



PALMETTO COLLEGE

*Palmetto College Faculty Senate*

Microsoft Teams

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Morning Session ..... 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Welcome, Dr. Steve Lownes

Introduction, Dr. Craig Wilson

New Faculty Introductions, Dr. Walt Collins

Update on Policies, Dr. Walt Collins

*(The Campus Deans and the Associate Provost will Submit Written Reports.)*

Standing Committees ..... 10:45 - 12:00 PM

I. Rights and Responsibilities

II. Welfare

III. System Affairs

Executive Committee ..... 10:30 - 12:00 PM

Deans Meeting ..... 10:30 - 12:00 PM

Break ..... 12:00 - 12:30 PM

Afternoon Session..... 12:30 - 3:00 PM

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order at 12:30pm
- II. Attendance
- III. Correction/Approval of Minutes: [April 18, 2025](#)  
Microsoft Teams
- IV. Reports from Standing Committees
  - A. Rights and Responsibilities – Professor Andrew Kettler
  - B. Welfare – TBD
  - C. System Affairs – Professors Tekla Johnson & R. Mac Jones
- V. Executive Committee
  - A. Chair - Professor Steve Lownes
  - B. *Palmetto College Faculty Manual* Liaison Officer – Professor Kajal Ghoshroy
- VI. Reports from Special Committees
  - A. Committee on Libraries – Professor R. Mac Jones
  - B. Committee on Curricula and Courses – Professor Allen Kanapala
  - C. Committee on Faculty Welfare – Professor Gale Ashmore
  - D. System Faculty Leadership Council– Professor Steve Lownes
  - E. Palmetto College AOE Council – Dean Ron Cox
  - F. Palmetto College Research and Productive Scholarship Committee – Professor Matt Rashotte
  - G. Other Committees
- VII. Unfinished Business
  - A. Motions on Senior Instructor
  - B. Motions on Grievance
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Committee on the Carolina Core
- IX. Announcements
  - A. Faculty Fall Social: October 24, 2025 – USC Union
- X. Adjournment

# Palmetto College Faculty Senate

Friday, September 19, 2025

Morning Session

---

## Palmetto College Senate Meeting: Chancellor Introduction, Enrollment, Leadership Update, and AI Strategy

Date: September 19

### 1. Executive Summary:

- Purpose: Introduce new Chancellor, Dr. Craig Wilson; share current enrollment trends; highlight key findings from a transformational leadership study; outline leadership philosophy; provide an update on a recent campus incident; and frame an institutional approach to AI. Q&A covered AI access, faculty development, and potential certificate programs.
- Enrollment: Overall enrollment is among the best on record (~8,460). Significant variance in dual-enrollment share across campuses (approx. 30%–83%). Online enrollment dipped from 2023 to 2024 (~-2%) and rebounded in 2025 (~+10%), net ~+8% from 2023 to 2025. Focus areas: balance portfolio (dual vs. non-dual), resource-backed marketing, and growth opportunities across campuses and online.
- Growth Vision: With appropriate resources, Palmetto College could grow to 10,000–12,000 students. While current *on paper* enrollment is around 8,000, removing the disproportionate number of dual enrollment students brings the core non-dual enrollment closer to 4,000, highlighting a significant gap to fill. Immediate focus includes clarifying identity, strategic execution, and resourcing marketing/recruiting.
- Transformational Leadership Study (ASCU) — (nine areas): Clarifying Palmetto College identity; addressing the 2023 faculty welfare study; defining leadership competencies; refining the leadership system; ensuring PC leaders use campus-based leadership descriptions; focusing on strategy execution; looking at leadership tools and tips; celebrating the mission, nurturing Palmetto College culture, and recognizing campus nuances; and creating a leadership onboarding program and ongoing development series.
- Chancellor's Leadership Philosophy: Lead by example, modeling desired behavior; prioritize compassion, kindness, and accountability, noting that authority can be delegated but responsibility cannot; uphold dignity and respect as non-negotiable; emphasize that emotional intelligence must match or exceed intellectual intelligence; maintain transparency and an "open door" policy, encouraging direct reports to speak with their supervisors first to avoid "end-

arounds" while remaining accessible; ensure team members shine rather than seeking personal spotlight; commit to continual learning and professional growth (inspired by da Vinci's seven steps, with curiosity as paramount); and foster thought leadership and knowledge sharing at local, national, and international levels.

- Recent Incident (Union Campus): An employee who also taught part-time made off and vulgar remarks in response to political commentary related to the tension sparked by "Charlie Kirk's assassination last week" (as stated by the speaker). Outcome: the employee's part-time teaching assignment ended; the employee remains in their full-time staff role at the Union campus but will not be in classrooms. Politicians remain dissatisfied; the situation is under evaluation as of September 19.
- AI Strategy: AI is pervasive and accelerating; Palmetto must ensure students and employees are AI-prepared/enabled. Leverage iCarolina Labs—potentially evolve into "AI Carolina" access points; add Windows capability via Parallels on Macs; install local LLMs where feasible; expand non-credit intros and consider credit-bearing pathways. Tap South Carolina's growing data center ecosystem (Google, Meta, others). Pursue practical, multi-tool AI literacy (ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity, Llama, Grok, etc.) and cross-checking to reduce hallucinations.
- Access to AI Tools: Columbia faculty currently have ChatGPT access; Palmetto Colleges do not have subscription access to ChatGPT yet. Estimated system subscription mentioned (~\$50k), with possibility to buy into USC's contract. In the interim, use free/low-cost tools and multi-engine workflows. Workshop for instructors scheduled next Friday (hosted by Patrick Tulsi et al.).
- Certificates/Minors: Strong interest in developing AI-related certificates (credit and non-credit) aligned to workforce demand; potential marketing differentiator and faster pathway for students to upskill/reskill.

## **2. Detailed Breakdown by Topic:**

### **Topic 1: Meeting Opening and Purpose**

- Steve Lownes opened the meeting, introduced Chancellor Dr. Craig Wilson, outlined agenda: Chancellor remarks + Q&A, then policy and new faculty introductions with Dr. Walt Collins.

### **Topic 2: Enrollment Update and Growth Vision**

- Discussion points:
  - Overall enrollment ~8,460—among best on record.
  - Dual-enrollment share varies widely by campus (Union and Salkehatchie at the extremes, with Lancaster and Sumter also having large dual components); the aim is to balance the enrollment portfolio.
  - Online enrollment: 2023 = 1,404; 2024 = 1,373 (~-2%); 2025 = 1,522 (+~10% YoY), resulting in a net ~+8% from 2023 to 2025.

- The Board of Visitors asked “How big can Palmetto be?” Dr. Wilson posits 10,000–12,000 students with the right resources, noting that while *on paper* enrollment is around 8,000, removing the disproportionate number of dual enrollment students brings the core non-dual enrollment closer to ~4,000, highlighting the need to close this gap for growth.
- Resource needs include stronger marketing and recruitment resourcing to compete in a noisy online market, leveraging tactical social media plus paid reach to appear on “page one” of search results.
- Decisions made:
  - None finalized; intent to continue exploring strategies and resourcing for growth and portfolio balance.
- Action items/commitments:
  - Dr. Wilson to drill down in future meetings on enrollment strategies and resource needs.

### **Topic 3: Transformational Leadership Study (ASCU) — Summary Highlights**

- Discussion points:
  - Dr. Wilson reviewed a high-level summary of nine areas from the report: Clarifying Palmetto College identity; addressing the 2023 faculty welfare study; defining leadership competencies; refining the leadership system; ensuring PC leaders use campus-based leadership descriptions; focusing on strategy execution; looking at leadership tools and tips; celebrating the mission, nurturing Palmetto College culture, and recognizing campus nuances; and creating a leadership onboarding program and ongoing development series. Emphasis was placed on professional development, onboarding, and sustained support for leaders, particularly those coming from varied educational backgrounds.
- Decisions made:
  - None; early review stage.
- Action items/commitments:
  - Dr. Wilson to continue reviewing the full report and use findings to guide next steps.

### **Topic 4: Chancellor’s Leadership Philosophy and Operating Principles**

- Discussion points:
  - Lead by example, modeling desired behavior; prioritize compassion, kindness, and accountability, noting that authority can be delegated but responsibility cannot; uphold dignity and respect as non-negotiable; emphasize that emotional intelligence must match or exceed intellectual intelligence, fostering a culture of open feedback; maintain open-door, transparent communication, encouraging direct reports to speak with their supervisors first to avoid "end-arounds" while remaining accessible for one-on-ones; promote team recognition over personal spotlight; commit to

continuous learning and professional growth, inspired by da Vinci's seven steps (with curiosity as paramount); and encourage faculty thought leadership and knowledge sharing at local, national, and international levels.

- Decisions made:
  - Norm-setting for leadership conduct and communication across Palmetto.
- Action items/commitments:
  - Dr. Wilson open to one-on-ones; will notify supervisors unless confidentiality applies.

### **Topic 5: Recent Union Campus Incident**

- Discussion points:
  - Context: Tensions following "Charlie Kirk's assassination last week" (as stated by the speaker); an employee (who also taught part-time as an adjunct) made off and vulgar remarks in direct response to a politician's call to name a street after Kirk.
  - Institutional response: The employee's part-time teaching assignment was ended; the employee remains in their full-time staff role at the Union campus but will not be in classrooms.
  - Ongoing pressure from legislators persists, and the situation remains under evaluation as of September 19.
- Decisions made:
  - Finalized immediate personnel action as of Sept 19; continue to monitor.
- Action items/commitments:
  - Leadership to continue evaluating the situation and manage external stakeholder concerns

### **Topic 6: AI Strategy, Access, and Faculty Development**

- Discussion points:
  - AI ubiquity: imperative to AI-enable faculty, staff, and students; integrate AI literacy across academic, workforce, and back-office functions.
  - iCarolina Labs: reimagine as AI access hubs ("AI Carolina"); add Windows capability via Parallels on Macs; install local LLMs where feasible; expand non-credit intros (current 2-hour sessions via CIC partners).
  - SC Opportunity: Significant data center investments (Google ~\$3.3B; Meta in Aiken; 9–35 centers statewide depending on source). Align programs to non-technical AI roles (prompt engineering, ethics, marketing, training, project management, etc.).
  - Tooling and access: Columbia faculty have ChatGPT access; Palmetto does not yet. Estimated ~\$50k for license; possible to buy into USC's contract. In the interim, leverage free tools (ChatGPT free tier, Gemini, Perplexity, Llama, Grok). Advocate multi-engine use and cross-checking to reduce hallucinations.

