



A Regional Palmetto College

FO Minutes

September 26, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Whitener Building, Community Room

In-person attendance:

Maggie Aziz
Sara Carter
Carolyn Conley
Lynn Edwards
Sara Heuss
Katie Klik
Steve Lowe
Randy Lowell
Steve Lownes
David Mitra
Courtney Pinnell
Tracy Stapleton

Online attendance:

Joe Anderson
Gale Ashmore
Kathryn Brackett
Monica Coven
Neil Hance
Randall Ivey
Tekla Johnson
Andrew Kettler
Sandy Phillips-Long
Lee Morris
Andrew Pisano
Ashley Rabanal
Emily Schafer
Jennifer Triplett
Caroline Wilson

Future meeting:

November 7th at 10 am.

Dr. Klik called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Minutes from August 22 meeting:

A motion was made to approve the August 22 minutes and was passed with all in favor.

Dean's Report: Dr. Randy Lowell

Dr. Lowell gave his report. His report is attached to these minutes.

Academic Dean's Report: Dr. Maggie Aziz

Dr. Aziz gave her remarks. Her report is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Johnson announced that the National Park Service granted an award of 750k to the L. W. Long center. It will open internships for our students. The Union County Museum is also looking for a student intern. Dr. Lowell was thanked for writing a letter that greatly helped securing the grant.

Dr. Kettler gave the following updates:

- The job fair on 9/16 went well. There will be another fair in the spring. Students should be informed.
- The AI bot is running well. Any questions regarding it should be sent to Dr. Kettler.
- A class in the Spring for setting up a web page for the AI bot is desired. Those interested in participating should contact Dr. Kettler.
- Only 11 students out of 237 have completed Vector Training. Students should be reminded to complete it.
- New books will be available at the lending library in the History Suite. Print services and TV are available for students in the History Suite.
- Fresh Food bags are continuing for students.
- Potential student candidates for Medical School should be sent to Dr. Kettler.
- A flyer for the United Way food drive on 11/12 will be sent out.
- The Faculty Early Alert system is to be built.

Dr. Klik asked about the Student Survey and the scope of the questions asked. Dr Aziz said it will be used to determine student needs and that Dr. Kettler will compile the data.

Dr. Aziz added that Class Climate is to be decommissioned on Nov 30. Data will be pulled and compiled for tenure track and tenured faculty from time of hire to present.

Dr. Lowe announced that CTE training is available at their website.

Dr. Lownes announced that the senate was asked to add questions to Explorance Blue. He asked if we can be added to Mongoose. Dr. Lowell said it is possible. Dr. Lownes also asked about digital accessibility. Dr Aziz said it is being worked on.

Committee Reports

1) Prof. Rabanal gave the PC Faculty Welfare report:

- The T&P workshop will be held Jan. 16 at Capstone in the Carolina room.
- Presenters are needed for the workshop, especially in the area of promotion and third year review. Anyone interested in presenting should contact Prof. Rabanal.
- A session on writing teaching summaries will be given at the workshop. Dr. Lisa Hammond will be asked to lead the session.
- Endowment funds are available for Teacher of the Year awards. These are to be distributed equally amongst the PC campuses.
- The committee is looking at how to redistribute funds for scholarships for the defunct evening program. Possibly to support bachelor students or emergency student support.
- An ad-hoc committee should be formed to select recipients of Teacher of the Year awards and passed to the Welfare Committee.

2) Dr. Lownes gave the PC report:

- Changes from last year were thrown out by the provost's office. Lisa Hammond was consulted on how to ameliorate things. Part of this was the senior and principal instructor processes.
- A new open comment period for the new accreditation standard will be available in late October.

3) Dr. Klik mentioned that she sent local committees their charges.

Other Business

- An oral vote was held to induct Prof. Conley as a voting member of FO and was passed with all in favor.
- Dr. Carter: Jean Carano and Dr. Carter are working on a literacy initiative. English faculty and librarians will choose a book each month of the academic year to be presented to students to read. Students can access the books through their campus library website. They can respond to a writing prompt. At the end of the year, students who complete all prompts will receive "swag" (T-shirts, e.g.). Funds are available for this. Dr. Kettler suggested giving completion certificates; Dr. Carter will look into it.
- Dr. Klik started a discussion regarding the issue of discussion of sensitive topics in the classroom. She asked how one should protect oneself with regards to maintaining academic freedom in the classroom and expressed concerns on consequences of student complaints regarding topics discussed in class.

