Palmetto College Campuses Staff Senate

Meeting via Teams

June 3, 2026 | 2:30 PM-3:30 PM

Laura Faile-Presiding

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 2:31 PM. A quorum was confirmed.

II. **Approval of Agenda**

- Motion: Tyrie Rowell
  Second: Chelsea Corbett
  Result: Approved unanimously

III. **Approval of Minutes**

A. February 4, 2026

- Motion: Tyrie Rowell
  Second: Chelsea Corbett
  Result: Approved unanimously

IV. **Recognitions**

A. Spring graduates Spring graduates recognized across campuses totaling 540 students.

- Palmetto College: 36 (BLS 23 & BOL 13)
- USC Lancaster: 188
- USC Salkehatchie: 68
- USC Sumter: 155
- USC Union: 93

V. **Reports**

A. Officer's Reports

- No officer reports were presented.

B. Administrative/Campus Reports
- Several units reported no updates.
- Written reports were submitted by:

1. USC Lancaster (USC Lancaster report was received during the meeting)
2. USC Salkehatchie
3. USC Sumter
4. USC Union
5. Palmetto College Development
6. Palmetto College Information Technology

- *Victoria Hollins, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources & Operations stated via email that she didn't have an HR report at this time. However, as part of the FY 2026-2027 budget and pay plan, the South Carolina General Assembly may authorize a general increase (GI) for South Carolina state employees, but the outcome is not yet known. We will let the faculty and staff know as soon as it is approved.

C. Standing Committee Reports
- No reports were presented.

I. Old Business

A. Communication Survey: The communication survey was completed; however, due to committee attrition, work on this initiative will continue into the next year.

II. New Business

A. Discussion of 2026-2027 Executive Committee Vacancy and Transition Plan:
- Vacancies across campuses were discussed, along with a proposed process for filling positions and maintaining voting continuity.

- Motion: Tyrie Rowell
  Second: Bradley Rogers
  Result: Motion passed

- Officer Continuity Plan: A plan was presented to maintain current executive committee officers (with the exception of Chair and Chair-Elect transitions) until all vacancies are filled or until August 3, 2026.

- Motion: Adrienne Cataldo
  Second: Bradley Rogers
  Result: Motion passed

B. Discussion of 2026–2027 Committee Priorities and Structure:
   - Committees for the 2026–2027 year were formally activated. Each campus will designate one representative per committee, with committees responsible for establishing meeting schedules and work plans.

C. Professional Development Opportunities
   - Several professional development opportunities were shared, including:
     1. Appreciative Advising Experience
     2. USC Career Champion certification
     3. Ed2Go continuing education programs
     4. USC Office of Organizational Excellence Improvement Leader Program

     *Additional emphasis was placed on increasing professional development opportunities across all campuses.

D. PCC Staff Senate Resolutions
   - The Staff Senate resolution process was introduced. Resolutions serve as formal statements expressing the collective position or recommendation of staff and may be presented by senators, committees, or campus groups.

III. Comment/Participation (2 minutes per person)

- Members expressed appreciation for leadership and staff contributions throughout the year.

IV. Announcements

A. PCC Executive Committee Retreat/Meeting: An Executive Committee retreat is being planned (TBD).

B. PCC Staff Senate Meeting: The next Staff Senate meeting will be held on September 23, 2026 (2:30–3:30 PM)

C. Coffee and Conversations sessions will begin in Fall 2026.

V. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:19 PM.

Attending
Laura Atkinson; Mark Ammons; Jennifer Breland; Bridget Blackwell; Jean Carrano; Adrienne Cataldo; Megan Catoe; Chelsea Corbett; Amy Crotzer; Jason Darby; Shelanda Deas; Kelsie Decker; Chris DeWolf; Bob Dyer; Shana Dry; Laura Faile; Blake Faulkenberry; Lamonda Garrett; Terrence Gilmore; Aurora Hoey; Breana Jones; Susan Jett; Pat Kennedy; Cindy Kirk; Randy Lowell; Tracey Mobley Chavous; Makayla Newell; Amber Novotny; Adam Olano; Robert Overton; Bridgett Plexico; Emily Ray; Cynthia Reza; Bradley Rogers; Tyrie Rowell; Kristie Roberson; Kendra Scott; Dustin Smith; Jernitha Smith; Janell Solomons; Amy Stanley; Bernard Totten; Aretha Tomlin; Jessica Williams; Marchetta Williams.