- Workshop announcement: Patrick Saucier promoting next Friday's practical AI workshop for instructors at all experience levels (emails via Gene).
- Q&A highlights:
  - Carmela Gottesman: Asked about extending ChatGPT access; Dr. Wilson: not yet extended; pursuing options and cost; interim plan relies on free/multiple tools and verification practices.
  - Dr. Steve Lownes: Asked about AI certificates and resources. Dr. Wilson: enthusiastic about credit and non-credit certificates/minors aligned to workforce; helpful for marketing and student mobility/upskilling. On resources: both improve strategy for current spending and seek additional funds; need sufficient marketing budget to be discoverable online.
- Decisions made:
  - Pursue exploration of AI certificates and enhanced use of iCarolina Labs; continue advocacy for systemwide AI tool access.
- Action items/commitments:
  - Dr. Wilson to:
    - Inquire and advocate for systemwide AI subscriptions or Palmetto buy-in.
    - Explore evolving iCarolina Labs into AI-access hubs (Windows via Parallels; local LLM deployment).
    - Continue developing non-credit AI offerings with CIC partners; consider credit-bearing certificates aligned to workforce demand.
    - Return with more detailed enrollment and resource strategies in future meetings.
  - Patrick Saucier/Jean Carrano:
    - Host and promote next Friday's AI teaching workshop (details via email).

## Topic 7: Dr. Walt Collins

1. Dr. Collins introduced new faculty across Palmetto College campuses:
  - **Anita Bhandari Sharma** – Assistant Professor of Statistics, USC Lancaster
  - **Nicole Calasabetta** – Instructor of Political Science, USC Salkehatchie
  - **James Cook** – Assistant Professor of History, USC Salkehatchie
  - **Julia Johnson** – Instructor of English, USC Salkehatchie
  - **Brock Price** – Assistant Professor of Mathematics, USC Salkehatchie
  - **Randy Horrigan** – Assistant Professor of History, USC Sumter
  - **Mohammad Rahman** – Assistant Professor of Chemistry, USC Sumter
  - **Tracy Stapleton** – Instructor of Spanish, USC Union

## 2. Policy Advisory Group Updates (Dr. Collins & Dr. Lownes)

- Palmetto College reactivated the **Policy Advisory Group (PCPAC)** last year to monitor and respond to university-wide policy changes.
- Group meets regularly; last meeting was held in late August, next scheduled for next week.
- Current changes appear minor and non-substantive but monitoring continues.
- Dr. Collins also serves on the Greater University Policy Advisory Group, ensuring Palmetto College is informed of system-wide policy updates. Dr. Lownes noted that upcoming PCPAC meeting will review two new policies and potentially the Freedom of Speech policy.

## 3. Freedom of Speech Policy (Discussion led by Dr. Collins)

- Lancaster campus developed a **Freedom of Speech Committee**, now a standing committee.
- Policy being drafted to apply **across all Palmetto College campuses**.
- Draft will be circulated for review and feedback from all campuses before finalization.
- Dr. David Dangerfield asked about representation; Dr. Collins confirmed applicability system-wide with opportunity for campus input.
- Dr. Patrick Lawrence is leading the drafting efforts.

## 4. Accreditation Work Group Participation (Dr. Collins)

- Palmetto College was invited to participate in the **Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE)** working group, a potential accrediting body that could supplant SACS.
- Representatives: Dr. Collins, Dr. Mike Sonntag, and Dr. Patrick Lawrence (recently added to ensure faculty representation).
- Palmetto College is the **only group granted permission to add a faculty member** to this body so far, demonstrating commitment to shared governance.
- Next meeting scheduled for next week.

## 5. Faculty Manual Changes (Dr. Lownes)

- Recent proposed **faculty manual changes did not pass** due to conflicts with Columbia policy updates.
- Memo sent on **August 21** outlined reasons for rejection.
- Issues included:
  - Senior Instructor procedures (affected by Columbia's changes).
  - Need to add Principal Instructor procedures (professional track full professor equivalent).
- With minor revisions, changes are expected to pass in the future.

- Chairs will discuss this memo during breakout sessions; faculty without a copy should contact Ms. Jean Carrano.

# Faculty Senate Meeting: September 19, 2025

Afternoon Session:

---

## Palmetto College Faculty Senate – Executive Committee and Standing Committees Meeting; Palmetto College Senate Meeting (Consolidated Notes)

### Attendees:

- Executive leadership/hosts: Steve Lownes (Chair), Shelley Jones
  - PC Columbia: R. Mac Jones, Matt Rashotte, Patrick Saucier; Alternate: Chris Nesmith
  - Lancaster: Sahar Aghasafari, Claudia Heinemann-Priest, Dana Lawrence, Suzanne Penuel, Brittany Taylor-Driggers, Jerrod Yarosh, Evan Nooe (alt. for Stephen Criswell), Peter Seipel (Alternate)
  - Salkehatchie: David Dangerfield, Justin Mogilski, Carley Robertson; Alternates: Francis Burns, John Peek
  - Sumter: Susan Goebel, Kajal Ghoshroy, Tania Hazra, Vincent Frontero, Dip Acharyya, Blane DaSilva, Sher Chhetri; Alternates: Vincent Frontero, Paige Wallace, Chris Defossez
  - Union: Tekla Johnson, Andrew Kettler, David Mitra, Ashley Rabanal; Alternate: Andrew Pisano
- 

### 1. Executive Summary:

- Approved prior minutes (April 18, 2025) without changes and confirmed campus delegations/alternates.
- Rights & Responsibilities advanced five charges: TP file length guidance, handling Explorance Blue course eval transitions in TP, faculty-selected evaluation questions/training, clarifying teaching summaries, and senior/principal instructor processes. Requested clarity on academic freedom/free speech protections.
- Welfare Committee planning a TP workshop (with teaching summary focus), assessing equitable Teacher of the Year funding from a \$26,677 endowment, and aligning scholarships for adult/non-traditional students after evening program ended.
- System Affairs broadly supports establishing a Palmetto College Ombuds (linked to Workplace Incivility Policy 1.80) with concerns on scope/placement/funding; will revisit grievance procedures against Provost feedback; will review prior BLS/BOL deliberations (Academic Advisory is currently revisiting the name issue).

- Executive Committee to clarify a separate Duffy fund's allowable uses and drawdown.
  - Faculty Manual liaison: proposals in early stages.
  - Columbia-level committees: Libraries and Curricula & Courses not yet reported; ensure PC reps (e.g., Gale Ashmore) are fully included.
  - System Faculty Leadership Council: digital accessibility compliance due by April 2026; leadership also discussing compressed fall start and exploring 9-over-12 pay feasibility.
  - Palmetto College Senate: Calendar constraints tied to USC Columbia start/finish and Thanksgiving week; willingness to advocate changes at system level. Inclusive Excellence efforts renewed with Provost support; accreditation landscape (SACSCOC to CPHE) under discussion—encourage vigilance. Expanded PC representation on Columbia committees (including Steering and Carolina Core; Tekla Johnson representing). Senior/Principal Instructor procedures must align with Columbia's updated titles; engage Provost's Office early.
  - Events: Palmetto College Social and poster session set for Friday, October 24 at USC Union; poster title/abstract due Monday, October 6. Latin American Film Festival begins Sunday (date not specified). Museum of Education event Tuesday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m.
- 

## 2. Key Action Items/Commitments for Dr. Steve Lownes:

- Ombuds survey development and distribution
  - Create and circulate a faculty survey on establishing a PC Ombuds office (scope, placement, funding) via FO chairs and Exec Committee.
- Accessibility compliance guidance; Deadline: Compliance by April 2026; interim updates as available
  - Obtain authoritative federal digital accessibility guidance (beyond Blackboard indicators) and disseminate to faculty and FO chairs.
- Duffy fund clarification
  - Confirm allowable uses and drawdown process for the non-award Duffy fund; share guidance with faculty leadership.
- Academic Advisory follow-up on BLS/BOL naming review
  - Track and report developments; coordinate with System Affairs as needed.
- Faculty Leadership Council advocacy
  - Raise compressed semester start concerns and explore 9-over-12 pay option feasibility with the Provost and relevant Columbia/system venues.
- Columbia committee inclusion
  - Ensure all Palmetto College representatives (e.g., Gale Ashmore) receive invites and are recognized on Columbia-level committees; troubleshoot any gaps.

- Academic freedom/free speech procedures clarification
    - Seek/coordinate an administrative statement clarifying procedures for defending academic freedom and free speech at Palmetto College.
- 

### **3. Detailed Breakdown by Topic:**

#### **Topic 1: Attendance, Roll Call, and Approval of Minutes (April 18, 2025)**

- Discussion: Campus delegations/alternates introduced;
- Decisions: Minutes approved without changes.
- Action Items:
  - Dr. Steve Lownes to ensure proper inclusion of PC reps on Columbia committees and follow up on missed invitations.

#### **Topic 2: Rights & Responsibilities Committee Report (Chair: Andrew Kettler)**

- Discussion:
  - Tenure & Promotion (TP) file length: considering overall and per-section guidance to facilitate review.
  - Course evaluations (Explorance Blue): assessing impact on longitudinal comparability in TP; promote awareness/training.
  - Faculty-selected questions: faculty may choose 2 of 20; clarify TP use; draft additional questions for evaluation forms.
  - Teaching summaries: seek clearer guidance and potential training/workshops for TP files.
  - Senior/Principal Instructor tracks: support three-level system, contingent on administrative funding; align manual language.
  - Academic freedom/free speech: request for clear PC procedures and policies.
- Decisions: Proceed with drafting evaluation questions and outreach/training recommendations.
- Action Items:
  - R&R to complete draft review questions and circulate for faculty input
  - Dr. Steve Lownes to coordinate clarification on academic freedom/free speech procedures

#### **Topic 3: Welfare Committee Report**

- Discussion:
  - TP workshop: coordinate date/time with admin office; include sessions on teaching, research, service, third-year review; consider Dr. Lisa Hammond for teaching summary session; add breakout on teaching summaries.
  - Endowment fund (\$26,677): gather data to ensure equitable Teacher of the Year awards across campuses; with evening program ended, align scholarships to adult/non-traditional bachelor's students.

- Decisions: Move forward with TP workshop planning; begin data collection and scholarship rule alignment with Vice Provost.
- Action Items:
  - Schedule TP workshop; finalize presenters and breakout content
  - Collect campus Teacher of the Year award data; propose equitable funding for local Teacher of the Year winners

#### **Topic 4: System Affairs Committee Report (Co-Chairs: Tekla Johnson, Mac Jones)**

- Discussion:
  - Workplace Incivility Policy 1.80 and Ombuds: general support for a PC Ombuds; concerns around wording, funding, placement, and scope.
  - Grievance procedures: revisit last year's proposal alongside Provost feedback; aim to meet faculty objectives while addressing concerns.
  - Boards/accreditation movement: faculty requested review of potential impacts on academic freedom; information currently limited.
  - BLS/BOL name change: not currently charged to System Affairs; Academic Advisory revisiting.
- Decisions: Proceed to review grievance proposal vs. Provost feedback.
- Action Items:
  - Dr. Steve Lownes with Dr. Katie Klik to develop and circulate Ombuds survey
  - System Affairs to review historical decisions on BLS/BOL and report back

#### **Topic 5: Executive Committee Updates**

- Discussion:
  - Duffy fund: separate from Duffy award; need details on uses/drawdown.
  - Policy focus: Ombuds and related policy items remain active.
- Action Items:
  - Dr. Steve Lownes to obtain and share Duffy fund guidelines

#### **Topic 6: PC Faculty Manual Liaison (Dr. Kajal Ghoshroy)**

- Discussion: Proposals at early stages; no motions submitted.
- Action Items: None at this time.

