

**USC Lancaster Faculty Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2023**

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Faculty Meeting Minutes

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**USC Lancaster Faculty Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: 12:30 PM D. Lawrence

CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September Faculty Organization meeting were approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Dean of the Campus – Dr. Walter Collins, report submitted (Appendix 1).

- Page 1: Enrollment is at an historic high and up in both traditional on-campus and dual credit students. Faculty search is continuing for Instructor of Business and searches are beginning for Assistant Professor of History/African American

Studies and Assistant Professor of Library/Director of Archives. Please support our sports as soccer and volleyball seasons are underway. The annual Richard Gannaway Scholarship Luncheon has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 1 at noon. Please RSVP by October 16. We received notification of the award of federal earmark funding of \$110,000 from the Department of Health Resources and Services Administration for a piece of equipment for the nursing lab. Like our sibling Palmetto College campuses, we will soon be contracting with third party vendor Ed2go to supplement faculty and staff-offered nonacademic credit professional and continuing education options for individuals, businesses, and industry partners. This will allow USCL to expand its reach into the community and drive more views to our website.

Question: will USCL be able to be selective about what will appear on the Ed2go list of offerings?

Answer: Yes.

Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs – Dr. Todd Lekan, report submitted (Appendix 2).

- Page 1: Please RSVP to the Scholarship luncheon and thanks to the scholarship committee for putting it together. A reminder that if you need to cancel a class, tell your division chair and Pam Ellis. The Student Care and Outreach Team can help address student concerns as they arise (students displaying distress, behaviors of self-harm or harm to others, etc.); file a care team report as the team may have a more comprehensive understanding of the student from other sources.
- Page 2: CCSE survey results are in. David Hunter is working with PC deans to review and process the data. Locally, it will then go to the Student Affairs Committee to review the results and share with the campus by November or December; Oct 23 is the Fall 2 start date and spring and summer '24 registration. Don't hesitate to use Early Alerts to address academic concerns. Call for RISE grants just came out; please notify Todd Lekan by 12/1 if you intend to apply.
- Page 3: Faculty accomplishments: Sahar Aghasafari had two presentations; Connor Austell will be writing concert reviews for the *Lancaster News*; Mary Beth Berry will be performing as one of the leads in *Quilters*, the musical at the Arts Center for Kershaw County; HR director Tracey Mobley Chavous was invited by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition to serve on the proposal review committee for its conference; Erin Moon-Kelly is active in the performance community, Evan Nooe's new book *Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South* has come out and has won a prize from the

University of Alabama Press for best southern history book. He will also be joining the editorial board for the International Journal of Disney Studies.

- There is a roundtable about AI and academics with professors Lekan, Penuel, Swails, and Parker, at noon on 10/9 In the ASC. *The Outsiders* will be the first play in the newly renovated Stephens Auditorium.

Academic Success Center – P. Lawrence, report submitted (Appendix 3).

- Please come to the aforementioned AI roundtable and please see the written report for ASC use data.

Human Resources – T. Mobley-Chavous, report submitted (Appendix 4).

- Open Enrollment in October – submit your changes through My Benefits.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

USC SYSTEM COMMITTEES:

Columbia Faculty Senate – A. Gerald, report submitted (Appendix 5).

- Please see report for items of interest to our campus, one of which is the system's plan to phase out other learning management systems to work with one system (Blackboard) through the remainder of the contract. There will be a committee to examine how to move forward with LMSs in the future.

Palmetto College Rights and Responsibilities Committee – R. Freeman, presenter.

- See the PC Senate website for motions up for discussion.

Palmetto College System Affairs Committee – J. Yarosh, presenter.

- The committee is looking at grievance protocols beyond our campus as well as approving a PCAM class in success in college for nursing students.

Palmetto College Welfare Committee – S. Aghasafari, presenter.

- Please attend the Tenure and Promotion workshop following this meeting.

Palmetto College DEI Council – D. Lawrence, presenter.

- PC DEI counsel met and is discussing a name change as a preemptive move requested by administration in Columbia, which has already changed its Office of DEI to the Office of Access and Opportunity. The VP of DEI title has also changed to VP of Access, Civil Rights and Community Engagement.
- PC needs to have its own name rather than that same name as that of the Columbia campus. It is considering Access, Opportunity and Engagement

Committee because it echoes PC's Mission Statement language. The committee is soliciting feedback. Email Dana Lawrence with comments and suggestions.

- Question: what is the purpose of the name change?
- Answer: a preemptive response to anticipated legislative moves. There has been funding threats made where the legislature wants to know about anything related to DEI. The idea is to tie titles of offices and positions to federal laws to limit the power of the SC legislature to police the funding. There has been discussion about the name changes being meaningless and also not communicating our DEI goals.

LOCAL COMMITTEES:

Athletics Advisory Committee Report – B. Obi Johnson, report submitted (Appendix 6).

- Committee Members this year are Nick Calhoun (Athletics), Evan Nooe (Humanities), John Rutledge (BBCEL), Mat Williamson (TriO), Noah Robinson (student rep), Walt Collins (Campus Dean), Bettie Obi Johnson (MSNP) -- Chair.
- Discussed issue of students missing class due to games, that it is hard for them to get missed work completed, and that the committee wants to encourage faculty to allow students to make up their work, acknowledging that it is the students' responsibility to work with faculty in advance on those arrangements. Committee is looking into ways of improving communication between athletics and faculty, possibly by assigning a staff member to assist with this.
- Committee wants to help promote athletics events and increase participation on campus for home games.
- Committee discussed service projects for student athletes to get more involved on campus and in the community, possibly in conjunction with Trio.
- Question: it is very difficult to provide make up labs due to set up time, materials, etc. Coaches need to get schedules (including dismissal times for travel) to faculty and students need to discuss absences with faculty well in advance.
- Question: will there be a continuation of the mid-semester check-up sheets that the committee began last year? (they were progress reports that students had to request from their professors)
- Question: how much are coaches aware of their athletes' situations?
- Concern was expressed over whether or not student athletes should look for or be guided to take online sections during their season, acknowledging that many students need FTF instruction.

- Concern with respect to labs: maybe sciences can meet to figure out the make-up lab issue. Student athletes should meet with professor at beginning of the semester to see calendar and conflicts.
- Concern with less communication from coaches.
- A suggestion to look at our own class scheduling to accommodate sports.
- Advisors hearing some reports of language barrier interfering with student success, with the new focus on international student athletes.
- Concern over the idea of student athletes adding a service component to their already busy schedules. Can they take 12 hours during their season and make up 3 in the summer?
- A suggestion to make FTF courses have a strong online component that students who have to miss FTF instruction can easily keep up (video lectures, notes, tests, etc.)
- UNIV 101 teaches time management. Athletes as overwhelmed with their schedules. UNIV 101 spends lots of time showing students how to submit work on BB. Can orientation do this – how can we manage that?
- Discussion of the importance of UNIV 101 for all students and student athletes.
- Discussion of difficulties of doing online component at same time as FTF and be effective. Can the deans, coaches, committee come up with a way for FTF faculty to learn to layer on online components without duplicating our workload?
- How can advisors learn what certain classes entail to help them advise the athletes? Discussion about how athletes are advised, often late in the summer after many courses are full.

Hiring Priorities Committee Report – T. Scarlett, report submitted (Appendix 7).

- Recommending two positions: replacement for archivist at NASC, replacement for Adam Biggs (history/AA Studies). There was discussion about broadening the secondary area of expertise to cultural studies or similar, but the committee felt that the priority is AA Studies/History.
- Question: how soon is too soon to start telling potential applicants?
- Answer: postings are not ready to share yet – need final approval from Columbia campus.

NASC Advisory Committee Report – E. Nooe, report submitted (Appendix 8).

- Please see report for activities and encourage faculty/students/community to attend. Artist in residence Chief Harris will be presenting pottery making across the fall semester. Stephen Criswell is presenting at the Lunch and Learn in October on the folklore of Halloween. There are two new exhibits: artist Nancy Basket's use of vine in basket making and Indigenous sports and athleticism. Evan Nooe and the NASC Committee is organizing a booth at the Southern

Historical Association conference 11/9-12 in Charlotte. 18th Annual NAS Week will have a range of presentations, film screening, and discussions, including Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss on Jim Thorpe. Please see the report for a full schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee – J. Yarosh, presenter, report submitted (Appendix 10).

