UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

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

Report to the USC Lancaster Faculty Organization
March 3, 2017

People

Enrollment

As of March 1, 2017, 1476 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. Thank you to all who have helped students register for classes this semester.

Athletics

Upcoming baseball games: Saturday (3/4) at home against Wake Technical Community College at 1:00 and 3:30 and Sunday (3/5), a nine-inning game starting a noon.

Baseball news: Freshman Cross Holfert is leading the nation in homeruns with 12 so far this season. Holfert hit three homeruns this past weekend against Patrick Henry Community College. He is also leading the nation in runs batted in. As a team, the Lancers lead the nation in homeruns with 47 this year. Sophomore Tyler Ackard is ranked fourth in the nation in stolen bases.

Other game days and times are available at: http://www.usclathletics.com/schedule.asp?sportID=1

Welcome to Ms. Deborah McCullough, new part-time HR employee who began working last week.

Congratulations to Prof. Phillip Parker who completed the coursework and passed the examination in January 2017 to be recognized as a Certified Fraud Examiner. Prof. Parker's work on the AS in Business degree has led to the recognition and designation of ***best practices*** in our Quality Assurance report to the ACBSP.

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Campbell on receiving the RISE grant for his project entitled "Explaining and Forecasting Leaders' Decisions: A Poliheuristic Analysis of the Iran Hostage Rescue Decision."

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Sellhorst and Dr. Liz Easley on receiving the RISE grant for their project entitled "Increasing potential and widening horizons: Promoting Undergraduate research at a 2 year Regional Campus."

Congratulations to Dr. Brooke Bauer on receiving the RISE grant for her summer project entitled "An Enduring People: Catawba Indian Women and Education."

Congratulations to Mr. Jared Hayes (BSN) on receiving the Palmetto Gold Award for nursing students which comes with a $1000 scholarship. Jared was the only student from USC (all campuses) to receive this award.

Budget

We have made budget requests to the House Ways and Means Higher Education sub-committee. The USC presentation to the Senate Finance Committee is March 15. There is early indication that the legislature will be supportive of a Bond Bill for capital needs on college and university campuses this year. I will take part in the Spring budget meeting for our campus next week on March 9. The Dean's Budget Advisory Group will be meeting soon.

Palmetto College revenue for the campus for this year (fall and spring combined) looks to be in the neighborhood of about $710,000—a critical part of our overall campus revenue.

Facilities

Starr Hall renovations of old Admission space has just gone through the punch list phase. The faculty/staff restrooms will be completed in March. The Office of 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. The architect visited the Gregory Center for scope of work and initial design observations on Wed., Mar. 1.

Other items…

- The **Soul Food Cook Off** was Tuesday, February 21. Proceeds from the event support the Thelathia Barnes Bailey Textbook Scholarship Fund. Approximately $4000 was raised for the endowed fund. Thanks to all who participated by cooking or coming over to eat.

- **Horizon Grant** opportunities are now available for higher education faculty. The J. Marion Sims Foundation has expanded the applicant eligibility for its education grant opportunities. Please see the information, deadlines, and instructions linked here if you're interested.

- 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.

- The campus hosted **Honors Day**, Friday, Feb. 24 and welcomed about 350 students from area high schools for academic activities/quizzes and the Honors Bowl Academic Challenge. Sincere thanks to Prof. Kim Covington and Honors Day committee members for organizing and planning the day and to the many faculty and staff for volunteering to help with the events and activities. Honors Day number 40 coming in 2018!

- Next **Lunch and Learn at the NASC**, Mar. 17th at noon with Dr. Ken Sassaman. Topic: "Archaeology of the Southeastern Archaic Breaks New Ground" **LOCATION CHANGE**: Cultural Arts Center, 307 West Gay Street, Lancaster.

- New exhibit set to open at the NASC: **"Share a Little of That Human Touch."** Exhibit talk, Friday, March 17, 1:30-2:30.

- In its 21st year, the **Learn-to-Swim and Water Safety Program** for Lancaster County 4th Graders is featured on the cover of this year's Lancaster County Phone Directory. The J. Marion Sims Foundation, the Lancaster County School District, and the Gregory Center sponsor the program which will serve over 1000 4th graders this school year.

- USC Lancaster has been included on the list of **Mother Friendly Employers in SC**. This designation stems from the completion of the new lactation room and related resources available to students, staff, and faculty. The project is a Graduation with Leadership Distinction component for two nursing students, Savannah Williams and Anna Parker.

- I have now concluded this academic year's visits to the **county councils** of our six service counties.

- Many thanks to the members of the CHEM position search committee and committee chair, Dr. Fernanda Burke, which recently successfully completed its work. Dr. Li Cai is set to join our faculty in August 2017.

Have an enjoyable Spring Break!