#### **Topic 7: Columbia-Level Special Committees**

- Discussion:
  - Libraries (Mac Jones): no meeting/report.
  - Curricula & Courses (Allen Kanapala): no report.
  - Faculty Welfare (Columbia): Columbia Senate to include Gale Ashmore; invitations expected.

- Action Items:
  - Dr. Steve Lownes to monitor inclusion of PC representatives and assist if issues persist

### **Topic 8: System Faculty Leadership Council and Columbia Steering**

- Discussion:
  - Digital accessibility: federal compliance required by April 2026; clarify standards beyond Blackboard indicators; share guidance.
  - Compressed semester start: current fall start on Tuesday driven by Thanksgiving week contact-hour balancing; engage Provost on remedies.
  - 9-over-12 pay option: currently constrained by software; leadership to explore options.
- Action Items:
  - Dr. Steve Lownes to request accessibility guidance and disseminate
  - Dr. Steve Lownes/SFLC to discuss calendar compression and 9-over-12 with Provost

### **Topic 9: Palmetto College Senate – Fall Academic Calendar Start Day (Monday vs. Tuesday)**

- Discussion:
  - Dr. Blane DaSilva (USC Sumter) requested Monday start to avoid MW sections lagging due to first Monday and Labor Day.
  - The Tuesday start is bound by USC Columbia start/finish and contract dates, and was implemented to balance contact hours with a full Thanksgiving week.
  - Dr. Carmela Gottesman suggested exploring a Thursday start and extending the semester by a couple days; concern about winter break encroachment.
- Decisions: No immediate change; consider raising to Provost/system level.
- Action Items:
  - Leadership to explore advocacy with Provost and relevant Columbia committees

### **Topic 10: Inclusive Excellence, Accreditation, and System Updates**

- Discussion (Dean Ron Cox):
  - The Council of Academic Inclusive Excellence Officers (formerly Academic Diversity Officers) reconvened on Friday, September 5th, with Provost support; the Palmetto College AOE Council has been reconstituted.

- Discussions included the recent Columbia climate survey and significant attention on the potential accreditor shift (SACSCOC to CPHE); faculty vigilance is encouraged due to vague implications.
- The H3927 bill, which had overwhelming support in the House, did not advance past the Senate Judiciary last year, but is anticipated to reappear.
- CTE workshops/certificates are available system-wide (e.g., Teaching Toward Inclusive Excellence).
- An event at the Museum of Education, a panel discussion marking the anniversary of Chet Travelstead's 1955 speech "Today's Decisions for Tomorrow's Schools" (which advocated for desegregation and led to his removal as Dean of USC's College of Education), is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30 at 3:00 p.m.
- System DEI leadership: Julian Williams now serves as Interim VP for System Affairs and VP for Access, Civil Rights, and Community Engagement, evolving from a Columbia-specific role to a system-wide office.
- Decisions: Continue inclusive excellence initiatives; monitor accreditation discussions.
- Action Items:
  - Campus AOE's to share event updates with Dean Cox for broader dissemination

### **Topic 11: Palmetto College Social & Research Poster Session (USC Union)**

- Discussion (Professor Matt Rashotte):
  - Date: Friday, October 24; this is the first year including research posters, though the social is an annual event. Posters can be new or existing.
  - Submission: Title and 150-word abstract due Monday, October 6 via email to Matt or local RPS member; Matt was asked to share his email in the chat.
  - Logistics: Preferred setup before lunch; after-lunch setup allowed; posters will be displayed in the Union gym; viewing is expected after lunch. Printing options include USC Columbia services (requiring pickup) or online services like Spoonflower (for fabric posters).
  - Attendance policy: The event remains faculty-focused; family/partners are not invited due to funding constraints, but this will be revisited in the future.
- Decisions: Proceed with poster-enhanced social; maintain attendee policy.
- Action Items:
  - Faculty to submit poster title/abstract by Monday, October 6
  - Matt to share submission email in meeting chat

### **Topic 12: Expanded Committee Representation and Manual Alignment**

- Discussion:
  - Palmetto College is now official members on multiple Columbia committees (per Columbia faculty manual updates over summer), including Steering and Carolina Core (Dr. Tekla Johnson is the representative for the Carolina Core committee).
  - There is a need to update the Palmetto College Faculty Manual to reflect these official memberships and to refine the nomination/forwarding process in line with Columbia's considerations for rank and discipline.
- Decisions: Recognize official status; plan manual updates.
- Action Items:
  - Draft and process PC Faculty Manual updates to include new committee memberships

### **Topic 13: Senior/Principal Instructor Procedures; Grievance Motions**

- Discussion:
  - The Senior Instructor motion timing overlapped with Columbia academic title policy changes; procedures and portfolios need revision to align. Only two groups at Columbia have had their professional track procedures approved so far.
  - Advice from the Provost's Office (via Lisa Hammond) is to engage early and share sample language during development for both Senior and Principal Instructor (analogous to full professor on the professional track) procedures.
  - Grievance motions: It was noted that motions should be submitted earlier for adequate review and forwarding.
- Decisions: Engage Provost's Office early; adjust timelines for motions.
- Action Items:
  - Committees drafting Senior/Principal Instructor procedures to share language promptly with Provost's Office for feedback [Owner: Relevant committees; Deadline: Not specified].
  - Senate leadership/committee chairs to introduce motions earlier in the cycle

### **Topic 14: Announcements and Closing**

- Announcements:
  - Latin American Film Festival starts Sunday (date not specified).
  - Palmetto College Social: Friday, October 24 at USC Union; a karaoke machine may be available.
- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Dr. David Dangerfield (USC Salkehatchie); seconded and approved.



# Chancellor Introduction

Sharing Information and My Philosophies

Craig Wilson, JD, PhD  
Chancellor

# Topics Guide

1. Enrollment Update (as of 9.18.25)
2. Transformational Leadership Summary Update
3. My Philosophies
4. Recent Events
5. My Approach to AI

*Quote: There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come. ~ Victor Hugo*

Palmetto College Overall														
Enrollment Trends   Fall 2013 - Fall 2025 (09/18/2025)														
HEADCOUNT														
Associate Degree Programs through Palmetto College Campuses (100-	2013*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
USC Lancaster	1,811	1,738	1,722	1,845	1,910	1,523	1,640	1,810	1,729	1,681	2,239	2,592	2,485	
USC Salkehatchie	1,021	1,076	1,109	1,137	1,011	927	964	878	817	732	778	786	808	
USC Sumter	924	879	901	805	1,002	1,110	1,360	1,387	1,407	1,502	1,664	1,804	1,884	
USC Union	484	679	569	839	903	1,093	1,153	1,071	1,218	1,072	1,354	1,353	1,627	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>4,301</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>4,826</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>5,117</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>6,035</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,804</b>	
2+2 Onsite Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs Offered by Palmetto College Campuses, Conferred by USC Flagship and	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Business - Aiken (Sumter)	38	32	21	36	26	19	14	6	2	0	-	-	-	
Education - Aiken (Salkehatchie)	12	10	10	9	12	5	16	4	23	10	7	2	2	
Education - Aiken (Sumter)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	21	19	23	18	23	
Education - Upstate (Sumter)	44	21	21	29	26	13	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Industrial Process Engineering - Aiken (Salkehatchie)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	20	20	25	35	
Nursing - Aiken (Sumter)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	27	27	19	28	
Nursing - Aiken (Union)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	27	28	17	15	4	
Nursing - Beaufort (Salkehatchie)	73	78	78	69	67	74	73	55	45	65	55	42	42	
Education - Aiken (Lancaster)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	
Fort Jackson	9	19	19	10	16	10	7	**	**	**	**	0	-	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>134</b>	
2+2 Online Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Applied Computer Science, Cybersecurity - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	30	41	63	66	88	
Business Administration, Accounting - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	90	83	
Business Administration, Finance - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	18	27	
Business Administration , Management - Aiken	28	78	118	146	177	200	216	287	285	289	157	147	181	
Business Administration, Marketing - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	23	30	
Communication - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	21	33	31	21	20	
Communication, Public Relations - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	55	49	53	
Criminal Justice - Upstate	17	57	79	78	92	111	105	123	106	101	115	110	104	
Criminal Justice Crime Analysis - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	9	
Elementary Education - Columbia	12	33	46	56	43	34	45	40	52	58	63	66	63	
Emerging Media - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	11	12	
Engineering Technology Management - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	49	35	24	34	46	31	
English - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	23	39	41	
Health Informatics - Upstate	-	-	-	-	13	25	30	60	49	36	18	18	22	
Hospitality Management - Beaufort	-	-	-	1	12	20	28	32	29	26	17	24	30	
Human Services - Beaufort	6	42	54	70	86	90	64	64	64	51	59	38	42	
Information Management and Systems - Upstate	-	-	-	5	33	52	59	72	54	44	41	27	20	
Liberal Studies - Columbia	184	216	219	210	193	186	166	146	131	104	102	110	104	
RN-BSN Program - Upstate	137	139	112	108	168	173	171	161	164	132	151	135	149	
Organizational Leadership - Columbia	119	124	123	127	144	144	148	151	143	100	94	73	80	
Political Science - Upstate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	30	
Psychology - Aiken	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	31	41	43	41	46	
Psychology - Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	38	67	87	85	111	
Public Health - BS Beaufort	-	-	-	5	19	27	36	37	43	43	67	67	69	
Public Health - BA Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	15	
Sociology - Beaufort	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	16	19	17	25	
Special Education - Aiken	-	-	-	-	4	9	15	19	29	26	32	34	37	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,522</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>4,919</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>5,590</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>6,353</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>6,623</b>	<b>6,464</b>	<b>7,594</b>	<b>8,033</b>	<b>8,460</b>	

# Transformative Leadership Summary

1. Palmetto College Identity
2. 2023 Faculty Welfare Study
3. Leadership Competencies
4. Refinements to PC Leadership System
5. PC Leaders Should Use Campus-Based Leadership Descriptions
6. Stronger Focus On Strategy Execution
7. Champion Leadership Tools and Tips
8. Celebrate Mission and Nurture Palmetto College Culture and Each Campus Culture
9. Create Leadership Onboarding Program and Ongoing Dev Series

# My Philosophies

- Leadership By Example
- Delegate Authority, Not Responsibility
- Emotional Intelligence Must Match or Exceed Intellectual Intelligence
- Make Sure Your People Shine
- Never Stop Learning and Growing Professionally and Personally
- Be A Thought Leader In Your Field

