

University Advisors Network

March 12, 2025

In-person: UAC Training Room, Close-Hipp Suite 301

Via TEAMS: [Join the meeting now](#)

Welcome and [review of minutes](#)

Claire and Heidi

Attendees: Rob Arnold, Charlie Ball, Jillian Carey-Bigony, Kate Blanton, Jane Bouknight, Rebecca Boyd, Rachel Bradley, Caitlyn Brockington, Bill Brown, Della Bryant, Brandi Byers, Chantelle Cayruth, Mike Dial, Nora Dragovic, Brian Dusel, Teresa Floretin, Courtney Godwin, Richard Hartley, Dawn Hiller, Kiisha Hilliard, Sarah Jusiewicz, Lane Kennedy, Kristi Kinslow, Mia Lacey, Helen Le, Alison Leach-Hughes, Laken Long, Keith Martin, Ali Mathwig, Anna May, Kaitlyn McCanna-Doty, Sara McConville, Sabrina McClure, Alexis McGill, Kyle McMillion, Tyler McNamara, Brandi Moore, Caleb Morris, Sheila Mull, Alexis Mynio, Kayla Payne, Anita Poole, Jay Pou, Marissa Rittermeyer, Claire Robinson, Lauren Sanborn, Sam Schmoker, Mary Jo Schroeder, Amanda Shores, Catherine Studemeyer, Sophie Legare, Jonathan Spicer, Alyssa Stephens, Kay Thomas, Nancy Tolson, Anna Tompkins, Josh Weakland, Kate Weaver

- Minutes approved

National Fellowships

Valerie Weingart

- Valerie is the liaison for advisors from this office. Email -weingarv@mailbox.sc.edu, location - DeSaussure 333
- What are National Fellowships?
 - National Fellowships are nationally competitive, merit-based awards from outside of the university that can fund over 300 different kinds of opportunities
 - Study, teaching, research abroad
 - Funding for undergrad or grad
 - Research in a variety of disciplines
 - Become involved in government and public service
 - It can range from a weekend to a year
- Example of one – Fulbright Scholarship
 - Who – rising seniors, graduating seniors
 - What – funding for a year
 - Where – anywhere approved for state department travel
 - When – October deadline
 - Why- study, teach or research abroad, experience new cultures, be a student ambassador, gain excellent application writing experience
 - How – meet with Heidi Bretz and the NF team for assistance with the application
- Showed 6 of the 20 Fellowship Ambassador Spotlights to show the different opportunities
- How can we assist
 - Offer info sessions and workshops throughout the academic year

- Listen as students communicate their interests and goals
- Guide students toward aligning their interests with fellowships
- Connecting students with faculty mentors
- Practice interviews
- Essay and application feedback
- Fellowship ambassadors ready to meet
- Refer student –
 - Have a form in the Faculty and Staff Toolbox to recommend a student
 - Then they reach out to the referred students via a personal message
 - Can request a presentation using the form in the Faculty and Staff toolbox
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- Resources –
 - Handouts
 - Podcast
 - Workshops and info sessions
 - All on website
- In the appointments with students –
 - What dreams or goals do you not have funding?
 - Refer them so they can investigate a fellowship to help them achieve this goal
 - Fellowship flags – interest in research, passion for service, agent of change, someone that wants to explore everything
 - GPA is not the only factor. It is open to all students, not just SCHC. Each fellowship has their own GPA range, and some are doing away from GPA factoring into the decision
- Some are Federal funded and some are privately funded

BAIS program

RESCHEDULED

Dr. Haylee Mercado

New NSO Academic Modules

Alison Leach-Hughes

- Pre-orientation modules to allow students to learn things before arriving on campus
- A third-party company helped to set up the modules
- Highlights of system – online platform that you sign in with duo indication,
- 7 topics – Welcome, Learning, Student Affairs, Services and Resources, Financing, Safety and Wellbeing, Checklist items that need to be taken care of
- Fully ADA compliant
- Intuitive system and mobile responsive
- Each section starts with a video introduction, followed by generative topics, students cannot skip through the sections in the module, at the end there is a quiz before moving to the next section of the module
- **Get Cocky!** Facts that are something that comes further into their time at USC and they are sprinkled throughout
- There is an **I** button for specific items of interest, and they can click it and it will show it at the end of the module and usually take the student to a webpage

- There is a survey built into each module where I can be expanded on in the in-person session
- Lasts about an hour to hour and half, asking that they complete this before orientation
- Access 2 weeks prior to their orientation date
- Allows NSO to scaffold content at the in-person session.
- How is it enforced – we will see how it goes this first year; it will be noted on their name tags that the student has completed the modules
- Academic content – welcome video, each college and school have a section in the video with a generalized description for the college and then the list of majors and an I button if they want to learn more about a specific college, General Education requirements, Placement test information, Academic Advising, highlight University 101, Academic Engagement, Academic Resources, and finally a Quiz
- Would like to finish the edits and then will grant access for others on the campus
- Transfer students will also need to complete these modules. They are mentioned in Living the Gamecock Life under Special Populations.
- Have cloned something like this for Family Programs

Due to being 20 minutes ahead of schedule -

Jane showed how the Carolina Core looks in the **Learning at USC** in the NSO platform

- Can click on each category to expand then out to show more information about each one
- This replaces the pre-orientation advising modules
- On the Placement Testing page – there is a timer of 10 seconds on each page
- Get the information about the test; placement test is being pushed from multiple individuals
- Claire asked about a video concerning the Math Placement test video - there is an 18-minute video on the math placement but that lives inside of the blackboard site of the math placement test

Washington Internship program

Gabby Coggin

- Not just an SCHC program or specific program
- 15 credit hour program and taking USC courses while doing an internship
- Dr Korey Rothman is the Academic Director/Faculty and is in Washington DC to work with the students on site
- Courses – SCHC 492 – contemporary issues in politics, SCHC 493 Internship (9hrs), SCHC 458 experiencing theater in Washington DC
- Live together in a Capitol Hill townhouse in Washington DC; in a central location. Fully furnished, 3 stories, with all amenities
- Application – preference given with a 3.5 gpa; student profile, 500-word personal statement, resume, unofficial transcript, letter of recommendation (academic)
- There is a scholarship application in the application
- Lot of weight on the interview process

- Timeline – application deadline March 21 by 11pm; notification for interview March 25; virtual interviews March 30 930-5 zoom it is a panel very professional interview with a Congressional representative; orientation in Columbia SC April 13th 1230-5
- There is a program fee of \$500 paid at the orientation session.

No April meeting

Will meet on May 7th

Adjourn