

Transfer Student Advisory Council

2/26/25

Present: Alison Scheide (Admissions), Amanda Shores (UAC), Kate Blanton (HRSM), Morgan Ruebusch (SSC), Deanie Kane (UAC), Aaron Marterer (Registrar), Mary Jo Schroeder (UAC), Alexis McGill (UAC), Claire Robinson (UAC), Dawn Hiller (CAS), Lauren Sanborn (COE), Amanda Therrell (GARNET), Jess Goff (UAC), Kimberly Dressler (Carolina Experience), Lara Anderson (Provost), Mia Lacey (UAC), Stephanie McCarter (Financial Aid and Scholarships), Nora Dragovic (CAS), Alison Leach Hughes (NSO), Dana Talbert (SSC), Sara Reinhardt (Enrollment Data Analytics), Valerie Weingart (NFSP), Carolina Gamble (HRSM), Kate Lehman (National Resource Center), Moeisha Holmes (UAC), Valeria Bates (HRSM), Martiez Moore (HRSM), Kathy Smiling (HRSM), Alissa Samek (UAC)

Agenda

- REACH Act Compliance and Transfer Credit
 - o Starting in Fall 2024, if a student took a REACH Act/FND equivalent course out of state, they must take a Blackboard module to satisfy the REACH Act/FND requirement.
 - No holds, but not doing this could be a barrier to graduation.
 - No exceptions can be made in DegreeWorks for this requirement.
 - AP American Government can count for FND. CLEP cannot. Currently no IB equivalent?
 - o Advisors need to be mindful about advising students for transient courses for FND courses over the summer. The course should be taken in-state at a school that is REACH Act compliant.
 - o Resource page:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/academicpriorities/academicprograms/reach-act/index.php
- Transfer Academic Advising for Fall 2025
 - o Early Transfer Academic Advisement
 - All majors except DMSB and NURS?
 - Second Choice Major Advisement
 - Centralized EAB Navigate Campaigns Proposal to manage communication to incoming transfers
 - o New Transfer Bridge Advisement
 - Gamecock Gateway

- Palmetto Pathway
 - How to best funnel these students to advising since they don't do NSO when they are transferring in?
- Transfer Probationary Updates for Spring 2025
 - 55 students were on probation after Fall 2024, 41 registered for Spring 2025, 27% attended coaching in Spring 2025
- Capturing Transfer Student Success Stories
 - Where to capture stories from
 - Association of Transfer Students
 - Tau Sigma honor society
 - Induction is March 20 at 4:00 pm
 - Advisees
 - Student assistants
 - Orientation leaders (current and former)
 - Former U102 students
 - Other?
 - What do we want to know? (Common theme or question?)
 - Major
 - Involvement
 - In-state vs Out-of-state
 - Why USC?
 - Helpful resources on campus
 - Advice for incoming students
- Continued conversation on cost of attendance for transfer students and housing challenges for transfer students
 - Departmental Scholarships
 - Can departments have a second application deadline for transfer applicants? Make departmental scholarships open to all incoming students?
 - MCEC has deadline of June 1 for transfer scholarships
 - Concerns about out-of-date information in the scholarship portal and website
 - Best practice for updates to the Departmental Scholarship listing at Financial Aid is to have the scholarship departmental contact reach out to Regina Wilson <REGINANW@mailbox.sc.edu> with the update.