# Recent Events

Discussion

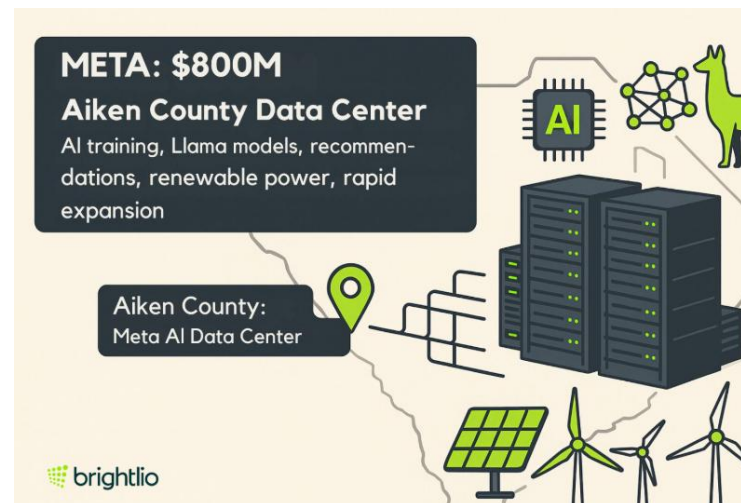
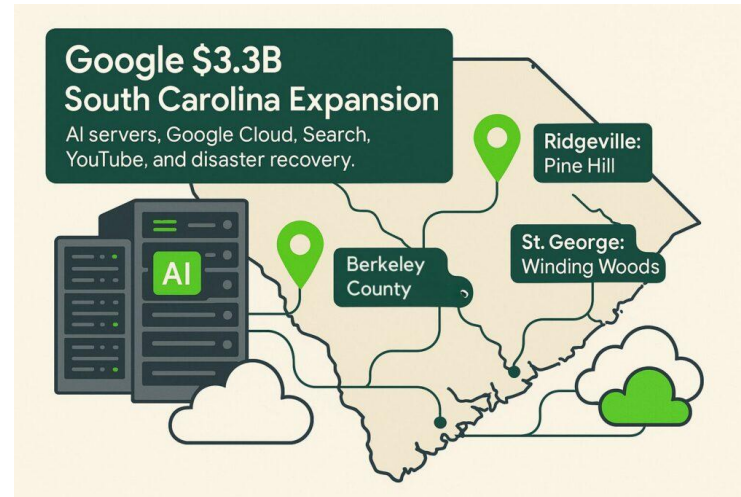
# My Approach to AI
















- Students will be AI Prepared
- Faculty Staff will be AI Enabled

# Prominent Data Centers in South Carolina

## Nontechnical AI Careers:

- Prompt Engineer
- Ethics Specialist
- Marketing Specialist
- Policy Analyst
- Trainer
- Project Manager
- Sales Consultant



 <p>Google <b>Berkeley County, SC Data Center</b> 200-220 State Road 5-B-934</p>	 <p>DartPoints <b>Spartanburg Data Center</b> 5700 N Blackstock Rd, Spartanburg, SC 29303, USA</p>	 <p>DC BLOX <b>Myrtle Beach Cable Landing Station</b> 1401 Howard Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC, USA</p>	 <p>DartPoints <b>North Charleston Data Center</b> 8480 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy, Ladson, SC 29456, USA</p>
 <p>DartPoints <b>Columbia Data Center</b> 1000 Catawba Street site 180, Columbia, SC 29201, USA</p>	 <p>DartPoints <b>Greenville Data Center</b> 78 Global Dr site 100, Greenville, SC 29607, USA</p>	 <p>DC BLOX <b>Greenville GSPI Data Center</b> 33 Global Drive, Greenville, SC, USA</p>	 <p>Technology Solutions of SC Inc <b>Headquarters</b> Technology Solutions of SC Inc, U.S. 123, Seneca, SC, USA</p>
 <p>stellar Stellar Technologies Inc. <b>GRV01 Data Center</b> 33 Global Drive, Greenville, SC, USA</p>	 <p>LUMEN <b>Columbia 2 Data Center</b> 518 Whaley Street, Columbia, SC, USA</p>	 <p>LUMEN <b>Columbia 3 Data Center</b> 1401 North Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203, EE. UU.</p>	 <p>LUMEN <b>Columbia 4 Data Center</b> 520 Whaley St, Columbia, SC 29201, EE. UU.</p>
 <p>Lumen <b>Spartanburg Data Center</b> 145 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306, EE. UU.</p>	 <p>cogent Cogent Communications <b>Fairfax SC Data Center</b> 831 Hampton Avenue, Fairfax, SC, EE. UU.</p>	 <p>DartPoints <b>Charleston Data Center</b> 8480 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy, Ladson, Charleston, SC 29456, EE. UU.</p>	

Sources: Datacenters.com; Brightlio.com



## Questions?

Contact Info:

Phone: 803.777.7695

Email: [craig.wilson@SC.edu](mailto:craig.wilson@SC.edu)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/craig-wilson-jd-phd](https://www.linkedin.com/in/craig-wilson-jd-phd)



**Dr. Walter Collins**  
**Executive Vice Chancellor/Associate Provost**

## **Report to the Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate September 19, 2025**

The following are items that have occupied time since the last PCC Faculty Senate meeting:

- **Regular attendance at standing and special called meetings**—OIRAA, Provost, EMT, Academic Programs, SC CHE, Academic Programs Liaison Group, and USC Policy Advisory Council.
- **Provost's Interdisciplinary Advisory Council** – Met again on September 4 to hear updates related to the undergraduate certificate programs. The new certificate in AI has launched this semester. More elective courses are being solicited through academic departments in Columbia. BOL and BLS majors can elect to complete one of the certificate programs. So far approximately 12 PC students have completed a certificate program (representing .31% of all certificate completers).
- **Policy Advisory Group**, has continued to meet (last meeting on August 28) and is now under the leadership of Dr. Shannon Means. I continue to pass along all information I get from the group in an effort to keep Palmetto College and our own Policy Advisory Group informed.
- **Explorance Blue**
  - All USC campuses and departments have transitioned from Class Climate to Explorance Blue for course experience surveys. Class Climate will be decommissioned on November 30, 2025.
  - An Explorance Blue Faculty Training session was held on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. For those who were unable to attend, a recording will be made available on the Provost's Office website.
  - Currently, Explorance Blue does not support the creation of comparison data reports, similar to those previously generated through Class Climate. However, DoIT is actively working to develop a solution that will allow these reports to be generated within Explorance Blue, ensuring continued support for the Tenure and Promotion process.

- **REACH Act**
    - We are in the process of collecting Fall 2025 syllabi for REACH Act compliance. They will be submitted to the Provost's Office by the October 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - **PC Tenure and Promotion**
    - The 2024-2025 Tenure and Promotion process concluded in June with votes by the USC Board of Trustees.
      - 5 faculty members were granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations to:
        - Jerrod Yarosh
        - Nahid Swails
        - Francis Burns
        - Kirsten Iden
        - Sher Chhetri
      - 3 faculty members were granted promotion to Full Professor. Congratulations to:
        - Patrick Lawrence
        - Elizabeth Easley
        - Rebecca Freeman
    - For the 2025-2026 Tenure and Promotion process, we have the following:
      - 1 candidate for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.
      - 2 candidates for promotion to Full Professor.
  - **Commission for Public Higher Education, Standards and Procedures Working Group** – Dr. Michael Sonntag and I are participating in this group as well as Dr. Patrick Lawrence, USC Lancaster, who was chosen by the PCCFS Executive Committee to represent the faculty. Thank you to the Faculty Organizations for submitting recently your feedback on the draft standards.
  - **Academic Assessment Changes.** After consultation with officials at OIRAA, the PC administration has decided to decentralize the coordination of academic assessment. The following faculty members will work with their respective campus/unit to fulfill the requirements associated with assessment:
    - Lancaster—Dr. Ernest Jenkins
    - Salkehatchie—Dr. Carmela Gottesman
    - Sumter—Dr. Sher Chhetri
    - Union—Dr. Katie Klik
    - PC Columbia—Dr. Chris Nesmith
- Bob Dyer will continue to work with the above individuals as well.
- **State Accountability Reports** for each campus have been completed. Many thanks to those who finalized the reports and to those who contributed information.
  - **Reminder about faculty resources:**
    - The **Center for Teaching Excellence** offers resources for Palmetto College faculty and staff. Find out more about what is happening there at this link: [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/cte/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/cte/)



M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Access, Opportunity, & Engagement

**Report to the Palmetto College Faculty Senate  
19 September 2025**

- The USC Council of Academic Inclusive Excellence Officers (CAIEO) held its first meeting on Friday, September 05 from 9:30 until 11:30 am in the School of Journalism (CIC) on Sumter Street.
- Discussion focused primarily on the USC Climate Survey (and the expectations from the Provost’s Office), as well as the implications of USC’s possible transition from SACSCOC to the proposed Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE) – which was also the center of much attention at the recent general Faculty Meeting.
- Other topics included the continuation of the CTE’s “Teaching Towards Inclusive Excellence” certificate program, which has a number of workshops scheduled for the FALL 2025 semester. More information is available later in this report.
- CAIEO has scheduled monthly meetings throughout the remainder of the Fall 2025 semester (tentatively on October 10, November 07, and December 05). Please continue to share your campus activities with me to report to the CAIEO.
- The PC AOE Council (representing all PC campuses) will hold its first meeting of the year on Friday, 26 September.

PC Columbia	Patrick Saucier
USC Lancaster	Dana Lawrence Tyrie Rowell
USC Salkehatchie	Shelby Broomfield
USC Sumter	Kristopher Weissmann Marchetta Williams
USC Union	Tekla Johnson Emily Schafer

- H.3927 – the so called “Anti-DEI” Bill – which passed the State House of Representatives by a vote of 82-32, did not advance out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, there continues to be a vocal group among the legislators who will undoubtedly push again for passage in the next legislative session.

