UNIVERSITY ADVISOR NETWORK

February 18, 2026

Close-Hipp Suite 301, Advisor training room Via TEAMs: Join the meeting now

Welcome and approval of January 2026 UAN minutes

- January minutes reviewed
- Minutes approved

Attendees: Julia Ballou, Valeria Bates, Rebecca Boyd, Mary Cha Brabham, Caitlyn Brockington, Bill Brown, Della Bryant, Jillian Bigony, Ashley Byrd-White, Chantelle Cayruth, Chelsea Corbett, Michael Davis, Kelly DeShazo, Mike Dial, Nora Dragovic, Brian Dusel, Lauren Epps, Pinckney Epps, Amber Falluca, Teresa Florentin, Christy Friend, Courtney Godwin, Dawn Hiller, Ashley Hubbard, Lauren Kozlik, Helen Le, Alison Leach Hughes, Jenny Leist, Xinfeng Liu, Laken Long, Ali Mathwig, Anna May, Kaitlyn McCanna-Doty, Jacqueline McClary, Sabrina McClure, Sam McMillion, Chris Miller, Martiez Moore, Destinee Moreaux, Caleb Morris, Sheila Mull, Alexis Mynio, Kayla Payne, Lauren Sanborn, Johnathan Spicer, Amanda Therrell, Nancy Tolson, Kay Thomas, Charles Tisdale, Tanner Ulland, Alexandra Weaver, Kate Weaver, Valerie Weingart

CPoS clarification for Interdisciplinary Certificates — Joey Derrick

- Undergraduate certificate programs at USC provide valuable skills and opportunities for students. However, these programs and their associated course are generally not eligible for Title IV federal financial aid.
- These programs are designed to enhance academic and professional development and offer students a competitive advantage. However, it is important to understand that undergraduate certificate programs do not meet Title IV eligibility requirements. As a result, courses taken solely to earn these certificates are not eligible for Title IX federal financial aid. Students should plan accordingly and are strongly advised to contact the Financial Aid Office to explore alternative funding courses or options for integrating these courses into a Title IV eligible degree program.
- Statement from website - https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/advising/advisor_toolbox/advising_technology/degreeworks/cpos_info/index.php
- Title IV aid must be used toward a degree, but certificates do not count as a degree.
- So, if the courses only count for the certificate only, they won't count toward the aid
- Most students have more aid than Title IV which will pay for the course
- Very few students are encountering this as a problem

Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) — Lauren Epps

- To advance integrative and experiential learning across within and beyond the classroom experiences
- Experiential learning – learning by doing through hands on experiences and reflection
- ELO criteria
    - Significant time and effort - Minimum of 45 hours of engagement

    - Clear expectations
    - Required Reflections
    - Feedback – faculty/staff/peer interaction
    - Several courses in bulletin have this tag
- Integrative Learning- connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources
- Learning within the classroom + beyond the classroom = making connections and applying within and beyond the classroom learning
- GLD – academic honor, degree distinction
    - Recognized on the student transcript and diploma
    - Honor cord at graduation
- Program has grown from 90 in 2013-2014 to 502 in 2024- 2025 students
- 4 pathways –
    - Community Engagement and Social Advocacy (formerly Community services)
        - 300 hours of community engagement and/or social advocacy in at least 2 experiences
        - May apply 200 hours of experience required of their major toward the pathway
    - Global Learning
        - 12 weeks of immersive education abroad OR
        - 8 weeks of faculty led education abroad OR
        - 6 weeks of faculty led education abroad and a minimum of 60 hours of focused local international experiences
    - Professional Engagement (formerly Professional and Civic Engagement)
        - 300 hours of leadership and/or professional engagement in at least 2 different programs or experiences
    - Research
        - 2 semesters in a research or discovery project accompanied by a faculty mentor
- 6 requirements for all pathways –
    - 3.0 overall GPA
    - Core Experience
    - Enhancement Experience
    - Coursework
    - Presentation
    - ePortfolio
- Discover USC
    - Poster presentation event Research +GLD
    - This year it is offered on April 24 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
- GLD e portfolio
    - Publicly visible website
    - Demonstrates integrative learning
    - Reflective writing
    - Scored using GLD rubric based on learning outcomes
    - Can be used after graduation

