

## **USC Lancaster Faculty Meeting Minutes September 5, 2025**

Please note: Faculty Organization meetings are recorded. To access the recordings of previous Faculty Organization meetings, follow these steps:

1. Log into Blackboard and go to Organizations.
2. Select USCLFO.
3. Click FO Documents on the left-hand menu.
4. Click on the folder labeled "FO Meeting Documents and Recordings"
5. Select the date of the meeting.
6. View recording in browser or download mp4 file.

Please note that chat messages are preserved in the Teams meeting record but are not necessarily reported in the minutes. Minutes are not verbatim and as such, pronouns may be mixed in the comment sections.

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## USC Lancaster Faculty Meeting Minutes September 5, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER:** 12:30 PM by Elizabeth Easley

**CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 4, 2025, faculty organization meeting were approved.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

*Dean of the Campus – Dr. Courtney Catledge, report submitted (**Appendix 1**).*

Shared highlights from written report, including:

- Enrollment is stable (even compared to last year's all-time high)
- Welcome to new faculty and staff, ongoing searches including Director of Safety and Security, Simulation Coordinator Instructor, and Groundskeeper
- Welcome Week recap and campus student engagement update: 275 students have participated in at least one event on campus this semester
- Athletics update – we have around 126 athletes on campus with 36 being international students. Faculty are encouraged to come out and support our athletes at home games.
- Community activities including partnership with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood and summer STEM camps over the summer and upcoming SAT/ACT workshops this fall
- Campus facilities update: Accessible entrance to the back of Hubbard is now complete, with ongoing landscaping work. Medford patio is complete. ASC's new space is in progress. Crawford Rose Garden will likely be completed in May.
- Legislative update: 2% raise was approved; there has been significant increase in cost of healthcare which this university will absorb this year. \$640,000 allocation for reoccurring and then some deferred maintenance
- Call for travel study proposals
- International mentoring program
- Upcoming events including NASC Lunch and Learn, scholarship luncheon, travel study opportunities, and Lancaster Performing Arts Series in the community
- USCL once again named #1 two-year campus in South Carolina in Niche.com rankings

### **Questions and/or Comments:**

C. Heinemann-Priest – What is happening to the roses that will not be relocated during the Rose Garden's renovation?

C. Catledge – There will be a small window of time for whoever wants the roses to come and dig them up and take them away.

S. Penuel – Are there any plans in place to ensure that efforts to draw students on campus [in person] does not fall solely on our Student Life department?

D. Roberts – It is on Student Success' radar and is one of my main goals to address. Part of the issue is that high school Dual Enrollment (DE) partners can influence students' decisions on modality [in-person versus online].

Discussion followed about motivations for commuting DE students, decline in evening course offerings since online became more popular, scheduling conflicts for afternoon timeslots, and whether faculty can feel secure offering face-to-face courses. The importance of offering face-to-face courses was reiterated, as was the fact that Division chairs can let in-person classes run even with lower enrollment.

S. Sellhorst – One of the reasons the new Palmetto College Chancellor was hired was their involvement with online education. Do we have any indication on if that's going to change any policies or anything coming down from the chancellor's office yet?

C. Catledge – During my one-on-one meeting with the Chancellor, I made sure he understands who we are, and the value we bring, and the impact we have. We'll grow with you, but it doesn't need to be entirely online. If he's able to come here to meet faculty and staff later this fall, be sure to show him our campus' value.

*Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs – Dr. David Roberts report submitted (Appendix 2).*

Highlights from written report, including:

- Recent promotions (adding Chris Judge's promotion, which did not make it onto the written materials)
- Reminders for faculty:
  - Send syllabi to Pam Ellis
  - Dual Enrollment students' final and numeric grades should be sent to Dominique Waller as early as possible (emphasizing importance of grades to high school students for scholarship applications, class rank, etc.)
  - Emphasized importance of communication with students through university mail *only* (no student Gmail or other personal inboxes) for privacy
  - Committees should meet to elect chairs ASAP
- Student grievance procedures have been clarified
- Wintermester will be Dec. 29 – Jan. 18. Share requests to teach by September 12, then he will meet with Academic Advisory Committee and Division chairs to determine which 6 courses will be offered (see details in his report)
- Faculty/staff accomplishments and shout-outs

- Upcoming campus events including Constitution Day celebration

Questions and/or Comments:

C. Heinemann-Priest – What is the compensation for Wintermester teaching and does it affect our summer teaching?

D. Roberts – It could be done one of two ways – either as a spring semester class or as an overload.

T. Mobley-Chavous – It would be treated like an extra spring class, and it does not affect their summer compensation.

S. Alhaddad – [Later in meeting but directed to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs] I had a question that I forgot to ask about the summer schedule. Is the calendar set?

D. Roberts – We have to go off Columbia, and we are waiting for the approval for our calendar.

*Academic Success Center – Written Report (Appendix 3)*

*Campus Compiler – Shemsi Alhaddad, report submitted (Appendix 4).*

Shared updates on course evaluation system change:

- USCL is switching from Class Climate to Explorance Blue for course evaluations. She compared the number of responses and the general responses from the Explorance Blue trial this past summer to the summer before on Class Climate and the student response rate and evaluation numbers were similar despite different questions.
- Compiler tools are being built.
- Class Climate will expire on November 30th, 2025, meaning that it will no longer be supported. Faculty need that data for tenure and promotion summaries, so please reach out to Shemsi ASAP to request your data as the process takes time.

Questions and/or comments:

C. Heinemann-Priest - Do you have any information on when they rescheduled the Florence Blue meeting, we were either supposed to have before today or yesterday online?

S. Alhaddad – I am not involved in that

E. Easley – We are rescheduling the training and emails will go out

*Human Resources – Tracey Mobley Chavous, report submitted (Appendix 5)*

Highlights from her report including:

- Reminder of policy for programs that involve minors (who are *not* enrolled at the University). This process takes time, so be sure to share information in a timely manner.
- Reminder of policy for programs involving volunteers. This process (background checks, documentation, etc.) also takes time so initiate it early.
- Reminder that faculty/staff have access to the Employee Assistance Program
- We are switching to a new pharmacy benefits program (CVS Care Card), so be sure to confirm your contact information in MyBenefits now so your updated member card is delivered to the right address.
- Reminder that Open Enrollment period is this October. Be sure to make any dental changes during Open Enrollment – the next opportunity to make changes to dental coverage will be in 2027.

Questions and/or comments:

J. Castiglia – Does the policy on volunteer procedures include guest speakers?

T. Mobley-Chavous – Yes, it does, especially if they are not affiliated with the University.

C. Heinemann-Priest – If we have a child who is in school but is 26 years old, does their insurance drop in January 2026?

T. Mobley-Chavous – No, it will happen the month before the dependent's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

D. Waller – Do we have any supplemental insurances that's being added that I don't see on here?

T. Mobley-Chavous – You have everything; nothing new this year.

K. Holland – The CVS Care Card: Is that going to be our new prescription card?

T. Mobley-Chavous – Yes, it is switching from Express Scripts to CVS Caremark. That does *not* mean you have to use CVS pharmacy – you can use any pharmacy with similar coverage.

D. Rowland – Will the new pharmacy benefits offer the same mail services?

T. Mobley-Chavous – I believe so. I will confirm that.

C. Heinemann-Preist – If we have questions about 401K, who do we talk to?

T. Mobley-Chavous – You would need to speak with SC Deferred Compensation. I can get you in touch.

*Information Technology* – Blake Faulkenberry, report submitted (**Appendix 6**)

Highlights from his report, including:

- Upcoming telephone server changes. Reminder that voicemails will not transfer (see report for details)
- End of support for Windows 10. IT will reach out to update hardware.
- Hubbard 206 has been upgraded. Computer lab printers have been updated.
- I Carolina Lab's Kaela Healey can help students with Blackboard and Duo Multifactor issues
- Stay tuned for upcoming AI courses
- Submit non-emergency IT requests to [uscltech@email.sc.edu](mailto:uscltech@email.sc.edu) or the [online ticket system](#) (not to individual IT personnel)

Questions and/or comments:

S. Cruise – Can Kaela Healey help with Blackboard in ways that Blackboard support cannot?

B. Faulkenberry – No, she can assist with basic troubleshooting.

Andrea Campbell – Is Kaela helping on a walk-in basis?

B. Faulkenberry – Yes.

C. Heinemann-Priest – Are there any webcams available?

B. Faulkenberry – Yes. I can put one in your box.

*Institutional Effectiveness and Research – Shemsi Alhaddad, report submitted (Appendix 7)*

Highlighting ways faculty can help meet institutional goals, as noted in her report. Suggests encouraging advisees to complete graduation check, use support services, etc. As well as individual actions like submitting Early Alerts, grow connections by following key social media accounts, etc.

Questions and/or comments:

B. Faulkenberry - [Related to growing connections and social media] Check out the volleyball game livestreams.

N. Lawrence – We are working to get other games, including soccer, streamed consistently.

*Lancaster Promise Neighborhood – written report (Appendix 8)*

*Medford Library – Rebecca Freeman, report submitted (Appendix 9)*

Highlights from report including:

- Thanks for your support during the library's anniversary celebration. Anniversary exhibits will be up all semester in the library.

- Invitation to attend upcoming Fandom Talks series and to enjoy the new patio space
- Reminders that the library offers library instruction services, course reserves, Book a Librarian, and welcomes suggestions for collection development.

Questions and/or comments: None

*Student Success and Retention* – written report (**Appendix 10**)

*TRiO Programs* – written report (**Appendix 11**)

*UNIV 101 and FYE Coordinator* – Tracey Mobley Chavous (**Appendix 12**)

Highlights from her report including:

- Fewer UNIV 101 sections but high enrollment in each section
- Successful Early Start and new First Year Experience over the summer
- Information about the new “My Lancer Experience” program to boost campus engagement: Students can check in at events via QR code to get points for attending, with chances to win prizes later in the semester

Questions and/or comments:

F. Nooe – How do we add events to the My Lancer Experience points offerings?

J. Rammage – You can contact Mark Ammons or Bridgett Plexico to get the event keyed into Handshake

K. Holland – Would participating in research count for My Lancer Experience points?

J. Rammage – Yes, we can do “point clusters” for continued participation over time

B. Plexico – The point system is online under Student Life

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

### **USC SYSTEM COMMITTEES:**

*Columbia Faculty Senate* – written report (**Appendix 13**)

*Executive Committee (PCCFS)* – Fernanda Burke, report submitted (**Appendix 14**)

- Expanding on written report: The accreditation conversation was addressed during their meeting. Executive Committee welcomes further discussion.
- Updates on USC Policies on incivility and progressive discipline
- Some changes to the Palmetto College faculty manual are on hold but hope to move forward soon
- Union will host the faculty social October 24, including a poster session

Questions and/or Comments:

S. Alhaddad – Comments from faculty about the accreditation issue are due September 16.

F. Nooe – Are comments anonymous?

S. Alhaddad – I'm not sure.

E. Easley – We [Executive Committee] will find more information and share it widely.

**LOCAL COMMITTEES:** None

**OTHER SYSTEM COMMITTEES:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SPECIAL ORDERS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- E. Easley:
  - The Research Club will be hosting a meeting with TRiO, Sept 9 12:15-12:50PM. Our speaker will be Dr. Janet Obi who is a musicologist. Please encourage students to attend!
  - Asheley Schryer and I will be hosting a GLD application workshop on Friday, Sept 26 at 11am in FH 133. Please encourage students to attend!
- B. Taylor-Driggers:
  - Pop-Up Art Market at NASC with various dates
  - Watch for a call for faculty and staff art coming soon
- F. Marques-Burke – Shout-out to the Physical Education courses being offered this semester (including second eight weeks). Watch for the flyer.
- S. Criswell:
  - Nominations for SC Folk Heritage Awards are open (noted in Associate Dean's report)
  - Debbie Rowell and I were interviewed by creators of Hulu's "Blood and Myth" - check it out!
  - NASC is offering tours
  - Reminder of upcoming Lunch and Learns
- A. Pangburn – Cancelling the next Outdoor Club hike but we'll be hiking 40 Acre Rock soon