Dr. Aziz stressed that topics that are part of the curriculum and evidence based are ok.

Dr Aziz stressed that students should be taught how to think, rather than what to think and that multiple perspectives should be presented.

Dr. Kettler asked what the PC process is to handle student complaints regarding curriculum. He expressed concerns whether Columbia would support instructors.

Dr. Aziz stated there is not a step-by-step process, but there is a policy that we follow.

Dr. Aziz mentioned that we (PC) have no control if an issue is sent to Columbia. She said in her experience, Columbia has supported an instructor presenting topics that are part of the curriculum, evidence based, and relevant to the content of the course.

Dr. Klik has talked to Lancaster. They have created an Academic Freedom committee to develop local procedures. She suggested that we create a committee also.

Dr. Klik will look into creating an ad-hoc committee to discuss these matters at the next FO meeting.

Announcements:

- There will be an event, with lunch, on Oct 23rd for Spanish Heritage month.
- On Oct 7th the AOE committee and others will have Remembrance Day at Rose Hill. Lunch will be served in the Community room afterwards (all invited). Contact Dr. Johnson for more information.
- Research posters for the PC social are due by the 24th.
- The Latin American Film Festival is going on. Dates are set for presenters.

Adjournment:

A motion to dismiss was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

Attachments: Dean's Report, Academic Dean's Report.

Submitted by: David Mitra, FO Secretary

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
September 26, 2025

- Enrollment for the Fall semester has not changed much since our last meeting, with our record high headcount of 1,627 students (up 20.25% from last Fall's final number of 1,353), and FTE enrollment of 916 (up 17.59% from last Fall's final number of 779). We still have a few more weeks through the start of Fall II to add to these numbers. This includes being up in new freshmen, transfers, and dual enrollment students compared to last Fall, and holding almost even on re-admits and continuing students from last Fall.
- In the most recently released Niche.com rankings, we have moved up to #3 on the list of Best Community Colleges in South Carolina.
- USC Union has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, in partnership with Union County School District, to create a STEM Bus that will serve the campus community and surrounding area. The school district will donate the bus and provide some recurring support, with the grant funds going toward the upfitting and operation of that bus over the next few years to get it established. Special thanks to USC Union Education Coordinator, Cari Conley, for getting this grant put together and submitted.
- We have just completed the hiring process for some part-time help to support our international students who may need some extra help with their English. Her name is Karen Erskine and she is a full-time employee of the Union County School District, as Teacher of the Deaf and MLL Teacher for multiple schools across the district, holding her Master's in Education and ESOL certification. Her availability will primarily be after 3:15 during the week after her school day ends; however, there may be some additional availability on days the schools are closed, weekends, and/or during July before the school year starts. Keep an eye out for her contact information once her email and phone are confirmed to send out.
- Latest update from Bob Dyer on transition from Calendly to Reframe Engage is that the final implementation and configuration testing will take place between now and October 3. Campus trainings via Teams will take place between October 6 and October 17. The final two weeks of October will allow him to push the schedule back if they run into any unknown issues. Calendly will be renewed for the month of October but will be cancelled on October 31. Any meetings that are scheduled through Calendly will remain on the user's calendar. He will work with each of the campus web masters to ensure that all pages and links are updated.
- The Rotary Club of Union put on a steak dinner fundraiser last week to raise funds for the Union County School District's Happy Feet program, which provides brand new shoes to K-12 students in Union County. They had a silent auction that included a Bantam Gift Basket

