**Dr. Walter P. Collins, III**
**Palmetto College Campus Dean**

**Report to the USC Lancaster Faculty Organization**
**February 3, 2017**

**Welcome back, all, to the Spring 2017 semester. I trust that everyone enjoyed the recent winter break. Thank you for your efforts in helping to kick off the new semester. I appreciate the team approach to so many tasks that require our attention at the beginning of the term. Please welcome those who joined us for the first time upon our return in January, Mary To Lee in Counseling and Tyrie Rowell in Financial Aid. Know that my door remains open to you for questions, comments, and feedback. Thanks for your contributions to the many successes of our students.**

## People

### Enrollment

As of February 2, 2017, 1436 students (headcount) are registered for Spring 2017. Final enrollment in Spring 2016 was 1470. There are additional second 8 weeks enrollment numbers to be added. We are serving 127 Palmetto College students at USCL as well this semester.

### Athletics

Student-athletes' average GPA for Fall 2016 was 2.866 with the baseball team averaging 2.89, volleyball averaging 3.47, women's soccer averaging 3.12, and men's soccer averaging 2.49. Five student-athletes earned a 4.0 GPA while 46 student-athletes earned a GPA between 3.0 and 3.9.

> **Upcoming baseball games**: Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 4 and 5 at home against Southeastern Community College. The games start on Saturday at 2:30 and then at 12:00 on Sunday. On February 11 and 12, we will be hosting Brunswick Community College. Game time on Saturday the 11th is 1:00 and on Sunday the 12th play begins at 12:00.

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**Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Hammond** on the recent publication of two poems: "I'm Not Really a Waitress." *Birmingham Poetry Review* 44 (Spring 2017) and "Dying Languages." *Quorum* (20 January 2017).

**Congratulations to Dr. Courtney Catledge and to Prof. Ann Scott** whose presentation "Debriefing for Meaningful Learning: Connecting the Dots" was chosen for a podium presentation at the Sigma Theta Tau's 28th Annual International Nursing Research Congress in Dublin, Ireland in July 2017. At the same gathering, Dr. Catledge will also participate in a symposium entitled "Engaging Non-Traditional and Innovative Partners Across the Nursing Research Process" with fellow nursing faculty from USC's College of Nursing.

## Budget

With your help and assistance, we continue to stabilize and improve our financial situation. We are on a course to continue building our carryforward again this year. Recall that we are working toward

the equivalent of 3 months in general operations as a carryforward. Continued careful monitoring of spending will help ensure we get there.

We have made requests to our local legislative delegation for FY 18. USC Lancaster requests include deferred maintenance funding allocations for Bradley and Gregory and recurring parity money to support academic initiatives.

## Facilities

Starr Hall renovations are scheduled to conclude in February. Academic and Student Affairs will relocate to the newly renovated space later this semester. New carpet will be put down in the hallways of Starr Hall soon.

We are currently in the beginning stages (design/engineering) for renovation and repair work that will be done in Gregory (Gymnasium flooring, locker room and shower renovations, natatorium window replacement) and Bradley (HVAC upgrades and weep hole repairs) in the coming months.

If you are aware of areas around campus that need the attention of our maintenance and custodial staff, please continue to let us know.

## Other items…

- I will conclude this academic year's visits to the **county councils** of our six service counties next week in Chester County.

- The **Soul Food Cook Off** returns this year on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Proceeds from the event will support the Thelathia Barnes Bailey Textbook Scholarship Fund.

- Twelve USC Lancaster students, Laura Carnes, Sarah Katherine DeVenny and I attended **Carolina Day at the Statehouse** on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. We met with the legislative delegation from USC Lancaster's service area to thank them for their support and to ask for their continued support of USC Lancaster and higher education in South Carolina.

- Our **2017 commencement speaker** will be Mrs. Rachel Hodges, First Lady of South Carolina, 1999-2003. A native of Hartsville, SC, she is currently involved in community and non-profit work and is an advocate for reading and other literacy initiatives. Commencement is April 29 at 2:30.

- The **Educational Foundation of USC Lancaster** has set the date for a 5K, 10K and 1-mile Fun Run—**Laps for Lancers**—as a fundraising activity on Saturday, March 25 here on campus. Events planned that morning include the races, a pancake breakfast, and activities for families with children to enjoy. Please come out and join us for this event.

- **Congratulations to the BSN nursing faculty** on receiving a $10,000 grant from the Lutz Foundation to purchase additional equipment for the Nursing Simulation Laboratory.

- Next **Lunch and Learn at the NASC**, Feb. 17th at noon with **Dr. Ron Cox**. Topic: "The Desegregation of Clemson"

- **Town-Gown Reading and Discussion Project**: Dr. Lisa Hammond is helping to coordinate a campus and community reading and discussion project. The group of about 18 faculty, staff, students and community members will be reading Stephen Gavazzi's ***The Optimal Town-Gown Marriage: Taking Campus-Community Outreach and Engagement to the Next Level***. There will be an open forum scheduled for campus and community input as the project progresses.