**ADJOURNMENT:** 2:00 PM

**ATTENDING:**

Sahar Aghasafari, Shemsi Alhaddad, Dwayne Brown, Zoe Byrd, Andrea Campbell, Jill Castiglia, Courtney Catledge, Logan Cocklin, Stephen Criswell, Susan Cruise, Annette Duker-Golonka, Elizabeth Easley, Pam Ellis, Blake Faulkenberry, Danelle Faulkenberry, Dandria Figueroa, Rebecca Freeman, Amy Gerald, Jose Guruceaga, Claudia Heinemann-Priest, Alissa Kate Holland, Jason Holt, Amy Hood, Ernest Jenkins, Christopher Judge, Dana Lawrence, Nicholas Lawrence, McKenzie Lemhouse, Vincent Lewis, Lynette Martek, Fernanda Marques Burke, Tracey Mobley Chavous, Erin Moon-

Kelly, Angela Neal, Brandon Newton, Franklin Evan Nooe, Allan Pangburn, Liegh Pate, Suzanne Penuel, Bridgett Plexico, Jeff Rammage, Kim Richardson, David Roberts, Deborah Rowell, Peter Seipel, Sarah Sellhorst, Anita Sharma, Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Bernard Totten, Richard Vanhall, Dominique Waller, Jerrod Yarosh

**ABSENT:**

Connor Austell, Marybeth Berry, Christopher Bundrick, Li Cai, Mark Coe, Walter Collins, Kimberly Covington, Maxie Ron Cox, Lucius Stan Emauel, Lisa Hammond, Darris Hassell, Mary Allison Jobe, Howard Kingkade, Patrick Lawrence, Tamika Lewis, Bettie Obi-Johnson, Phillip Parker, Michael Sherrill, Nahid Swails, Suzette Taylor, Tania Wolochwianski, Andrew Yingst

**Faculty Secretary:** Document submitted by M. Lemhouse on September 25, 2025, for faculty and staff review.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
LANCASTER

Dr. Courtney B. Catledge  
Regional Palmetto College Dean

Report to the Faculty Organization of USC Lancaster  
September 5, 2025

## People

### Enrollment

Fall 2025 enrollment is strong in line with Fall 2024. **As of September 3, we are at headcount enrollment of 2,486.** Thanks to everyone—faculty and staff advisors, orientation leaders, recruitment and admissions staff members—for your work on Fall 2025 enrollment.

**We welcome the following new faculty and staff as we begin Fall 2025:**

**Dr. Anita Bhandari Sharma**-Assistant Professor of Statistics (tenure-track)  
**Jose Guruceaga Burgos** - Student Life Coordinator

**Congratulations to USCL employees recognized this year with University Service Awards:**

**Michelle Mellichamp** (Dean's Office)- 10 years  
**Tracey Mobley-Chavous** (HR)- 20 years  
**Megan Catoe** (Registrar)- 20 years

**Staff search continuing:**

Simulation Coordinator/Instructor  
Grounds Keeper  
Director of Safety and Security

### Athletics

Student athletes are back on campus and ready for the Fall competitive seasons with men's and women's soccer and volleyball. The second annual Athletics Orientation took place on August 18, 2025, with 100% in attendance. This fall we have 126 student athletes with 36 of those being international athletes. The countries represented are Canada, Japan, Netherlands, England, Honduras, Iceland, Kenya, Spain, and Australia. **Check out their schedules here:** <https://usclathletics.com/>

Join us on the campus soccer field or on the court in the Gregory Family YMCA for matches. Faculty, staff, and students can enter free of charge.

## **USC Lancaster in our Communities**

The next in-person **Lunch and Learn at the Native American Studies Center** is scheduled for September 26 at noon with a talk entitled “Buttons, Bone Handles, and Brick: Contextualizing USC’s Histories Within the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Atlantic World,” by Dr. Kelly Goldberg, Clinical Associate Professor, Director of the USC Public Heritage Lab. To attend via Zoom, register via this link: <https://bit.ly/3LYVoto>

**USC Lancaster coordinated multiple Lancaster Promise Neighborhood affiliated programs in Summer 2025**—Arts and Sciences Summer Camp for Middle Schoolers, Upward Bound for ninth-twelfth graders, and Early Start. We plan to offer SAT/ACT preparation workshops in Fall 2025.

**Indian Land Advisory Board** – Met August 21, 2025, and was led by Bernard Totten, Outreach Coordinator. Discussion surrounding community connections to USCL and upcoming events.

## **Campus Facilities Updates**

### **Hubbard**

- Accessible entrance for back of building –completed
- Replace glass storefront on front and back of building; 2025-26 project.

### **Medford**

- Medford Patio project- completed
- Renovate ASC classroom space – completed

### **Crawford Rose Garden Renovation**

- Projected start – November 2025

### **Soccer Field**

- Field, spectator updates, and lights project – completed

### **USCL Center for Healthcare Workforce**

- Architect selection process underway
- Anticipated start date – Spring 2026

## **Legislative and Financial Updates**

**Earlier raises:** General Base Pay Increase for Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees  
The 2025–2026 general appropriation bill includes a 2.0% base pay increase for classified and unclassified employees in FTE positions at higher education institutions.

Implementation Guidelines:

- Employees on a pay lag must have been hired on or before June 15, 2025, to receive the general increase (GI). The increase was reflected in the July 15th paycheck.
- Employees hired on or after April 1, 2019, are on a pay lag.
- For employees paid current, the increase also appeared on the July 15th paycheck, with the pay period beginning July 1, 2025.

- For 9-month employees, the increase is effective August 16, 2025, and does not affect summer compensation limits.
    - Paid current: increase appears August 30th
    - On pay lag: increase appears September 15th
  - Employees on approved Leave Without Pay will receive the increase upon returning to paid status.
- 

### **Pay Increases for Temporary Employees – Lancaster Campus**

The campus values the contributions of our temporary staff and has authorized a 2.0% pay rate increase.

- Effective July 1, 2025
  - Increase was reflected in the July 31st paycheck
- 

### **Insurance Premium Contributions**

The University will continue to invest in employee health and wellbeing.

- Our campus contributes significantly toward health, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance for all eligible employee categories.
- For example, a 12-month employee pays \$97.68/month for employee-only coverage under the Standard Health Plan, while the campus covers the remaining \$527.10.
- While your employee contribution will remain unchanged this year, the total premium has increased.

The campus will cover these additional costs in an effort not to pass any additional costs to faculty and staff.

USCL received an **additional recurring allocation for operations of \$640,000 from the SC State Legislature for FY 2025-2026. We also received a one-time appropriation of \$1,320,000 for campus facility renovations and deferred maintenance.** There was no tuition increase for students for this academic year, the 7th year running.

<b>Other items...</b>
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- We had a successful Travel Study trip this summer to Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. 13 students and 2 faculty participated. 100% of the students participating in the trip benefitted from the Study Abroad funding approved by the Commission. Having that funding available helped with recruitment and participation in the experience. Many thanks for your continued support.
- The annual **Richard Gannaway Scholarship Luncheon** has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 5 at noon in the Arnold Special Events Room. Invitations will be forthcoming.



David Roberts, Interim Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs

**REPORT TO THE FACULTY ORGANIZATION**  
**September 5, 2025**

**1. Welcome to Our New Faculty Member.**

- Anita Bhandari Sharma, Assistant Professor of Statistics

**2. Congratulations for Promotions!**

- Dr. Elizabeth Easley, Full Professor
- Rebecca Freeman, Full Professor
- Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Full professor
- Dr. Nahid Swails, Tenured and Associate Professor
- Dr. Jerrod Yarosh, Tenured and Associated Professor
- Chris Judge, Senior Instructor

**3. Call for FA25 Syllabi.** Thanks to everyone who has submitted syllabi to the Academic Affairs Office. If you have not yet done so, please note that we need a syllabus for each section you are teaching, even if it is the same course. Also, it would help us be more efficient if the syllabus file names are consistent. Please use this format (example): PHIL 114-4A-FA25-Roberts,David. Send syllabi to Pamela Ellis: [pellis@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:pellis@mailbox.sc.edu).

**4. Timeline for Course Scheduling Preparation, Spring 2026.** Thanks to all faculty for their work with Division Chairs on preparing the course schedules. A few benchmark dates:

- 9/5: Faculty schedules provided to Division Chairs.
- 9/11-9/12: Division Chairs, Academic Dean, and DE Coordinator evaluate schedules, adjusting as needed.
- 9/16: Division Chairs and Pamela Ellis work on room assignments.
- 9/22-10/1: Registrar loads the USCL schedule into Banner.
- 10/8-10: Final adjustments to schedule.
- 10/13: Students begin to register.

## 5. Policy Corner.

- **Academic Integrity Violations:**

- Report findings of academic integrity violations to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs: David Roberts:  
[robertda@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:robertda@mailbox.sc.edu)
- The Associate Dean will validate the findings and send the student a notice of integrity violation letter only after the instructor has informed the student that they have been reported.
- Students have informal and formal processes that they can use to appeal the decision. See the USCL Student Handbook for policies:
- [https://www.sc.edu/about/system\\_and\\_campuses/lancaster/internal/documents/student\\_life/handbook.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/lancaster/internal/documents/student_life/handbook.pdf)

- **Student Academic Grievances:**

- If a student has a complaint about grades or academic matters, they should first attempt to resolve the matter with their instructor.
- If that discussion does not resolve the matter the Associate Dean and/or Division Chair will mediate the disagreement. As part of this mediation, students are required to provide evidence that a course or a university policy has been violated.
- See the USCL Handbook for this policy. The process for Academic Student Grievances was changed in the past academic year with the approval of the Student Affairs Committee. This change can be found on page 40 of the Student Handbook:  
[https://www.sc.edu/about/system\\_and\\_campuses/lancaster/internal/documents/student\\_life/handbook.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/lancaster/internal/documents/student_life/handbook.pdf)

## 6. Constitution Day.

This event is organized by TRiO staff and will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 17. It will include the following activities at Starr Hall/Founders parking lots, and in the TRiO LRC:

- Two food trucks (tentatively, Pelicans and Wilbur's)
- Constitution Day Quiz Challenge
- Prizes for top three winners (may have multiple ties)
- 100 Constitution booklets for students.

## 7. Winter Session (Wintermester).

- We will be having a Wintermester again this year. Last year we had four courses (HIST 101, PSYC 101, POLI 201, SOCY 101). They all had good enrollment. The dates are 12/29/25 – 1/18/26.
- We will add another two courses for a total of six this year. If you are interested in teaching a Wintermester course, please let your Division Chair know. These courses are included with our Spring offerings, and so we will look at these courses as possible in-load sections or an overload, depending on Spring Semester needs.
- The Associate Dean will be working with the Division Chairs and the Academic Advisory Council to determine which six classes will be put on the schedule.

## 8. Committee Membership.

The Committee Membership was emailed to the campus. Last year's chairs will need to call the first meeting so that a new chair can be chosen. Please do this in the next week or so, as there is already business for some of the committees.

## 9. Dual Enrollment.

- Dominique will send an Excel spreadsheet during each eight-week and 16-week course, at least three to five days before the final grades are due. Please return all final and numeric grades ASAP. Dominique must submit final grades to all schools due to early graduates and overall class rank for seniors. **Late submissions and incorrect grades may jeopardize a student's graduation, class rank, and scholarships (academic and athletic).**
- Dual Enrollment students must always use their USC email address in correspondence with you. No personal, parental, or high school emails are to be used. If students need assistance, or cannot locate their acceptance email with all information, they can contact our Admissions Office at (803) 313-7073.
- Encourage all dual enrollment students to check their USC email account daily.
- Please remind dual enrollment students that they must abide by our academic calendar, we do not abide by their high school calendars.
- Please do not converse with parents without confirming with the Admissions Office that a FERPA form is on file. If there is no form on file, refer the parent to Dominique Waller: [wallerdh@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:wallerdh@mailbox.sc.edu)

**10. Dr. Sarah Sellhorst** resigned as the Director of Dual Enrollment, Curricula, & Faculty Relations as of August 29<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank her not only for all her work in relation to this position, but also for the 9 years she was Division Chair of the MSNPH. I worked with her many of those years, and her knowledge and wisdom were critical during the time when Deborah Cureton and Todd Lekan were Associate Deans, as well as working through the multiple changes that came during and after Covid.

## 11. Recent Faculty Accomplishments.

- **Sahar Aghasafari** published: Aghasafari, S., Malloy, M., & Bernecky, T. (2025). Heartbeats and molecules: Integrating AI, media arts, and graphic storytelling in STEAM education. *American Journal of STEM Education: Issues and Perspectives*, 14, 1-22.