- The USC Columbia Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) continues to offer elective workshops and certificate programs focusing on issues related to many elements of Access, Opportunity, and Engagement. Topics currently include
  - Entering Mentoring
  - Fostering Proactive Learning Environments
  - Integrative & Experiential Learning
  - Mental Health & Well-being Competency
  - Teaching and Learning with Generative AI
  - Teaching Toward Inclusive Excellence
  - Teaching with the Library
  - Understanding USC Student PopulationsInformation about these may be found online at [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/cte/programs/certificate\\_completion/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/cte/programs/certificate_completion/index.php)
- On Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 3:00 pm, the USC Museum of Education (College of Education) will hold a ceremony and discussion marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Today’s Decisions for Tomorrow’s Schools,” a speech given by then-USC Dean of Education Chester Travelstead, in which he advocated for South Carolina to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. A politically unpopular position which raised ire both on and off campus, Travelstead was dismissed and left the University shortly thereafter and enjoyed a distinguished career at the University of New Mexico. All members of the University community are invited to attend this reading of his speech, along with a panel discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Ron Cox, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for AOE, Palmetto College



M. Ron Cox, Jr., Ph.D., Dean  
USC Palmetto College Columbia

**Palmetto College Faculty Senate  
Dean’s Report – Palmetto College Columbia  
19 September 2025**

**I. Palmetto Pathway**

- 75 of the 81 students admitted to Palmetto Pathway in FALL 2024 successfully completed the program (a success rate of 92.6%), and 74 of those applied to and were admitted as sophomores to baccalaureate degree programs at USC Columbia. (The other student decided to go to flight school.)
- Destinations of 2024-2025 Pathway Students (those completing the program)

McCausland College of Arts & Sciences	23	College of Education	07
Hospitality, Retail, & Sport Management	14	College of Information & Communication	07
Darla Moore School of Business	12	Molinaroli College of Engineering & Computing	01
Arnold School of Public Health	10		

- 89 students have been admitted to Palmetto Pathway in the 2025-2026 cohort (our seventh year of the program), including – for the first time – students who have indicated engineering as a future major. This has led to some changes in the academic course offerings in order to fulfill their degree requirements.
- As of SUMMER 2025, eighty-three (83) students who began their USC careers in Palmetto Pathway have completed their USC bachelor’s degree. Eighteen (18) of the students have graduated with honors (cum laude or higher). This represents students from the cohorts i Years I (2019-2020) through Year III (2021-2022).
- We are extremely proud of Jordan Richardson, alumnus of the Palmetto Pathway program (Cohort Year 5 – 2023/2024), from Simpsonville, SC. Now a junior majoring in Mass Communications (College of Information & Communication), Jordan was elected to serve as this year’s Student Government Vice President for USC Columbia.



Palmetto Pathway alumnus Jordan Richardson (center) with his fellow Student Government Officers for 2025-2026 and USC President Amiridis

## II. Bachelor’s Degree Programs – Liberal Studies & Organizational Leadership

- Enrollment for Fall 2025:

	<b>17 Sept. 2025</b>	<b>17 Sept. 2024</b>	<b>25 Oct. 2024 (Freeze Date)</b>
<b>BLS</b>	104	108	110
<b>BOL</b>	81	71	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>183</b>

- 2025 Graduates – 35 total
  - SPRING 2025: 22 BLS, 07 BOL
  - SUMMER 2025: 03 BLS, 03 BOL
- The BLS/BOL Academic Advisory Committee met on Friday, September 05 to consider recommendations for revisions to degree curricula, including the addition of relevant and commonly-accepted substitution courses to the BOL and the allowance of some 200-level courses for cognate credit in BLS (depending on how the CAS and individual departments categorize the courses).
- Due to changes in Title IV regulations, financial aid will only cover those courses which specifically meet degree requirements, and therefore some commonly-accepted substitution courses have been called into question. The adjustments will make it easier for students to identify and select courses which are recognized as applicable.
- These recommendations have been reported to the PC System Affairs Committee (which serves as the curriculum committee for the PC baccalaureate degrees). If the PC Senate approves, the changes will move on for consideration by the Courses & Curricula Committee and the USC Faculty Senate.

### III. Fort Jackson / Palmetto College Military Programs

- As previously reported, Palmetto College has signed a new MOU with Fort Jackson which allows us to market and recruit students for the BLS & BOL degrees (the previous MOU limited us to discussing only the associate degrees).
- We have re-claimed classroom (computer lab) space in the Army Continuing Education Services (ACES) building and recently, IT director Bob Dyer and company were on base connecting the computers to internet access.
- The current plan is to do an official “launch” of the lab in mid-November, which means we should be able to schedule on-site classes there for SPRING 2026. We are still working with FJ officials to determine when such classes can be scheduled, and how best to market the classes (and our bachelor’s degree programs) and to recruit military students.

### IV. News from PC Columbia Faculty & Staff

- **Dr. Julia Elliott, Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies**, continues to receive widespread praise and recognition for her short story collection, *Hellions*, which was published earlier this year and has achieved status as a *TIME* book of the month. Most recently (Wednesday, Sept. 17), she participated in the Bernheimer Symposium in Philadelphia, hosted by Alli Rose Katz from Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, where she did some “reading and chatting” with Stephanie Feldman, author of *Saturnalia* and *The Angel of Losses*.
- **Ms. Laura H. Faile, Program Director for Palmetto Pathway**, has been selected to participate in USC’s Improvement Leader Program (2025-2026). The program combines practical learning with real-world (and immediate) application, with each participant implementing improvement projects within their individual units.
- **Dr. Mary Hjelm, Distinguished Professor of English**, has indicated her plans to retire effective July 02, 2026. We are deeply appreciative of her many years of service to Palmetto College and the University of South Carolina.
- **Dr. Shelley Jones, Associate Professor of English**, was awarded a 2025 RISE Grant in the amount of \$6000 to work on a book chapter and proposal for the monograph currently titled *Revising for Genre: Mary Robinson's Poetry from Newspaper Verse to Lyrical Tales*.

My sincere thanks to the Senate for allowing me to share some of the goings-on at Palmetto College Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Ron Cox, Jr., Dean  
Palmetto College Columbia



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
LANCASTER

Dr. Courtney B. Catledge  
Regional Palmetto College Dean

Report to the Palmetto College Faculty Senate  
September 19, 2026

## People

### Enrollment

Fall 2025 enrollment is strong in line with Fall 2024. **As of September 10, we are at headcount enrollment of 2,496.**

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

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

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

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

**Congratulations on Faculty Promotions**

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

**Staff search continuing:**

Simulation Coordinator/Instructor  
Grounds Keeper  
Director of Safety and Security

## **Athletics**

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

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

## **USC Lancaster in our Communities**

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

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

**USC Lancaster met with Primary Talent Partners and OceanaGold Haile Gold Mine** to discuss funding opportunities.

**USC Lancaster met with ISPN Network** to discuss possible partnership opportunities.

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

## **Campus Facilities Updates**

### **Hubbard**

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

### **Medford**

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

### **Crawford Rose Garden Renovation**

- Projected start – November 2025

### **Soccer Field**

- Field, spectator updates, and lights project – completed

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

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

## Legislative and Financial Updates

### General Base Pay Increase for Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees

The 2025–2026 general appropriation bill includes a 2.0% base pay increase for classified and unclassified employees in FTE positions at higher education institutions.

### Insurance Premium Contributions

The University will continue to invest in employee health and wellbeing. While the employee contribution will remain unchanged this year, the total premium has increased. The campus will cover these additional costs in an effort not to pass any additional costs to faculty and staff.

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

### Other items...

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

### Recent Faculty Accomplishments

- Sahar Aghasafari published: Aghasafari, S., Malloy, M., & Bernecky, T. (2025). Heartbeats and molecules: Integrating AI, media arts, and graphic storytelling in STEAM education. *American Journal of STEM Education: Issues and Perspectives*, 14, 1-22.
- Aghasafari, S. & Malloy, M. (2025). Presenting Heartbeats and molecules: Integrating AI, media arts, and graphic storytelling in STEAM education [Panel presentation]. *Online Teacher Education in the Evolving Technological Landscape: Beyond the Horizon*, University of Southern Queensland, Australia (Virtual). Panel title: Art and Technology in STEM Education: A Transformative Dialogue, curated by S. Aghasafari & J. Blair.
- Marybeth Berry. Professor Berry's original musical, "The Puzzle," premiered at Festival dei Due Mondi as part of La MaMa Spoleto, opening the 2025 production in Spoleto, Italy. This play was also the subject of a journal article published in *European Stages*: <https://www.theseagalcenter.org/european-stages/the-puzzle>. Marybeth and Tyrie Rowell took students to Ireland to perform at the Ardgillan Castle. They performed "Waiting for Godot" and "On the Spectrum." The students

engaged in culturally fulfilling activities and experiences while rehearsing and preparing for their shows.

- Rebecca Freeman. Presented “Nourishing the Community: The Power of Food in Library Programming” at the Metrolina Library Association Conference on June 4. • Rebecca Freeman and McKenzie Lemhouse Co-presentations: Presented “Creating the Celebration of Lancer Excellence” at the PASCAL 2025 Conference, June 12 Presented a poster, “Bridging the Gap: Passive Library Programming” at the Metrolina Library Association Conference. This was presented with library staff member Katy Broughton.
- McKenzie Lemhouse: Submitted the first draft of “Your Most Powerful Instrument is Your Voice,” co-authored with Logan Cocklin (to be published in ‘Shelf Life: Libraries, Archives, and Collective Grief,’ edited by Robert Spinelli & Kaylee Alexander, forthcoming from Bristol University Press). The chapter is currently undergoing peer review. McKenzie’s free-verse poem “Specter” was accepted for publication in the inaugural volume of a new anthology featuring Bi+ voices titled Bi All Accounts (Available September 23, 2025).
- Christopher Judge. Reappointed to second term on USC’s Educational Foundation Board, representing Palmetto College Faculty and Staff. May 2025. Invited to join Humanities SC Speakers Bureau, May 2025. Elected to South Carolinian Library’s Executive council, May 2025. Invited lecturer at UNC Pembroke’s Museum of the Southeast American Indian. Gathering up the Fragments: Searching for the Elusive Cheraw, June 30.
- Pat Lawrence. A collection he co-edited titled out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics was published by University of Texas Press. In addition, the work contains an Introduction and reference material Pat wrote with his co-editor, as well as a chapter he soloauthored: “Wise Up Old Hags, The Weak One Is a Valuable Possession to Us.” Presented a chapter of his newest book project as part of the Second Book Writer’s Workshop. It was presented at the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic annual conference. The chapter is called “‘Sinful Nation, a People Laden with Iniquity’: Colonization, Removal, and the Moralistic Nationalism in the Antebellum Period.”
- Evan Nooe. Evan was a guest speaker at the Institute for Southern Studies at USC Columbia. Evan was interviewed about his book Aggression and Sufferings for the podcast “Take on the South,” hosted by Dr. Mark M. Smith Evan presented a paper titled “Florida, History, and Architecture at Disney Springs’s Marketplace Neighborhood” at the 3rd Annual Conference for the Disney, Culture, and Society Research Network.
- Kim Richardson. Kim authored Five Encyclopedia Articles submitted to South America Since Independence. The five articles were on the independence movements of five nations: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.

- Brittany Taylor-Driggers. Brittany's piece, Anxiety, was accepted into the juried Kakalak publication for 2025.
- Lauren Thomas. Lauren is on the Board of Managers with the Anne Springs Close Greenway. This is the advisory board that guides the evolution of the 2100+ acre nature preserve.