Submitted,

Jennifer Breland

Palmetto College Campuses Staff Senate Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
LANCASTER

Dr. Courtney B. Catledge
Regional Palmetto College Dean

Report to the Palmetto College Staff Senate
June 2026

People

Enrollment

Official Spring enrollment ended in 2289 headcount. The strong Spring enrollment is consistent with enrollment trends for the last several years. As of May 11, 2026, enrollment is 537 students up from 486 last year on May 11, 2025. This is slightly below freeze last July when the enrollment totaled 564.

Staff Searches

- Executive Director of Enrollment Management – Summer 2026 (underway)
- Director of Student Success and Retention – Summer 2026 (underway)
- Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs – Fall 2026

Employee Support

Please remember that **the university offers work-life balance and wellbeing support** through our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). These services are helpful in times of stress and adjustment.

USC Lancaster in our Communities

The **Pathway to Possibilities** event was hosted by Trio, the Office of Admissions, and various other campus departments in collaboration with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood. The event took place on **Friday, April 24th on campus**. The event hosted 8th graders from AR Rucker approximately 170 in attendance.

Other items…

Banquet Award Ceremony for Teacher of the Year and Servant Heart Awards. During the evening of Wednesday, April 8th from 5:30-7:30 PM all faculty, staff, and students were invited to an awards banquet. Long-standing awards such as Teacher of the Year and Servant Heart were awarded along with awards like Student Club of the Year and Most Spirited Lancer.

- **Teacher of the Year Winners:**
  Zoe Byrd: Servant's Heart Award
  Fernanda Burke: 2024-2025 Distinguished Teacher of the Year.
- Other Awards to note:
  Elizabeth Easley: 2026 Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award
  Brittany Taylor-Driggers: Chris P. Plyler Excellence in Service Award
  Amy Gerald: 2026 Garnet Apple Award for Teaching Innovation

During Fall 2026, the **NASC** will host two **Smithsonian traveling exhibitions**! From **August 22 through October 3rd**, you can see he ***Americans* exhibit** which explores how deeply intertwined American Indians are in the history, pop culture, and identity of the United States. This exhibit delves into familiar events, including the story behind the Thanksgiving holiday, the legacy of Pocahontas, the Trail of Tears, and the Battle at Little Bighorn. From **September 19th through November 29th**, you can see ***Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces*** which takes a comprehensive look at Native military involvement and explores Native American military service from its origins to the modern day.

Commencement 2026: Planning was well attended on Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 am. This year's speaker was Mr. Chad Douglas, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Primary Talent Partners. Special thanks to all staff who dedicated time and energy to making this event a success.

Chancellor Craig Wilson's Investiture took place on May 12th in Bundy Auditorium on the USC Lancaster Campus. It was well attended by representatives from PC and all fo the PC campuses. Special thanks to all staff who helped with putting this important event on.

Planning is underway for our annual **Faculty and Staff welcome luncheon** for mid-August. Details to come.

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South Carolina
SALKEHATCHIE

Palmetto College Staff Senate
May 26, 2026
Campus Dean's Report

Campus Highlights:

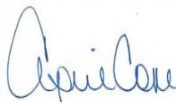
- Spring headcount enrollment at freeze was 772, up 3 from last year's freeze. FTE was 428, up 27 from last year.
- Hosted a successful commencement on May 1 with 127 graduates.
- In partnership with Colleton County and Walterboro City emergency operations staff and law enforcement, USC Salkehatchie hosted its first active shooter drill on Friday, April 3, which was a great success.
- USC Salkehatchie hosted Business After Hours in partnership with the Allendale Historical Society on March 19. This event aligned with a State Museum exhibit that was on campus throughout the week.
- On March 30, the SC Works Connection Points Ribbon Cutting was held. These connection points, located in the iCarolina Lab on both campuses, provide access to workforce development resources, unemployment insurance information, and career services through SC Works.
- AI workshops in partnership with the College of Information and Communications are to be held in iCarolina Labs on both campuses in June.
- The USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute's Leadership Salkehatchie cohort has completed the program, with graduation scheduled for May 28.
- Continuing to work with USCB to reestablish the nursing partnership program. At this time, we anticipate a spring 2027 upper division start on the Salkehatchie campus.
- The Allendale County Hospital Health Fair will be held in the atrium on May 27.

- Progress is being made on the Student Commons and Conference Center on the Walterboro campus and the softball complex project on the Allendale campus. I am collaborating with finance and facilities staff to assess funding availability and align priorities with campus needs. Upcoming efforts will focus on updates to Spruce Hall.
- The annual Give4Garnet campaign was held March 25–26, which yielded positive results:
    - USC Salkehatchie raised $11,322 from 81 donors.
    - Dr. Aisha Haynes's matching fund generated $3,875 in support of the Dr. Ann C. Carmichael Faculty and Staff Excellence Fund. This contribution enabled the fund to reach endowment status, with remaining funds allocated to support annual award distributions while the principal continues to grow.
    - The pre-nursing matching fund, supported by an anonymous donor, raised $1,090.
- Athletic events remain accessible via live streaming on the Urban Edge Network, available through both web and mobile platforms. Faculty and staff are encouraged to support our student-athletes by viewing these events when unable to attend in person.