    - Promote UNIV 401 – 1 credit hour course, provides immense support and timeline for completing eportfolio
    - Structured advising – self paced modules via Blackboard, 2 small group workshops for peer review feedback
- Course load if the 401 puts the student over the 16-hour courseload. There is no additional funding for the student available. Their office thought the fee limit was 18. This is where the student would do the Structured advising. They can also do the 401 course earlier if they have some wiggle room.
- Advisors can nominate students to become part of GLD
- Students must apply to be part of GLD
- Graduation with Leadership Distinction office located in Legare room 236A

Career Center Updates — Justin Lawhead

- Assistant VP for Student Success
- USC Career Center a Trusted Expert
    - Career coaching
    - Resume and cover letter review
    - Career and internship fairs
    - Employer visits
    - Iris headshop booth
    - Mentoring
    - Internships, co-ops, part-time and full-time job
    - Workshops and panels
    - Employment application guidance
    - Peer support
    - Career paths and estimated salaries
- Survey students on whose advice they trusted most - parents, faculty, academic advisor
- Work on these items to work together
- Embracing career everywhere by building a career ecosystem – embedding career development into all touch points
- Career ecosystem – integrated campus wide approach to career development where career readiness is embedded through the entire student experience, not confined to a single career services office
- This systemic approach builds a culture of career success with the capacity to serve every student. Career development becomes woven into the fabric
- Integration across campus – curriculum – embedded in coursework
- Co-curricular – student organizations
- Agility and Carolina Career Ready Career
    - Self-discovery and awareness
    - Career coaching
    - Skill development
    - Network building
    - Readiness preparation
- Competencies to understand and develop
    - Career and Self Development
    - Communication
    - Critical Thinking

    - Leadership
    - Professionalism
    - Teamwork
    - Technology
- Career planning has multiple touch points throughout the academic career
- The trend is that a student will have up to 18 jobs after graduation
- Dedicated partnerships across campus – dedicated career teams for each college except DMSB because they have theirs due to their accreditation
- Carolina Career Ready
    - Everyone helps
    - Make it natural
    - Work smarter not harder
    - Change the career center role
    - Multiply the results
- Academic advisors as career allies –
    - Encourage exploration
    - Normalize process
    - Ask about interest
    - Share the big picture
    - Partner with us
- Every advisor has a NACE membership – research information, articles about advising

African American Studies — Nancy Tolson

- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Why major in AFAM? You Can ___with AFAM – logo
- Students have gone to law school, doctors, professors, artists, and more
- Highlighted a student – Phi Beta Kappa, Honors, double major
- 5 Carolina core courses –
    - AFAM 200 VSR, Founding Docs
    - AFAM 201 GSS
    - AFAM 202 AIU
    - AFAM 218 VSR & VSR cross-listed with EDTE/JSTU 218
    - AFAM 355 GSS cross-listed with SOCY 355
- Program highlights –
    - Department is 55 years old originally a program
    - 14 faculty members, degree requirements
    - Requirement major hours are 24

Walker Institute Curriculum Updates — Catherine Studemeyer

- Global Studies have undergone major changes
- Carolina Core Options
    - GLST 101 is now GSS/ VSR and Social Science
    - GLST 107 – Global Economic relations
        - ARP course
        - No Pre-requisites

        - Interdisciplinary analysis of global affairs using quantitative approaches to development, global governance and transnational policy issues
        - How are things like economic output, trade and development
        - Who should take – flexible ARP requirement, student who do not want/need calculus and or statistics coursework.
        - Pilot semester will be Fall 2026, TTh 1005- 1120 Dr Dahlman teaching
- Area Studies minor revamping courses
    - Updated courses – removed ones that are no longer offered and added new courses
    - Interdisciplinary – 18 credits, max 6 hrs. from same subject to make sure the character of interdisciplinary is maintained
    - Explicitly welcoming of study abroad, special topics, and future courses
    - Advisors – wondering if a course can count towards an Area Studies minor.
        - Contact Dr. Catherine Studemeyer or Dr. Carl Dahlman
    - Foreign language courses welcome- each minor accepts relevant foreign language coursework.
    - All levels of foreign language course welcome except the Carolina Core of college
        - Example – student has 200+ level language credit but is not pursuing language minor or student has 100 level credit in a second language beyond their Carolina Core
- List of the interdisciplinary studies minors –
    - African Studies
    - Asian studies
    - European Studies
    - Islamic Studies
    - Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latinx Studies
    - Middle East Studies (new minor)
    - Slavic, East Central European and Eurasian Studies

Adjourn

Next meeting March 18th