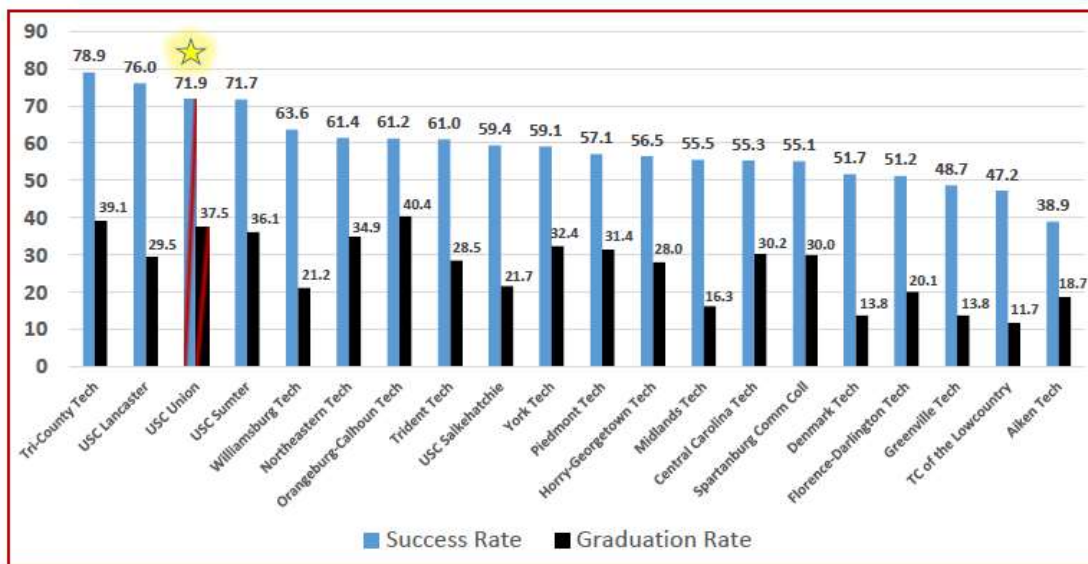
that went for \$100, as well as a live auction that included a Bantam-Angler-Guided fishing trip that went for \$300, and a round of golf for 4 at Lakeside Country Club in Laurens that our golf team secured that also went for \$300 toward this great cause.

- Dr. Aziz and I are exploring some options for the addition of some strength and conditioning support for our student-athletes, as well as some increased athletic training options for them. More details as we get further along in those conversations.
- The Union County Carnegie Library was recently awarded grant funding to update the iMacs in our iCarolina Lab in the library, along with a suite of digitization equipment that will be available to the campus and community to use as well.
- If anyone is interested in sponsoring a Chess Club, there is a student who has expressed an interest in forming that group.
- The next Research Club planning meeting will be on Monday, October 6, from 12:00-12:30, in the Community Room in case anyone wants to join us for that. We have received confirmation from Lauren Epps from USC Columbia's Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning (CIEL) that a group from her office and from Columbia's Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) will be able to come to Union on November 3 for a Lunch & Learn to present on the Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) and undergraduate research funding opportunities that are available to our students here.
- Two students who I am working with on a research project, June Heitman and Kyla Downs-Paprocki, have their eyetracking experiment ready to run, so they might be approaching you about the possibility of offering extra credit to students in your classes for participating in this experiment, especially if June and Kyla are in some of those classes themselves. If you are interested in offering this, we can be sure to let you know if any of your students do this before the end of the semester.
- In facilities and operations, here are some updates on those projects:
 - o Main Building to be completed first week of November. Currently laying carpet and painting on the third floor, and putting up new lighting. Staircases are being stripped to the original pine to be stained and polyed. New HVAC system is complete and ready to be tested, with shrubs purchased and ready to be set around the outside units.
 - o Laurens Location in Clinton in its final stage of first phase, to be completed in mid-October. The kitchen equipment was being installed last week. The boat storage door has been installed and boat storage electric drop down reels have been installed. Waiting on a panel box to be delivered that houses the pull-down reels. The front bathrooms are being finished this week.

- Art building anticipated to be completed by January, as it was being cleared out this week to prepare for those renovations.
 - New softball stadium received its final CO last week.
 - Renovated Truluck gym building received its final CO last week.
 - Jonesville gym interiors in middle stages, on time and on budget.
 - Jonesville gym roof replacement at legal about to go out to bid next week.
 - Baseball facility in its pre-phase, PO has been released for first phase.
- We are keeping an eye on the weather reports for early next week with the storms that are formed/forming off the coast. If any of that activity appears that it will disrupt this area, we will be sure to push out alerts and updates as soon as we have any information from the County government offices about their status in order to be able to follow suit from there as required by state law.