### **Accomplishments Related to the Native American Studies Center**

- Professor Brittany Taylor-Driggers and Dr. Stephen Criswell, with the assistance of the Native American Studies Center faculty and staff, will be managing the South Carolina Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards for the SC Arts Commission. The award is given annually by the SC Legislature to the individuals and groups who preserve and advocate South Carolina Traditional Culture.
- Professor Deborah Rowell and Dr. Stephen Criswell have been asked by Hulu to conduct a YouTube hosted interview with the documentary filmmakers behind the upcoming true-crime film Blood and Murder. The documentary will air in September, and the interview will be uploaded when the film premieres.
- Dr. Stephen Criswell was a panelist for a roundtable on Indigenous Sovereignty and Public History in June at the College of Charleston



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
SALKEHATCHIE

**Palmetto College Faculty Senate  
September 19, 2025  
Campus Dean's Report**

**Campus Highlights:**

- Successful commencement was held on May 2 with 144 associate degrees awarded, along with 13 bachelor's degrees through Palmetto College and in partnership with sister USC campuses.
- USC Salkehatchie kicked off the academic year with a delicious, information-filled, energizing campus breakfast event, followed by a lively welcome back event for students.
- Enrollment services staff continue to focus on recruitment for fall 2 and are actively recruiting for spring 2026. As of today, fall headcount is 807, with FTE at 469. Summer enrollment increased to 288 students, a rise of 10 from last summer.
- The Southern Palmetto Regional Chamber held their annual State of the Region event on the Allendale campus on Aug. 28. Senator Brad Hutto was the keynote speaker and approximately 150 people attended, including legislators and local business leaders. USC Salkehatchie students
- Planning is underway for our scholarship luncheon and celebration of the launch of the USC Salkehatchie John Winthrop Sr. Legacy Society, which will be held on October 3.
- To celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, USC Salkehatchie is hosting an alumni, faculty, staff, student, and family day on the Allendale campus on Oct. 4.
- In June, USC Salkehatchie graduated and celebrated another successful Leadership Salkehatchie cohort. The group consisted of 15 individuals from across 7 counties (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, Beaufort, and Jasper) who successfully completed the 6-month program.
- USC Salkehatchie has teamed up with Urban Edge Network (UEN) to enhance sports streaming access. This partnership marks USC Salkehatchie as the first NJCAA member to secure a streaming deal with UEN, offering fans, families, and alumni free access to live games and exclusive content.
- USC Salkehatchie has partnered with Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center and Low Country Health Care Systems to bring their mobile units to campus to provide mental health and primary care services, respectively.
- Georgeann Williams, Director of Financial Aid, received the inaugural "Aiming for Excellence" Award at the beginning of September.

**HR Updates:**

- Hires since last report:
  - Onyx Barksdale – Admissions Counselor
  - Christopher Brown - Athletic Director
  - Nicole Calescibetta – Instructor of Political Science

- James Cooke – Assistant Professor of History
  - Erik Ferguson – Weight Room Supervisor/Gym Monitor
  - Jacob Horn - Library Technology Coordinator
  - Julia Johnson – Instructor of English
  - Gwyne Lacanin – STEM Bus Teacher Assistant
  - Brock Price – Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Currently accepting applications for the following positions:
    - Admissions Counselor/Recruiter
    - Director of Educational Partnerships
    - STEM Bus Teacher/Teacher Assistant

**Faculty and student accomplishments:**

- Dr. Justin Mogilski and Dr. Bryan Love:
  - Mogilski, J. K., Jussim, L., Wilson, A., & Love, B. (2025). Defining diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by the scientific (de)merits of its programming. *Theory & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-025-09646-y>

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. April Cone  
Campus Dean



PC Faculty Senate Report  
September 19, 2025  
Eric M. Reisenauer, Ph.D.

**Faculty (as reported)**

Since last Senate (April 18, 2025), 10 faculty produced 42 publications, presentations, or other scholarly works, or won awards and other recognition for scholarly work or service:

**JJ Ardis**

- Inducted into the Order of the Kentucky Colonel. The commission of Kentucky Colonel is the highest title of honor bestowed by the Governor of Kentucky. It is the most well-known colonelcy in the United States.
- Accepted into Doctoral program in criminal justice at Saint Leo University.

**Mary Ellen Bellanca**

- Presented paper "Curating Lives: Dorothy Wordsworth and the Ethics of Victorian Biography" at Victorians Institute conference September 13, 2025

**Sher Chhetri**

- A student from STAT 110 acknowledged Dr. Sher Chhetri in the "Thank a Teacher" program conducted by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) in Spring 2025. Dr. Chhetri received a "Letter of Appreciation" and a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the CTE.
- The following article was published in the Annals of Data Science journal: Chipepa, F., Mdziniso, N., Mohammad, S. and Chhetri, S. (2025). Exponentiated Odd Lindley-X Power Series Class of Distributions: Properties and Applications. Annals of Data Science.

**Abstract:**

In this article, we introduce a new family of probability distributions, the Exponentiated Odd Lindley-X Power Series (EOL-XPS) class, which is derived by integrating the power series distribution with the exponentiated odd Lindley-X family. We establish several statistical properties of this new class, including moments, the moment generating function, the quantile function, mean deviations, order statistics, and Rényi entropy. As a special case, we derive the probability density function and cumulative distribution function of the Exponentiated Odd Lindley-Weibull Poisson (EOL-WP) distribution, using the Weibull-Poisson distribution as the baseline. To assess the robustness of the proposed model, we conduct a Monte Carlo simulation study to evaluate the performance of maximum likelihood estimation for parameter estimation.

Furthermore, we apply the EOL-WP model to COVID-19 and Kevlar datasets, demonstrating its flexibility and practical relevance in modeling complex data.

- Dr. Sher Chhetri reviewed a paper for the Scientific Reports Journal in July 2025.
- Dr. Sher Chhetri judged poster presentations at Discover USC on April 24, 2025.
- A project titled ""An Analysis of Type I and Type II Errors in Marascuillo Method and Z-Test"" was presented by an undergraduate student, Chloe Gardner, at Discover USC event on April 24, 2025. The collaborators on this project were Chloe Gardner, Sher Chhetri and Sarah McDaniel."

### **Gwooon Choi**

- Facilitated a Sensor-Based Physics Tool workshop for Junior students in the Physics Education major at Ewha Women's University, Seoul, South Korea, on May 15th, 2025. The NSF Grant partially funded this program.

### **Chris Defossez**

- RISE Funding Program grant: "Performers Try Harder: Psychotherapy Reexamined."

### **Pearl Fernandes**

- Dr. Pearl Fernandes received a Certificate of Appreciation through the Thank a Teacher Program, sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence. The program allows students to recognize instructors who go above and beyond in their educational journey.
- Elected to the South Carolina Governor's Awards Committee of Excellence in Science

### **Dan Kiernan**

- Under the direction of Dr. Kiernan, USC Sumter Science Camp celebrated its 15th year this past summer. The full camp was a big success and hosted a number of USC speakers and student helpers.
- Dr. Kiernan will lead a team of scientists in representing USC Sumter at the eSTEAM festival in downtown Sumter in October.
- Dr. Kiernan will be presenting his plankton research (with live demonstrations) on Friday, May 16th, at the educational day at the Sumter Iris Festival.
- Voted Best Professor in the Best of Sumter campaign with The Sumter Item, Dan was recognized at a star-studded gala held at the Sumter Original Brewery.
- Partnerships have been established with the leadership of Swan Lake Iris Gardens in providing the public with information about the plankton world of their coveted Swan Lake visitor's attraction. Our team (comprised of students and faculty) spent 2024/2025 compiling the right images and information into an informative brochure (see below) that will be made available to Swan Lake and posted on our website in the community tab.
- Mentored a student to prepare Biol 102 online labs which involved evaluating the critical role of "peer" review in scientific inquiry by both writing and critically evaluating the scientific method.

- USC Sumter Summer Science Camp: We celebrated 14 years of USC Sumter Science Camp!
- South Carolina Academy of Science elected as a board member.
- South Carolina Junior Academy of Science Lead Judge for secondary education level science research papers & project presentations
- ADM students learned under the direction of my Bio 101 students.
- Sumter E-SteAM Coordinator organizing a team of scientists to present at eSTEAM Sumter family festival.
- Stem Advisory Board Member (Alice Drive Middle School)
- Partner in helping maintain and acquire STEM accreditation.
- Presented at education day at the Iris Festival
- Science Fair / Invention Convention Judge at Alice Dr. Elementary School
- Alice Dr. Middle School STEM Fair
- Thomas Sumter Academy Science Fair
- USC Sumter Campus Day STEM Presenter
- Lead STEM related activities involving present & perspective students.
- USC Sumter - Celebrating Int'l Medical Physics Day - "Inspiring the Next Generations of Medical Physicist""
- Did ultrasound workshops with/for students & faculty.
- Presented a team poster: Qualitative Study Assessing Access to Health Care for Individuals with Sickle Cell
- USC Sumter - Ultrasound Day (led ultrasound presentations in various classes)

### **Andrew Kunka**

- The essay, "Comics Studies Conferences in a Time of Crisis," appears in the latest issue of Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society (9.2, Summer 2025). The article can be accessed through Project Muse.
- Dr. Kunka has been elected as the chair of the International Comic Arts Forum. Founded in 1995, the International Comic Arts Forum is an academic organization dedicated to promoting the scholarly study and appreciation of comic art, including comic strips, comic books, comics albums and graphic novels, magazine and newspaper cartooning, caricature, and comics in electronic media. More information about ICAF can be found here: <http://www.internationalcomicartsforum.org/>
- His essay "Howard Cruse's War on the War on Obscenity" has been published in the anthology Out of the Gutters: Obscenity, Censorship, and Transgression in American Comics, edited by Jorge Santos and Patrick Lawrence, from University of Texas Press. More information about the collection can be found here: <https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477331804/>
- At this year's San Diego Comic-Con International, Andy was invited to talk on a panel about classic humor artist Warren Kremer, the creator of Richie Rich. Also, Andy's remembrance of his mentor and friend, comic artist Jack Katz, was included in the Comic-Con Souvenir Book.

### **Mark Roberts**

- Published a peer reviewed research paper: Mark A. Roberts, Kathryn E. Levasseur, Taylor L. Dranginis, Fernando C. Manzano & Irma Galván. 2025.

Fibropapillomatosis (FP) in Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles Nesting in Veracruz, Mexico. Marine Turtle Newsletter 168: 3

- "Clarification of the Taxonomic Status of Common *Morella* Species in South Carolina" with Annemarie Sieger has been awarded funding through the Magellan Mini-Grant Program in the amount of \$1000 as well as funding through the Magellan Scholar Grant in the amount of \$2500.