Aghasafari, S. & Malloy, M. (2025). *Presenting Heartbeats and molecules: Integrating AI, media arts, and graphic storytelling in STEAM education* [Panel presentation]. *Online Teacher Education in the Evolving Technological Landscape: Beyond the Horizon*, University of Southern Queensland, Australia (Virtual). Panel title: *Art and Technology in STEM Education: A Transformative Dialogue*, curated by S. Aghasafari & J. Blair.

- **Marybeth Berry**. Professor Berry's original musical, "The Puzzle," premiered at Festival dei Due Mondi as part of La MaMa Spoleto, opening the 2025 production in Spoleto, Italy. This play was also the subject of a journal article published in *European Stages*:  
<https://www.thesehalcenter.org/european-stages/the-puzzle>.

Marybeth and Tyrie Rowell took students to Ireland to perform at the Ardgillan Castle. They performed "Waiting for Godot" and "On the Spectrum." The students engaged in culturally fulfilling activities and experiences while rehearsing and preparing for their shows.

- **Rebecca Freeman**. Presented "Nourishing the Community: The Power of Food in Library Programming" at the Metrolina Library Association Conference on June 4.
- **Rebecca Freeman and McKenzie Lemhouse Co-presentations**: Presented "Creating the Celebration of Lancer Excellence" at the PASCAL 2025 Conference, June 12

Presented a poster, "Bridging the Gap: Passive Library Programming" at the Metrolina Library Association Conference. This was presented with library staff member Katy Broughton.

- **McKenzie Lemhouse**: Submitted the first draft of "Your Most Powerful Instrument is Your Voice," co-authored with Logan Cocklin (to be published in *Shelf Life: Libraries, Archives, and Collective Grief*, edited by Robert Spinelli & Kaylee Alexander, forthcoming from Bristol University Press). The chapter is currently undergoing peer review.

McKenzie's free-verse poem "Specter" was accepted for publication in the inaugural volume of a new anthology featuring Bi+ voices titled *Bi All Accounts* (Available September 23, 2025).

- **Christopher Judge.** Reappointed to second term on USC’s Educational Foundation Board, representing Palmetto College Faculty and Staff. May 2025.

Invited to join Humanities SC Speakers Bureau, May 2025.

Elected to South Carolinian Library’s Executive council, May 2025.

Invited lecturer at UNC Pembroke’s Museum of the Southeast American Indian. *Gathering up the Fragments: Searching for the Elusive Cheraw*, June 30.

- **Pat Lawrence.** A collection he co-edited titled *out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics* was published by University of Texas Press. In addition, the work contains an Introduction and reference material Pat wrote with his co-editor, as well as a chapter he solo-authored: “Wise Up Old Hags, The Weak One Is a Valuable Possession to Us.”

Presented a chapter of his newest book project as part of the Second Book Writer’s Workshop. It was presented at the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic annual conference. The chapter is called “‘Sinful Nation, a People Laden with Iniquity’: Colonization, Removal, and the Moralistic Nationalism in the Antebellum Period.”

- **Evan Nooe.** Evan was a guest speaker at the Institute for Southern Studies at USC Columbia.

Evan was interviewed about his book *Aggression and Sufferings* for the podcast “Take on the South,” hosted by Dr. Mark M. Smith

Evan presented a paper titled “Florida, History, and Architecture at Disney Springs’s Marketplace Neighborhood” at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for the Disney, Culture, and Society Research Network.

- **Kim Richardson.** Kim authored Five Encyclopedia Articles submitted to *South America Since Independence*. The five articles were on the independence movements of five nations: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.
- **Brittany Taylor-Driggers.** Brittany’s piece, *Anxiety*, was accepted into the juried *Kakalak* publication for 2025.
- **Lauren Thomas.** Lauren is on the Board of Managers with the Anne Springs Close Greenway. This is the advisory board that guides the evolution of the 2100+ acre nature preserve.

- **Accomplishments Related to the Native American Studies Center.**

Professor Brittany Taylor-Driggers and Dr. Stephen Criswell, with the assistance of the Native American Studies Center faculty and staff, will be managing the South Carolina Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards for the SC Arts Commission. The award is given annually by the SC Legislature to the individuals and groups who preserve and advocate South Carolina Traditional Culture.

Professor Deborah Rowell and Dr. Stephen Criswell have been asked by Hulu to conduct a YouTube hosted interview with the documentary filmmakers behind the upcoming true-crime film Blood and Murder. The documentary will air in September and the interview will be uploaded when the film premieres.

Dr. Stephen Criswell was a panelist for a roundtable on Indigenous Sovereignty and Public History in June at the College of Charleston.

## Report to the USC Lancaster Faculty Organization

### Academic Success Center

*Pat Lawrence, Director*

#### Announcements

- The ASC is excited to welcome our new peer tutor, Eileen Hernandez-Romero, who will cover lower-division nursing subjects, Spanish, and some Computer Science courses.
- This fall the ASC is offering a new group instructional service for NURS 312 and 324 in coordination with nursing faculty. Please let students in these courses know we're here for them!
- We are in the process of renovating a new instructional and event space in ML 221, which we believe will be available for programming in September.

#### Recent and Upcoming Events Overview

The ASC Studio hosted students and families as part of **New Lancer Orientation** this summer. We were pleased to welcome them to our space, introduce them to our services, and provide a venue for orientation presentations by Palmetto College and Student Life. These kinds of events help us showcase our services to new clients and highlight what makes USCL an attractive option.

We continue to grow our dedicated course support with **new supplemental instructional sessions** for students in Nursing 312 and 324. This program, developed alongside Lancaster and Columbia nursing faculty, parallels a service that has long been available to Columbia-based students, and we're excited to finally provide it for Lancaster students. The first meeting was attended by 14 students.

With the assistance of Facilities staff and the support of Dean Courtney Catledge and Business Manager Buddy Faile, **Medford Library 221** is on its way to being a versatile, modern instructional and event space. The room has been emptied, cleaned, and painted, and additional electrical outlets have been installed. New furniture and new media capabilities are on the way, and we anticipate hosting an inaugural academic support event in late September or early October.

#### Summary of Tutoring Data

**Year-to-year trends:** Summer 2025 improved on 2024 in the number of appointments (+107.7%), which puts us in a healthy position vis-à-vis yearly goals. Nonetheless, cognizant of barriers to awareness and engagement, we hope to keep increasing student use of the center in summer.

**Session distribution trends:** Not surprisingly, the vast majority of students this summer preferred virtual tutoring. We also hosted a large percentage of our student contacts via our first-ever summer Health Sciences Studio. We believe this kind of service is both effective and efficient, but attendance was lower than we hoped.

(See charts below for data breakdown.)

#### Contact Information

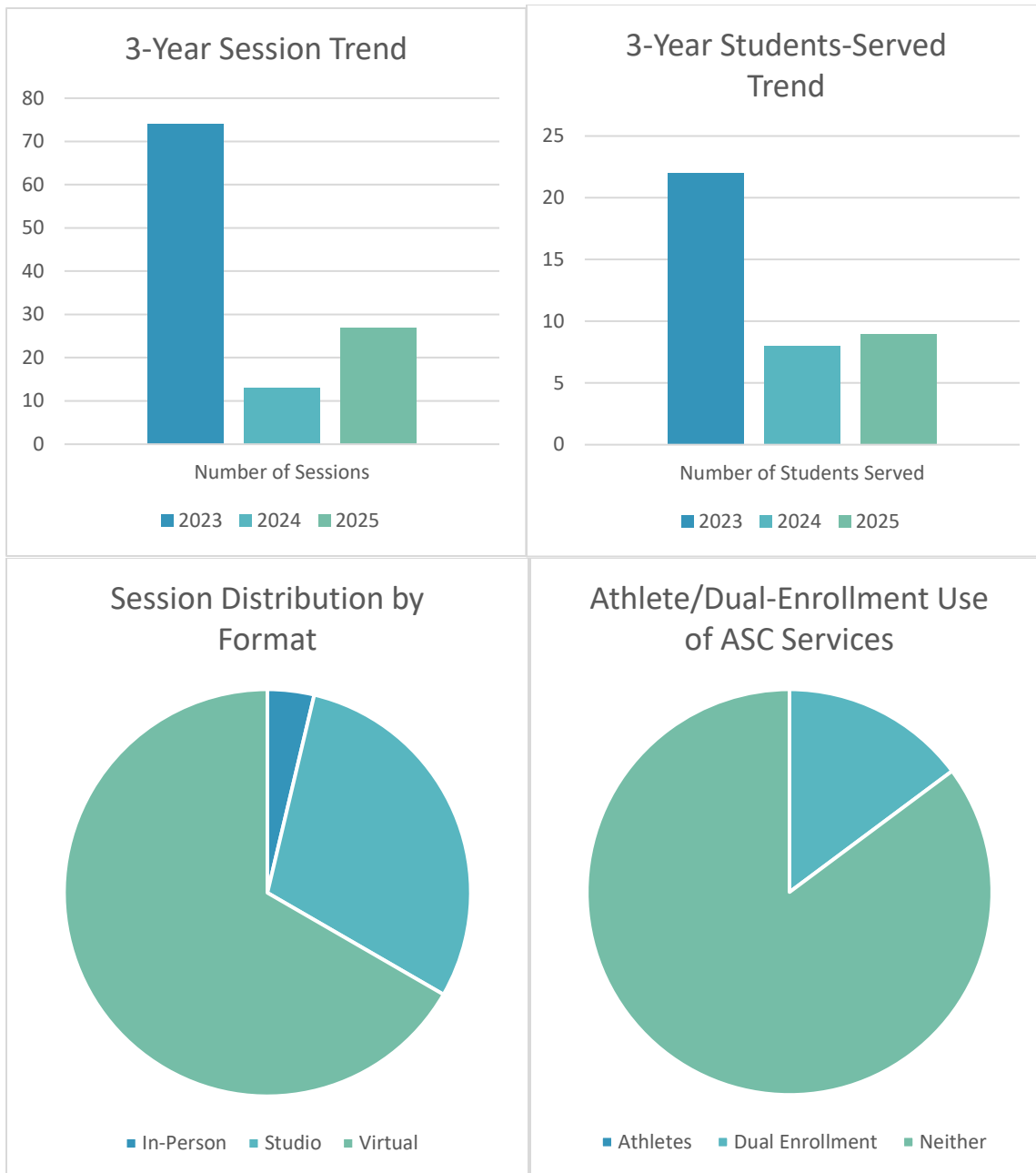
**Phone:** 803-313-7113

**Web:** [sc.ed/lancaster/asc](http://sc.ed/lancaster/asc)

**Patrick Lawrence, Director:** [pslawren@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:pslawren@mailbox.sc.edu)

**Elaine Connor, Academic Success Coordinator:** [etconnor@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:etconnor@mailbox.sc.edu)

## Appendix: Summer Tutoring Data



<sup>1</sup> Note that the student-athlete and dual-enrollment data is only collected for conventional tutoring appointments, not for studio services. For this reason, the total number of sessions listed here excludes studio numbers.



# Campus Compiler Report

For the Sept 2025 Faculty Org Meeting

## Class Climate

Class Climate will no longer be supported after Nov 30, 2025. If you were hired before Summer 2025 and plan to go up for tenure or promotion within the next 5 years, please review the Compiler Policies and Procedures document available online here: [compiler\\_policies.pdf](#)

**URGENT:** Please send me requests for whatever compilations are appropriate for your tenure/promotion as soon as possible. These take some time to compile. I might not be able to fulfill late requests.

**URGENT:** All faculty are encouraged to download the course evaluations that were sent to them by email. This is especially important for instructors who plan to apply for promotion to Senior Instructor within the next 5 years.

## Explorance Blue

An Explorance Blue Compiler meeting is scheduled for Oct 6. I'll provide more information at the November meeting. I currently don't have access to compiler tools for Explorance Blue, but expect them to be available by next spring. Keep in mind that the USCL compiler is elected each year and is not guaranteed to be me.

**FROM:** Tracey Mobley Chavous, PHR -Director of Human Resources

**MEETING:** Faculty Organization Meeting – September 5, 2025

**DATE:** September 3, 2025

**ATTACHMENTS:** zero (0)

## **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **1) Program Involving Minors**

A minor is defined as a person under the age of eighteen (18) who is not enrolled or accepted for enrollment at the university.

