

Randy Lowell, USC Union
Dean's Report
November 19, 2021

COVID Updates

- We continue to make free COVID testing available on campus, thanks to Anita Whitney, which typically occurs every other Tuesday in Truluck gym, or as needed.
- Yesterday, we had some medical students from Spartanburg's VCOM on campus to speak with students in a few classes about the COVID vaccine, followed by lunch, a brief presentation and some discussion with more students in Truluck to get feedback from them on it and answer their questions, with around 20 students participating in that. VCOM will be back on campus on December 2 with DHEC to provide the campus and community an opportunity to get the COVID vaccine during an outdoor event with food trucks, music, giveaway, etc., funded by a DHEC grant that they received to help increase vaccination among young adults in the Upstate. They'll do this again on January 10 to provide an opportunity for second doses. If anyone needs a booster, they can get one at these events as well.
- Continue to contact Amber Ivey in Academic Affairs regarding contact tracing efforts for the campus if you test positive for COVID or believe that you may have had a direct exposure to someone else who is positive, or have someone indicate that they have encountered either of these scenarios (All@mailbox.sc.edu, 864-424-8061).
- We have received the remainder of the 40 portable HEPA filtration systems that we procured from Columbia that have been placed in a number of classrooms, suites, and common areas around campus.
- Reminder on our vaccination/testing incentive efforts this semester (funding for incentives primarily from HEERF Funds):
 - o For students
 - Every student who submits proof of vaccination for COVID-19 will have a \$45 credit loaded onto their Carolina Card account.
 - Every student who submits proof of vaccination for COVID-19 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship to be drawn mid-semester and end-of-semester. (***Did the mid-semester drawings, will do the end-of-semester drawings the first week of December. Will do 3 additional ones on January 10.***)
 - Every student who submits proof of vaccination for COVID-19 will be entered into a drawing every two weeks for \$50 in gift cards.
 - Every student who gets a COVID-19 test during the first half of the semester will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship to be drawn mid-semester; and then again for the second half of the semester to be drawn at the end of the semester. (***Did the mid-semester drawings, will do the end-of-semester drawings the first week of December. Will do 1 additional one on January 10.***)
 - Every student who gets a COVID-19 test during testing on campus for each 2-week period, regardless of vaccination status, will be entered into a drawing for \$50 in gift cards (5 winners each time).
 - o For faculty/staff
 - Every employee who submits proof of vaccination for COVID-19 by mid-October will be entered into a drawing for one 3 iPad Minis; and then again in December. (***Did the mid-semester drawing, will do the end-of-semester one at the holiday part.***)
 - Every employee who gets a COVID-19 test during testing on campus during the first half of the semester (regardless of vaccination status) will be entered into a drawing for one of 2 iPad Minis; and then again for second half of semester in December. (***Did the mid-semester drawing, will do the end-of-semester one at the holiday party.***)

- Completed drawings for 3 pairs of Vandy at USC, Auburn at USC, and Clemson at USC football tickets (2 vaccinated student winners, and 1 vaccinated employee winner).

Students

- Preliminary enrollment numbers for Spring 2022 are looking good. Compared to this time last year, Headcount for Spring is at 187 (up 18.3%), and FTE is at 153 (up 16.8%). Applications and admits for Fall 2022 are also up compared to this time last year.
- Upon wrapping up their Fall seasons, multiple Bantams were recognized for their athletic accomplishments by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), including:
 - Aneesa Williams: Women's Volleyball, All Conference Second Team
 - Steven Lopez: Men's Soccer, Honorable Mention
 - Jameon Williams: Men's Soccer, 2nd Team Defense
 - Daniel Cooper: Men's Soccer, 2nd Team Mid Field
 - Thomas Dartez: Men's Soccer, 3rd Team Mid Field
- In addition to arrangement with Psychological Services Center in Columbia for some help with mental health counseling for our students that I'd mentioned at our previous meeting, we are looking into an additional option to supplement that via the MyGroup Student Assistance Program that USC Lancaster is currently using. Will keep you posted on any developments with that as we learn more.
- USC Aiken recently received confirmation that they will receive an Aspen-AASCU Transfer Student Success and Equity Intensive grant, for which they will be working directly with the Palmetto College Campuses as their two-year partners. More information to come on that as they get that underway.