- There is a motion by the APCG committee to change the bylaws to create a standing committee within the APCG that will function as the University's Campus Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) appeals committee. It has been an ad hoc committee in the past.
- This is compliant with US Dept of Education and other government offices and was voted on unanimously by the APCG committee.
- The motion passed with 2/3 of the FO voting Yes.

NEW BUSINESS: none

SPECIAL ORDERS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- B. Obi-Johnson – is currently teaching a PCAM 299 independent study course called Introduction to the South Carolina LEND Program (Leadership Education and Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities). The students are doing an impact project, which is to partner with the disability support group at USCL for Disability Awareness Week 10/23-27. Around lunchtime every day there will be activities and there will be a flyer with information on all the activities and speakers for that week.
- S. Cruise – there are a lot more students using food pantry, so we are running low on some items. Most needed donations are quick snack-type foods.
- R. Freeman – library period supplies program is also taking donations.
- N. Lawrence – *The Outsiders* performances are coming up and schools will be on campus to see some performances during the day as well. The space is gorgeous, but there are fewer seats so get your tickets early.
- D. Lawrence – next month's Faculty Forum is the NASC's artist-in-residence Bill Harris discussing and demonstrating pottery making (in person and online).
- February and April Faculty Forum are still open for interesting teaching ideas we are doing or scholarship. Contact Dana Lawrence to claim your spot.

ADJOURNMENT: 2:03 pm

ATTENDING: Sahar Aghasafari, Mark Ammons, Connor Austell, Marybeth Berry, Albert Blackmon, Anthony Brockington, Chris Bundrick, Zoe Byrd, Li Cai, Jill Castiglia, Courtney Catledge, Walt Collins, Kim Covington, Stephen Criswell, Susan Cruise, Jerry Currence, Annette Duker-Golonka, Liz Easley, Danelle Faulkenberry, Rebecca Freeman, Amy Gerald, Darris Hassell, Jason Holt, Amy Hood, Ernest Jenkins, Christopher Judge, Dana Lawrence, Nick Lawrence, Pat Lawrence, Todd Lekan, Mckenzie Lemhouse, Fernanda Marques Burke, Sue Mazzullo, Tracey Mobley Chavous, Erin Moon-Kelly, Angela Neal, Evan Nooe, Bettie Obi-Johnson, Allan Pangburn, Phillip Parker, Suzanne Penuel, Bridgett Plexico, Jeff Rammage, David Roberts, Deborah Rowell, Todd Scarlett, Aubrey Stewart, Nahid Swails, Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Lauren Thomas, Richard W. Vanhall, Matt Williamson, Tania Wolochwianski, Jerrod Yarosh,.

ABSENT: Shemsi Alhaddad, Adam Biggs, Dwayne Brown, Steven Campbell, Mark Coe, Lucius Stanley Emanuel, Garane A. Garane, Lisa Hammond, Claudia Heinemann-Priest, Kate Holland, Howard Kingkade, Tamika Lewis, Vincent Lewis, Babette Marisa Protz, Kim Richardson, Peter Seipel, Sarah Sellhorst, Mike Sherrill, Suzette Taylor, Andrew Yingst.

Faculty Secretary: Document submitted by A. Gerald on October 26, 2023, for faculty and staff review.



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
LANCASTER

Dr. Walter P. Collins, III
Regional Palmetto College Dean

Report to the Faculty Organization of USC Lancaster
October 6, 2023

People

Enrollment

Fall 2023 enrollment is at an historic high and up in both traditional on-campus students and dual credit students. **As of October 3, we are at 2176 for headcount enrollment (up 29.45% over last Fall semester's enrollment freeze).** Thanks to all who assisted with setting this record.

Faculty search continuing:

Instructor of Business (with responsibilities for AS in Business accreditation oversight)

Faculty searches beginning:

Assistant Professor of History/African American Studies

Assistant Professor of Library/Director of Archives

Athletics

Women's and men's soccer seasons as well as volleyball season are underway. **Check out their schedules here:** <https://usclathletics.com/> Gratitude to the members of the Athletics Advisory Committee for their ongoing work.

USC Lancaster in our Communities

- We had a campus presence at the recent **Indian Land Fall Festival** on September 30 and October 1. Thanks to Anthony Brockington, Todd Lekan, and Aubrey Stewart for their help coordinating our participation in this event.
- USC Lancaster's Dr. Pat Lawrence and Dr. Dwayne Brown will provide an **ACT/SAT Workshop for LHS students** as part of the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood program. The sessions, offered in November and December, will be offered on 4 Saturdays on campus.
- **Dr. Nicholas Lawrence delivered the lecture "The Lavinia Fisher Story: Highwaywoman and Serial Killer of Charleston's Six-Mile Wayfarer House"** this week as a part of the Lancaster Cultural Arts Center Conversations, an on-going lecture series in our community.

- **USC Lancaster and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department recently established an internship opportunity for USC Lancaster students.** Dr. John Rutledge, Prof. Debbie Rowell, and Bridgett Plexico are working to recruit students.
- USC Lancaster will be competing in the **United Way's Bed Race Fundraiser**. The race will take place on Saturday (10/21) at 1:30 on the 700 block of S. Main St. Join us for the fun.

Other items...

- The next **Lunch and Learn at the Native American Studies Center** is scheduled for October 27 at noon with a talk entitled "Halloween: It's Nothing to Be Afraid of" by Dr. Stephen Criswell, University of South Carolina Lancaster Director of Native American Studies and Professor of English and Folklore. To attend via Zoom, register via this link: <https://bit.ly/3kwSXCI>
- The annual **Richard Gannaway Scholarship Luncheon** has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 1 at noon in the Arnold Special Events Room. Invitations for faculty have been placed in campus mailboxes. Please RSVP by October 16, 2023.
- We just received notification of the award of **federal earmark funding of \$110,000 from the Department of Health Resources and Services Administration** for a piece of equipment for the nursing lab. We have a request in for funding for next year's round as well.
- The faculty/staff **Holiday Luncheon** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 from 11:30 to 1:30 in the Arnold Special Events Room. The call for RSVPs is forthcoming.
- The **scholarship application due date for continuing and transfer students is being changed from April 1 to March 15 beginning in 2024**. Please communicate this new deadline to any continuing students or transfers who might wish to apply for local USC Lancaster scholarships.
- **Members of the board of the Educational Foundation of USCL are in conversation with a construction firm which builds housing for colleges and universities in order to determine the feasibility of a new apartment complex for USC Lancaster students.** Any project would be privately developed and managed but would be located on campus which is Foundation governed property. More to share on this as it develops.
- Like our sibling Palmetto College campuses, **we will soon be contracting with third party vendor Ed2go** to supplement faculty- and staff-offered non-academic credit professional and continuing education options for individuals, businesses, and industry partners. We will provide an update on the implementation as we progress.
- **Flu shots** are available on Monday (10/9) from 10:00 to 2:00 in The Hubb (Hubbard Hall 214) for those who RSVP'd to Dr. Pate earlier this week.
- USC Lancaster's annual **Clery Report** has been completed and submitted. Many thanks to **Dr. John Rutledge** for his dedication in completing the report and to various faculty and staff who assisted with data and information collection. Updated information has been posted to the USC Lancaster website.

Enjoy your upcoming Fall Break!



Todd Lekan, Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs

REPORT TO THE FACULTY ORGANIZATION
October 6, 2023

- 1. Scholarship Updates.** Faculty are invited to attend our **Scholarship Luncheon** on November 1 at noon in the Arnold Special Events Room in the Bradley Building. This special event honors the recipients of USCL's most prestigious scholarships and includes many donors from the community. Invitations have been distributed to mailboxes in Hubbard Hall. Please RSVP by Monday, October 16; 803-313-7008; drysf@sc.edu. Students who are being honored that day might be late to their 1:00 classes. Thanks in advance for extending patience to those students.

This year's scholarship committee is Stan Emanuel (Chair), Mike Sherrill, Sahar Aghasafari, Peter Seipel, Liz Easley, Allan Pangburn, Todd Lekan, Shana Dry, Kim Covington, and Zoe Byrd. Ashley Stevenson as the administrative coordinator of the committee. Thanks to Ashley and Stan for their great work organizing the scholarship process.