- All faculty, staff, students, and non-USC personnel interacting with minors must comply with UNIV 4.00 to ensure protection of minors, the university, and university personnel.  
[UNIV 4.00 Programs Involving Minors](#)

**Please review the details about Programs Involving Minors on this website**

[https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/provost/policiesandprocedures/minors/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/policiesandprocedures/minors/index.php)

### **Background Checks for all Program Personnel (18 years of age and up)**

Before interacting with minors, all program personnel (students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and non-USC personnel) must pass a background check as required by HR 1.90.

Please view the Background Check Policy for further information.

HR 1.90. [HR 1.90 Background Check Policy](#)

### **2) Volunteers**

Individuals volunteering for any event or activity that involves interaction with students, faculty, staff, or minors must adhere to the volunteer risk management guidelines.

#### **Volunteer Requirements:**

- Volunteer must be at least 18 years of age and older and possess the appropriate skills, education, and experience.
- Exception: In exceptional circumstances involving low-risk activities, volunteers may be under the age of eighteen (18), but this must be arranged in advance with the Office of Risk Management, Division of Human Resources, and the Office of General Counsel.

### **Volunteer Request Process:**

To request a volunteer, email the following details to the Lancaster Campus Human Resources Department at least two weeks prior to the event or activity.:

- Legal name
- Email address
- Contact telephone number.
- Brief description of duties the volunteer will perform.
- The proposed start and end date of the volunteer service

Important: Volunteers may not begin interacting with students, faculty, staff, or minors until they complete the onboarding process and receive approval.

### **3) Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

Please remember that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential resource provided by the University to support employees and members of their immediate household through times of need.

Our EAP vendor, McLaughlin Young Group (MyGroup), provides access to the following services: Counseling, Online Services, Legal and Financial Assistance, Savings Center, and Online Seminars.

Except for fees associated with the purchase of legal documents, EAP is free to university faculty, staff, and their immediate household members.

Employees and their dependents have access to counselors 24 hours a day 365 days a year by calling 1-800-633-3353 or 704-529-1428. More resources may be found on the vendor website [www.mygroup.com](http://www.mygroup.com) using the username “USC” and password “guest.” You may also download the MYgroup app which is available at the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

For more details about our Employee Assistance Program, please visit this website [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/human\\_resources/benefits/wellbeing-and-support/eap/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/human_resources/benefits/wellbeing-and-support/eap/)

### **4) New Pharmacy Benefits Manager Effective January 1, 2026**

The South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) has announced that **CVS Caremark will replace Express Scripts as the pharmacy benefits manager for the State Health Plan, effective January 1, 2026.**

To ensure a smooth transition:

- **New prescription benefits ID cards** will be mailed to all subscribers, including Medicare-eligible members, prior to December 31, 2025.
- Once received, please present your new ID card at your network pharmacy to continue filling prescriptions without interruption.

To guarantee timely delivery of your new card, log in to [MyBenefits](#) and review/update your address on file with PEBA no later than Monday, September 15, 2025.

MyBenefits is located at this link

<https://mybenefits.sc.gov/mybenefits/authentication/checkBrowser.do>

For more details about the transition, please visit PEBA's dedicated webpage:

<https://www.peba.sc.gov/pbm>

## 5) Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for benefits is October 1 – 31, 2025.

Any changes you make during Open Enrollment take effect January 1, 2026. Life insurance changes are effective January 1, 2026, or when MetLife approves coverage, whichever is later.

Changes to Dental Plans may be made during this Open Enrollment.

If you are satisfied with your current coverage, you do not need to do anything during open enrollment. Your current insurance coverage will continue in 2026.

However, you must re-enroll in Medical Spending, Limited-use Medical Spending, and Dependent Care Spending accounts each year.

### Highlights for 2026

- Health insurance premiums will not increase for active employees nor funded retirees.
- Permanent, part-time teacher, partially funded retiree, non-funded retiree, COBRA subscriber, survivor and former spouse health insurance premiums will increase.
- Premiums for Dental Plus will increase.
- CVS Caremark will be the pharmacy benefits manager effective January 1, 2026.
- MoneyPlus flexible spending account administrative fees will reduce to \$1.10 per account per month.
- Health Savings Account participants will no longer pay a monthly administrative fee.

For additional information about open enrollment please view the [PEBA Open Enrollment webpage](#)

Please review the [2026 Insurance Summary](#)

# USC Lancaster Faculty Organization

## Campus Technology Update

### September 5, 2025

#### Highlights

- **Telephone Server Upgrade:** A reminder that USC Lancaster is scheduled to upgrade the campus telephone system server hardware and software starting at 5:00PM Friday, September 12, 2025. Voicemail messages and voicemail box information will not migrate to the new version of the server software and voicemail boxes will need to be set up once the software upgrade is complete. Individual Voice Mailbox setup instructions will be sent out via email by Monday, September 15, 2025. Those e-mails will also include reference information for the updated voicemail system. If you have messages stored in the system that need to be saved indefinitely, please let me know and I will facilitate getting those saved to a location where they can be accessed. More detailed information regarding the upgrade was sent out to the campus via e-mail on 8/29/2025.
- **Windows 10 End of Support:** End of support for the Windows 10 operating system is set for this Fall. Campus IT Staff is actively working to deploy Windows 11 installed computers to all faculty and staff with Windows 10.
- **Recent Equipment replacements:** Hubbard Hall 206 lab computers were replaced. Shared color laser printers and all campus computer lab printers were replaced.
- **Lancaster iCarolina Lab:** The Lancaster iCarolina Lab served 3,822 visitors during Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Starting this Fall semester, the iCarolina Lab Coordinator, Kaela Healey, is available to assist students who need help with Duo Multifactor enrollment, password resets and navigation of Blackboard Ultra. The iCarolina Lab is in Bradley Arts and Sciences room 102, and open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm.
- **USC Lancaster IT Support Services:** Non-emergency IT requests should be submitted via e-mail to [uscltech@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:uscltech@mailbox.sc.edu) or by visiting <https://scprod.service-now.com/sp> to submit a requests online using the ServiceNow support platform. Login using your credentials, then click **Service Catalog** at the top, then click on **College/School/Dept IT Services**. Under \*From whom are you seeking assistance, search and select **USC Lancaster**, fill in the request form below and click the **Submit** button. Both methods create a trackable support ticket this is visible to all members of the campus IT Staff.

# Institutional Effectiveness and Research Report

For the Sept 2025 Faculty Org Meeting

## State Agency Accountability Report

The State Agency Accountability Report is due by Sept 15. The goals for the upcoming year include many related to elevating the student experience.

Clarifications:

- Each measure must follow the SMART framework: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely.
  - Due to *achievability*, some of the target numbers are lower than our internal goals.
  - The *relevance* is connected to the PC strategic plan.
  - The *timeframe* is generally one fiscal year, but may be limited to the academic year or the fall semester.
- Target numbers are updated each year. Measures can be added or removed each year.
- All of the measures describe programs/activities that are robust and reliable. We expect each of these programs/activities to thrive indefinitely.
- There is a limit to how many measures we can describe each year. Some USCL programs are not currently represented. In this past year I grouped together some programs to make space for other programs. If you have a program that you believe should be reported on in the future, talk to me.

Following are some ways you can help us meet these goals.

- Students benefit from faculty expertise and scholarly activities. Expertise and scholarship are enhanced through the grant programs, like the RPS, as well as conference participation. In 2024 USCL faculty disseminated their scholarship through 44 publications, 140 presentations, and 44 creative works. They were awarded 41 grants in total and participated in 94 other scholarly activities such as peer-review of scholarly work and professional consultations. We appreciate your hard work!
- Students benefit from access to their faculty. This access is strengthened by limiting enrollments to a maximum of 40 students per class\* and maintaining a course load of (approx.) 24 contact hours per academic year\*\*.
  - \*The max enrollment per class is based on our actual enrollments, excluding PEDU classes. (Highest PEDU was 60.) The highest non-PEDU enrollment last year was 37. The high-enrolled classes tend to be ones taught at high schools, not ones taught on our campus.
  - \*\*The course load number describes the current USCL policy and not necessarily the practice. Some faculty have redefined teaching loads and others teach overloads.
- Students benefit from Student Services. These include Academic Advising, Early Alerts, Academic Coaching, Academic Success Center, Counseling Services, Student-Athlete Success, Student

Disability Resource Center, and Testing Services. Please include this information in your syllabi and encourage your students to make use of the services.

- We'd like to increase\*\*\* the number of students who are awarded associate's degrees. We'd also like to increase the number of students who graduate with leadership distinction (GLD), the number of OSP students who are awarded an associate degree, and the number of OSP students who graduate with academic honors. Encourage your students to check their graduation eligibility. \*\*\*I'm regretting using the word "increase". I meant increasing from our minimum target, not increasing without bound. There are set numerical targets for each of these goals. The numbers are based on trends in the data.

Measure	Target	Last year's number	Trend	Source of data	Timeframe
Number of associate degrees awarded	200 or more	233	Increasing over the past 5 years.  135-135-154-183-233	Carolina Analytics	Summer N, Fall N and Spring N+1.
Number of GLD	5 or more	8	Stable for the past couple of years, at around 8-9. Since this is a relatively new measure, the goal is set low.	Asheley Schryer	Summer N, Fall N and Spring N+1.
Number of OSP student graduating with associate's degrees	30 or more	34	Stable over the past 5 years, with a median of 37.	TRiO/OSP internal records	Academic year
Number of OSP students graduating with honors	18 or more	21	Stable over the past 5 years, with a median of 21.	TRiO/OSP internal records	Academic year

- We track and report all GLD and travel-study courses. We appreciate all faculty who offer those courses!
- Besides athletics, we currently have five venues that showcase student achievement: visual arts exhibitions (hosted by the art faculty), theater performances (Lancaster Players), Earth Day and Emergency Preparedness poster sessions (Geology/Geography), Celebration of Lancer Excellence (multi-disciplinary; hosted by Student Success and Retention), and the Lancaster participants at Discover USC. You can support these events by attending. Encourage students to participate in cocurricular or experiential learning activities that could lead to presenting at Celebration of Lancer Excellence and/or Discover USC.

- We'd like to increase the number of students participating in grant-funded undergraduate research. Faculty and students on our campus have successfully participated in both the PURE and Magellan programs.
- We track and report the number of student events on campus (like Welcome Week), as well as activities that support the community (like supplies drives). These are usually hosted by Student Life, TRiO and Medford Library. These activities support students' sense of belonging, help them meet other students, etc. Please promote these activities to students. If there are requests for volunteers, please consider volunteering.
- USCL has several opportunities that are open to the public, such as the NASC and professional visual and performing art events. These events are usually advertised at the end of faculty meetings and/or by email. Promoting these events helps the campus.
- At least 15 USCL groups have a faculty/staff-supervised social media presence. You can support/promote these accounts by liking, following, sharing, commenting, etc. The list is at the end of this report.
- USCL has four series that connect students with local professionals: Careers in Business, Careers in Science, the NASC Lunch-and-Learn, and the annual Career Fair. Promoting and supporting these events helps us meet the statewide education goal of workforce readiness.
- This past year, 24 students participated in internships through the USCL Internship Coordinator. Promoting the internship program also supports the goal of workforce readiness and expanding our students' workforce focused credentials.
- USCL offers public training opportunities through ed2go and the iCarolina labs to increase workforce credentials. Promoting these programs locally helps cement our role as an educational hub in Lancaster, even for those who aren't seeking degrees.

## Other Data

- USCL's student-to-faculty ratio increased to 20-to-1. This number is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Student FTE}}{\text{Faculty FTE}} = \frac{\text{Full time student headcount} + \frac{1}{3} * (\text{Part time student headcount})}{\text{Full time faculty headcount} + \frac{1}{3} * (\text{Part time faculty headcount})}$$

This number is publicized by the US Dept of Education and is used in promotional materials for USCL. The ratio is high (bad). For the State Agency report we chose to focus on the actual student experience (students per class) rather than the FTE-based ratio.

- Over the past three springs, the proportion of courses offered online has increased. In Spring 2025, 45% of courses were delivered fully online (compared to traditional or hybrid/blended), compared to 33% in Spring 2023.
- Over the past three springs, the proportion of online student enrollments has increased. In Spring 2025, 77% of dual enrollment student registrations were for online classes (rather than traditional or hybrid/blended), growing from 66% in Spring 2023. In Spring 2025, 48% of non-DE student registrations were for online classes, compared to 42% in Spring 2023.
- Overall success rates were roughly equal for both fully online classes and classes that had an in-person component.