Faculty & Staff

- Jennifer Emswiler, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts
 - Completed painting for the Bullets and Band-aids traveling exhibition, which began its tour on Wednesday, November 10 in Columbia, SC and will travel throughout the Carolinas through December 2. (<https://bulletsandbandaids.org>)
 - Painting recently accepted into the juried, virtual art show "Colorful Abstractions" through Fusion Art Gallery in California. The show is up now and will remain available online for up to three years.
- Randy Ivey, Senior Instructor of English
 - Short story, "The Brief, Miserable Existence of Tonya Dobbin" published this month in *The Adelaide Literary Magazine*. It is a print and digital publication.
- Dr. Steven Lownes, Assistant Professor of World Languages
 - Presented "Education, Contact, and Competing Priorities: Literary Reaction to Public Administrative Reforms in 19th Century Spain" at the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference (MIFLC) hosted by Furman University in October.
 - Presentation proposal "Where Theory Meets Practice: Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* as Primer for Language Learning and Service-Learning" was accepted for the 7th Annual International Academic Forum's (IAFOR) International Conference on Education for January 2022 in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Dr. Andrew Pisano, Associate Professor of English
 - Presentation proposal "Cuisine de Composition: Experiential Food Writing in the First Year College Composition Classroom" was accepted for the Hawaii University International Conferences in Honolulu, HI, in January 2022.
- Dr. Emily Schafer, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 - Presentation proposal "Examining the Impact of Trauma-Informed Care Training on Educators' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior: A Qualitative Study" was accepted for the Hawaii University International Conferences on Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education in Honolulu, HI, in January 2022.

- Presentation proposal “The Traumatic and Ongoing Legacy of Slavery and Racism” was accepted for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Hilton Head, SC, in March 2022.
- Emergency management staff from Columbia are working on getting a tabletop active shooter exercise scheduled for us here in Union, along with the other Palmetto College Campuses. More details on that as they become available.
- Special thanks to Bobby Holcombe and everyone who helped him plan/execute the Thanksgiving luncheon for campus this week.
- Congrats and welcome to recent staff hires:
 - Director of Operations: Keith Ballington (effective December 1)
 - Full-time IT Technician: Nicholas Jeter (effective January 3)
 - Apple Lab Coordinator: John Michael Greer (effective November 29)
- Many applications have come in for the Assistant Professor of African-American Studies position as that committee continues their work. We are also preparing for the faculty searches for Assistant Professor of Psychology and full-time Instructor of Mathematics. On the staff side, searches are being prepared for a Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Financial Aid Counselor, and Academic Affairs Admin.

Facilities

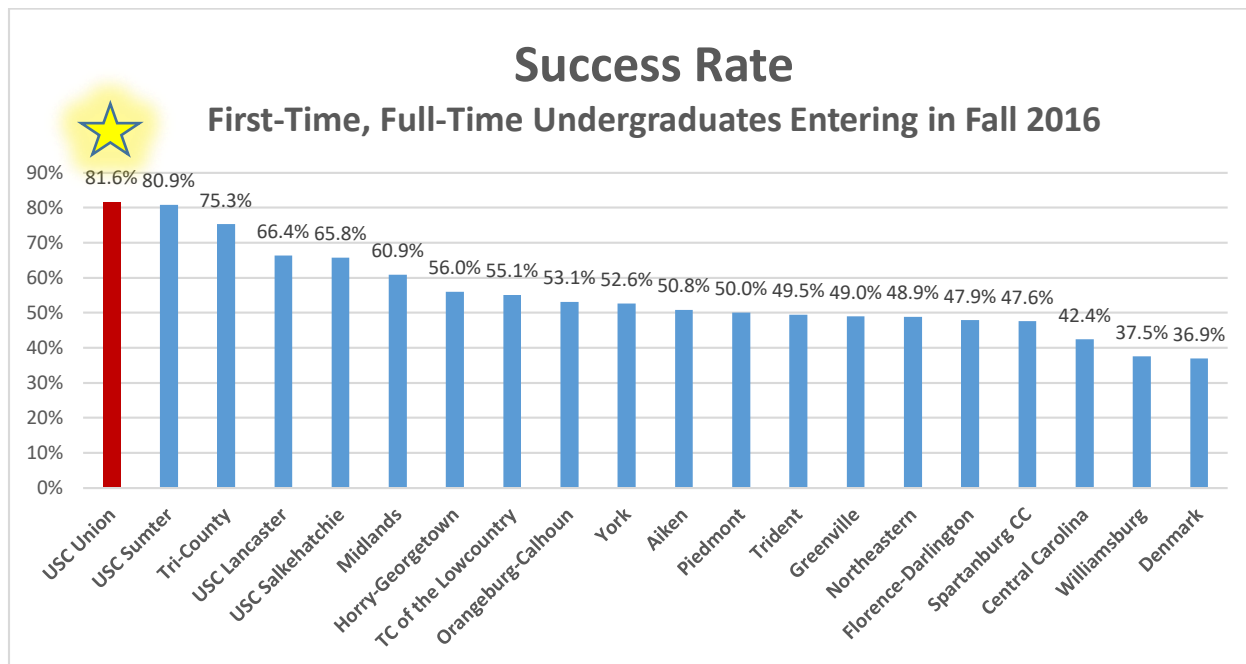
- Founders House continues to hold Art Studio classes this semester as it transitions into new Fine Arts space for the campus. Awaiting installation of Fine Arts letters on outside of building, as well as updated signage outside of building, and will soon get a printing press ordered for the space to accommodate printmaking courses in addition to the painting and drawing currently underway there.
- New Nursing Simulation Laboratories Building is occupied and in use for skills work by our BSN juniors (via Aiken Nursing partnership), with a few final punch list items before Phase I completed. Phase II planning being initiated to create two new beaming classrooms and new wet lab in the other side of that space.
- ADA restroom upgrade/renovation project working toward completion of first floor Whitener Central Building bathrooms by mid-December, with goal of shifting to second floor restrooms after the holidays before eventually shifting over to the Main Building restrooms.
- ADA/security hardware project to update knobs/locks on door around campus has mapped out all of those doors that would need to have those replaced, in most cases to go from knob to lever and/or to allow for locking of door from inside via bolt or button on handle. Awaiting quotes for job.
- Work continues on the gym in Jonesville, bolstered by recent \$45,000 Timken Foundation grant obtained by our Director of Marketing, Annie Smith. This will serve as an indoor training facility for student-athletes, particularly soccer and baseball whose fields are there.
- Apple Lab for Union campus will be located in Carnegie Library, which also houses library services for the campus. Awaiting delivery of furniture in the next few weeks to be able to schedule install of Apple equipment, and aiming for ribbon cutting opening of the space soon after the holidays.