- New Student Orientation modules are highlighting departmental scholarship portal, but those don't go live until May, so many current deadlines for departmental scholarships don't align with this.
 - Action Item: Connect with your college committees/councils to make sure departmental scholarship info is accurate and discuss changing deadlines and eligibility criteria
 - State scholarships
 - Many students don't meet LIFE eligibility when transferring in
 - How to target incoming students who are at risk?
 - Ineligible state funding with transfer
 - SC lottery tuition assistance
 - Workforce development scholarships
 - State "PATH" Scholarship
 - "Palmetto Access to HigherEd"
 - Bridge "gap" year for those who did not meet LIFE requirements or for those who were not eligible for LIFE in other ways
 - https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3871.htm
- Updates
 - Carolina Experience focus groups- Kimberly
 - Housing
 - Cost of attendance
 - Getting connected on campus
 - Lots of positive interactions with advisors, NSO, and Carolina Experience office
 - Tau Sigma inductions on March 20, 4:30 pm, RHUU Ballroom- Kimberly
 - Carolina Experience Ambassadors/Mentors- Kimberly and Morgan
 - 3.0 GPA
 - At least 1 year at USC if a transfer student
 - We're up about 150-ish applications compared to this time last year – Alison S
 - Encourage students to attend NSO early if they are eligible- Alison L-H
 - Lots of national fellowships want transfer students to apply. – Valerie
 - Housing- Amanda
 - 70% is dedicated to incoming freshmen
 - 20% is dedicated to continuing students (Honors, athletics)
 - 10% Gamecock Gateway and Palmetto Pathway

Transfer Student Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

Date: September 26, 2024

Time: 3:30p-5:00p

Location: Teams or UAC Conference Room

1. Welcome and Introductions (20 minutes)

- **Welcome:** Brief opening remarks to set the tone for the meeting and highlight the importance of the council's work.
- **Introduction of Members:** Each member and campus partner introduce themselves, including their role, department, and how they will contribute to the council or share past contributions to the council.
 - Office of Undergraduate Admissions (Enrollment Management)
 - Office of the Registrar (Enrollment Management)
 - Office of New Student Orientation (Enrollment Management)
 - Office of Financial Aid (Enrollment Management)
 - Graduation and Retention Network (Academic Affairs & Provost)
 - Colleges (CAS & HRSM)
 - Colleges (ASPH & EDUC)
 - Office of Access and Opportunity (Access, Civil Rights & Community Engagement)
 - National Resource Center (Student Affairs and Academic Support)
 - Student Success Center (Student Affairs and Academic Support)
 - Career Center (Student Affairs and Academic Support)
 - Carolina Experience (Student Affairs and Academic Support)

2. Overview of the Council's Mission and Set Objectives (10 minutes)

- A recap of the council's mission, objectives, and the importance of transfer student success.
- Outline the goals for the upcoming year, setting the stage for collaboration.

3. Updates from the Chair (15 minutes)

- Share recent developments, including any institutional changes, upcoming initiatives, or relevant data.
 - Direct Transfer Tracks
 - Transfer Advising Guides
 - New Transfer Advising Initiatives Report (Fall 2024)
 - SC Military Credit Mobility

4. USC Student Government (20 minutes)

- **Discussion on Key Priorities:** Courtney Tkacs (Vice President) and Maura Hamilton (Speaker) to share their goals for improving the transfer student experience and partnering with the Transfer Student Advisory Council.

5. Planning for the Year Ahead (15 minutes)

- **Discussion on Key Priorities:** Open the floor for input on what the council should prioritize this year, especially considering the insights and expertise of new members.
 - Interest in referencing other transfer partners on our individual websites? (An alternative to a central transfer student page that hasn't been welcomed in the past)
 - National Transfer Student Week: October 21-25, 2024
<https://www.nists.org/national-transfer-student-week>
 - Major Choice for Transfer Students
 - First choice and second choice at application
 - Admitted student outreach by UAC staff about further exploration of majors at USC when admitted into second choice major.
 - Transfer Student Funding
 - State Scholarship proposal for 2024-2025 year
- **Subcommittees and Workgroups:** Introduce or reassign members to any subcommittees or workgroups focused on specific projects or issues.

- Are any of our priorities collected important to create subcommittees or working groups?

6. Open Forum and Q&A (10 minutes)

- Allow time for members to ask questions, suggest additional topics for future meetings, or raise any immediate concerns.

7. Closing Remarks and Next Steps (5 minutes)

- Summarize key takeaways from the meeting.
- Outline any action items or follow-up tasks.
- Confirm the date and time for the next meeting.
 - Recommend Thursday, October 24th or 31st at 3:30p if needed for subcommittee work
 - Recommend Thursday, November 21st at 3:30p or Wednesday, December 4th at 3:30p for larger committee