## USCL Groups with Social Media Accounts

1. Academic Success Center. Main contact: Pat Lawrence.
  - X: @USCLASC.
2. Baseball. Main contact: Nick Calhoun.
  - Instagram: uscl\_baseball.
  - X: <https://x.com/usclbaseball1?lang=en>
3. Criminal Justice. Main contact: Deborah Rowell.
  - Instagram: Lancer CRJU.
  - Facebook: Lancer CRJU.
4. Lancaster Performance Series. Main contact: Connor Austell.
  - Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/usclancaster\\_music?igsh=eWttbnlhbDVwNmhs](https://www.instagram.com/usclancaster_music?igsh=eWttbnlhbDVwNmhs).
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/196abRp6Tr/>.
5. Medford Library. Main contacts: Rebecca Freeman and McKenzie Lemhouse.
  - Instagram: usclmedford.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=uscl%20medford%20library>.
6. Native American Studies Center. Main contact: Ashley Lowrimore.
  - Instagram: @nativeamericanstudies.
  - Facebook: @nativeamericanstudies.
  - X: @Usclnasc.
  - YouTube: @nativeamericanstudiescente6000.
  - LinkedIn: @nativeamericanstudiescenter.
  - BlueSky: @nativeamericanstudies.
7. Soccer. Main contact: Kenny Halas.
  - Instagram: uscl\_soccer.
  - X: @uscl\_soccer.
8. TRiO. Main contact: Mark Ammons.
  - Instagram: [instagram.com/uscltrioosp](https://www.instagram.com/uscltrioosp).
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/usclOSP/>.
9. TRiO Upward Bound. Main contact: Mark Ammons.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/USC-Lancaster-Upward-Bound-100042985371600/>.
10. USCL Main Page. Main contact: Shana Dry.
  - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/usclancaster/>.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USCLancaster>.
  - X: <https://x.com/USCLancaster>.
  - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@USCLancaster>.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/86670393/admin/dashboard/>.
11. USC Lancaster Players. Main contact: Tyrie Rowell.
  - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/usclancasterplayers/>.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/67792189576>.
  - X: @usclplayers.
12. USCL Athletics. Main contact: Nick Lawrence.
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=uscl%20athletics>.

13. USCL Chemistry Club. Main contacts: Bettie Obi-Johnson and Li Cai.

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/usclchemistryclub?igsh=MXRvZ3R1azkxaWpibw==>.
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267635610024132>.
- YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@objohns1?si=3mA699Ira4qdnfSx>.

14. USCL Research Club. Main contact: Liz Easley.

- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/uscl\\_research\\_club/](https://www.instagram.com/uscl_research_club/).
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/usclresearchclub/>.
- YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcmZHGH91aAc9LtA8\\_D3nfA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcmZHGH91aAc9LtA8_D3nfA?view_as=subscriber)

15. Volleyball. Main contact: Mike Van Lieu.

- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/usc.lancaster\\_volleyball/](https://www.instagram.com/usc.lancaster_volleyball/).
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1B4RePK2qz/>.
- YouTube: <youtube.com/@USCLVolleyball>



**Mark Ammons, Principal Investigator  
Lancaster Promise Neighborhood**

## **REPORT TO THE FACULTY ORGANIZATION Friday, September 5, 2025**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Lancaster Promise Neighborhood (LPN) encompasses a continuum of programs from early childhood to career readiness, catering to residents within the attendance boundaries of **Clinton Elementary School, A. R. Rucker Middle School, and Lancaster High School**. Situated in the most economically disadvantaged area of Lancaster County, LPN aims to address the needs of this community comprehensively.

USC Lancaster is LPN's HEI partner. Through our partnership, USCL serves LPN participants through a series of strategic initiatives designed to make higher education more accessible to this population. Our shared goal is to ensure that more participants from the LPN attendance zone not only enroll in college but persist and graduate with the tools they need to thrive.

### **COMPLETED INITIATIVES**

#### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Carolina Black College Expo***

- Juniors and seniors from Lancaster High School (LHS) attended this event at **Johnson C. Smith University** in Charlotte on March 20. **Eddie Boykin** served as lead facilitator.

#### ***Spring 2025 ACT / SAT Test Preparation Workshops***

- Spearheaded by **Dr. Dwayne Brown** and **Dr. Pat Lawrence**, a combined total of 59 area high school students participated in the four Spring 2025 sessions – which were held on March 22, March 29, April 5, and April 12.

#### ***Charlotte Hornets Basketball Game***

- 34 participants from LHS traveled to the Hornets game versus the Sacramento Kings at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte on April 4. **Eddie Boykin** served as lead facilitator.

### ***Lancer Family Fun Day***

- Lancer Family Fun Day was held at the **Lancaster County Community Center** on April 21. This dynamic recruitment initiative was designed to increase the enrollment of LHS students from disadvantaged backgrounds at USCL. The event provided an engaging, family-friendly atmosphere where prospective students and their families were able to connect with faculty, staff, and current USCL students. Participants learned about academic programs, financial aid opportunities, and support services available at USCL. Its goal was to empower and inspire students to pursue higher education and see USCL as their pathway to success. **Aubrey Stewart** and **Matt Williamson** served as lead facilitators.



### ***South Carolina College and Career Decision Day***

- This event was held on May 7 and served as an opportunity for more than 1,500 high school seniors from more than 30 high schools across the state to gather in celebration of their achievements. Organized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, the event applauded and recognized students who are taking charge of their futures by committing to college or university enrollment, beginning a vocational or training program, joining the military, or entering the workforce.
- 19 LPN seniors traveled to the South Carolina State House for this event. **Eddie Boykin** served as lead facilitator.

### ***Upward Bound College Signing Day & Awards***

- LPN participants in USCL's Upward Bound project were recognized during this event on May 9.
- **Lancaster County Partners for Youth** were very generous in providing funding for the awards banquet. I served as lead facilitator alongside **Eddie Boykin** and **Matt Williamson**.

### ***2025 Upward Bound Summer Experience***

- 22 LPN participants took part in this year's Summer Experience in partnership with Upward Bound. They received supplemental classroom instruction in the following: English with **Dr. Pat Lawrence** and **Charisse Witherspoon**; lab sciences with **Amy Hood** and **Dr. Bettie Johnson**; life skills with **Ashley Gadson**; math with **Dr. Jason Holt**; and Spanish with **Sandra Ovalles**.
- Experiential Fridays provided opportunities for college visits, community service, and educational field trips. This summer's Experiential Friday activities included the following: community service with the **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** (June 13) in Kershaw; **Museum of York County** (June 20 – see below) in Rock Hill; entrepreneurship at the **Founders FCU Headquarters** (June 27); Spanish cultural immersion at **La Chalupa** (July 11); team building at **Breakout Games** (July 18) in Pineville; and a tour of **UNC Charlotte** and the **UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens** (July 25). We concluded our summer activities with a visit to **Dave & Buster's** in Pineville on August 1.
- I served as lead facilitator alongside **Matt Williamson**.



### ***Arts & Sciences Adventure Camp***

- Under the direction of **Dr. Dwayne Brown**, the Arts & Sciences Adventure Camp was held in two sessions from June 9-26 and July 7-24. Middle school students participated in activities in applied mathematics, arts and sciences, and computer applications.
- 37 LPN participants attended Session I and 38 attended Session II.

### ***Early Start 2025 Summer Bridge Program***

- Nine LPN participants were enrolled in Early Start, which was held July 21 – August 8. These students were able to take PCAM 299 with **Dr. Scott Whaley** and UNIV 101 with **Andrea Campbell**.
- This three-week program concluded with the Early Start Celebration at **Frankie's of Charlotte** in Huntersville on August 8.

- **Andrea Campbell** and **Suzette Taylor** served as lead facilitators.

## **UPCOMING INITIATIVES**

### ***Fall 2025 ACT / SAT Test Preparation Workshops***

- These upcoming workshops are scheduled for October 18, October 25, November 1, and November 8. Each session will be held from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Arts & Sciences Building.
- Instruction will include an overview of content and test formats, practice drills, and test-taking strategies and tips.
- **Dr. Dwayne Brown** and **Dr. Pat Lawrence** will once again serve as lead facilitators.

### ***USCL Pathways to Possibilities***

- Higher education is an urgent imperative for economic potential. Modeled after the University of South Carolina's "University of Possibilities," this initiative seeks to strengthen Lancaster through boosting economic potential and education for underrepresented students residing in LPN's service area. Our purpose is to promote higher education as an accessible option and provide support for those interested in a USC education to ensure they not only know how to prepare, but graduates prepared for well-paying jobs in their chosen fields. Educational activities, engaging interactions, as well as helpful information and resources will be provided for each participant. We are targeting LPN participants in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at **A. R. Rucker Middle School** for a campus-wide event on a Friday in either late October or early November.
- **Matt Williamson** is serving as lead facilitator and will be reaching out to many of you to assist with this initiative.

# Medford Library Faculty Meeting Report

## September 5, 2025

### SERVICE STATISTICS AND PROGRAMS – Spring Review

- 10,011 unique visits
- 4,883 LibGuide views
- 467 Study and Lounge Area Reservations
- 26 Conference Room uses
- 12 Computer Lab uses
- 21 Community computer uses
- 8 Book a Librarian
- 3 Library Instruction Classes

### CIRCULATION STATISTICS – Spring Review

- 527 General collection items
- 9 Audio Visual collection items
- 3 Reserve items
- 7 Government Resource collection items
- 64 Graphic Novel collection items
- 91 Juvenile collection items
- 45 New Book collection items
- 53 Oversize collection items
- 22 On Display items
- 206 Special Collection items

### Summer and Beginning of Year Activities

- The library is celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Exhibits of the library's history will be on display throughout the fall semester.
- The library kickstarted our celebrations during Welcome Week. On August 27 we hosted about 150 students, faculty, and staff. Thank you to everyone who attended.
- The Fall 2025 Read-A-Thon started on August 25 and will run until October 8. This program is open to students, faculty, and staff. Read and be entered to win prizes.

- The Library Silent Book Club took place throughout the summer. Thank you to everyone who attended.
- The library patio space opened for use. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- The library is hosting a series of fandom talks throughout the fall semester. They will take place in the ASC Studio (and the new ASC studio space).
  - September 17 – Dr. Evan Nooe
  - September 30 – Dr. Dana Lawrence
  - October 14 – Dr. Nick Lawrence
  - October 28 – Dr. Sahar Aghasafari
  - November 11 – Dr. Connor Austell
- Freedom to Read (Banned Books Week) activities will be taking place October 5-11, 2025. The theme is “Censorship is So 1984. Read for Your Rights.”

## GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Instruction classes are available in person and virtually. Classes can be taught on campus, at the Indian Land location, and at the Native American Studies Center. [Request a library instruction class today.](#)
- Is there something that you would like the library to have? [Request materials](#)
- [Book a Librarian is available for you and your students.](#)

## PUBLISHED? LET US KNOW SO WE CAN BUY YOUR BOOK!

- [Request we purchase materials.](#)

## HELPFUL LINKS

- Place materials on [Reserve](#)
- Reserve the [library computer lab](#)
- [Reserve the library conference room](#)
- [Document the impact of your scholarly activities with these Tools for Tracking Tenure & Promotion.](#)
- [Check out resources for faculty and staff.](#)

Medford Library

# NEWSLETTER



## 50th Anniversary

The original library building was completed in 1974. This year we will be celebrating 51 years in this building and 22 years in the addition.

We kicked off this celebration with our Welcome Week events. We will be continuing our celebrations all semester long. Join us for our Fandom Talks, where faculty will present on different aspects of fandom. Talks are open to students, faculty, and staff. We hope to see you there!

### Schedule of Events

Location: ASC Studio  
Time: 12:15 - 1:00 pm

- September 17** - Dr. Evan Noe
- September 30** - Dr. Dana Lawrence
- October 14** - Dr. Nick Lawrence
- October 28** - Dr. Sahar Aghasafari
- November 11** - Dr. Connor Austell

### ■ New Resources

#### Access World News

Access to more than 12,000 news sources from around the world. Includes local news sources, Lancaster News, the State, and the Charlotte Observer.

#### Schlager Digital Library

Provides access to over 2,500 primary sources as well as encyclopedia reference books for U.S. and world history, ethnic and gender studies, American Government, and religious studies.