### **Michelle Ross**

- Sumter had a Community Hospital, which served the segregated Black community from 1946-1964, when desegregation took place. To preserve its history, Ms. Ross was instrumental in the research necessary for the approval and unveiling of a permanent historic marker. I worked closely with Annie Rivers, the executive director of Sumter Museum who works with the Sumter County Historic Commission

### **Campus/Accolades**

- TRIO Director, Lisa Rosdail, announced the Federal TRIO Student Support Services Grant at USC Sumter, the Opportunity Scholars Program, was successful in writing and being awarded another five-year grant. The 1.74-million-dollar grant was awarded through the Department of Education and will fund services for 150 students at \$350,000 annually.
- USC Sumter held its annual Constitution Day celebration on Sept. 17. We were honored to be joined by guest speaker, SC Representative Fawn M. Pedalino.
- This year's Fall Writer Series featured Pulitzer Prize winning author, Kevin Sack. He gave a reading from his recent book, *Mother Emanuel*, which according to the publisher is, "A sweeping history of one of the nation's most important African American churches and a profound story of courage and grace amid the fight for racial justice."
- Continuing Education courses have been re-introduced to USC Sumter's line up of community events. Classes began in September and the lineup for this semester includes courses on investing, artificial intelligence, stress management, crochet, and goat yoga.
- USC Sumter hosted three summer camps. Mad About Science with Dr. Dan (The Science Man) Kiernan, Soccer Camp with USC Sumter Soccer Coaches Maxi Rocco and James Pierce, and Creative Studio Camp, which was led by several faculty including Paige Wallace, Vincent Frontero, Laura Hughes, and Jessie Freyermuth.
- Niche.com once again named USC Sumter as the #2 two-year campus in South Carolina. This is the ninth year in a row that the campus has received this ranking.
- A large fish sculpture has found a temporary home near the USC Sumter Student Union Building. The piece is designed to increase the understanding about how litter affects waterways and aquatic life. It was created by Central Carolina Technical College's welding program students and will ultimately find its permanent home in the Shot Pouch Greenway Park that is being created on Broad Street in Sumter.

- In May, USC Sumter's Savannah Williams of the Veterans Affairs department, organized a Memorial Day Program. The keynote address was given by Master Sargent Kevin Kirkpatrick.
- USC Sumter's lapel pin design submission was chosen for this year's Western Association of Veterans Education Specialists conference. The design was created by Alethia Hummel and Savannah Williams.

### Athletics

- We have 49 international students from 23 different countries around the world.
- We are livestreaming our volleyball and soccer matches.
- Tim Medlin has assumed the role of Assistant Athletic Director.
- Volleyball is ranked first in NJCAA Region 10. They are 2-0 in region play, beating USC Lancaster on September 17. They are 7-5 overall with a program highlight beating Florida State College at Jacksonville. This is the first win for our program over a Region 8 opponent.
- Men's Soccer is 6-1 heading into an important weekend. They compete against #8 ranked Daytona State on Friday. Daytona State is consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the nation each season. Team GPA is 3.4.
- Women's Soccer's roster includes players from Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, and Virginia. They are 2-3-1 on the season. They have a big match against USC Lancaster scheduled for the 25th.
- Track and Field will be competing in 5 meets this fall. They had a great showing at Elon to start the season.
- Softball Head Coach Miguel Justiniano earned his Doctor of Education in Leadership
- Men's and Women's Tennis are competing in the ITA Regionals this weekend for a chance to play in the ITA Cup. Men's Tennis is ranked #8 nationally with a team GPA of 3.69, and Women's Tennis is ranked #10 nationally with a team GPA of 3.59.
- Men's Golf has a Team GPA of 3.20, and the Baseball Team has a GPA of 3.00.
- NJCAAE PS Call of Duty 4v4 - National Champion - Spring 25 (undefeated)
- NJCAAE PS Call of Duty Warzone - National Champion - Spring 25 (undefeated)

### **Fall Enrollment (before freeze):**

Fall 2025 HDCT = 1914 in comparison to 1785 HDCT in Fall 2024.

Randy Lowell, USC Union  
Dean's Report  
September 19, 2025

- Enrollment for the Fall semester is in extremely good shape, as we have already reached new record high enrollment numbers. This includes a headcount of 1,627 students (up 20.25% from last Fall's final number of 1,353), and FTE enrollment of 915 (up 17.46% from last Fall's final number of 779). We still have through mid-October and the start of Fall II to add to these numbers. This includes being up in new freshmen, transfers, and dual enrollment students compared to last Fall, and holding about even in re-admits and continuing students from last Fall.
- USC Union has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, in partnership with Union County School District, to create a STEM Bus that will serve the campus community and surrounding area. The school district will donate the bus and provide some recurring support, with the grant funds going toward the upfitting and operation of that bus over the next few years to get it established. Special thanks to USC Union Education Coordinator, Cari Conley, for getting this grant put together and submitted.
- Over the summer, we received a \$2,000 donation from Walmart in Union to put toward the student food pantry. This is a grant that Walmart awards every quarter, so we look forward to continuing to pursue this funding to supplement that resource for our students. We also received some funding from Dollar General to support summer reading in collaboration with the Union County Carnegie Library, which many of the youth in Union County participated in.
- In the most recently released Niche.com rankings, we have moved up to #3 on the list of Best Community Colleges in South Carolina.
- Congratulations to our latest BSN graduates this summer, Haleigh Hendrix, Mary Knox, Laura Parris, Courtney Roberts, and Blakelee Wisher. All five graduates have also passed their NCLEX licensing exam on their first attempt, which maintains the streak of 100% first-time passage rate on that exam through our first three graduating BSN cohorts. All five of them had jobs secured, one in Cherokee, three in Spartanburg, and one right here at Union Medical Center. Our current upper division cohort of junior and senior BSN students is even larger than last year, and we look forward to seeing their successes as well.
- Bantams Men's Soccer is off to a hot start this season, with a record of 3-0-3, including wins over Erskine, USC Lancaster, and USC Salkehatchie, as well as an exhibition win over Denmark Tech. The Bantam Bass Fishing team also continues to find plenty of success on the trail with multiple team members earning top spots in competition. And softball was able to open up their home exhibition play in their brand-new stadium on Main Street on Sunday.
- Since last Spring, we completed searches for full-time staff positions, including Amy Queen accepting the Admissions Counselor position, Nikki Cromer accepting the Academic Affairs Administrative Assistant position, Abby McCarley accepting the Admissions Processor position, and Janet Graham accepting the Laurens Location Administrative Assistant position.
- We further expanded our mental health resource on campus over the summer. In addition to our new doctoral school psychology extern from USC Columbia's Psychological Services Center, Quentin "Q" Wedderburn, we have also added the on-campus/in-person option of Tomi LaChance for free, unlimited mental health services for students and employees. We also still have our two 24/7 online

platforms, MyGroup and Uwill, which students can access for additional free teletherapy and resources anytime they need them.

- This year, we have international students from 17 different countries/territories, including Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Mexico, Turks and Caicos, Bolivia, United Kingdom, Spain, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Poland. We are working on bringing on some part-time help to support our international students who may need some extra help with their English. I have a meeting on Friday with a candidate for this to see if we can proceed with her on this effort.
- Dr. Steve Lownes, Associate Professor of World Languages, has again secured grant funding to support another Latin American Film Festival for the campus, which kicks off next week, featuring access to a selection of streamed films, and complimented by faculty-led discussions of those films for students to participate in.
- **Facilities Updates:**
  - Main Building to be completed first week of November. Currently laying carpet and painting on the third floor, and putting up new lighting. Staircases are being stripped to the original pine to be stained and polyed. New HVAC system is complete and ready to be tested, with shrubs purchased and ready to be set around the outside units.
  - Laurens Location in Clinton in its final stage of first phase, to be completed in mid-October. The kitchen equipment was being installed this week. The boat storage door has been installed and boat storage electric drop down reels have been installed. Waiting on a panel box to be delivered that houses the pull-down reels. The front bathrooms are being finished this week.
  - Art building anticipated to be completed by January, as it will be cleared out next week to prepare for those renovations.
  - New softball stadium received its final CO this week.
  - Renovated Truluck gym building received its final CO this week.
  - Jonesville gym interiors in middle stages, on time and on budget.
  - Jonesville gym roof replacement at legal about to go out to bid in 2 weeks.
  - Baseball facility in its pre-phase, PO has been released for first phase.
- **Faculty Accomplishments:**
  - Dr. Andrew Kettler, Assistant Professor of History
    - o Publication: The Routledge History of the Senses Co-Editor, William Tullett, York University Routledge; Hardcover; June 2025 (9781032345871).  
[https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-History-of-the-Senses/Kettler-Tullett/p/book/9781032345871?srsId=AfmBOooEn4-ttlYvmPDNs\\_A1Y9Y8FC7I285s5leGgQ-DgeitQH9yNvbA](https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-History-of-the-Senses/Kettler-Tullett/p/book/9781032345871?srsId=AfmBOooEn4-ttlYvmPDNs_A1Y9Y8FC7I285s5leGgQ-DgeitQH9yNvbA)
      - The Routledge History of the Senses presents readers with an overview of the field. As well as pointing to directions for the future of the discipline, it illustrates the extent to which the subject offers a considerable space for the exploration of diverse historical topics through the lens of sensory experience.
    - o Publication: Energy Systems and Global Capitalism: Petromodernity, Abundance, the “Great Acceleration”; Oxford Bibliographies.  
<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780197768709/obo-9780197768709-0025.xml>

- The Great Acceleration—the exponential growth of capital associated with a massive increase in fossil fuel use and chemical output after World War Two—has become a significant field of research among scholars since J.R. McNeill coined the term early in the twenty-first century. The acceleration of economies during the “Golden Age of Capitalism” after World War Two coincided with fossil fuel production throughout the Global North and increasingly within developing spaces of the Global South.
- Publication: Cattle, Chattel, and Capital: Animal Agency and the Alimentary Atlantic, *The English Historical Review*, 2025. <https://academic.oup.com/ehr/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ehr/ceaf049/8162934>
  - During the first centuries of colonialism in the Caribbean, the choices of cattle influenced the establishment of European settlements, the creation of new legal regimes of enclosure, dietary fluctuations that changed perceptions of animal value, and ecological changes, both intended and unintended. The decisions made by livestock in the Caribbean reshaped island flora, attracted humans to follow herds into unknown interiors and set locations for imperial encounters. The plantation economy of enslavement grew into spaces once grazed by fleeing cattle. Over time, the material and discursive denial of agency to cattle on those burgeoning plantations influenced cultural senses of taste.
- Publication: “Radicalizing the Body, Haunting the Archive,” in *Routledge History of the Senses*. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-History-of-the-Senses/Kettler-Tullett/p/book/9781032345871>
  - Introduction to Edited Collection
- Publication: “Sensation and Speed, The Death of the Historical Body,” in *Routledge History of the Senses*. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-History-of-the-Senses/Kettler-Tullett/p/book/9781032345871>
  - Conclusion to Edited Collection that frames the edition in the issue of contemporary rise of AI and the death of the historical body.
- Publication: “Remembrance of the Bicameral Mind: Sensory Worlds at the Interface,” in *The Senses and Memory*, edited by Channele Dupuis. (Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, 2025), 241-262. [https://vernonpress.com/book/2304?srsId=AfmBOopKtAJ\\_nt8zeJfBESGybvMglS6Kvmm1oM1shqDDANQJwfvbHnwR](https://vernonpress.com/book/2304?srsId=AfmBOopKtAJ_nt8zeJfBESGybvMglS6Kvmm1oM1shqDDANQJwfvbHnwR)
  - Julian Jaynes’ *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* (1976) posited that ancient human consciousness functioned through a bicameral mind, whereby messages, emotions, and sensations were communicated from one side of the mind to the other. In this common understanding, evolutionary consciousness more commonly acted through command and response, rather than using the dialogic consciousness of modernity that was born of increasingly shared language and the rise of the recorded word in the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean of Homer and the Greeks. Thinking through Jaynes’ ideas of the ancient world, and Norbert Wiener’s cybernetic philosophy, this chapter argues that the God of capital will emerge to its strongest force as a nearly totalizing and commanding God that speaks to humans who remove their capacity to resist, and to even know what resisting would mean, the more society accelerates into Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). The human mind, on this nearly predictable path, will increasingly give up free will over sensuousness through a remembrance of the supposedly safe space of the bicameral mind that was a much more common way of understanding for the vast majority of human existence.
- Publication: “Sonic Waves and Scented Skies: Perceptions of Power, Protest, and Partition in the Cold War,” *Review of Sensory Warfare in the Global Cold War: Partition, Propaganda,*