Budget

- As of the end of the 1st quarter (9/30/21), 25% of the year completed and only 22.9% of the “A” funded operating budget spent. \$145,000 away from Fall tuition revenue budget, with Fall PC tuition likely to more than cover that.

Research Club

- Kevin Torres will put on a Lunch & Learn for us this afternoon here in the Community Room, starting at 12:30.
- Our Fall Colloquium is planned for the morning of December 3, here in the Community Room as well, with presentations from Caden Jackson and the Morris Lab. Planning to start at 9:00 that morning.



*The CHE success rate, in addition to the graduates included in the graduation rate cohort, includes as part of the completion group those students who are still enrolled at the same institution during the Fall term following 150% of program time and students who transfer to other institutions before 150% of program time.

AD Notes FO 09/23/21

Bookstore:

When you are submitting book orders, please be sure to double-check ISBN numbers.

Contact Tracing:

Contact Amber Ivey: ai1@mailbox.sc.edu

[If a student informs you that they have been exposed or have contracted COVID-19 please advise them to reach out to Amber. You should also forward the student's name to Amber. Amber will contact them, inform them of protocols regarding their quarantine period, and send them a waiver to sign which will allow her to confirm with professors if a student is on mandatory quarantine. If you have a student who has not been in class for a period of time and has not contacted you, please reach out to Amber to see if they are under mandatory quarantine. She will not reach out to each individual professor each time a student is quarantined. If the student has not returned the waiver to her, she can't confirm their status with anyone.](#)

Fall 2021 Daily Campus Census for Faculty and Staff:

- Daily Census is no longer required!

Sick Leave:

Please be sure to input your sick leave in the new time and absence system. Susan Jett has sent several emails that have included instructions on how to submit your leave requests.

Academic Affairs:

- Syllabi were due Aug. 27 – ASAP & copy Amber Ivey.
- Advising for Spring 2022 began on Monday, October 25.
 - Winter Term – PCAM 205 – 12/27 – 1/16. Online Asynchronous.
 - EDEL and EDRM – available for Union students at Union tuition.
 - Reach out to your advisees directly to schedule appointments.
 - Classroom capacity limits (75%) will remain in place through Spring 2022.
 - Keep in mind that classroom capacities are limited so encourage early advising and registration.
 - New students will be assigned via Calendly. Keep a lookout for those appointments and make sure to put in your availability.
 - Spring 2022 dates:
 - Full term: January 10 – April 25 – Final exams: April 27 – May 4
 - Spring first half term: January 10 – March 2
 - Spring second half term: March 14-May 4
- Reminder: Academic Intervention Committee, **Honor Code Violation**, and CARE Team links are up and running. Please use those as you see fit.
- Please be reminded to complete the required Title IX training.
- Peer Reviews will resume this year in the spring semester.
- Professional Activities Reports: These will be due by the end of January, with review returned by end of March. There is also a new form that will be used for submission and evaluation – Faculty Information Form. In addition, faculty will need to complete the Research, Scholarly Activity, and service report – also due by end of January.
- Study abroad program – I've received only one proposal – Kevin Torres.
- CTE Virtual Office Hour: Join the instructional designers at the Center for Teaching Excellence for a virtual office hour with faculty at the Palmetto College Union Campus on **Friday 11/19/2021. Drop-in between 3 pm and 4 pm** to ask questions related to course design, pedagogy, or educational technology with opportunities for scheduling a one-on-one consultation with an instructional designer.
- Faculty Searches:
 - AFAM – ongoing
 - PSYC & MATH – will be reaching out to faculty to put together a search committee.
- Final Exams: Final exams for full semester classes are to be given **ONLY** at the regularly scheduled time listed on the final exam schedule. In any course or laboratory that meets weekly, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last class session before the regular examination period. In any course or laboratory that meets two or three times a week, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last two class sessions before the regular examination period. In any course or laboratory that meets more than three times a week, no quiz, test, or examination shall be given during the last three sessions before the regular examination period.

- Final Grades: When entering final grades in Self-Service, if a student had stopped attending that class at some point (or stopped logging in the case of an online class), you will need to enter a grade of “FN” (rather than just an “F”), as well as their last date of attendance/login for that student. Those unearned/walk-away FN’s are tracked by Financial Aid to determine if the student owes additional money and that information needs to be as accurate as possible when those grades are entered. Final grades are submitted and posted to students’ academic records using Self Service Carolina. Final grade rolls will be available 2-3 business days before the last day of class and are due no later than 72 hours after the date of the scheduled final exam. Grades submitted late may affect a student’s academic standing, eligibility for financial aid, or ability to graduate.
- Annie Jones will be joining the CARE Team.
- DEI – Black Scholars Program. This is still in the very beginning stages but the purpose would be to serve the needs of this underserved population and attempt to increase retention from one year to the next. I’m thinking to initially start with 5-10 students (targeted at first and as the program develops move towards an application process with specific selection criteria).

Activities may include:

- AFAM courses
- monthly dinners with community members
- matched with mentor
- forums/lectures – academic success, leadership development, career development, networking
- study abroad
- personal/academic advising
- tailored orientation
- access to campus-based/community food pantries
- peer coaches
- summer bridge program
- field trips (art & culture)
- conference attendance
- internships
- GLD
- Transfer assistance
- Service learning/capstone

11/19/2021

VCOM-Grant from DHEC, \$15000 grant to increase vaccines in young adults in the Upstate. It’s in the single digits for the most part of vaccinated young adults.

Presentation and talked with students to get thoughts on the vaccine. Peer to peer type thing.

December 2nd, they’re going to put on a big vaccine clinic with food trucks, music, etc. January 10th for the second shot. There will be more drawings for these and more scholarships.

Enrollment for spring is up 18.3% at 187 and up FTE 153 students

More applications and admits for next fall than last year at this time.

Mental health issues. Ashley Schreyer- My group- student and employee assistance program. This service. Student gets 3 free counseling appointments with a licensed counselor for the same issue. USC Lancaster is paying \$7000/ year with a cap of 1600 students.

USC Aiken applied for a grant via the Aspen Institute. Going after successful transfers. They got the grant, but they're planning on starting in the spring.

Several new hires and faculty accomplishments.

Apple lab will open soon.

Dual enrollment, financial aid counselor, full-time admin in Academic Affairs.

Facilities-

Sim lab done is almost done.

-Aziz-

Book orders for spring.

No more daily census. Syllabi

Winter term -PCAM

EDL and EDRM-Elementary Education is required, and they can play Union tuition.

Plagiarism and cheating- honor code violations are between professor and student until we want Aziz involved. The students don't know what plagiarism is. High school may or may not be informed if it involves dual enrollment students.

Care Team links-Annie Jones from the library has been added to the Care Team.

Title IX training is required, December 17th is the final day it must be completed by.

Peer reviews will start in the spring.

Faculty admin reviews reminder, due in January

One study abroad and it's Kevin's

Final exams are only given on the date.

Some student groups are at higher risk for not reenrolling and continuing. Black males are in the highest risk group.

This would involve both males and females, 5-10 students, at first it would be targeted and then it would move towards an application process. They would probably have to take AFAM courses and then would also network with community members.

Torres-study abroad presentation

Eastern Europe trip, students can reach out to him for more information.