MEDFORD LIBRARY PRESENTS

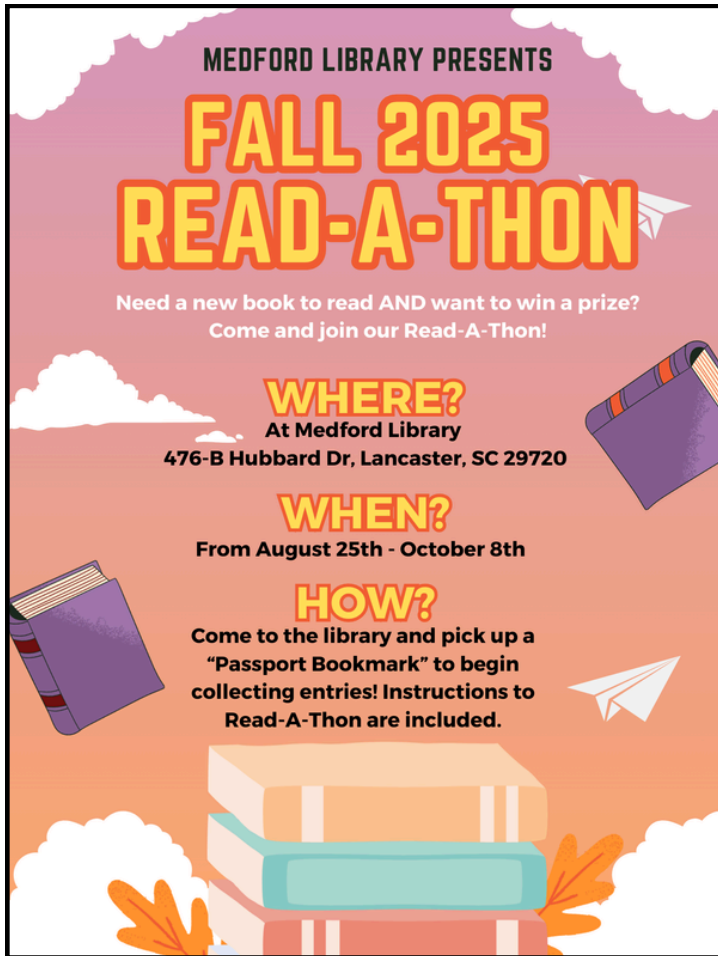
# FALL 2025 READ-A-THON

Need a new book to read AND want to win a prize?  
Come and join our Read-A-THON!

**WHERE?**  
At Medford Library  
476-B Hubbard Dr, Lancaster, SC 29720

**WHEN?**  
From August 25th - October 8th

**HOW?**  
Come to the library and pick up a  
"Passport Bookmark" to begin  
collecting entries! Instructions to  
Read-A-THON are included.



## LIBRARY PATIO

The Medford Library Patio is open for use! This is a great space to hangout between classes or to have your lunch. Thank you to everyone who made this space possible!



## Library of Things

Did you know that the library has a collection of materials that includes games and technology? Our Library of Things is available for use by students, faculty, and staff. They are also available if you would like to use them during classes or for department events.

Some items included are: board games, whiteboard signs, clickers, hammocks, and more!

### Library Instruction -

<https://usclancaster.libcal.com/appointments?lid=419&g=14607>

### Reserves -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedUHSP4B1lin9BFQUZwff3SJhaHI9vcFsvECnTaMTLYcKd2A/viewform>

### Book-a-Librarian -

<https://usclancaster.libcal.com/appointments?lid=419&g=2839>

### Request Materials -

<https://usclancaster.libguides.com/c.php?g=322991&p=2164202>



## REMINDERS



### In Memory of **MARY ANN MEDFORD CLAUD SANSBURY**

Medford Library lost a great benefactor. Mary Ann Medford Claud Sansbury passed away August 10, 2025. In addition to being an author, musician, and educator, she was a huge supporter of the library. She will be missed.



### ■ **Library Statistics for 2024/2025**

**Visitors** - 22,696

**Book-a-Librarian Appointments** - 21

**Classes Taught** - 14

**Study and Lounge Area Reservations** - 1,042

**Total Circulations** - 2,387

# Student Success and Retention

USCL Faculty Organization Report

September 5, 2025

## STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION AREAS

- Academic Success Center (*report provided by Pat Lawrence, Director of ASC*)
- Academic Advising
- Counseling Services
- Student Disability Resource Center
- Graduation with Leadership Distinction
- Student-Athlete Success Initiatives
- Study Travel

## IN THIS REPORT

- Early Alerts
- Academic Coaching
- Counseling Services
- Student-Athlete Success Programming
- Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)
- Leadership Distinction
- Travel Study

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## EARLY ALERTS

### ***General Early Alert Information***

We know the importance of connecting with students early and often (occurring within the first six weeks) are ideal. We are requesting that faculty [submit an early alert](#) for any student that is not attending class, missing assignments, or who would benefit from a contact by a student success staff person. If at any point you feel a student needs additional assistance, please follow the steps below.

To submit an alert, please complete [this form](#). If you have multiple alerts to submit, you can email Zoe Byrd at [zbyrd@email.sc.edu](mailto:zbyrd@email.sc.edu). In the email, please include the student's name, student ID, reason for alert, class name, and recommendation (contact professor, tutoring, withdraw from class, counseling, etc.).

If you are not sure whether to submit an alert, make sure that you have first attempted to contact the student yourself. If a professor and student have already connected and started to form a relationship, it can be more effective for the professor to share information and resources to help support the student. Additionally, the professor has the best understanding of a student's participation and standing in a course. Direct contact from the professor can be effective in avoiding miscommunication and in continuing to build professor-student relationship.

Please remember that Early Alerts are for academic concerns about a student. If you are concerned about the safety, health, or well-being for a student, please remember to submit a Care Team Referral instead. Information on Care Team Members, the referral process, and more can be found on [this webpage](#).

### ***Frequently Shared Information and Resources***

Below are information and resources frequently shared when contacting students for alerts. Faculty may use share this information and resources before submitting an alert.

- If a professor recommends a student withdraw from a course:

- Remind student of the withdrawal date or direct to the [Academic Calendar](#) for important withdrawal deadlines.
- Recommend student speaks with their academic advisor and Financial Aid. Withdrawing can have academic and financial impacts, so we always want to make sure students can make an informed decision when withdrawing.
- If a student is struggling with the course material or is scoring poorly on quizzes/tests
  - Direct them to contact their professor with questions, concerns, or issues
  - Direct them towards the [Academic Success Center](#)
    - The ASC offers in-person and virtual one-on-one appointments for specific subjects, as well as labs and studio drop-in hours. They also offer a general study strategies session.
- Additional resources/quick links that are helpful to students
  - [Counseling Services](#)
  - [Student Disability Resource Center](#)
  - [Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs](#)
  - [Academic & Student Affairs](#)
  - [USC Lancaster Information Technology](#)
    - [Columbia DoIT Help Desk](#)
      - [Blackboard Support](#)
  - [Bookstore](#)
  - [Community Services and Resources](#)
  - [Student Food Pantry](#)

### **Texting Students**

We know that it is crucial for students to regularly and frequently check their USCL email for important and time-sensitive information. We also know that students often do not check that email address or miss information. Sometimes a text message can be an effective way to get a student's attention in a timely manner when they are missing assignments or an important deadline is approaching. We generally do not recommend using or sharing your personal phone number with students. Instead, you can set up a free Google Voice phone number to use for texting students. See [this article](#) by Google on how to set up Google Voice.

Keep in mind that FERPA laws also apply to text messages, so confidential information should not be shared via text and should only be shared via USC email or directly with the student. The text message wording must be generalized. Examples: "Hi John, this is Zoe from USC Lancaster, please check your USCL email for time-sensitive information regarding a course" or "Hi Jane, this is Professor Byrd, please check your USCL email before Friday at 5PM."

Early Alert Data provided at the end of the report.

*\*Information provided by Zoe Byrd, Academic Advisor for Arts and Business, Early Alert Coordinator*

### **ACADEMIC COACHING**

- After Spring 2025, 96 students have GPA less than 2.0
- Of those 96, 13 decided to take summer classes. 4 brought GPA up above 2.0 after summer classes
- Of those same 96, 46 have not enrolled for fall 2025 as of 8-22-2025
- Of the returning 46 students, 33 have already completed one coaching session
- The 13 enrolled but have not attended coaching will be contacted by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to attend a coaching session before Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

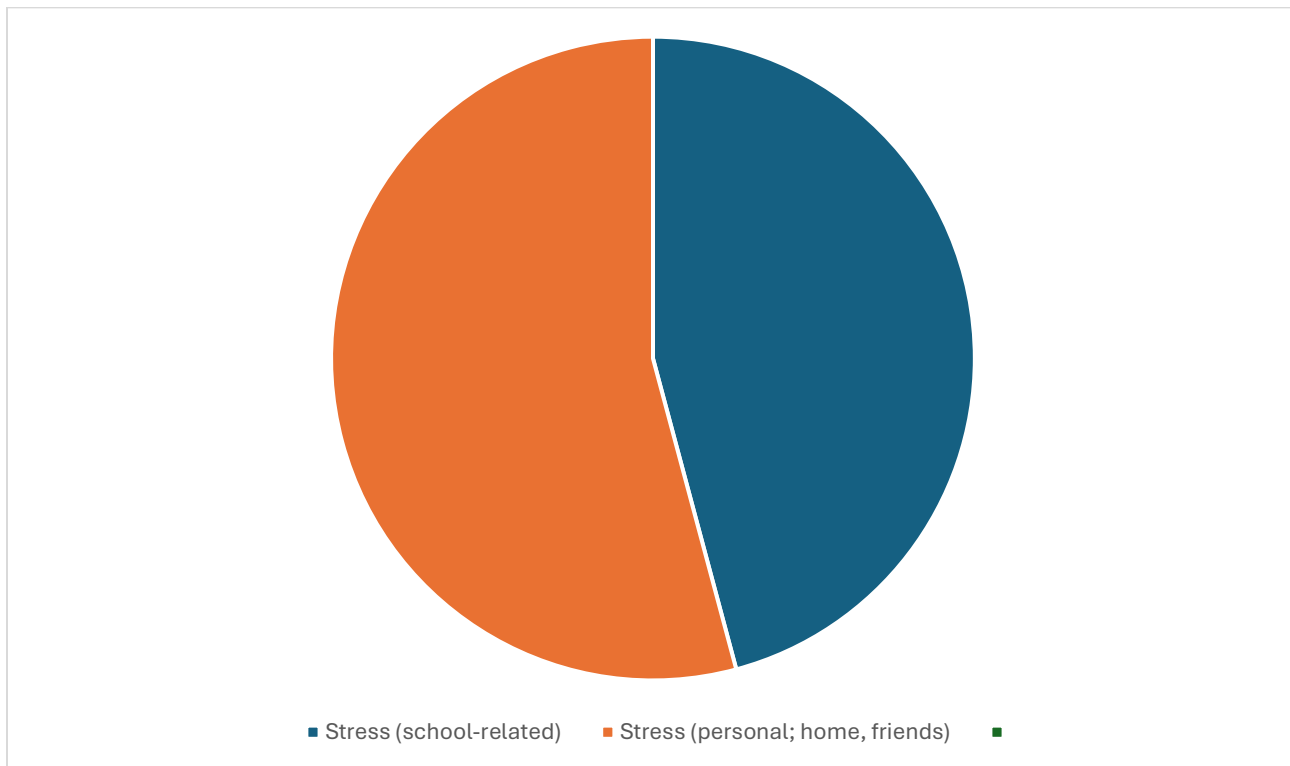
*\*Information provided by Danelle Faulkenberry, Academic Advisor for Science and Criminal Justice, Academic Coaching Coordinator*

## COUNSELING

Monthly Status Report (April-August 2025)

FORMAT	
In-person	13
Tele-health	8
Phone	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

TYPE	
Drop-in	0
Scheduled	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>



The Spring semester concluded with many students seeking counseling to manage stress and anxiety. To continue addressing our students' particular needs on campus, the Mental Health and Wellness Club was established. Multiple events are scheduled throughout the Fall semester to promote mental well-being and provide continued support and resources for students.

### **Fall Upcoming Events:**

*All events from 12-1pm*

September 16th: Transitioning from High School to College

September 30th: Game Day Fun!

October 14th: Coping with Stress: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

October 21st: Therapy Dogs & You

November 18th: Protecting my Peace (Social media, Screen time, and Social circles)

### **Group Therapy Sessions:**

Students looking for community? And to talk about some of the stressors they are experiencing? JOIN US!

