evaluation forms.

Faculty Accomplishments:

We want to recognize your accomplishments! Please be sure to inform Dr. Aziz of any accomplishments such as publications, conference presentations, awards, etc.