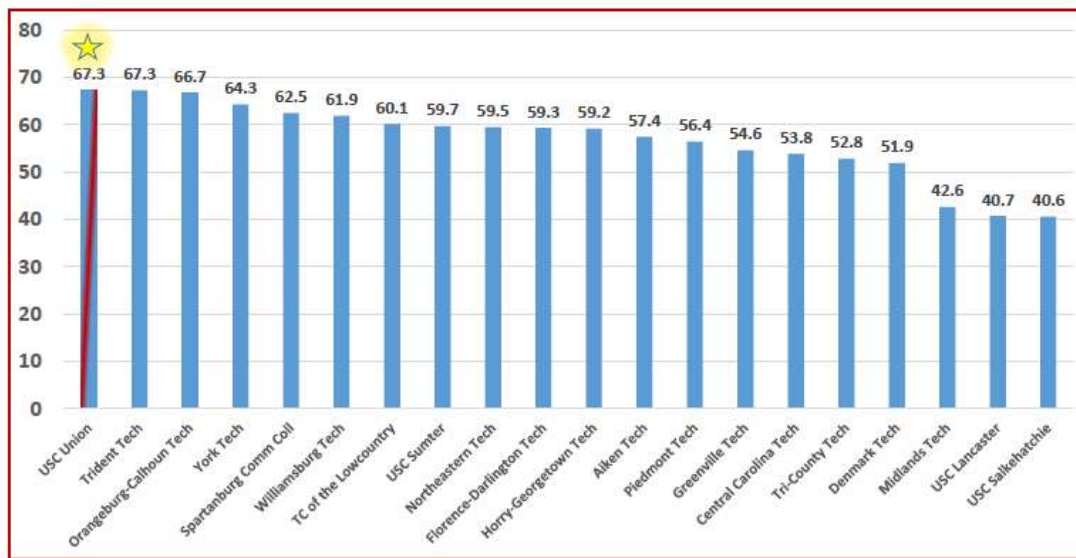
First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates Entering in Fall 2020

Source: https://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/CHE%20Data%20and%20Reports/Statistical%20Abstracts/2024_Statistical_Abstract-WEB.pdf



First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates, Fall 2022 to Fall 2023

Source: https://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/CHE%20Data%20and%20Reports/Statistical%20Abstracts/2024_Statistical_Abstract-WEB.pdf



Academic Dean's Report
Dr. Majdouline Aziz
September 26, 2025

Faculty Accomplishments:

Dr. Katie Klik:

Publication: Klik, K. A., Utomo, M. C., Jones, B., Batalha, L., Tropp, L. R., & Reynolds, K. R. (in press). Social identity processes in the field: The role of group norms and social identification in prejudice reduction. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. DOI: 10.1111/jasp.70005

This publication reflects my expertise in bridging the social identity approach and Intergroup contact theory to advance understanding of prejudice reduction in real-world settings. As first author, I led the analysis, writing, and publication of a naturalistic field experiment in collaboration with Kate Reynolds and Linda Tropp—two of the world's leading scholars in social identity and intergroup relations. This work demonstrates that prejudice reduction and prosocial action depend not only on individuals' identification with a group but also on the content of that identity—specifically the group's norms and values around diversity and inclusion. These findings offer important guidance for future program development in the prejudice reduction space, underscoring the need to foster inclusive group norms that promote equality and active engagement. This project aligns closely with my training in translational science and showcases my ability to bridge theory and practice in addressing pressing social issues.

Dr. Andrew Kettler:

Publication: *The Routledge History of the Senses* Co-Editor, William Tullett, York University Routledge; Hardcover; June 2025 (9781032345871)

The Routledge History of the Senses presents readers with an overview of the field. As well as pointing to directions for the future of the discipline, it illustrates the extent to which the subject offers a considerable space for the exploration of diverse historical topics through the lens of sensory experience.

Publication: *Energy Systems and Global Capitalism: Petromodernity, Abundance, the "Great Acceleration"*; Oxford Bibliographies

The Great Acceleration—the exponential growth of capital associated with a massive increase in fossil fuel use and chemical output after World War Two—has become a significant field of research among scholars since J. R. McNeill coined the term early in the twenty-first century. The acceleration of economies during the "Golden Age of Capitalism" after World War Two coincided with fossil fuel production throughout the Global North and increasingly within developing spaces of the Global South.

Publication: *Cattle, Chattel, and Capital: Animal Agency and the Alimentary Atlantic*, *The English Historical Review*, 2025

During the first centuries of colonialism in the Caribbean, the choices of cattle influenced the establishment of European settlements, the creation of new legal regimes of enclosure, dietary fluctuations that changed perceptions of animal value, and ecological changes, both intended and unintended. The decisions made by livestock in the Caribbean reshaped island flora, attracted humans to follow herds into unknown interiors and set locations for imperial encounters. The plantation economy of enslavement grew into spaces once grazed by fleeing cattle. Over time, the material and discursive denial of agency to cattle on those burgeoning plantations influenced cultural senses of taste.