- 2. Class Cancellation.** Just a friendly reminder that if you need to cancel a class, please contact Pam Ellis in the Academic Affairs Office pellis@mailbox.sc.edu and your Division Chair.
- 3. CARE (Student Care and Outreach Team).** The Care Team is a group of caring professionals dedicated to student success and well-being by identifying concerns, addressing those concerns with the student, and referring them to campus and community resources. The Care Team's primary goal is to ensure that the student involved gains the necessary resources to remain successful academically and personally at USCL. The team is comprised of these USCL staff members:

Associate Dean: Todd Lekan
Security Director: John Rutledge
Counselor: Tamika Lewis
Registrar: Megan Catoe
Student Life Director: Jeff Rammage
Director of Student Success and Retention: Asheley Schryer

Anyone can make a CARE team referral—students, staff, faculty, and even non USCL community members. To make CARE team referral please use this link:

https://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/palmetto_college/internal/faculty_and_staff/care_referral/care_team_incident_report_form.php

If you think the student is an immediate threat/danger to themselves or others call 911. It is a good idea to follow that up with a CARE report. For other situations that are more like “yellow alerts,” err on the side of caution and file the report. When the report is received, the reporter will get a notification that the report is received. The Associate Dean will communicate with the CARE Team to implement an action plan.

- 4. CCSE Surveys.** We have received the results of our Community College Service and Engagement Surveys. David Hunter is working with Palmetto College Deans to process the results. Locally, the USCL Student Affairs Committee will be reviewing the results with the aim of sharing them later this semester. Thanks to everyone who allowed these surveys to be administered during their classes in the spring 2023 semester.
- 5. Fall 2 and Spring/Summer Registration.** October 23 is the date that fall 2 courses begin. If you know of students who might benefit from dropping a full semester class while recovering in the second eight weeks, please encourage them to talk with their advisors. October 23 is also the date that students begin registering for spring and summer courses.
- 6. Early Alert Notices.** Please use this form to report any academic concerns that you have about your students: <https://tinyurl.com/usclfacultyalerts>. This form will remain active throughout the semester.
- 7. Faculty Searches.** Calls are going out to form search committees for two tenure-track positions: Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies and Director of Archives.
- 8. The Office of the Vice President for Research is pleased to issue the call for 2024 RISE grant proposals.** The Research Initiative for Summer Engagement program (RISE) provides funds for summer research to faculty members working at USC Aiken, Beaufort, Upstate, and Palmetto College campuses through a competitive application process. Visit the [Office of the Vice President for Research website](#) to download the RISE RFPs and application materials. A *RISE webinar for Palmetto College campuses is offered at noon on Friday, November 3rd* providing an overview of RISE, the application process, and Q&A. [Please register to attend here](#). This session is optional - it is not required for proposal submission. **Proposals are due in USCeRA by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023.**

Note: if you intend to submit a RISE grant **please notify me at tlekan@mailbox.sc.edu by December 1, 2023.** Please just include your project’s title and a brief description (not the entire proposal). This will ensure that your proposal gets recommended in a timely fashion.

9. Recent Faculty Accomplishments.

- **Sahar Aghasafari** is presenting at two conferences:

Aghasafari, S. (Livestream 2023). Presenting Virtual Visual Arts Integration and Biology: More Favor or Challenges for Emergent Bi/Multilingual High Schoolers. *STAR Global Conference 2023-Uvigo UNESCO Chair: Transformative Education for an Interconnected and Equitable World*. University of Vigo, Spain.

Aghasafari, S. (2023). Presenting Exploring the Intersection of Media Arts and Science: A STEAM Learning Journey. *AERI Art Education Research Institute*, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

- **Connor Austell** will be writing concert reviews for the Lancaster News on a somewhat regular basis (whenever concerts are held at the Cultural Arts Center or another local venue), so community members can look for those when they are interested in what's going on musically here in Lancaster. His first article appeared in the September 20 edition of the paper.
- **Marybeth Berry** will be performing one of the leads in *Quilters* the musical this weekend at the Arts Center for Kershaw County as part of their weeklong MAD Extravaganza. <https://artscenterkc.org/ac/quilters/>
- **Tracey Mobley Chavous** has been invited by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition to serve on the proposal review committee for the upcoming 43rd Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience to be held February 18-21, 2024 in Seattle, Washington.
- **Erin Moon-Kelly presents:** Christmas in the City Musical Finale!
December 3, 2023 2:00 PM
Historic Springs House
201 W. Gay St. Lancaster, SC 29720
Featuring Erin Moon-Kelly (flute and piccolo), Bette Acker (flute and Native American flute), and Charles Acker (voice/sing-along)
Produced By EMK Music and the Lancaster County Council for the Arts

More from Erin:

Want to start the 2023 holiday season with a bang and a twist? Look no further! EMK Music and the Lancaster County Council for the Arts team up to bring you a musical finale unlike any traditional music show around! Bette Acker will show off the beauty of the Native American flute with her own arrangements of traditional winter themed folk tunes. Erin Moon-Kelly shows off the beauty of the piccolo with a variation fanfare of “O

Come, All Ye Faithful,” and showcases Matt Riley’s arrangement of “Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman” that can give Tran Siberian Orchestra a run for their money! And, we are going to have a sing-along this year led by vocalist Charles Acker. Everybody gets to have fun! Yes, there will be lyrics sheets available for those who need help remembering the versus. **FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING!** **DONATIONS FOR THE LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS GREATLY APPRECIATED!** Want to know more? Visit <https://www.artslancaster.com/> or www.emk-music.com for more information. See you there!

And here are all of the Charlotte Concert Band events that yours truly (who is principal flute and piccolo) is playing in for the rest of the semester.

MOVIE TIME

Saturday, October 21 | 7:00PM
The Amp Ballantyne

Saturday, October 28 | 7:00PM
Northwest School of the Arts

WORLDWIDE YULETIDE

Saturday, December 16 | 4:00PM
Christ Lutheran Church

Here is the webpage for more information and tickets:
<https://www.charlotteconcertband.org/concerts.html>

- **Evan Nooe** was invited to join the editorial board for the [International Journal of Disney Studies](#). **Evan’s** forthcoming book *Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South* won the 2022 McMillan Prize from the University of Alabama Press for the best book in Southern History.

UPCOMING AND CURRENT EVENTS:

AI Roundtable at the ASC: Here are the particulars:

- Date and time: October 9th, 12-1pm
- Location: ASC Studio (Medford 217)
- Panelists: Dean Todd Lekan, Prof. Suzanne Penuel (Humanities), Prof. Nahid Swails (MSNPH), and Prof. Phillip Parker (BBCJEL)

The Lancaster Players will present *The Outsiders* in the newly renovated Stevens Auditorium on October 27th & 28th @ 8pm; October 29th @ 2pm

The next **Brent Burgin Lunch N Learn** is at noon on October 27: **“Halloween: It’s Nothing to Be Afraid of”** Lecture by **Dr. Stephen Criswell**, University of South Carolina Lancaster Director of Native American Studies and Professor of English and Folklore. To attend via Zoom, register via this link: <https://bit.ly/3kwSXCl>

For other NASC events, including Chief Bill Harris’ demonstrations as Artist in Residence please visit:
<https://nativeamericanstudiescenter.godaddysites.com/upcoming-events>

Concluding Thought: “Human life rests upon kindness and concord; bound together, not by terror but by love reciprocated, it becomes a bond of mutual assistance.”—Seneca

Report to the UofSC Lancaster Faculty Organization Academic Success Center

Patrick Lawrence, Director

Announcements

- Our AI Roundtable Event is Monday from 12-1 in the ASC Studio. See below for details.
- The ASC will be closed during fall break; we will re-open on 10/23.

Recent and Upcoming Events Overview

On October 9th, the ASC will host a roundtable discussion with representatives from across the academic divisions to explore the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence at the university and beyond. The discussion will touch on issues such as the use of ChatGPT by students and the role of AI in scholarship. All members of the university are encouraged to attend, so feel free to send students. We will maintain a check-in sheet. Reception and refreshments begins at noon, but the talk itself commences at 12:20 to allow for attendees coming from 11-12:15 classes.

Our recent Health Sciences Studio event recorded 23 attendees, which is a huge success and introduced the center to many new students. In addition, we are seeing significant increases in interest in Math Lab and Writers' Studio. Some of this increase has to do with our adjustment of hours and schedules, e.g., Writers' Studio is now 4 hours long, while Health Sciences Studio events are coordinated with the Nursing program's needs. If you have students who prefer a drop-in, as-needed service over scheduled appointments, please recommend these services to them.

The ASC is also seeing very high levels of demand relative to the number of appointments available. Please encourage your students to make appointments as much in advance as they can, though we do try to accommodate walk-in appointments if tutors are available, and students can always monitor our booking site for last minute cancellations.