HR Updates:

- Hires since last report:
    - Jennifer Breland – transitioned from Receptionist to Student Life Coordinator
- Currently accepting applications for the following positions:
    - Assistant Professor/Instructor of Business
    - Assistant Professor/Instructor of Foreign Language
    - Director of Communications, Marketing, and Alumni Relations
    - Director of Budget and Finance
- Aiming for Excellence Award winners:
    - March – James Herndon
    - April – Amy Kilpatrick
    - May – Shelby Broomfield

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. April Cone
Campus Dean

UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
SUMTER
A Regional Palmetto College

PC Staff Senate Report
June 3, 2026
Eric M. Reisenauer, Ph.D.

Staff

Four staff members reported significant professional and/or institutional accomplishments since the last report. Some accomplishments edited for report brevity.

Beth Hawkins

- Served as a featured Plenary Session Presenter at the National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research (NCTEAR) 2026 Conference, introducing and leading the plenary session titled "Beyond the Science of Reading: Research, Equity, and Classroom Realities," an interdisciplinary panel that brought together leading national scholars to critically examine the intersections of reading research, equity, and classroom practice. The discussions addressed longstanding debates and emerging directions in literacy research. The session highlighted how research, policy, and classroom realities intersect—and how equity-driven approaches can reshape reading instruction for diverse learners.

Danny Hodge

- Coach Hodge is beginning his 4th year as Head Golf Coach at USC Sumter. He began with just 4 players on the team and USC Sumter never having won any tournaments or awards in golf.
- The golf team has grown to 14 players last year and again this year. Last year, they won a tournament for the first time in school history, then followed it up with winning the Regional Championship and being awarded Coach of the Year. Player Max Laine from Sweden broke the school record with a score of 69 in a tournament.
- This past season Golf won 2 tournaments and repeated as Regional Champions, and Coach Hodge was awarded Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. Dean's List recipient and player Axel Staahlgren from Sweden won 2 tournaments and setting a new school record shooting 66/69. Axel went on to be chosen for the All-District team, of which only 10 players are chosen from the entire district.
- With this upcoming season, our International player count includes five from Sweden, two from Finland and one player from Germany. It still amazes me that someone will come to my hometown to play golf here for USC-Sumter. With the

help of our select donors that have given so generously to help support our golf program, I think this upcoming season will be the best year yet!

Dustin Smith

- The USC Sumter Men's and Women's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams completed their second season with outstanding results for this emerging Fire Ants program. Coach Smith negotiated with the Wilson Hall Athletic Director for the use of the school's track and field facilities and created innovative training solutions when the track was unavailable. The coaching staff maintained a keen focus on performance-based outcomes, leading to highlights such as Aden Newkirk's victory in the 100M at the Georgia Southern Relays and Lacey Barrett's 5,000M win at the Savannah State Eyeopener.

- The coaches deftly orchestrated the athletes' participation in meets ranging from large competitions featuring more than 1,500 athletes to smaller events with five to ten teams. Meet directors were often quick to compliment the Fire Ants Head Coach and the men's and women's athletes for their professionalism and determination to compete in challenging conditions, including rain, wind, cold, and blazing heat.

- The Track and Field Head Coach is fervently recruiting the next generation of Fire Ants student-athletes to carry on the tradition of excellence established during the first two years of the USC Sumter program.

Kris Weissmann

- The USC Sumter Esports teams have won the following spring esports championships:

  Fortnite: NJCAAE National Championship
  Valorant: PCL Invitational Championship
  Marvel Rivals: PCL Ranked Championship

Campus/Accolades

- Dr. Eric Reisenauer was named USC Sumter’s Campus Dean.
- USC Sumter held a Women’s History Event which featured student readings from the USC Sumter Theatre Club.
- Dr. Austin Jenkins, Instructor of Biology, in partnership with Cassie Castleberry, Water Resources Agent of Sumter County and Glenn Button, Litter Officer with the City of Sumter, organized a litter sweep on and around USC Sumter’s campus with students and faculty.
- WLTX News 19 visited campus to film a news segment about the many campus updates that are underway.
- USC Sumter broke ground on a streetscape project along Miller Road. The project will include reconstruction of the fountain, new monument signage, brick and iron fencing, palmetto trees, and landscaping upgrades.