Publication: “Radicalizing the Body, Haunting the Archive,” in Routledge History of the Senses Introduction to Edited Collection

Publication: “Sensation and Speed, The Death of the Historical Body,” in Routledge History of the Senses

Conclusion to Edited Collection that frames the edition in the issue of contemporary rise of AI and the death of the historical body.

Publication: "Remembrance of the Bicameral Mind: Sensory Worlds at the Interface," in *The Senses and Memory*, edited by Channele Dupuis. (Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, 2025), 241-262.

Julian Jaynes' *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* (1976) posited that ancient human consciousness functioned through a bicameral mind, whereby messages, emotions, and sensations were communicated from one side of the mind to the other. In this common understanding, evolutionary consciousness more commonly acted through command and response, rather than using the dialogic consciousness of modernity that was born of increasingly shared language and the rise of the recorded word in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean of Homer and the Greeks. Thinking through Jaynes' ideas of the ancient world, and Norbert Wiener's cybernetic philosophy, this chapter argues that the God of capital will emerge to its strongest force as a nearly totalizing and commanding God that speaks to humans who remove their capacity to resist, and to even know what resisting would mean, the more society accelerates into Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). The human mind, on this nearly predictable path, will increasingly give up free will over sensuousness through a remembrance of the supposedly safe space of the bicameral mind that was a much more common way of understanding for the vast majority of human existence.

Publication: “Sonic Waves and Scented Skies: Perceptions of Power, Protest, and Partition in the Cold War,” Review of *Sensory Warfare in the Global Cold War: Partition, Propaganda, Covert Operations*, edited by Bodo Mrozek, *Senses and Society*

On the Ides of March in 2024, a peaceful protest in Belgrade, Serbia against government corruption was dispersed by officials backing pro-Russian President Aleksandar Vucic. For those in the crowd, the experience of forced dispersal was a profound sensory experience, as they felt intensive nausea, embodied pain, and psychic confusion from what they understood to be the effects of a large sound cannon that scattered the crowd with powerful sub-sonic waves. Despite denials ringing out from officials, members of the demonstration have requested international investigations into the use of such a controversial modern weapon against a peaceful gathering. This specific sensory event in Serbia – along with the use of stinking “Skunk” weaponry being

sprayed against groups protesting at Columbia University against American involvement in Israel's destruction of Gaza – demonstrates that the objective of abusing human perceptions has remained a vital aspect of military engineering in the wake of a Cold War when the use of such weapons became commonplace against both armed forces and civilians. Bodo Mrozek's engaging edited collection, *Sensory Warfare in the Global Cold War: Partition, Propaganda, Covert Operations*, begins with similar sensory warfare in the contemporary world by framing "Havana Syndrome" as an example that brings into focus sensory relationships within international settings of peace and war directly related to Russia's current global influence and the reemergence of Cold War battlelines after the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *Sonic Identity at the Margins*, by Joanna Love

Through fifteen relatively short chapters, *Sonic Identity at the Margins* covers a wide range of social resistance through sound and music. Taking initial historiographical cues from Martin Stokes' collection on *Ethnicity, Identity, and Music* (1997), Jesse Fillerup and Joanna Love have collected numerous chapters related to identity, ethnicity, and Indigenous Studies through a historical reading of both musicology and Sound Studies.

Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *The End of College Football: On the Cost of an All-American Game*, by Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Derek Silva

The End of College Football provides an academic reading of the role of profit within American college football during this age of name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights that are shifting the landscape of college sports. As a work of sociology from Canadian scholars Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Derek Silva, the authors expose a throughline of exploitation that began long before the last few years of considerable profiteering by the NCAA, athletic departments, conference leadership, and media conglomerates.

Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *Petrochemical Fantasies: The Art and Energy of American Comics*, by Daniel Worden

Published through the *Studies in Comics and Cartoons* series at Ohio State University Press, Daniel Worden's *Petrochemical Fantasies* offers analysis of several connective tissues between American comics and the solidification of the fossil fuel industry in the United States. Thinking well beyond the content of comics that frequently linked industrial energy to the powers of superheroes, Worden's historical narrative explores diverse material aspects that nourished links between fossil fuels and graphic narratives within the American public sphere. Combining a history of comics with an activist concern for the declining health of the Anthropocene, *Petrochemical Fantasies* breaks new ground for understanding how Comics Studies can dig in against the modern abusers of the earth.