Summary of Tutoring Data

Year-to-year trends: We saw a healthy increase of 7.8% in the total number of tutoring sessions over 2022. One notable driver of the increase is the well-attended Health Sciences Studio event. This also added to the number of individual students we served, because several attendees were new to the ASC. The ASC is seeing very robust numbers relative to the number of appointments available.

Session distribution trends: We saw a significant increase in the preference for studio services in September. We also saw a *decrease* in the preference for online sessions. At this moment, we are seeing significant demand for nursing courses from students in a cohort that is primarily on-campus, but we will monitor this trend while we continue to make online options available.

(See charts below for more complete data.)

Contact Information

Phone: 803-313-7113

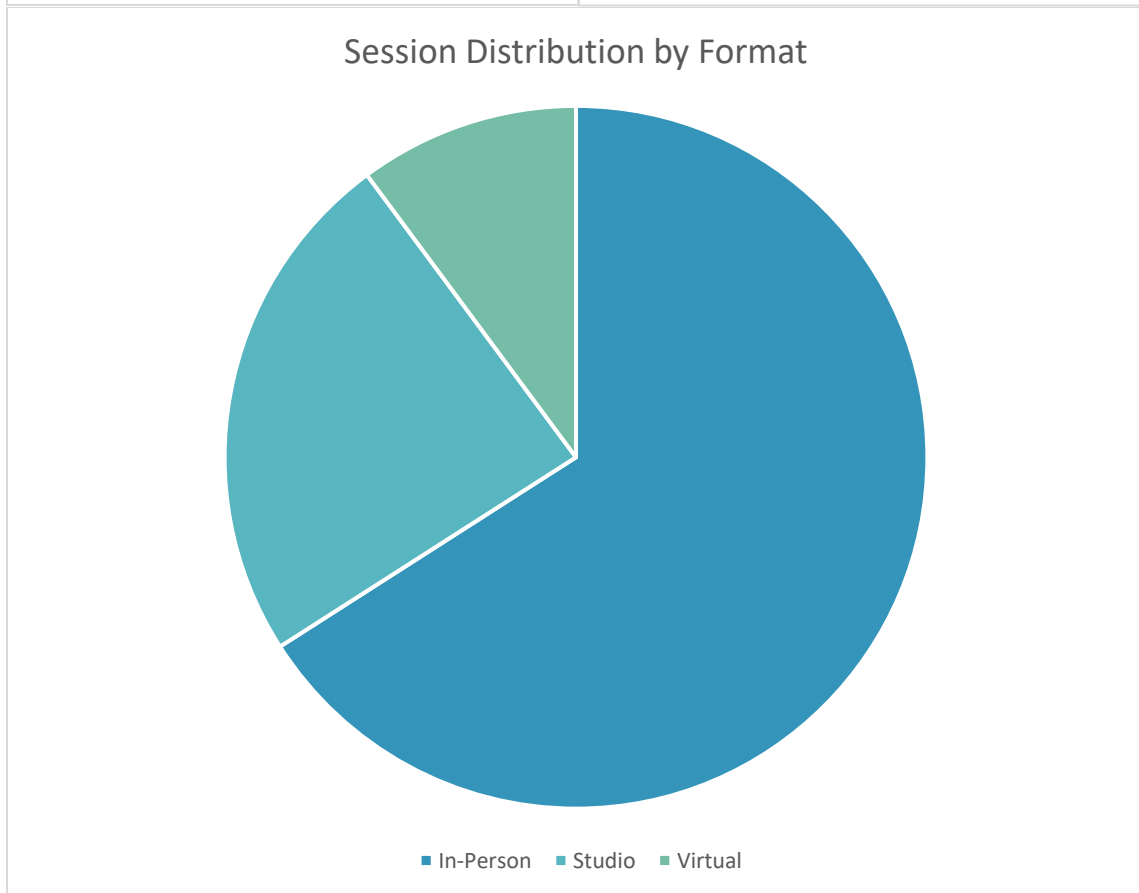
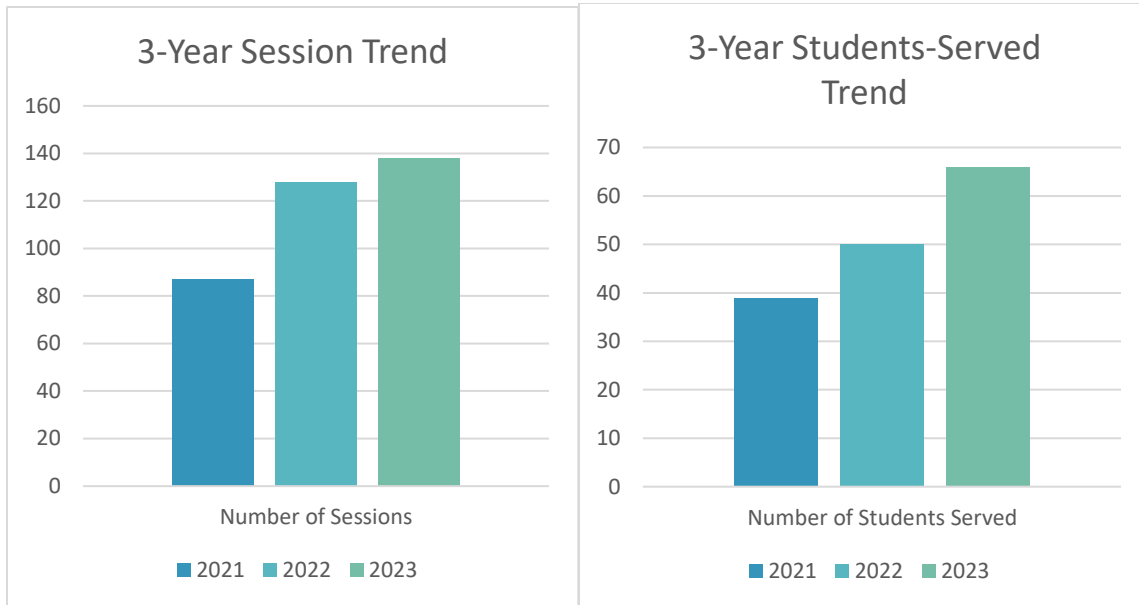
Web: sc.ed/lancaster/asc

Twitter: @USCLASC

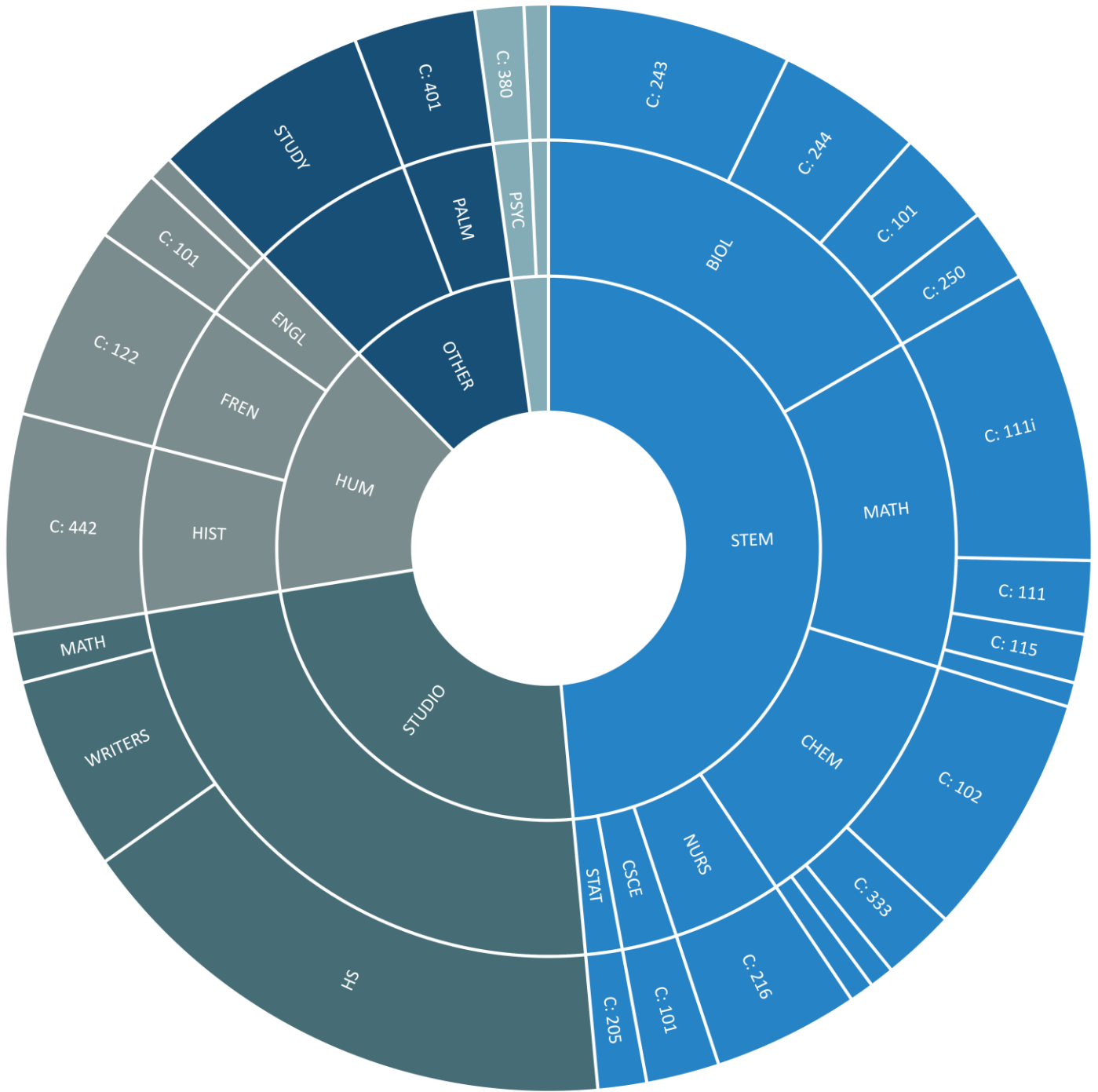
Patrick Lawrence, Director: pslawren@mailbox.sc.edu