- The Book Store held its annual graduation fair for students to explore education and employment opportunities after they graduate from USC Sumter.
- Dr. Wanda Little Fenimore presented for the March edition of USC Sumter's Faculty Seminar. Her presentation was entitled, "Nonviolent Citizen: Mrs. Ruby Cornwell's Radical Acts".
- Dr. Austin Jenkin's Environmental Biology class installed birdhouses on campus this spring. The birdhouses were made and donated by the Midlands Bird and Nature Alliance.
- Commencement 2026 was held on May 6 with 137 graduates participating.

Athletics

- Adam Howarth was hired as the head men's soccer coach.
- Throwing pad has been put in place for our Track and Field throwers, providing a great place for them to practice on campus.
- Softball field phase II has begun.
- Men's golf won the Region 10 tournament and advanced to district tournament in Alabama. USC Sumter's Axel Stahlgren won NJCAA Region 10 Player of the Year. Danny Hodge was awarded NJCAA Region 10 Coach of the Year.
- USC Sumter, in partnership with the City of Sumter and the Palmetto Tennis Center, hosted the NJCAA Women's Tennis National Championships in May. The estimated economic impact to the City of Sumter and surrounding areas is almost $1 million.

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
June 4, 2026

- Enrollment for the Spring 2026 semester represented a new record for Spring, with a headcount of 1,569 (up 19.9% from 1,308 last year), and FTE of 904 (up 21.8% from 742 last year), with increases from last Spring in dual enrollment and traditional student populations. Enrollment for Summer is already well ahead of final numbers from last summer, including as of 5/25, headcount of 152 (up 49% from last summer's final number of 102) and FTE of 84 (up 37.7% from last summer's final number of 61). For the upcoming Fall semester, numbers are also trending ahead, including headcount as of 5/29 of 145 (up 9.02% from 133 this time last year) and FTE of 136 (up 7.94% from 126 this time last year). Applications and admits for Fall are also trending ahead year-to-date.

- We are in the final stretch of the two full-time faculty searches that we had launched during the past academic year, including an accepted offer for a new Instructor of Computer Science, and awaiting approval to make an offer for a new Instructor of Biology, both of which would start this Fall.

- In July, we will welcome Chef Rob Patterson onto the team. He will teach some of our hospitality classes out at our Laurens Location in Clinton, particularly the ones that involve hands-on work in our newly renovated teaching kitchen at that location. He will also be part of our staff as he manages day-to-day upkeep of that space and assists with recruitment and advising efforts for students who are interested in those 2+2 pathways that we have formalized with USC Columbia's College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management. Additionally, Chef Rob will begin offering non-credit continuing education classes for the campus and community, with the first of those series launching on July 30. That 4-Part Smoke & Sizzle 101 course will meet every Thursday night for 4 weeks, from 6:00-8:00pm at our Laurens Location in Clinton. Individuals can register for any of those weeks separately, or register for all 4 of them to receive a discounted rate. For more information, the registration link is included here: Smoke & Sizzle 101: 4-Part Course.

- We have finished working through an MOU with a fiber optic company to provide space for their non-credit trainings. Once they confirm they have instructors and curriculum ready to deploy, we will begin to advertise those trainings to the public.

- We have begun to partner with the local Wild Pines Sanctuary non-profit in Union to support the work that they do in rescuing animals from unsafe situations and providing perpetual care for them on their farm. This includes opportunities for students to volunteer time in helping to care for the animals or the property, as well as the possibility of some creative collaborations, such as goat yoga classes with our Strength and Conditioning Coordinator.

- Some medical students from VCOM are working on a community-focused quality improvement project focused on STIs among college-aged students and young adults in the Union County area. This includes pre- and post-educational intervention, and will recruit students from campus this summer and through August to help them with this.

- We held our annual Upcountry Literary Festival on the USC Union campus in April, with a number of authors and artists converging to share their work during those two days. Special thanks to the committee for putting this together, including Randy Ivey, Dr. Sarah Carter, Tracy Stapleton, Ashley Rabanal, and Teresa Adams.

