



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
UNION

A Regional Palmetto College

FO Minutes
March 24, 2023

In person attendance:

Dr. Maggie Aziz
Dr. Randy Lowell
Dr. Allan Charles
Professor Sandy Phillips-Long
Professor Gale Ashmore
Dr. Andrew Pisano
Dr. David Mitra
Dr. Avery Fouts
Dr. Emily Schafer
Professor Neill Hance

On-line attendance:

Dr. Steve Lowe
Dr. David Hudson
Professor Courtney Pinnell
Dr. Lee Morris
Professor Susan Goebel
Dr. Joe Anderson
Dr. Katie Klik
Dr. Helene Maire-Afeli

FO Chair Dr. Andrew Pisano called the meeting to order at 12:10.

Approval of minutes from February 17 meeting

Approved.

Dean's Report: Dr. Randy Lowell

Dr. Lowell's notes are attached.

There was some discussion of athletic properties and whose responsibilities they are. Additional discussion ensued regarding facilities in Laurens County.

Academic Dean's Report: Dr. Maggie Aziz

Dr. Aziz's report is attached.

Dr. Pisano reported that we needed to vote on a member for the grievance committee. He said that Chris Rinehart has agreed to continue on the committee. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Faculty Welfare: Dr. Klik reported that the PC Senate Welfare Committee will be sending out a survey in April via an email link. She emphasized that it is important that *all faculty* complete the survey and that there will even be an incentive for doing so.

Announcements:

The next FO meeting will be April 28 at 9:00 AM in C104.

Adjournment

At 1:00 PM there was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:
Gale Ashmore, FO Secretary

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
March 24, 2023

Students

- Enrollment for the Spring semester finished at a headcount of 984, and FTE of 573.
- The SC Commission on Higher Education recently released new data, including updated Success and Graduation Rates. For First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen entering Fall 2018, our 150% Program Time Success Rate went up from last year, to 73.3%. This is the second highest in the state among all 4 PC campuses and 16 Technical Colleges, only trailing Tri-County Tech's 73.6% Success Rate among those institutions. Success Rate includes those students who graduated, transferred, or were still enrolled. This metric is more applicable than traditional Graduation Rate for our type of campus, since students often may only come for one year before transferring into a 4-year degree program at another school. That said, our Graduation Rate also went up almost 4 percentage points from the previous year, to 31.3%. This rate was the third-highest in the state among the 4 PC campuses and 16 Technical Colleges, only trailing Northeastern Tech's 36.1% and Tri-County Tech's 36.0% rates. If you're interested in more details on those data, the full CHE report can be found at https://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/CHE%20Data%20and%20Reports/2022_CHE_Statistical_Abstract_Web.pdf
- Our club Rifle Team recently participated in a competition in Walhalla. Senior BSN student, Brianna Fish, earned the bronze, finishing a couple points behind one of Clemson's students and a student from North Carolina, but ahead of the other four students from Clemson. Freshmen, Bianca Monteith, finished in 5th place, ahead of those four Clemson students as well.
- Congrats to our Women's Volleyball team, who went down to USC Salkehatchie last evening for a scrimmage in which they were victorious.
- At Rotary earlier this month, our athletics department had the program and had a chance to update the club about their progress in the classroom and on the field, including boasting the collective athletics GPA of 3.272, featuring a team GPA high of 3.743 for the softball team. This included some words from Zach Simmons (Athletic Director), Coach Royce (Softball), Coach Curlee (Soccer), and two of our 4.0 GPA student-athletes, Hannah Truett (Softball, and SGA President) and Nico Steinweg (Soccer, and NJCAA Region 10 Player of the Year).
- Three of our student-athletes were selected to join an invitational travel team that will travel to Spain for 10 days this summer to compete in four matches against local clubs there, including Nico Steinweg, Jose Fernandez, and Jameon Williams.
- Our new Golf Coach, Gil Moss, has gotten a great start on recruiting for that new club team for next year, including five commits and three more on the way, including one female golfer among the group who is particularly strong.
- Students from the Research Club and from one of Dr. Johnson's classes had a great trip up to the Native American Studies Center in Lancaster earlier this week. This included a guided tour of the exhibits, the archives, and the archaeology lab.
- Yesterday, we had a group of health science students visiting from Clinton High School to tour the nursing facilities here on campus. They had the opportunity to observe the trauma simulation that the Upper Division nursing students were put through in the Nursing Simulation Lab building, as well as experience the high-fidelity mannequins and the virtual reality equipment in the Science & Nursing Building. They had a lot of positive feedback following the tour, remarking how pleased they were with the abundance of interactive/hands-on experiences available on this campus relative to some of the other college's nursing programs that they have toured this year.
- We also had an Early College Open House on campus last night, with prospective rising 9th graders and their families who are interested in applying to enter into that early college program with us. This was preceded by a parent information night for these students and their families at the high school earlier this month.