Elaine Connor, Academic Success Coordinator: etconnor@mailbox.sc.edu

Appendix: September Tutoring Data



Session Distribution by Field and Course



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

MEETING: Faculty Organization Meeting – October 6, 2023

DATE: October 4, 2023

ATTACHMENTS: zero (0)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1) Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for benefits is October 1 – 31, 2023.

Any changes you make during Open Enrollment take effect January 1, 2024.

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.

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

Significant changes to your State Health Plan benefits will take effect on January 1, 2024.

- 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 and the State Vision Plan will increase.
- The State Health plan will cover an annual well woman visit at no member cost for eligible female non-Medicare primary members.
- The State Health Plan will cover birth control at no member cost for primary members covered as child dependents.
- Total Administrative Services Corporation (TASC) will be the new State Flexible Benefits Plan (MoneyPlus) administrator. Administrative fees will reduce to \$2.14 per account per month.

For additional information about open enrollment please view the PEBA Open Enrollment webpage <https://www.peba.sc.gov/oe>

Please review the 2024 Insurance Summary
https://www.peba.sc.gov/sites/default/files/2024_insurance_summary.pdf

2) Rehire Student Assistants and Temporary Employees:

Please submit approved Personnel Request Forms to rehire student assistants and temporary employees for Spring 2024 as soon as possible. Submitting them between now and Thanksgiving break is ideal.

Students

Remember the hourly rate for a student assistant on the Lancaster campus should be \$9.00 unless approval is received for a higher rate. Students may work up to 20 hours per week during the Spring semester. Student employment for Spring semester ends May 15, 2024.

To be eligible for hire students must be pre-registered for at least 6-credit hours for Spring 2024.

Please view the Student Employment Policy for further information.

<http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/hr186.pdf>

Temporary Employees

The Christmas break is only eleven (11) calendar days. If a temporary employee intends to take their annual 15-day separation during the break, please be sure that they have a full 15-day calendar break. If you want a temporary employee to return when the campus reopens on January 2, 2024 and have a separation their last working day should be on or before December 17, 2023.

Personnel Request Forms

Personnel Request Forms are located on the USCL Human Resources website under the Forms heading.

https://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/lancaster/internal/faculty_and_staff/human_resources/index.php

All Personnel Request Forms must be approved by the Supervisor or Department Head, Associate Dean, Business Manager, and the Dean prior to being processed.

3) Employee Assistance Program

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

Our EAP vendor McLaughlin Young Group (Mygroup) provides the following types of services: Assessment and Counseling, Online Services, Legal Access Services, Financial Services, and Education and Training.

Except for fees associated with the purchase of legal documents, the EAP provides up to six counseling sessions per person, per issue, per year at no cost 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 800-633-3353 or 704-529-1428. More resources are available on the vendor website www.mygroup.com using the username “USC” and password “guest,” or download the Mygroup app.

4) Campus Closure

Our campus will be closed on Thursday November 23, 2023 and Friday November 24, 2023 in recognition of Thanksgiving. Campus will officially reopen on Monday November 27, 2023.

We will also be closed from Friday December 22, 2023 – Friday December 29, 2023 in recognition of Christmas.

In addition, we will be closed on Monday January 1, 2024 in recognition of New Year’s Day. Campus will officially reopen on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Faculty and FTE Staff are not required to make any submission on their timesheets in reference to the holidays.

Please be sure that students and temporary employees do not report working hours in the Time and Absence System on the days listed above unless they actually work.

USC Columbia Faculty Senate

Relevant portions of 9/13/23 meeting

1. Report from the President

University's decision to automatically accept top 10% of high school class (SC students provided they meet course requirements). Will attract lower income students. In-state tuition and fees have not increased. Out of state tuition increased after 4 years of no increases.

If we receive designation as an Innovation Hub (outcome of Chips and Science Act), it will create opportunity, higher paying jobs, and significant grants. Application as a coalition with other SC campuses and we will know in a few weeks if we get this designation.

For workforce development we are creating certificate programs. Digital Skills Certificate was first. Upcoming for consideration of the senate are project and team management, communications, and data analytics.

Wants an initiative to hire (not just replace) more tenure track faculty – currently working on the numbers.

Political activity: referred to recent articles about flagships spending too much and only admitting elite students. Referred to West Virginia University when enrollments go down (you build and they don't come). Stressed we are not elitist, not increasing the cost at least for a number of years now, careful about projects, ensuring any spending we have necessary finances, which makes us slower, but its better to be slow and careful. Be confident we are carefully managing.

2. Report from the Provost

Review last year: hired 7 deans, restructured office of Provost with hires; set minimum salary of tenure track and professional track faculties; facility upgrades; classroom analysis/occupancy rates; Title IX issues that impacted faculty moral over time; Imagine Carolina for faculty – ongoing work; transition to 4 year advisory model which built off of award winning freshman advising program; retention program – talking to students about challenges, barriers (greatest risk time is between sophomore and junior year); faculty development – programming based on listening tours – stagnation at associate level – first program will be to help mid-career faculty advance to professor.

Goals for this year: Gen Z expectations – easy access to info (fast and integrated into a single platform – smartphone); 1 in 2 have been diagnosed with a mental health condition; with 4 year advising model there will be more money to hire advisors in the colleges; continue graduation retention network; focus on 1st Gen students (20% of all students 1st Gen); pairing 1st Gen students with

mentors if program is funded; reduce curricular complexity; improve success rates in bottleneck courses – peer to peer support model in Calculus started; looking at improve teaching evaluations; looking at improving online course offerings, looking to transition to one LMS (Blackboard) but also will evaluate BB and other LMS's for future; exploring partnership with Google to offer certificates and would be offered out of Continuing Education; developing a first year faculty onboarding program; launched first bridge from fellow to faculty program; focusing on cascading communication model.

3. Guest Speaker

- o Christian Anderson, 150th Anniversary of Reconstruction Project

Discussed enrollment of first Black student and hiring of first Black faculty member during Reconstruction. USC was only public university in the south to integrate after the Civil War. Accomplishments of reconstruction era faculty/students is significant. History of Reconstruction at USC is not well known at the university, so the 150th Anniversary of Reconstruction Project will mark the anniversary of the first Black student on October 7. There is an upcoming lecture about the two Black trustees appointed in 1869. A marker was recently unveiled on Sumter St to commemorate Reconstruction era-progress at USC. Asks faculty to visit it and consider this topic and how and why it ended.

4. Reports of Faculty Committees

- o Committee on Admissions

Advance notice of amendment of previous motion in 2021 to adopt test optional admissions through 2023. Committee wants to recommend to continue this policy for the foreseeable future with the committee's periodic review. Formal motion in October meeting.

- o Committee on Curricula and Courses

Committee on Curricula and Course Report (proposed changes) link [here](#)

GEO 345 being withdrawn from approval request

Motion to divide the question, pulling out Public Relations and Mass Communication program changes. The concern is that some of their specific core requirements make it difficult for students to change to other programs.