Pre-Nursing: September 17th & October 16th, 12 - 1pm

Nursing: September 15th & October 13th, 12 - 1 pm

International Students: September 25th, October 23rd, November 13th 12 - 1 pm

## STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS PROGRAMMING

On August 18<sup>th</sup> we held the Student-Athlete Orientation in Bradley Building with 126 student-athletes in attendance. Dean Catledge, David Roberts, Nick Calhoun and Sherene Brantley (Sr. Associate Athletic Director/SWA- Duquesne University) presented to our student-athletes. Expectations, resources on campus and requirements to advance athletically and academically were all discussed.

As fall sports are underway, all professors have been contacted if they have a student-athlete in their class.

- Student-athletes are encouraged and reminded to reach out to their professors regarding any missed classes due to travel/games.
- Student-athletes are encouraged to share their game schedules with their professors.
- If any professor is having trouble with a student-athlete, please reach out as soon as possible so we can stay ahead of any issues that arise.

If any faculty/staff member has any questions regarding a student-athlete, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Calhoun, [ncalhoun2@sc.edu](mailto:ncalhoun2@sc.edu)

*\*Information provided by Natalie Calhoun, Student-Athlete Success Coordinator*

## STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

### Registering for Accommodations:

- If a student requires accommodations, they submit their documentation using this online form: <https://sawebdev.wufoo.com/forms/uofsc-lancaster-palmetto-college/>.

### Distribution of Accommodations:

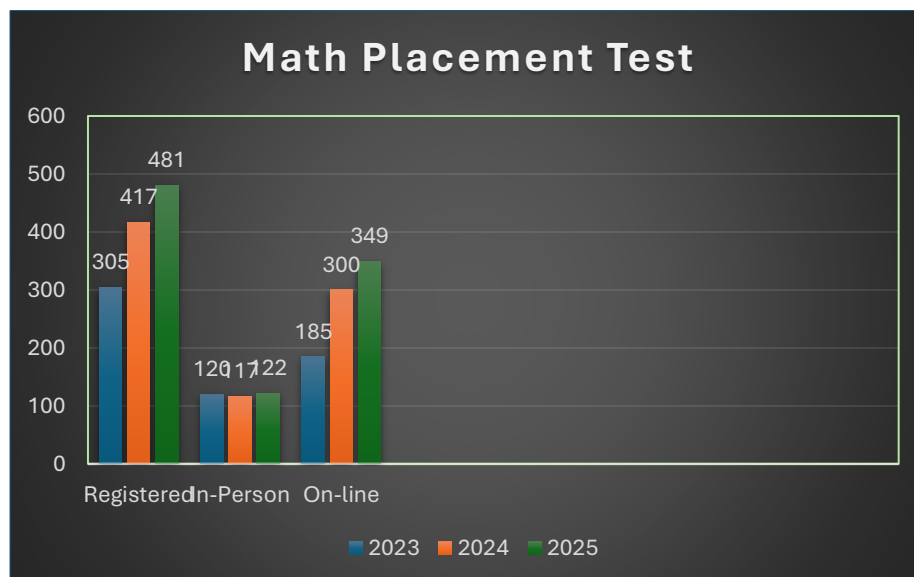
- Accommodations for all students registered with Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) have been distributed at this time. You may receive more notifications of accommodations as new students register with the SDRC.

### Disability Awareness Week:

- October 20-22, 2025
- Focus this year will be on adaptive sports

### Math Placement Test:

- 481 students registered to take the Math Placement Test. This has increased in the last two years. Most students take the test on-line.



*\*Information provided by Amy Hood, Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) Coordinator*

## **LEADERSHIP DISTINCTION**

- Dr. Easley and Asheley Schryer will facilitate a GLD application workshop aimed at students interested in being recognized for their research, on- or off-campus job, or any other integrative leadership experiences. Students will find an immersive and hands-on workshop to help them submit a GLD application!  
September 26, 2025  
Founders Hall 133 @ 11:00 AM  
Please encourage your students to attend!
- Want to schedule a presentation for your student organization or class? Contact Liz Easley ([EASLEYEA@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:EASLEYEA@mailbox.sc.edu)) or Asheley Schryer ([schryer@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:schryer@mailbox.sc.edu)).

*\*Graduation with Leadership Distinction is a program through the Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning (CIEL) at Columbia, formerly USC Connect. Asheley Schryer and Dr. Liz Easley are the CIEL Fellows for the Lancaster campus.*

## **TRAVEL STUDY**

University of South Carolina Lancaster, in partnership with the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, will travel to England, Scotland, and Wales in May of 2026. An information session will be held mid-September.



**Matt Williamson**  
**Director and Principal Investigator**  
**Office of Federal TRiO Programs**

## **REPORT TO THE FACULTY ORGANIZATION**

### **Friday, September 5, 2025**

#### **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

##### ***Funding Status***

- Our five-year grant for the OSP project was scheduled to end on August 31. We received a one-month extension from the U. S. Department of Education through September 30, 2025. We expect to receive the Grant Award Notification (GAN) for the first year of a new five-year grant cycle in the coming days. We scored 120 out of a possible 128 points on our FY25 grant application package. The minimum score to receive funding was 113.33.

##### ***Enrollment Update***

- At present, we are officially serving 139 out of the 165 students we are required to serve prior to the end of the grant cycle.

##### ***Spring 2025 Honor Roll***

- Congratulations to the following OSP students who made the President's List last semester: **Katie Boles; Alaya Cook; James Cook; Tess Cuddy; Jasper Gerona; Eileen Hernandez-Romero; Isabella Lee; Lily Loyet; Alyssa Lynch; Sam Macy; Ikierra Moore; Pete Roth; Arantxa Savinon Soto; Erika Vancampenhoudt; and Peyton Wunderley.**
- Congratulations to the following OSP students who made the Dean's List last semester: **Ebony Brown; Christopher Cole; Itzel Carrillo-Gomez; Joaquin Espinoza; Steven Faircloth; Fontana Faulkenberry; Gwen He; Vic Hibbs; Breanna Jones; Melodee Jones; Joie Platt; Matt Robles Jimenez; Haileigh Skinner; Logan Tacker; Rushaunda Truesdale; Amelia Watts; Makenze White; Alice Yang; and Braden Zerr.**
- Congratulations to the following "Legacy" OSP students who made either the Dean's List or President's List as part of either the College of Nursing or Palmetto College last semester: **Luke Beja; Kaylie Bratton; Miranda Deese; Jocelyn Furlos Beristain; Ethan Janketic; Ashley Lozano; Rebecca Miller; and Alex Nims.**

### **Early Start 2025**

- Another successful Early Start took place on July 21 – August 8. We served a total of 29 new OSP students, including nine through our partnership with **Lancaster Promise Neighborhood (LPN)**. This summer bridge program is coordinated by **Andrea Campbell** who also teaches the UNIV 101 (Fall I course) which is associated with this program. **Dr. Scott Whaley** taught PCAM 299, and **Suzette Taylor** served as the Early Start Consultant via LPN.



### **OSP Superlatives**

- Congratulations to the following OSP students on their selection as officers in the Student Government Association (SGA) for 2025-26: **Erika Vancampenhoudt** – President; **Alicey Yang** – Vice President; and **Peyton Wunderley** – Secretary.
- They will be hosting a “Meet the SGA” event outside of Founders Hall on Tuesday, September 16 from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

### **Careers in Science Lecture Series**

- The first Careers in Science Lecture of the Fall 2025 semester will be held in the TRiO Learning Resource Center on Tuesday, September 23 at 12:15 p.m.
- Future lectures will be held on October 14, October 29, and November 19.

### **Constitution Day Quiz Challenge**

- Our annual Constitution Day Quiz Challenge will be held on Wednesday, September 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students may come to the TRiO LRC during this time to take a brief quiz on the U. S. Constitution for an opportunity to win prizes.
- Food trucks from Pelican’s SnoBalls and Wilbur’s Last Ride will be on campus for all to enjoy.
- Our own **Antonio Mackey** will be providing music during the event.



***Disability Awareness Week***

- Disability Awareness Week activities will be held on October 20-22.

**UPWARD BOUND**

***Enrollment Update***

- We are in the fourth year of our current grant cycle. The reporting period for the current year will close on May 31, 2026. At present, we are officially serving 56 participants from grades 9-12 at Andrew Jackson, Buford, and Lancaster High Schools. We are required to serve a minimum of 62 participants each year.

***2025 Upward Bound Internship Academy***

- This year’s Internship Academy was held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from June 3 through August 7.
- Our presenters this summer included the following (see table below).

DATE	PRESENTER(S)	INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	FIELD OR TOPIC
6/03/25	<b>Bridgett Plexico</b>	USC Lancaster	Careers and Internships
6/10/25	<b>Dr. Courtney Catledge</b>	USC Lancaster	Determining Your Path in Life
6/12/25	<b>Savannah Crosby and College Advisers</b>	Arras College Advising Corps	College Advisement and Engagement

6/17/25	<b>Sgt. Donnie Sims and Erin Tindal</b>	Lancaster PD	Law Enforcement
6/19/25	<b>Andrea Campbell</b>	USC Lancaster	Academic and Career Planning
6/24/25	<b>Andrea Campbell</b>	USC Lancaster	Academic and Career Planning
6/26/25	<b>Brad Small and Carter Nunnery</b>	Founders FCU	Financial Services and Personal Investments
7/01/25	<b>Stephany Snowden</b>	Lancaster County Government	Public Administration
7/08/25	<b>Brandon Newton</b>	South Carolina House of Representatives	Government and Public Policy
7/10/25	<b>Taylor Platt</b>	Counseling Services of Lancaster	Intervention and Prevention
7/15/25	<b>Dan Louba, Natoya Reid, and Ja'Miah Smith</b>	Skyla Credit Union	Accounting and Personal Finance
7/17/25	<b>Marybeth Berry and Tyrie Rowell</b>	USC Lancaster	Performing Arts and Theater
7/22/25	<b>Dominique Waller</b>	USC Lancaster	Dual Enrollment
7/24/25	<b>Dr. Norris Williams</b>	Lancaster County School District	Public Education
7/29/25	<b>Randy Newman and Armani Reid</b>	Sixth Circuit Solicitor's Office	Criminal Justice
7/31/25	<b>Breana Jones and Kasie Smith</b>	USC Lancaster	College Admissions and Enrollment
8/07/25	<b>Erica Hendrix</b>	KARE	Community Service and Non-Profits

- The photo below is from Dr. Catledge's presentation on June 10.



### ***2025 Upward Bound Summer Experience***

- We served 29 local high school students during this year's Summer Experience, which was held on June 9 through July 18. Our Experiential Friday activities continued through August 1.
- Each participant received supplemental classroom instruction in the following: English with **Dr. Pat Lawrence** and **Charisse Witherspoon**; lab sciences with **Amy Hood** and **Dr. Bettie Johnson**; life skills with **Ashley Gadson**; math with **Dr. Jason Holt**; and Spanish with **Sandra Ovalles**.
- Experiential Fridays provided opportunities for college visits, community service, and educational field trips. This summer's Experiential Friday activities included the following: community service with the **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** (June 13) in Kershaw; **Museum of York County** (June 20 – see below) in Rock Hill; entrepreneurship at the **Founders FCU Headquarters** (June 27); Spanish cultural immersion at **La Chalupa** (July 11); team building at **Breakout Games** (July 18 – see below) in Pineville; and a tour of **UNC Charlotte** and the **UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens** (July 25). We concluded our summer activities with a visit to **Dave & Buster's** in Pineville on August 1.



### ***College Spirit Week at South Middle School***

- In our continuing recruitment efforts targeted at 8<sup>th</sup> graders, our Upward Bound project will have a presence at South Middle School during their College Spirit Week event on Friday, September 12.

### ***Upcoming Activities and Events***

- **Parent and Participant Orientation Sessions** will be held in mid-September
- **Welcome Back Session** for returning participants later this month
- **Early College Application Workshop** tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 2

- Senior participants will be strongly encouraged to register for the **ACT / SAT Test Preparation Workshops** on October 18, October 25, November 1, and November 8.

## **STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### ***D.E.F.I.N.E.***

- D.E.F.I.N.E. exists to provide academic support, mentoring, and other higher educational opportunities for those who support female students enrolled at USCL. Its goal is to enhance academic achievement, improve retention, and promote unity for those working towards their college degree.
- D.E.F.I.N.E. will hold its initial meeting of the Fall 2025 semester on Monday, September 8.