- Congratulations to our faculty on some recent accomplishments, including:
    - Dr. Andrew Kettler, Assistant Professor of History, received Palmetto College Shaw Award for Excellence in Scholarship.
    - Dr. Steve Lownes, Associate Professor of World Languages, received Palmetto College Duffy Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has also, once again, secured grant funding to support another iteration of the Latin American Film Festival here at USC Union during the upcoming academic year.
    - Courtney Pinnell, Instructor of Nursing, selected for induction into USC Palmetto College chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, and received SC Council for Deans & Directors of Nursing Education Scholarship for her graduate studies in nursing.
    - Ashley Rabanal, Instructor of Art, had a painting juried into Artfields, the largest annual art festival in the South, held in Lake City, SC, in May. Ashley is also leading travel study in New York City this month with 4 Art students.
    - USC Union was extremely well represented at Discover USC in Columbia last month, with 10 students presenting and their mentors there to support them, and multiple faculty members judging posters. Special shout out to Khloie Sims and her mentor, Dr. Sarah Carter, for earning First Place in her group; and to Eliza Petty and her mentor, Dr. Jennifer Triplett, for earning Second Place in her group.

- In Athletics, some recent accomplishments of note, include:
    - Bantam Softball players worked their way into the record books, including June Heitman becoming the winningest pitcher in USC Union program history when she earned her 26th win as a pitcher this season.
    - Bantams Bass Fishing once again cracked the Top 25 in the Collegiate Bass Fishing Series national rankings, reaching #24 in the nation after the recent ACA Hartwell Slam and the Bassmaster College Series Santee events last month. They continue to represent the campus with multiple duos having qualified for the national championship events this summer. Additionally, Bantam Angler, Chase Rogers, was recently named the recipient of the Association of Collegiate Angler's 2026 Top Academic All-American, nationally.
    - Bantams Golf hosted their first Invitational Golf Tournament at their home course at Lakeside Country Club in Laurens in late February. The team overall competed well, and particularly freshman golfer, Maddox Isbell, finishing second overall with a two-round score of 149. Additionally, in March, Travis Gosnell finished tied for 5th overall and made the All-Tournament Team for the Koala Classic Tournament.
    - Academically, our student-athletes excelled again in the Spring semester, resulting in very strong finishes for the academic year as a whole, with an overall Athletics GPA of 3.289 for the 2025-2026 academic year, including Team GPAs of 3.79 (softball), 3.38 (bass fishing), 3.34 (women's volleyball), 3.31 (men's soccer), 3.30 (women's soccer), 3.29 (men's golf), and 3.12 (baseball).

- The budget remains in good shape for the campus, with expenditures on target for this point in the fiscal year. In facilities and operations, here are some updates on those projects:
    - The Laurens Location in Clinton has had architect design updates and cost estimates for renovations to one of the old classroom hallways.
    - Restroom work continues at the baseball field, as well as work at the Jonesville gym and its new roof project.
    - The Student Services Building had its secondary ceiling removed and has received multiple bids for its roof replacement project.
    - The Art building ceiling was sprayed for insulation, as that project moves forward with an anticipated completion ahead of the start of the Fall semester.

UNIVERSITY OF
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PALMETTO COLLEGE

Chris DeWolf
Sr. Director of Development

Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Staff Senate
June 3, 2026

Development

- PC has raised over $2.5M in FY'26 for the first time in its history, surpassing our prior record of $2.1M in FY'24

- PC had an outstanding Giving Day (aka Give 4 Garnet) raising nearly $270,000 from 500+ donors
    - Thank you to everyone who gave to support our students!

- USC in the silent phase of our new capital campaign raising $888M to date against our goal of $2B

UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
PALMETTO COLLEGE

Bob Dyer
Director of Information Technology

Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Staff Senate
June 3, 2026

AI Initiatives

- Palmetto College hosted our first AI workshop with Black Dog Black Cat on April 24th. The training consisted of Faculty and Staff from the Palmetto College campuses who represented AI champions for their campuses.
- Palmetto College is continuing to explore AI initiatives for Palmetto College Faculty and Staff including BoodleBox.
- Additional AI initiatives are in process but not ready to share at this point.

Enterprise Applications

- Palmetto College is in the process of procuring Slate (CRM) & myFootPath.

Equipment Replacement

- Lancaster upgraded its telephone server and application.
- Lancaster has upgraded AV in the campus tutoring center and library.
- Union is replacing copiers this summer.
- Union is looking to upgrade four to six classrooms depending on cost and funding.
- Salkehatchie & Union are exploring options for upgrading their phone systems.
- Salkehatchie is planning to build a Zoom Room in Walterboro for their Nursing program with USC Beaufort.

- Sumter installed digital schedulers for all classrooms and conference rooms.
- Sumter set up an outdoor classroom called “The Pavilion”.
- Sumter finished renovations in the Banquet Hall including full AV capabilities.
- Sumter set up Air Fiber to wirelessly beam speeds up to 1G from our Anderson Library building to our Softball fields for Streaming cameras, security cameras and Wi-Fi access.

Security

- Palmetto College will be completing the annual security survey. This survey measures Palmetto College’s cyber security posture.