Motion passed, all other curricular and program changes passed, motion to return Public Relations and Mass Communication changes to committee to seek clarification.

Athletic Advisory Committee Update

USCL Faculty Organization Meeting

October 6, 2023

- Committee Members this year are: Nick Calhoun (Athletics), Evan Nooe (Humanities), John Rutledge (BBCEL), Mat Williamson (TriO), Noah Robinson (student rep), Walt Collins (Campus Dean), Bettie Obi Johnson (MSNPH).
- Our committee elected a chair for this year via email – Bettie Obi Johnson.
- We had one meeting on Friday September 15 and our next meeting is scheduled for Friday October 6.
- We outlined some goals at our first meeting and will be fine tuning our plans at the next meeting.
- Student athletes are sometimes being penalized for missing class due to games. Faculty are required to accommodate student athletes and allow them to make up missed work when they are absent due to games. We are looking into ways of improving communication between athletics and faculty, possibly by assigning a staff member to assist with this.
- We want to help promote athletics events and increase participation on campus for home games.
- We discussed additional service projects for student athletes to get more involved on campus and in the community, possibly in conjunction with Trio.
- If you have any concerns or thoughts that relate to our committee, please send them to Bettie Obi Johnson.

Hiring Priorities Committee 2023-24 Fall Report

2 October, 2023

Committee Members:

Todd Scarlett (Chair)
Marybeth Berry
Stephen Criswell

Rebecca Freeman
Tracey Mobley-Chavous
Jerrod Yarosh

The Hiring Priorities Committee normally makes recommendations in the spring for searches to be conducted the following academic year. However, there are two replacement positions that need to be filled as soon as possible. The Hiring Priorities Committee has evaluated those needs and the justifications and recommendations are listed below.

Recommended Hires

Archivist

- There is a vacancy in the archivist position at the NASC.
- The committee recommends that this position be filled as soon as possible.

History/AFAM

- Dr. Adam Biggs has accepted a position at another university. Dr. Biggs taught US history and African American studies.
- There is a strong demand for US history courses. Much of the demand comes from dual enrollment.
- The committee has discussed the need for someone who could teach cultural/ethnic/diversity studies in addition to AFAM. However, these specialties would more logically pair with disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, English, law, or religion. Also, the demand for history courses would preclude a historian from offering a range of other courses.
- The committee recommends hiring a historian to replace Dr. Biggs. We further recommend advertisement for someone who could also teach AFAM or other cultural or diversity studies.

Native American Studies Advisory Committee
Report to the Faculty, October 6, 2023

Artist-in-Residence:

The Native American Studies Center is currently hosting former Catawba Nation Chief Bill Harris as the Artist-in-Residence. Discussion and pottery techniques demonstration dates include:

- Sept. 22, 1-5:00pm.
- Oct. 3, 12-5:00pm.
- Oct. 5, 2-5:00pm.
- Oct. 12, 5-7:00pm.
- Oct. 16, 10-2:00pm.
- Oct. 19, 4-7:00pm.
- Oct. 28, 5-7pm.

Lunch & Learn:

The NASC October Lunch & Learn welcomes Dr. Stephen Criswell (USC Lancaster) giving a presentation titled "[Halloween: It's Nothing to Be Afraid of](#)" on Oct. 27 from 12-1:00pm.

New Exhibits:

The NAS Center recently opened two new exhibits:

- "More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism." The exhibit is in the Five Points Gallery and will run from Sept. 28 to Aug. 30, 2024.
- "Backyard Vines: Artwork by Nancy Basket." The exhibit is in the North Gallery and will run from Sept. 12-Feb. 15, 2024.

NASC at the SHA:

NASC Faculty and Staff and NAS Advisory Committee members are collaborating to staff an exhibition booth at the 2023 [Southern Historical Association annual conference](#) in Charlotte, North Carolina Nov. 9-12. Founded in 1934, the Southern Historical Association is a leading historical organization in the country. Although regionally focused, the Association attracts international attendees. The NASC booth at the SHA annual conference will help promote resources at USC Lancaster and encourage critical scholarship on Native American history in the American South.

18th Annual Native American Studies Week:

The NASC is hosting Native American Studies Week from Nov. 1 to Nov. 10. This year's theme is "Indigenous Athletes and Athleticism: Vital Contributions to a National Passion." Multiple events featuring Indigenous speakers, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, and academics will be hosted by the NASC in-person and online. See below for the event schedule:

Wednesday, Nov. 1, Noon

- **"Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe" Author Talk**
- Presented via Zoom/ Facebook.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss presents a talk about Olympic gold medalist Jim Thorpe.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 5-7 p.m.

- **Special Reception for "More than a Game"**
- Presented in person.
- The exhibit "More than a Game: Indigenous Sports and Athleticism" highlights Indigenous athletes, some with Carolina connections, and their contributions to competitive sports such as hockey, football, wrestling, track and field, the Olympics, and more.

Thursday Nov. 2, Time TBD

- **"Jim Thorpe, The World's Greatest Athlete" Film Screening**
- Presented in person.
- Join the Center for a screening of the film "Jim Thorpe, The World's Greatest Athlete."

Tuesday, Nov. 7, Noon

- **Athletes of the Catawba Nation Roundtable Discussion**
- Presented in person and via Zoom/Facebook.
- Catawba Cultural Preservation Center Director Dr. Wenonah Haire (Catawba), Catawba Nation Archivist Ensley Guffey, and former college track star and 1996 Olympic Torchbearer Chrystal Frank (Catawba) athleticism in the Catawba Nation.

Thursday, Nov. 9, Noon

- **"She Carries On" Film Screening and Discussion**
- Presented in person and via Zoom/Facebook.
- Dr. Natalie Welch (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), filmmaker and Assistant Professor at Seattle University, discusses her film "She Carries On," documenting female stickball players in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Friday, Nov. 10, Noon

- **Lunch and Learn: "From Traditional Lacrosse to Olympians: How Native American Athletes Have Made Their Historical Mark"**

- Presented via [Zoom](#)/ Facebook.
- Vincent Schilling (Akwesasne Mohawk), Founder and Editor of Native Viewpoint, CEO and President of Schilling Media, Inc, discusses the impact Indigenous athletes have had on professional sports in the past century.

Student Success and Retention

USCL Faculty Organization Report

October 6, 2023

IN THIS REPORT

- Academic Advising (p. 1)
- Call for Early Alerts (p. 1)
- Math Placement Test (p. 2)
- Counseling Services (p. 2)
- Disability Services (p. 3)
- Leadership Distinction (p. 3)
- Study Travel (p. 3)

STUDENT SUCCESS & RETENTION AREAS

- Academic Success Center (*report provided by Dr. Pat Lawrence, ASC Director*)
- Academic Advising and Coaching
- Counseling Services
- Disability Services
- Leadership Distinction (GLD)
- Study Travel

ACADEMIC ADVISING

- Spring registration opens October 23rd.
- We are finalizing our list of faculty advisors and assigning students.
- Faculty advisors may view their advisees through self-service (steps below):
 - Select the “Faculty and Advisor” tab
 - Select “Advisee Information”
 - Select “Advisee Search”
 - Select “View my advisee list”
- Students may view their advisor through self-service (steps below):
 - Select “Student” tab
 - Select “Student Profile” tab
 - Look under “Advisor Information” (under their email address)
- We will begin our communication efforts with students next week. If you would like for us to make an announcement to your class, please email uscladvs@mailbox.sc.edu.
- Are you able to remove holds? Please check your Banner/Self-Service Access. If you are not able to remove holds, you will need to submit a DAPS request. Please email me if you need access.

CALL FOR EARLY ALERTS

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 early alert forms for any student that is not attending class, missing assignments, or who would benefit from a contact by a student success staff person. This form will remain active throughout the semester.

[Early Alert - My USC Lancaster | University of South Carolina](#)

When a form is submitted, Academic and Student Affairs will contact the student via email/text to notify them of the alert and share relevant resources and contacts. If you have any questions about the process or status of an alert, please contact Zoe Byrd at zmbbyrd@email.sc.edu or (803) 313-7131.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST

The math placement test is now open! To take the test, students must register using the online form found on [Placement Exams - My USC Lancaster | University of South Carolina](#). Students may opt to take the test in-person or online (requires webcam). If they choose to take the test in-person, the form has a link to book a room in the testing center (Starr Hall 125).