Publication: Co-Edited Edition 41.2 of *World History Bulletin*

Publication: Co-Edited Edition 11.1 of *Sound Studies*

Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Air, Smell and Socio-Environmental Inequality," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD. July, 2025

Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Historical Climates of Health," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD. July 2025

Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Climates in Fictions," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD, July 2025

Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Cliquetis Sounds, Smoke Smells, and Other Sensory Experiences in 18th-Century Places of Work," for the Association of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference. April 2025.

Service: Added to Editorial Board of Pennsylvania State University Press Series - "Perspectives on Sensory History"

Presentation: Presented Opening Remarks at H-Net Teaching Conference as H-Net President
Instructor Ashley Rabanal:

Creative Work: Included in the Greenwood Art Center's 58th juried exhibition. Juried by Michaela Pilar Brown. (Greenwood, SC)
<https://www.artscentergreenwood.com/past-exhibition.html>

Creative Work: Included in Metropolitan Arts Council's annual *Flat Out Under Pressure* 24 hour art competition and exhibition. (Greenville, SC)

Creative Work: Included in The Abney House's *All Roads Lead to Art and Vice Versa* exhibition, celebrating Brandon Fellowship alumni and the 10th year of the Brandon Fellowship at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts. (Greenville, SC)
<https://towncarolina.com/photos-all-roads-lead-to-art-and-vice-versa-exhibit/>

Creative Work: Project grant funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant to fund new work which will be exhibited in a solo exhibition in partnership with the Union County Arts Council in 2026.

Athletic Accomplishments:

Mills	Women's Soccer	7/21/2025	John has brought in 15 girls for the upcoming season
Whelchel	Cross Country	7/21/2025	Chayne will be having her 5K fundraiser in Laurens on August 9th and has a few visits planned for recruits
Curlee	Men's Soccer	8/18/2025	The men's soccer team beat Erskine's main soccer team 3-1.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	8/25/2025	The men's soccer team tied Coker's main soccer team 2-2.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	8/29/2025	The men's soccer team tied Bob Jones's main soccer team 0-0.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	9/3/2025	The men's soccer team beat Denmark Tech's club team 8-0 in their home opener.
Coone	Bass Fishing	9/8/2025	Up to date Cameron has brought in over 10,000 dollars in jersey sponsorships.
Kendall	Volleyball	9/8/2025	Up to date , the volleyball team has not won any games, but they have had multiple competitive matches throughout the season.

Mills	Women's Soccer	9/8/2025	Up to date the women's soccer team has not won any games. John hopes to improve this throughout the season.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	9/8/2025	The men's soccer team beat USC Lancaster 1-0.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	9/12/2025	The men's soccer team beat USC Salk 2-1.
Curlee	Men's Soccer	9/16/2025	The men's soccer team tied with Southwest Virginia 3-3.
Kendall	Volleyball	9/18/2025	The volleyball team won their first game of the season against USC Salk winning 3-2.
Royce	Softball	9/21/2025	The softball team won one of their two scrimmages. They beat Livingston College this weekend.
Mills	Women's Soccer	9/22/2025	The women's soccer team won its first game of the season. They beat Alice Lloyd 4-0. This is also the first win in program history for our women's soccer team.

Nursing:

The Dedication of Hands ceremony was held on Wednesday, 9/17, to celebrate first-semester nursing students going into the clinical environment to begin taking care of patients. It was hosted by Dr. Chargualaf from the Aiken School of Nursing and was well attended.

Nursing again had a 100% NCLEX pass rate.

Study Abroad Update:

For future reference, USC is no longer working with EF Tours.

Internships for International Students:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/international_student_and_scholar_support/iss/immigration/student-employment/off-campus-employment/f-1-employment-curricular-practical-training/

International students are not allowed to engage in any internships (Curricular Practical Training) without prior CPT authorization violates F-1 status.

CPT training must meet all of the following stipulations:

- Training relates directly to the student's major area of study.
- Training is an integral part of the school's established curriculum.
- Occurs *before* the student's program end date on the Form I-20.
- Authorization is for one specific employer and for a specific period of time.
- Student must secure the training opportunity *before* CPT can be authorized.
- CPT must be authorized *before* the student can begin work. Designated school official (DSO) authorizes CPT in SEVIS, and the authorization prints on the student's Form I-20.
- Student can have more than one CPT authorization at the same time.
- One year of full-time CPT eliminates a student's eligibility for OPT.