### ***G.E.N.T.S.***

- The purpose of this organization to provide academic support, mentoring, and other higher educational opportunities for those who support male students enrolled here at USCL. The group's goal is to enhance academic achievement, improve retention, and promote unity for those pursuing their college degree.
- The G.E.N.T.S. group will have its initial meeting of the Fall 2025 semester on Wednesday, September 10.

### ***USCL Research Club***

- We will host the Research Club's first meeting on Tuesday, September 9. **Dr. Janet Obi** – sister of our own **Dr. Bettie Johnson** – will present “Why Musicology Matters: Listening to Dutillex” in the TRiO LRC at 12:15 p.m.
- We are also scheduled to host “Structuring Science Through Story: Visual and Animated Narratives of Protein Folding in Undergraduate STEAM Research” on October 27 and “Epistemic Trespassing: The Importance of Intellectual Modesty in an Age of Expertise” with **Dr. Peter Seipel** on November 11.

### ***USCL Rotaract Club***

- Rotaract is a worldwide service organization affiliated with Rotary International and is open to all USCL students who are interested in community service and professional development.
- The USCL Rotaract Club will hold its initial meeting of the semester on Tuesday, September 16. The meeting will be held at 12:20 p.m. in the TRiO LRC.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***USCL Cares Back-to-School Campaign***

- We kicked off the USCL Cares Back-to-School Campaign with the **Service Thursday Kickoff Event** on August 19.
- Through this initiative, we are collecting school supplies for children at **A. R. Rucker Middle School, Brooklyn Springs Elementary School, Clinton Elementary School, and Southside Early Childhood Center.**

- Donations may be brought to the TRiO LRC. The last day to donate items will be Friday, September 19 (see below).



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### ***Congressional Appropriations***

- Congress returned from its summer recess to resume work on September 3. At the top of their list is taking steps to ensure that federal funding continues past the end of the current fiscal year, which is September 30. To that end, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee released a draft of its FY26 bill (which will fund the FY 2026-27 program year). According to information obtained by the **Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)**, this bill proposes to maintain level funding for Federal TRiO Programs at \$1.2 billion.

### ***Supporting Federal TRiO Programs***

- Members of Congress need to hear from you, their constituents, so they understand what is happening locally and its immediate, very real impact on the lives of the students we serve.
- Your advocacy for TRiO can make a difference. If anyone is interested in learning how you may support bipartisan funding efforts to assist our TRiO grant projects at the USC Lancaster campus, please contact **Mark Ammons** at [rmammons@email.sc.edu](mailto:rmammons@email.sc.edu) or **Matt Williamson** at [mwilliam@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:mwilliam@mailbox.sc.edu).

### ***Direct Financial Support***

- Anyone interested in supporting TRiO initiatives here at USCL may contribute to our designated fund through the **Educational Foundation of the University of South Carolina Lancaster**. Financial donations may be made via the QR code on the slide listed below.

**SUPPORT USC LANCASTER'S OFFICE OF FEDERAL TRiO PROGRAMS**



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**TRiO**

U S C L A N C A S T E R

*#LancerNation*

*#TRiOWorks*

**FROM:** Tracey Mobley Chavous, Coordinator,  
UNIV 101 Programs and First Year Experience

**MEETING:** Faculty Organization Meeting – September 5, 2025

**DATE:** September 3, 2025

**ATTACHMENTS:** zero (0)

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1) UNIV 101 – Fall 2025**

Four sections of UNIV 101 are being offered during Fall 2025 on the Lancaster campus. To accommodate students' schedules, the sections meet at different days and times. Enrollment caps were temporarily increased to accommodate an influx of students, particularly student-athletes and international students.

**UNIV 101 Course Sections – Fall 2025**

<b>Days &amp; Time</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Instructor</b>
Monday & Wednesday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	21 students	Jeff Rammage
Monday & Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	22 students	Asheley Schryer
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	25 students	Nicholas Calhoun
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	26 students	Tracey Mobley Chavous

**Enrollment Cap Update:**

The enrollment cap for Spring 2026 and subsequent semesters will return to eighteen (18) students. This adjustment ensures best practices and that course objectives are fully met.

**Summer 2025: *UNIV 101 – Early Start***

Ahead of the fall semester, 29 dedicated students participated in *UNIV 101 – Early Start*, instructed by **Andrea Campbell**. Students began their college coursework in the summer, and their final grades will be included with Fall 2025 courses. This early-start initiative gave participants a valuable head start, easing their transition into college and building confidence for the semester ahead.

## 2) First Year Experience (FYE)

### Conference Takeaways

Attending the 2024 UNIV 101 First-Year Experience Conference solidified the importance of providing students with a structured and directed first-year experience. My goal is to extend UNIV 101 beyond a single course, creating opportunities for students to engage in campus organizations and activities both on and off campus.

I would like to thank **Jeff Rammage, Asheley Schryer, and Bridget Plexico** for their expertise in student life, student retention, and student involvement. I also appreciate **Dr. Walt Collins** and **Dr. Todd Lekan** for their support of this initiative in former roles. Special recognition goes to **Dr. Courtney Catledge** and **Dr. David Roberts** for their continued support and active engagement in ensuring the initiative's success.

### Implementation of the First-Year Experience

The initial implementation of the First-Year Experience (FYE) began in **Summer 2025** and continued into **Fall 2025**.

#### **Summer 2025: *Lancer Enhance***

As the finale to New Lancer Orientation, students attended **Lancer Enhance**, a special orientation session designed to promote enhanced student engagement. Participation was limited to new students and selected current students, the Director of Student Life (**Jeff Rammage**), and the Student Life Coordinator (**Jose Guruceaga Burgos**). Students left the session feeling joyful, encouraged, and excited about the upcoming semester.

#### **Fall 2025: *My Lancer Experience***

During Fall 2025, students are actively participating in **My Lancer Experience**, a program encouraging them to “**Stay Engaged. Get Rewarded.**” Students earn points by:

- Attending campus events
- Participating in high-impact experiences such as:
  - Research opportunities
  - Internships
  - Leadership programs
  - Study abroad experiences

Top point-earning **first-year students** will receive a scholarship, and **continuing students** will receive an iPad. Winners will be announced at **Spring Fling**.

### Looking Ahead

I am excited to see the First-Year Experience continue to grow and take shape, providing our students with meaningful opportunities to engage, excel, and thrive during their first year at **USCL**.

## **USC FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

**Report from the President:** attending a commencement, not present.

**Report from the Provost:** Despite challenges to higher education right now, there is much to celebrate with respect to rankings: top 10 nationally with faculty-led living-learning communities (with a new one started for our first-generation center); top graduate schools in S; #1 international MBA; more rising rankings in multiple programs. Strong applications for FA25 (60k+, 8300 deposits for fall semester freshmen – though probably melt to 7700).

Status update: new titles for professional track faculty has been going through all the processes for approvals and planning. 18-unit criteria have been submitted, 3 approved by UCTPF committee (see website). 12 have returned to unit for revision, 2 being reviewed, 1 new submission. So, ongoing work.

Question: timing for being able to transition to new rank titles?

Answer: may start the process as soon as it is approved for your unit.

**Test optional admission policy report:** has been in motion for years, yet COVID-19 sped that up. It's been refined since. When students apply, they select test optional or test. Admissions office has a statistically-validated admissions index that predicts first year academic success. In addition to HS GPA, index incorporates HS grades in key academic subjects that have been shown to be best predictors (English, Math, Science). All this aligns with schools' policies around the country. Holistic review done as well. If scores are provided, they look at them too. Statistics examined: cohorts 2021,22,23. More in-state students submit test scores because of Palmetto scholarships, which require them. Average 1<sup>st</sup>-year GPA of test-optional students is a little lower than those who submitted tests, yet

actual GPAs are up across categories. Same results for retention rates and number of credit hours earned.

Question: do test-optional students fall under lower socio-economic class?

Answer: haven't looked at it, but probably should.

### **Greetings from Megan Colascione, President of USC Staff Senate:**

Established in 2021, 52 elected staff senators representing 5300+ staff across system, including Palmetto College. Advisory group to the president. Main goal is retention, to be employer of choice, and to recognize staff for their efforts. Encouraging open communication, solutions, promote positive campus climate, service opportunities. They have 8 working committees similar to those for Faculty Senate. Hired a staff ombudsperson to represent staff through difficult employment issues.

### **Reports of Faculty Standing Committees**

- Committee on Curricula and Courses – please see link below for all proposals. 52 items. Preliminary version of new form to put proposals into the system will be used this summer to get feedback. Should go live in fall. Goal is to make the process more efficient.

Question: proposed changes seem to be a sign of the time because they are unusual. Course descriptions were updated to avoid the words diversity, equity, and inclusion. Hope that this was done for legitimate reasons.

Answer: course titles or bulletin description – yes, those are re-written probably to try not to attract undue political attention. This committee only deals with educational appropriateness of the course proposals and not judging.

Question: From whom in the process was this initiated?

Answer: not the committee, assumed it was decision in the units.  
Report approved.

- Instructional Development (InDev) Committee:

1. Policy developed for courses not offered by an academic unit (like UNIV courses): Recommendation is to require a MOU that requires a cooperating academic unit that incorporates oversight of instructor selection, faculty appointments, and course content.

2. Update on new student surveys Explorance Blue: FA25 transition. Benefits are ability to use in the Enterprise system, promotion of student survey week where there is a push for student participation. The product can also be adjusted, revised. Units and faculty can add questions (like if a program needs an answer for accreditation). Faculty can observe numbers of students who are responding that week to encourage better participation.

Development of the surveys grounded in the scholarship of teaching and learning and aligned with USC priorities. Long careful process with lots of feedback. 9 core questions, then units/departments can add 3 and faculty can add 2 from a question bank. Concerns over specific questions that could introduce bias, etc.

Question: two questions (rate course, rate professor) are not based in research on teaching effectiveness. We know they are not InDev committee recommended questions (#6, #9). Concern about use in T&P decisions, about bias against pregnant faculty (new Chronicle study).

Answer: believes there will be a reevaluation of these two questions as they get data. The unit or college can decide what questions they may use in faculty evaluation – the faculty manual doesn't specify specific questions or numbers of questions.

## **Report of the Chair**

Outgoing chair reviews his term and work of the committees. Expressed concern over attacks on higher education which have escalated. Placating outside forces is not the solution. Calls on faculty to decide what we have to defend and how to defend it to maintain mission of the institution.

## **Unfinished Business**

UNIV 202 and 303 proposals: C&C first needs a vote whether to accept or not in current version (prior to MOU requirement). Motion passes, those 2 courses are approved as is.

## **New Business**

- Slate to fill committee vacancies: Athletics (Connor Harrison), UCTP (Charles Bennett). These help complete vacancies.

## **Good of the Order**

- Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Wednesday, September 10 (*time TBD*)
- Steering committee recommends an ad hoc committee to investigate impact of federal funding halts.

The documents used in the meeting are on the official site for [Faculty Senate Meetings](#).

Report for FO Meeting  
PCCFS Executive Committee

The Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on Friday, August 29, 2025. Key discussion points are summarized below. I am happy to elaborate or answer any questions during the September FO meeting.

1. Updates from the Associate Provost – Walt Collins, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs & Associate Provost
  - Faculty Welfare Report with outcomes expected after Labor Day weekend.
  - Dr. Elkins will continue her work to support leadership onboarding during her sabbatical year.
  - Palmetto College enrollment was 8,370 students for Fall and Fall II courses.
  - Dr. Craig Wilson begins as Chancellor on September 8.
2. Updates on USC Policies – Steve Lownes, Faculty Senate Chair
  - Two new policies under review with the Office of the Provost:
    - o PCACAF 1.80 – Faculty Workplace Incivility
    - o PCACAF 1.82 – Faculty Progressive Discipline
  - These policies designed to address faculty conduct not consistent with the Faculty Manual policies and incivility concerns/resolutions.
3. Changes to the Faculty Manual – Lisa Hammond, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
  - Of the five revisions sent for approval, two were approved and three were not approved.
  - The approved revisions included minor language updates but were held over until the remaining three revisions are addressed.
  - The memo from the Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost) was discussed during the meeting and detailed changes will be sent to the Office of the Provost.
4. Standing Committee Charges for 2025-2026 were discussed and recommendations will be made to each committee during the PCCFS meeting on September 19.
5. Announcements – USC Union will host the Faculty Fall Social on Friday, October 24, 2025. This year's social will include a poster session. More details to follow by email.