Covert Operations, edited by Bodo Mrozek, Senses and Society.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17458927.2025.2491892>

- On the Ides of March in 2024, a peaceful protest in Belgrade, Serbia against government corruption was dispersed by officials backing pro-Russian President Aleksandar Vucic. For those in the crowd, the experience of forced dispersal was a profound sensory experience, as they felt intensive nausea, embodied pain, and psychic confusion from what they understood to be the effects of a large sound cannon that scattered the crowd with powerful sub-sonic waves. Despite denials ringing out from officials, members of the demonstration have requested international investigations into the use of such a controversial modern weapon against a peaceful gathering. This specific sensory event in Serbia – along with the use of stinking “Skunk” weaponry being sprayed against groups protesting at Columbia University against American involvement in Israel’s destruction of Gaza – demonstrates that the objective of abusing human perceptions has remained a vital aspect of military engineering in the wake of a Cold War when the use of such weapons became commonplace against both armed forces and civilians. Bodo Mrozek’s engaging edited collection, *Sensory Warfare in the Global Cold War: Partition, Propaganda, Covert Operations*, begins with similar sensory warfare in the contemporary world by framing “Havana Syndrome” as an example that brings into focus sensory relationships within international settings of peace and war directly related to Russia’s current global influence and the reemergence of Cold War battlelines after the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *Sonic Identity at the Margins*, by Joanna Love.  
[https://www.academia.edu/141967404/Book\\_Review\\_Sonic\\_Identity\\_at\\_the\\_Margins\\_Edited\\_by\\_Jessie\\_Fillerup\\_and\\_Joanna\\_Love](https://www.academia.edu/141967404/Book_Review_Sonic_Identity_at_the_Margins_Edited_by_Jessie_Fillerup_and_Joanna_Love)
  - Through fifteen relatively short chapters, *Sonic Identity at the Margins* covers a wide range of social resistance through sound and music. Taking initial historiographical cues from Martin Stokes’ collection on *Ethnicity, Identity, and Music* (1997), Jesse Fillerup and Joanna Love have collected numerous chapters related to identity, ethnicity, and Indigenous Studies through a historical reading of both musicology and Sound Studies.
- Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *The End of College Football: On the Cost of an All-American Game*, by Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Derek Silva.  
[https://www.academia.edu/143023605/Book\\_Review\\_The\\_End\\_of\\_College\\_Football\\_by\\_Nathan\\_Kalman\\_Lamb\\_and\\_Derek\\_M\\_D\\_Silva](https://www.academia.edu/143023605/Book_Review_The_End_of_College_Football_by_Nathan_Kalman_Lamb_and_Derek_M_D_Silva)
  - *The End of College Football* provides an academic reading of the role of profit within American college football during this age of name, image, and likeness (NIL) rights that are shifting the landscape of college sports. As a work of sociology from Canadian scholars Nathan Kalman-Lamb and Derek Silva, the authors expose a throughline of exploitation that began long before the last few years of considerable profiteering by the NCAA, athletic departments, conference leadership, and media conglomerates.
- Publication: For *Journal of American Culture*: Review of *Petrochemical Fantasies: The Art and Energy of American Comics*, by Daniel Worden.  
[https://www.academia.edu/129323404/Book\\_Review\\_Petrochemical\\_Fantasies\\_The\\_Art\\_and\\_Energy\\_of\\_American\\_Comics\\_by\\_Daniel\\_Worden](https://www.academia.edu/129323404/Book_Review_Petrochemical_Fantasies_The_Art_and_Energy_of_American_Comics_by_Daniel_Worden)
  - Published through the *Studies in Comics and Cartoons* series at Ohio State University Press, Daniel Worden’s *Petrochemical Fantasies* offers analysis of several connective tissues between American comics and the solidification of the fossil fuel industry in the United States. Thinking well beyond the content of comics that frequently linked

industrial energy to the powers of superheroes, Worden's historical narrative explores diverse material aspects that nourished links between fossil fuels and graphic narratives within the American public sphere. Combining a history of comics with an activist concern for the declining health of the Anthropocene, *Petrochemical Fantasies* breaks new ground for understanding how Comics Studies can dig in against the modern abusers of the earth.

- Blind Reviewer of an article for *History and Philosophy of Medicine*
  - Blind Reviewer of an article for *The Public Historian*
  - Blind Reviewer of an article for *The Scottish Historical Review*
  - Co-Edited Edition 41.2 of *World History Bulletin*
  - Co-Edited Edition 11.1 of *Sound Studies*
  - Presentation: "I'll Make You Shit!": Olfactory Othering and the Necropolitics of Colonial Prisons," Presented at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD, July 2025.
  - Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Air, Smell and Socio-Environmental Inequality," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD. July 2025.
  - Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Historical climates of Health," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD. July 2025.
  - Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Climates in Fictions," for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, College Park, MD. July 2025.
  - Presentation: Chaired the Panel, "Cliquetis Sounds, Smoke Smells, and Other Sensory Experiences in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Places of Work," for the Association of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference. April 2025.
  - Added to Editorial Board of Pennsylvania State University Press Series – "Perspectives on Sensory History"  
[https://www.psupress.org/books/series/book\\_SeriesPerspectivesSensoryHistory.html](https://www.psupress.org/books/series/book_SeriesPerspectivesSensoryHistory.html)
  - Presentation: Presented Opening Remarks at H-Net Teaching Conference as H-Net President.  
[https://networks.h-net.org/system/files/attachments/teaching-conference-cfp-2\\_4.pdf](https://networks.h-net.org/system/files/attachments/teaching-conference-cfp-2_4.pdf)
- Dr. Katie Klik, Associate Professor of Psychology
- Publication: Klik, K.A., Utomo, M.C., Jones, B., Batalha, L., Tropp, L.R., & Reynolds, K.R. (in press). Social identity processes in the field: The role of group norms and social identification in prejudice reduction. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*.  
<https://DOI.org/10.1111/jasp.70005>
    - This publication reflects Dr. Klik's expertise in bridging the social identity approach and intergroup contact theory to advance understanding of prejudice reduction in real-world settings. As first author, Dr. Klik led the analysis, writing, and publication of a naturalistic field experiment in collaboration with Kate Reynolds and Linda Tropp—two of the world's leading scholars in social identity and intergroup relations. This work demonstrates that prejudice reduction and prosocial action depend not only on individuals' identification with a group but also on the content of that identity—specifically the group's norms and values around diversity and inclusion. These findings offer important guidance for future program development in the prejudice reduction space, underscoring the need to foster inclusive group norms that promote equality and active engagement. This project aligns closely with Dr. Klik's training in translational science and showcases her ability to bridge theory and practice in addressing pressing social issues.

- Ashley Rabanal, Instructor of Art
  - Creative work included in the Greenwood Art Center's 58<sup>th</sup> juried exhibition. Juried by Michaela Pilar Brown. (Greenwood, SC). <https://www.artscentergreenwood.com/past-exhibition.html>
  - Creative work included in Metropolitan Arts Council's annual *Flat Out Under Pressure* 24 hour art competition and exhibition. (Greenville, SC).
  - Creative work included in The Abney House's *All Roads Lead to Art and Vice Versa* exhibition, celebrating Brandon Fellowship alumni and the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Brandon Fellowship at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts. (Greenville, SC). <https://towncarolina.com/photos-all-roads-lead-to-art-and-vice-versa-exhibit/>
  - Grant Funded: Project grant funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant to fund new work which will be exhibited in a solo exhibition in partnership with the Union County Arts Council in 2026.

**2024-2025**  
**Tenure and Promotion Cycle:**  
**The Chancellor’s Annual Report to the Faculty**  
**Palmetto College Campuses**

**“Report to Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate”**

“After the Board of Trustees concludes its role in the tenure and promotion process, a report shall be generated by the Office of the Palmetto College Chancellor which is to include the recommendations of each level of review from unit (campus) reviewers up through the Board of Trustees. The report will be as complete as possible while protecting the confidentiality of each candidate.”

Below are the figures as of September 23, 2025 **(9 faculty members)**

**Total decisions** (6 for promotion to associate professor, 6 for tenure, and 3 for promotion to full professor): **15**

Summary information:

**Of the 6 candidates who applied, 5 (83%) were awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor by the Board of Trustees.**

**Of the 3 candidates who applied, 3 (100%) were promoted to the rank of full professor by the Board of Trustees.**

<b>Candidate Information: 9 candidates</b>		
	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Granted</b>
<b>Tenure &amp; Promotion to Associate Professor</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 of 6 83%</b>
<b>Promotion to Professor</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3 of 3 100%</b>

<b>Votes of the Unit (Campus) Committees</b>		
	<b>Total Unit (Campus) Committee Votes</b>	<b>Positive</b>
<b>Tenure</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5 83%</b>
<b>Promotion</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8 89%</b>

**Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor Decision Agreements**

	<b>Dean</b>	<b>Palmetto College Campuses Committee</b>	<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Provost</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Unit (Campus) Committee</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Dean</b>		<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Palmetto College Campuses Committee</b>			<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Chancellor</b>				<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>	<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Provost</b>					<b>6 of 6 decisions 100%</b>

**Promotion to Professor Decision Agreements**

	<b>Dean</b>	<b>Palmetto College Campuses Committee</b>	<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Provost</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Unit (Campus) Committee</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Dean</b>		<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Palmetto College Campuses Committee</b>			<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Chancellor</b>				<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>	<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>
<b>Provost</b>					<b>3 of 3 decisions 100%</b>

Submitted by:



Craig Wilson, Chancellor

9, 29, 25

Date