COUNSELING SERVICES

(September Report)

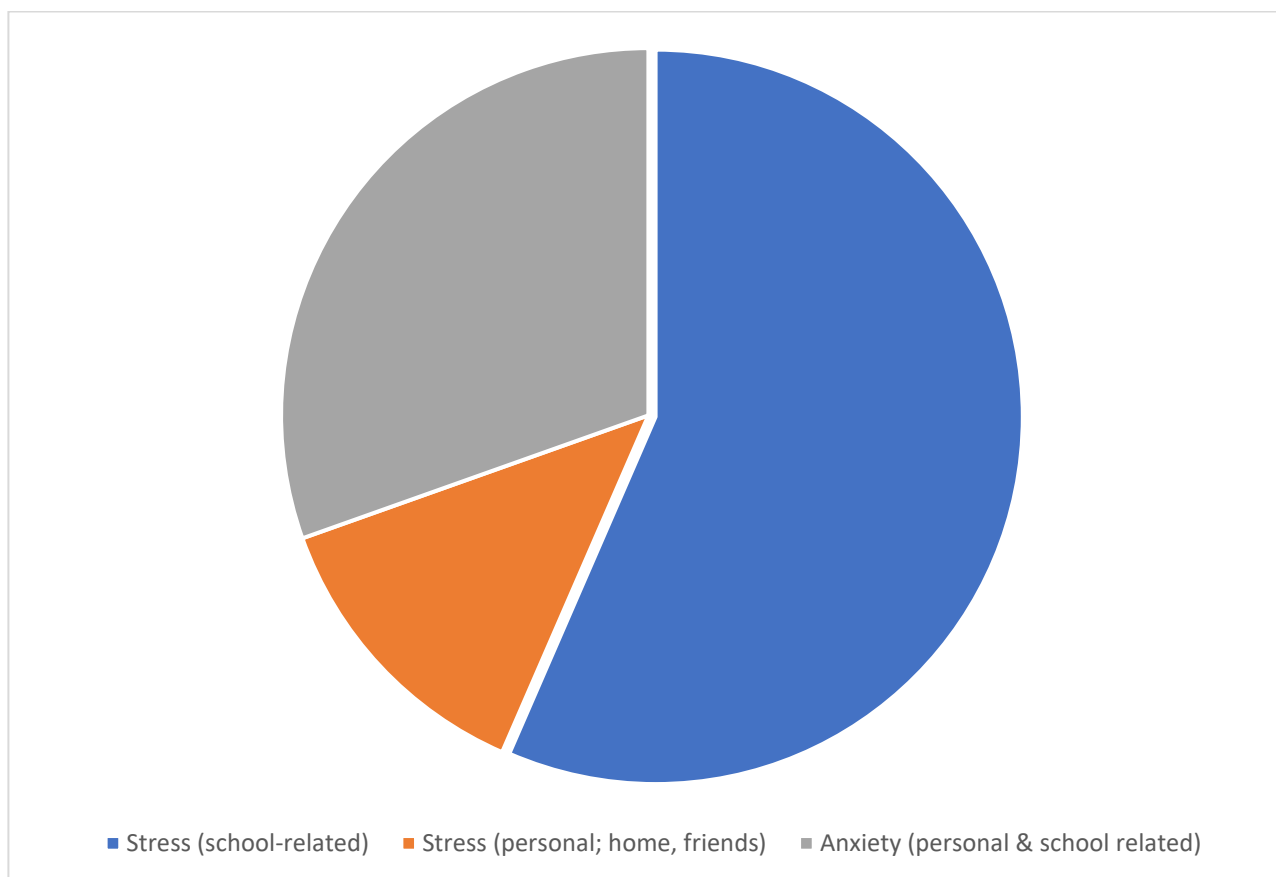
Appointments:

In-person: 12/Tele-Health: 8

Drop-ins: 3

Scheduled: 23

Total Sessions: 23



As the new semester started, there was a noticeable influx of students requesting appointments and even dropping in to discuss feelings of stress and anxiety. A large majority of students request counseling sessions to address stress specifically school-related. Because of the overwhelming number of concerns regarding stress and anxiety, I have begun the “Let’s Talk About Stress” talks beginning September 28th, and continuing on October 26th. Our first meeting was held in the iCarolina Lab with 15 students in attendance.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Registering for Accommodations

If a student requires accommodations, they submit their documentation using this online form: [UofSC Lancaster - Palmetto College \(wufsoo.com\)](https://wufsoo.com).

Testing Center

Students must make an appointment online to [book a room](#) in the testing center. If they have any questions about using the online system, they may contact Amy Hood at ah259@mailbox.sc.edu.

LEADERSHIP DISTINCTION (GLD)

Encourage students to apply for Leadership Distinction

Are your students engaging in beyond the classroom experiences (community service, internships, research, global learning, leadership)? If so, encourage them to pursue Graduation with Leadership Distinction. Students that are interested in the process can [make an appointment](#) with Asheley Schryer.

Need a Leadership Distinction presentation?

Want to schedule a presentation for your student organization or class? Contact Liz Easley (EASLEYEA@mailbox.sc.edu) or Asheley Schryer (schryer@mailbox.sc.edu).

Note: 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.

STUDY TRAVEL

There are two opportunities for students to participate in study travel programs. Please help us encourage students to take part in these exciting experiences.

Travel Study: **Greece (May 2024)**

- PHIL 103: Greek Philosophy and the Art of Living Well (Professor Peter Seipel) [VSR Carolina Core]

Travel Study: **England (June 2024)**

- ENGL 283/419 (Crosslisted): Literature and Tourism in England (Professor Dana Lawrence) [AIU Carolina Core]

Medford Library Faculty Meeting Report October 6, 2023

SERVICE STATISTICS AND PROGRAMS

- 3498 unique visits
- 1497 LibGuide views
- 146 Study and Lounge Area Reservations
- 14 Conference Room uses
- 8 Computer Lab uses
- 12 Community computer uses
- 5 Instruction Classes
- 1 Book a Librarian

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

- 67 General collection items circulated
- 1 AV collection items circulated
- 2 Government Document items circulated
- 10 Graphic Novel collection items circulated
- 1 Juvenile collection items circulated
- 2 New Book collection items circulated
- 2 Oversize collection items circulated
- 3 On Display items circulated
- 19 Special Collection items circulated
- 60 Reserve items circulated

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Event – November 1
- Upcoming seasonal event - TBA

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Library Faculty will be at conferences the week of October 16th.
- Instruction classes are available in person and virtually. [Request a library instruction class](#) today.
- [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.](#)

Matt Williamson
Director, Federal TRiO Programs

REPORT TO THE FACULTY ORGANIZATION
October 6, 2023

Opportunity Scholars Program

- The 2023-24 reporting period for our OSP project began on September 1, 2023. We are currently serving 129 freshmen and sophomores from first-generation, low-income, or disabled backgrounds. Recruitment is going well, and as a result, we are in a good position to more than meet our enrollment requirement of 165 qualifying students prior to the end of the current reporting period on August 31, 2024.
- We hosted a very successful **Constitution Day Quiz Challenge** on September 13, 2023. 46 OSP students and 171 total individuals participated in this year's event. Our first-place winners were **Trista Lindler, Sage Losee, and Ariana Naranjo**. **Jude Knighten** was the second-place winner. Third-place winners were **Samuel Carlisle, Blaise Keen, and Abigail Pike**. Each winning student received a prize pack as well as merchandise from the USCL Bookstore. Congratulations to them all.
- We were thrilled to host representatives from the **Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning (CIEL)** who presented to students on **Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD)** on September 14, 2023 (see photo below). Very special thanks to **Dr. Liz Easley, Dr. Sarah Sellhorst, and the USCL Research Club** for organizing this successful event.



- OSP students also had a big showing at the first **Careers in Business Lecture** of the Fall 2023 semester on September 14.
- We were pleased to host the first **Careers in Science Lecture** of the Fall 2023 semester on September 21. Current sophomore student **Charis Grabbe** presented on "Finding My

Element at USCL.” The next two Careers in Science Lectures will be held on Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday, October 25. Both presentations will be in the TRiO LRC at 12:15 p.m.