CPT Prerequisites

1. You must have been fully enrolled as a student for at least one academic year (nine months or thirty weeks).

- Exchange students do not qualify for Curricular Practical Training because they do not have this necessary prerequisite.
- 2. Your graduation cannot be delayed due to your Curricular Practical Training.
- 3. The proposed employment must be an integral part of your program of study. CPT must be very closely related to your academic work. Please see the options below to learn more about how CPT can work for you.
- 4. You need to have an offer of employment (paid or unpaid). Remember, even unpaid internships require CPT authorization.
- 5. You need to determine which type of CPT you want to utilize (Course Required, Dissertation Research, Carolina Internship Program, or Degree Required).

If you have a sophomore who meets these prerequisites and who is interested in participating in CPT, please contact the International Student and Scholar Support office at USC Columbia.

Student Emergency Scholarship:

Available Fall 2026. I will be working with the Financial Aid Office and the Scholarship Committee to develop the application and award process.

Student Advisory Council:

Developed and met with the inaugural Student Advisory Council on Friday, September 19. Topics discussed included course offerings, class times, credit hour requirements for NJCAA athletes, faculty and student communication, student clubs/activities, campus connection/community.

First event: Tuesday, October 14th, 3:00 Soccer Game at Jonesville; 6:00 Volleyball Game at Truluck. Food will be provided with a valid Carolina Card.

Student Needs Assessment:

Working on developing a student needs assessment that will go out each fall semester to gauge student demographics and needs (academic, personal, career, and college).

CCSSE (Spring 2026):

This spring, USC Union will be participating in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), a national survey of institutional practices and student behaviors. CCSSE is an initiative of CCSSE at the University of Texas at Austin. This assessment tool will provide information on student engagement and is comprised of items that assess institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. Survey data will be used for feedback to the campus and faculty/staff related to how our students are engaging with the campus, which contributes to learning, retention, and successful completion of degree requirements. Results will assist our campus in strategic planning and SACSCOC accreditation and allow us to compare engagement across the PC campuses.

The survey will be administered during the spring academic term (March through April). Note: Depending on the timely receipt of survey packets from UT-Austin, it may be possible to administer surveys before the start of spring break.

It will be administered in the classroom as a pencil-and-paper survey for students in randomly selected credit courses.

Faculty is not responsible for administering the surveys. The administration of the surveys will be handled by designated staff on campus. I will reach out to those selected as staff administrators in a separate email.

Historically, the survey has taken up to 45 minutes for students to complete within the classroom. Therefore, survey administration will take up an entire class period for selected course sections. Should your course section(s) be selected, faculty are not required to participate, although they are strongly encouraged so that the campus receives useful student data for reasons stated above. Faculty teaching full-term F2F courses may choose to build in “wobble-room” in their syllabi in case one or more of their sections are selected and/or record and upload lectures for selected sections as they are notified. If faculty choose to have their selected sections participate, there is no need to inform students that it will be taking place to ensure maximum attendance during those class periods.

Faculty of selected course sections will be notified shortly after the first add/drop period of the spring semester (mid-January).

Faculty Headshots:

Zane Morton will be available for faculty headshots. I am working on securing a date and will let the faculty know more information soon.

New and Prospective Programs & Partnerships:

- USC Union + USC Columbia College of Pharmacy: Finalized. Advising Forms can be found in the Faculty Drive.
- I am currently working on developing innovative partnerships to provide student-athletes with a Strength and Conditioning Coach and an Athletic Trainer. More information to come.

Upcoming Events:

- First Generation College Celebration Day: On Wednesday, November 5, we're celebrating First-Generation College Day with a lineup of engaging activities. One of our goals is to foster connections between students and our dedicated faculty and staff throughout the day. Please encourage your students to attend the various events scheduled throughout the day, and if you can, please provide incentives to encourage participation. Also, please excuse students from the afternoon first-generation celebration party; this portion of the day is by invitation only (3:45-4:45). All events will be held in the gym. Attendance will be recorded and sent to all faculty after the event has concluded.
 - 11:00-2:00 – Expo – currently we have 20 booths reserved. Please submit any printing/purchase requests to Amber Ivey no later than November 1. Students will be required to visit a minimum of 10 booths to earn a food ticket. Mac Attack will be the food vendor. Food options include Brisket Burnt End Mac, Veggie Mac, Carolina Pulled Pork, Nashville Hot Chicken, and Classic Mac Attack.
 - 3:45-4:45 – First-Gen Party – Open only to first-generation college students, faculty, and staff.
- Student-Athlete Workshops: Each November, the Office of Academic and Student Affairs hosts a workshop series for student-athletes. While mandatory for student-athletes, these will be open to all students, so please encourage your students to attend and help us get the word out. Faculty are also invited. These are occurring between 11/17 and 11/20.
 - 11/17 – Safe Passage
 - 11/18 – Quentin Wedderburn on “Understanding Neurodiversity”
 - 11/19 – Jenna Anderson on “Problem Gambling”
 - 11/20 – Nikki Prude on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Possible Narcan Distribution)