Faculty/Staff News

- We completed the search for the permanent Associate Dean of Academic & Student Affairs position, with Dr. Aziz officially transitioning into that on 3/16 from her previous Interim position in that role.
- We are looking to wrap up a search for a permanent version of the position that serves as IT Director for the Carnegie Library and Coordinator for our PC iCarolina Labs, which is a cost-shared position with the library. We are also working on getting approval to post for a few other permanent staff positions to provide additional support in marketing/operations, and out at our Laurens location. We are also still awaiting approval to post for new permanent faculty positions.
- Congrats to our own Madisen Brewington, alum and Success Center staff, as she recently accepted an offer to start as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant at Special Services in Union County School District this August after she completes the clinical experiences for her bachelor's degree prior to that, ahead of graduate school studies after that.
- Reminder about today's faculty/staff cookout. We'll have burgers, brats, and chicken fingers over in the church annex building.

Facilities

- The Whitener Central Building second floor HVAC project is moving a few weeks ahead of schedule, originally estimated as a 4-6-month project that started in February.
- Renovation work on Truluck Gym (roof/bathrooms) will start after the semester concludes, as well as work on the new wet lab in the Nursing Simulation Lab building and on the softball/baseball fields this year.
- Preparations are underway for the move of the Laurens location to the old Bell Street school property over the summer. The school district there is committing substantial resources toward helping to make that work as well as it can starting Fall 2023.

Budget

The first draft of the campus budget was submitted this past Friday, based off of the House Ways & Means and full House recommended budgets. These versions call for tuition mitigation funding in exchange for not raising tuition; and an additional \$5 million in critical care & maintenance funds. This version also proposes a \$2,500 raise for FTE positions under \$83,000, or a 3% raise for FTE positions above \$83,000. There are also increases to the employer's health care and retirement expenses. These budget recommendations are still preliminary. The Senate Finance Committee will take up their deliberations on the budget in April.

**Academic Dean's Report
March 2023**

Awards Night:

- Awards Night – Tuesday, April 11 @ 6:30pm.
- If you haven't done so yet, please RSVP to Amber Ivey ASAP.
- If you do not plan on attending, please send short write-up about your nominee to Amber ASAP.
- If you plan on attending, be prepared to say a few words about your nominee.
- Reception (light refreshments - water/tea, chicken salad croissants, vegetable/fruit/cheese trays, cake squares) and photo opportunity directly after in Main Building foyer.

Course Cancellation:

- If you cancel class for ANY reason, please be sure to contact Academic Affairs. You cannot switch course modality without prior approval from the Associate Dean.
- Using BB to upload syllabus and input grades – highly recommended.

Advising:

- Summer and Fall 2023 schedules are live.
- Summer and Fall 2023 advising began **March 20**. Please be sure to review your courses on these schedules and reach out to your advisees to schedule advising appointments.

Important advising reminders:

- Review each advisee's transcript to ensure they are on track to earn their AA/AS degrees.
- Pay particular attention to courses coded as Carolina Core. Not all courses are coded as Carolina core and if they are not coded this way then they won't count towards the Carolina Core requirement for graduation.
- Courses on transcripts coded as 001t count only as electives and do not count as Carolina Core Courses.
- Students must earn a grade of C in English 101 to advance to 102.
- To maintain the LIFE scholarship, students must maintain a 3.0 and complete 30 credit hours per year (15 in the fall, 15 in the summer to avoid needing summer classes).
- Ask students if they have taken any courses for college credit outside of USC Union. Students should not repeat courses they have already successfully completed. Pay particular attention to transfer work. Check their transcripts for any transfer work. Also ask advisees if they have any transfer work/AP credit/dual enrollment credit (even if it is not posted in self-service). They may have taken courses elsewhere and their transcripts may not have been uploaded by the time that advising begins. Students can check with Blake Wilson if they need to get transfer work submitted to us.
- Ask students what they want to major in and where they want to transfer. Locate the program plan of study and register students in courses that will count towards AA/AS plus BA/BS.
- Please check with your advisees regarding location of classes, and if it would be more convenient for them to take classes out at Bell Street in Clinton (our new Laurens location beginning Fall 2023) be sure to look for those options on the schedule with them.

Annual Reviews:

- Completed and being reviewed by Randy. I will return ASAP and will schedule meetings to discuss.

Academic Bulletin:

- Revised and sent down to Columbia to be updated on the website.

Course Materials and Syllabi:

- Be sure to get information about any required course materials for your summer and fall courses to Tanja Black as soon as possible, ideally using the online submission portal to submit textbook information. If you are not requiring students to purchase any materials for your class, also let her know so they can convey that to the students as well.

Peer Reviews:

- Peer reviews are currently being conducted on several courses. I have reached out to several of you to help conduct those reviews. Thank you to all who have agreed to assist. Please have the reviews completed by the end of this semester.
- FIFs have been sent to the peer review committee and T&P committees for review.

Nursing:

- Next cohort of upper-division nursing students – 18 accepted, 2 waitlisted.

Faculty News:

- Please keep Dr. Steve Lownes and his family in her thought and prayers as they mourn the loss of his mother.