- We encouraged all OSP students to participate in the **Banned Books Week 2023** drop-in activities at Medford Library on October 2-5, 2023.
- The **TRiO Popcorn & Movie Series** will be celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month** next week. The 2023 Amazon film *A Million Miles Away* will be shown in the TRiO Learning Resource Center on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The 2017 Disney Pixar film *Coco* will be shown at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 12 in the TRiO LRC. This will be followed later that afternoon at 2:00 p.m. with a showing of Steven Spielberg’s 2021 film *West Side Story*. These events are open to the campus. Drinks and popcorn will be served.
- We are encouraging all OSP students to attend the **C.R.A.S.E. Training** at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11 in the Arnold Special Events Room.
- We are also encouraging OSP students to attend the next meeting of the **USCL Research Club** on Monday, October 16 at 12:15 p.m. in Bradley 121. The **Arras Foundation** will be presenting research at a non-profit organization.
- Due to budget constraints, the **OSP Fall Break Trip to Gatlinburg, TN** – originally scheduled for October 19-22 – has been cancelled. As we move forward, we are considering good options for our annual OSP Spring Break trip. This trip will be a combination of cultural activities and educational tours in a desirable location. We understand how important travel is to our students, and we want to be able to continue offering these opportunities to them in the future.
- Our next **OSP Luncheon** will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 in the TRiO LRC.
- As always, we are excited to be involved in the **Fall Open House** event on Saturday, October 28. We’re looking forward to meeting and presenting to our future Lancers.

Upward Bound

- Our Upward Bound project is in year two of a five-year grant cycle which will conclude on May 31, 2027. We are currently serving 34 students from first-generation and low-income backgrounds at **Andrew Jackson, Buford, and Lancaster High Schools**. We must increase our official enrollment to a minimum of 62 by the end of the current reporting period on May 31, 2024. We are in the process of reviewing 64 pending applications. This puts us in good shape to reach our target enrollment.
- An orientation session for the parents of both new and existing participants was held at USCL on September 7.
- A **Welcome Back Session** for all participants was held at USCL on September 12.
- **Eddie Boykin** conducted a **Tools Inventory** session on September 28. This featured an overview of the services which the project provides (e.g., advising, college visits, dual enrollment, financial aid, and tutoring) to all participants. This included a review of **South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS)** services.
- There will be a **Financial Aid Prep** session on Thursday, October 12 in the TRiO LRC at 4:30 p.m.
- All participants are being encouraged to attend USCL’s **Fall Open House** on Saturday, October 28.

Student Organizations

- The **USCL Rotaract Club** will sponsor a **PAL Information Workshop** on Tuesday, October 10 at 12:15 p.m. This meeting will be held in the TRiO LRC. Lunch from Bojangles will be provided. All USCL students interested in becoming a PAL are encouraged to attend.
- **D.E.F.I.N.E.** will hold a Breast Cancer Awareness meeting on Wednesday, October 18 in the TRiO LRC at 12:15 p.m.
- **G.E.N.T.S.** will hold its next meeting in the TRiO LRC on Tuesday, October 24 at 12:15 p.m.
- We are very proud of several of our OSP students for starting the new **Ceramics Club** with Professor **Dianne Mahaffee** as well as the **Latin American Student Organization (LASO)** with **Dr. Dana Lawrence** (see photo below). LASO embraces all Latino cultures and nationalities, promotes equality, and strives to increase the visibility of the Latino community on campus.



Child Care Access Means Parents in School

- **CCAMPIS** is a federal grant program funded by the United States Department of Education (ED) to support student-parents. It exists to support the participation of low-income college students who have children under the age of 12 or with special needs, through the provision of campus-based childcare services.
- USCL's current CCAMPIS project ended on September 30, 2023. A new proposal was submitted to ED this past summer for roughly \$1.15 million in funding for four years (2024-27). Unfortunately, our application package did not score high enough to be recommended for a new grant award.
- ED received 152 eligible applications for new awards requesting over \$76 million. With the funds available for new grant awards, they were able to fund in rank order, the top 34 applications based on the total score assigned to the application. All applications recommended for funding scored 105 points or higher. Our proposal received a score of 98.

- Despite this setback, we want to thank the members of our proposal development committee for all their hard work. Committee members were as follows: **Dr. Shemsi Alhaddad; Mark Ammons; Ken Cole; Dr. Walt Collins; Buddy Faile; Dr. Todd Lekan; Dr. Kim Richardson; Lauren Thomas; and Matt Williamson.**

Community Service

- The **USCL Cares Back-to-School Campaign** concluded on September 21. Over 1,300 school supply items were collected for the three schools designated as neediest by the Lancaster County School District: **Brooklyn Springs Elementary School; Clinton Elementary School; and Southside Early Childhood Center.** These donations were delivered to the schools on September 28. We appreciate the following students for assisting with the deliveries: **Pedro Andrade Castro; Erica Garris; Dezyre Jones; Nevaeh Mancini; and Garrett Rollins** (see photo below).



- Students in the **USCL Rotaract Club** will assist with the **Oktoberfest Block Party and Cornhole Tournament**, sponsored by the **Lancaster Rotary Club**, in downtown Lancaster on Saturday, October 7. This group will also put together snack packs to benefit the **Lancaster Area Coalition for the Homeless (LACH)** and the **USCL Student Food Pantry** following their meeting next week.
- We are working to have a team of students participate in the **United Way of Lancaster County's 2023 Bed Race** on Saturday, October 21. Special thanks to **Mark Ammons** and **Jeff Rammage** for spearheading this initiative. Even though USCL is hoping to field a team of students, we could always use some faculty assistance. If any of you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mark at rmammons@email.sc.edu.
- The **USCL Cares Annual Food Drive** will run Monday, October 16 through Thursday, November 16, 2023. Canned and dry goods will be collected for **LACH** as well as the **USCL Student Food Pantry**. Donation boxes will be in Founders Hall, Hubbard Hall, Starr Hall, and the TRiO LRC.



Legislative Updates

- The federal government will remain open until Friday, November 17. Neither the House nor Senate had completed work on 12 FY24 appropriations bills needed to keep the government operating when the fiscal year started on October 1. A Continuing Resolution (CR), a short-term funding measure that level-funds all government programs, was necessary to ensure that a federal government “shutdown” didn't occur.
- The House has cancelled its upcoming recess period so that it, along with the Senate, can continue working on FY24 appropriation bills. Should the Congress fail to complete its work on all FY24 appropriations bills by November 17, either a new CR will be needed to keep the federal government operating or there will be a temporary government “shutdown.”
- According to the **Council for Opportunity in Education** (COE), the Federal TRiO Programs are forward funded, and current funds are already secured. As of now, ED does not anticipate any delays in our Annual Performance Reports (APRs), but there may be an impact if the shutdown continues to progress.
- Your advocacy for TRiO can make a difference. If anyone is interested in learning how you may support any of these bipartisan funding efforts to assist our TRiO grant projects at the USC Lancaster campus, please contact **Mark Ammons** at rmammons@email.sc.edu.

Proposed Revisions to the USCL Bylaws
University of South Carolina Lancaster Faculty Organization

Brief Title of Proposed Change	Addition to the charges of APGC to also be considered the campuses Satisfactory Academic Progress appeal committee.
Committee Proposing Revision	Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee
Date of Presentation to Faculty Organization	September, 1, 2023
Faculty Organization Approval Date	

Rationale for Proposed Revisions

- The campus has been using an ad hoc approach to the Campus FASAP Appeals Committee process, which can take additional time to decide given the need to gather a committee.
- The addition of these responsibilities to the APGC will also be in greater compliance with policies issued by the Palmetto College Central Financial Aid Office and U.S. Department of Education recommendations to have a standing committee made up of faculty and staff to review Financial Aid Appeals.
- The APGC is well-positioned to serve this need as the committee is charged with reviewing other related appeals and thus, this fits within the purview of the committee.

Summary of Proposed Revisions

To add the Campus FASAP Appeals Committee responsibilities to the APGC committee.

Section and page numbers of the current Bylaws for proposed revisions

Current	Proposed
<p>Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee</p> <p>Membership: One representative per division, the Academic Dean, a representative from the Office of Admissions and Records, the Director of Student Success and Retention, and up to two additional faculty members (administrative appointments).</p> <p>Purpose: The Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee reviews general admissions policy. It recommends appropriate faculty action on all requests for changing any grade recorded for more than one year. It decides all petitions for readmission. This committee reports and makes recommendations to the faculty and to the Dean of the University.</p>	<p>Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee</p> <p>Membership: One representative per division, the Academic Dean, a representative from the Office of Admissions and Records, the Director of Student Success and Retention, and up to two additional faculty members (administrative appointments).</p> <p>Purpose: The Admissions, Petitions, and Grade Change Committee reviews general admissions policy. It recommends appropriate faculty action on all requests for changing any grade recorded for more than one year. It decides all petitions for readmission. This committee will also function as the University’s Campus Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP) appeals committee. This committee reports and makes recommendations to the faculty and to the Dean of the University.</p>