Faculty Action Items:

- Faculty Information Forms and Individual Research, Scholarly Activity, and Service Reports will be emailed on Nov. 1 and are due back to me by the end of January. I will forward the reports to the appropriate committees for peer review.

To conduct a thorough review, please consider incorporating the following in each section:

- Teaching – teaching load, # of preps/new courses, locations, formats, results of course evaluations, descriptions of each course taught each semester (including course design, link to USCU mission, Carolina core fulfillment, professional development, etc.
- Scholarship – list and describe each activity (papers in preparation, presentations, papers under review, publications, grants, creative activities, consultations, workshops, etc.)
- Service – list and describe each activity (advising, committees, attendance at university functions, club activities, peer reviews, etc.)
- Adjunct Peer Review: I will begin reaching out to those who require a review and enlisting volunteers to conduct those reviews.
- Advising for Spring 2024 will begin on October 20. I will send the final advising schedule when it is ready.

Search Committees:

- Instructor of Biology, Chair, Dr. Phillips-Long

Updates from Dr. Kettler:

- 1) Job Fair – Went well on 9/16. We had numerous students came by to see the tables for dozens of local employers. We are completing another Job Fair in the Spring and would like to have professors bring more students by the tables to promote the fair even more for student internships and employment as they look for work before they leave the university.
- 2) Fresh Check – On 9/25 – Union hosted a Fresh Check Day with many vendors and local mental health support networks. This year the event was called “Bantam Balance.”
- 3) AI Bot - The AI bot (Champion) is running well, with alerts that I have continued to monitor. Please send any questions on the bot to Andrew Kettler. We are hoping a class in the spring that may take on the project of designing a webpage for the AI bot, possibly a U101 or a course that incorporates media or language development. If you are interested, please e-mail Andrew on this as well.
- 4) Vector - We have 11 students who have completed Vector, and Robert and I have sent out new messages through the texting app to all students to get going more on those trainings. That leaves us at around 4% for the current year. We need more students to complete their trainings. Please announce to your classes that they should complete these trainings quickly and not wait until later in the semester when they become more burdensome.

- 5) Lending Library – We have a new order of books arriving from the book purge at Thomas Cooper on the Main Campus. They will be in the lending library in the History Suite in the next couple weeks.
- 6) History Suite – For students in need of a computer to work or print on, the History Suite is set up with a computer specifically for students to print their work. As well, therein is a work area for students to meet with coffee and snacks. There was a Television for watching films on mute with CC, but that now has a crack in it, so we are working on a replacement.
- 7) Fresh Food Bags – This program is continuing until we run out of the funding. We generally are providing between 8-12 fresh food bags every two weeks. If you know of any students who are interested have them e-mail Andrew Kettler. Thank you to Robert, Amber, and Cari for helping with pick-ups for the Bags this Fall.
- 8) P3 – If you have any students interested in medical school, please reach out to Andrew Kettler, as he continues with connections up to the P3 program at Greenville. They have an upcoming open house for any students interested in the program on 11/15 and a more formal event in the early spring.
- 9) SC Network - Andrew Kettler also generally meets each two weeks with SC Network for organizing other mental health and substance abuse outreach. If you are interested in assisting with any of those projects, you can email or stop by his office in the history suite.
- 10) United Way – As with last year we are organizing a food and goods drive with United Way. The one for last year shifted from Thanksgiving to Hurricane Helene relief. This year, we are collecting goods for 11/12 pickup for the Thanksgiving Drive. More information on specifics of drop offs will be provided soon in a flyer over e-mail.
- 11) Faculty Early Alert – We are also currently in the process of organizing meetings with PC-Main to discuss incorporation of Early Alert systems for faculty in upcoming semesters.