Transfer Student Advisory Council 2020
Membership, Committee Charge, Initiatives, and References
University of South Carolina

Transfer Student Advisory Council Members

**Amanda Lucas** is the Assistant Director Transfer Advising and Retention Initiatives with the University Advising Center and serves as Committee Chair. Amanda provides a comprehensive university view in discussion of transfer student pathways and how best to impact transfer student success through retention and graduation. Amanda can be reached at alucas@sc.edu.

**Mike Dial** is the Assistant Director of First Year Advising with the University Advising Center. Mike’s role with Undergraduate Academic Advising has made gains in supporting transfer students on the UofSC Campus. In the College of Arts and Sciences, through strategic partnerships with the Flinn Hall staff, UAAs are assigned as secondary advisors to all new transfer students whose primary assignment is to a faculty advisor. Additionally, a second UAA was hired for the Arnold School of Public Health to ensure that all first-semester transfer students would be advised by a UAA. Mike can be reached at mdial@mailbox.sc.edu.

**Claire Robinson** is the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Advisement and Director of the University advising Center. Dr. Robinson oversees first-year advising, transfer advising, exploratory advising, academic coaching, four-year curriculum mapping, advising technology, and advisor training and certification. Claire can be reached at clairer1@mailbox.sc.edu.

**Lauren Writer** is the Assistant Director for Conferences and Continuing Education with the National Resource Center. She provides support for transfer students through initiatives to train and support the faculty and staff that serve in key roles on campuses around the world through our online course and Students in Transitions Conference. Lauren can be reached at halla@mailbox.sc.edu.

**Amanda Therrell** is the Assistant Director for On Your Time Initiatives and manages the Jump Start Summer Transfer Program which helps transfer students get a head start on their major course work, as well as make a connection to the University. Amanda can be reached at atherrell@sc.edu.

Undergraduate Admissions

- **Michael Wade** is the Associate Director for Diversity, Access, and Inclusion with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Mike is involved with strategic engagement, recruitment, and enrollment of diverse student populations for our undergraduate class, which includes both freshman and non-freshman students. Mike can be reached at mw88@mailbox.sc.edu.
- **Teresa Florentin** is the Associate Director of Operations with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Teresa communicates extensively with the council, providing information on the admissions process for transfers with a reports of application trends and other opportunities. Teresa can be reached at tafloren@mailbox.sc.edu.
- **Alison Scheide** is the Assistant Director for Transfer Partnerships with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Allison has been able to bring intentional thought and planning to the recruitment of transfer students. This includes travel, partnerships with technical colleges and palmetto college campuses as well as evaluation of the transfer student admissions experience. Alison can be reached at scheidea@mailbox.sc.edu.

**Marla Mamrick** is the Director of Enrollment Data Analytics. She delivers data analysis of transfer student information for the transfer council. Marla can be reached at mayoung@mailbox.sc.edu.
Jackie Bonilla is the Assistant Director of New Student Orientation and oversees an award-winning New Transfer Student Orientation. Jackie can be reached at bonillaj@mailbox.sc.edu.

Colleges & Schools

- **Donna Watson** is the Director of Student Services and Advisement with the College of Education. Through Gamecock EdQuarters, Donna provides both prospective and current transfer students the opportunity for a specific program of study that allows transparency for degree completion. Donna can be reached at watsond5@mailbox.sc.edu.

- **Dawn Hiller** is the Director of Students Services with the College of Arts and Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Hiller articulates all transfer work that comes into the college of Arts and Sciences along with determining how those courses will satisfy requirements. She also evaluates student transcripts to determine the best way to utilize their transfer work to move them toward graduation. Dawn can be reached at hiller@sc.edu.

- **Greg Nelson** is an undergraduate academic advisor with the College of Arts and Sciences who works with first year students and supports his major departments as needed in the advisement of transfers and continuing students. Greg can be reached at gdnelson@email.sc.edu.

- **Nora Dragovic** is the Director of Students with the College of Arts and Sciences; Science and Math. Nora provides support to all advisors and students at the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Dragovic works with transfer students to make sure their classes are meeting degree requirements, and she performs all senior checks for Science, Math and Statistics students. Nora can be reached at dragovin@mailbox.sc.edu.

- **Kathy Smiling** is the Assistant Dean of Student Services with the College of Hospitality Retail and Sport Management Kathy and her team provide transfer friendly services through advisement, program opportunities and student services. Kathy can be reached at smiling@sc.edu.

The Student Success Center offers support to transfer student thought Success Consultations with staff that are trained and equipped to meet the unique challenges transfer students face while staying current and relevant with the needs of the University’s transfer population.

- **Dana Talbert** is the Director of the Student Success Center. Dana can be reached at jablonsk@email.sc.edu.

- **Andrea Williams** is the Assistant Director of Special Student Populations. Andrea can be reached at andrea.r.williams@sc.edu.

- **Patricia Davis** is Coordinator of Transfer and Special Student Populations. Patricia can be reached at davispt3@mailbox.sc.edu.

Aaron Marterer is the University Registrar. Aaron Marterer and his team support transfer students by working with colleges and schools to build transfer equivalencies for all incoming transfer work. The transfer tables on the website of the Office of the University Registrar hold over 500,000 domestic and international transfer equivalencies. Aaron and his team also support transfer students through their management of the DegreeWorks Degree Audit System and Veterans Enrollment Services. Aaron can be reached at acmarte@mailbox.sc.edu.

Danielle Rymer is the Assistant Director of Training and Professional Development with the Office of Financial Aid. Danielle has worked with transfer students for many years as a financial aid counselor to help secure their state and federal financial aid that is critical to many transfer students who want to attend UofSC. She provides insights to any financial aid questions that may arise but has also gained unique insights and experiences other offices share so that the Financial Aid office can be more responsive to the needs of the transfer student population. Danielle can be reached at rymer@mailbox.sc.edu.
Charge to the Committee
Members of the Transfer Student Advisory Council are from over 10 different offices across the Columbia campus who meet monthly to implement best practice for transfer students’ retention and graduation by reviewing any new national literature on transfer student success while addressing the needs of our transfer students from recruitment through graduation. Members of the Transfer Student Advisory Council will lead and guide the following:

1. Review and disseminate national literature on transfer student success.
2. Research, develop, and implement best practice for transfer students’ retention and graduation.
3. Review the needs of transfer students from recruitment through graduation, with special emphasis on their retention and degree completion.
4. Coordinate efforts across multiple offices and departments to improve communication and streamline transfer support efforts.
5. Coordinate communication to transfer students.
6. Evaluate the current transfer experience at the University. Create and distribute a survey for transfer students.
7. Review and utilize data and/or assessment from students, OIRAA, Data Analytics, Admissions, etc. related to transfer student data trends.
8. Review policies and procedures related to transfer student experience and make recommendations where appropriate.
9. Publish a report and offer a forum presentation on the state of supporting transfer students to the UofSC campus community.

Current Transfer Initiatives and Programs at the University of South Carolina
1. Specialize transfer academic advisement
2. Admissions targeted recruitment
3. Orientation dedicated sessions
4. Course equivalencies online resources
5. Gamecock Gateway bridge program
6. Transfer student success consultations
7. Transfer student survey
8. Quality Enhancement Plan: Transfer advising
9. Palmetto Pathway bridge programs
10. Other SC Technical college bridge programs
11. On Your Time: Jump Start summer program
12. NRC: Students in Transition research
13. College Initiatives

Next Projects for the Transfer Student Advisory Council at the University of South Carolina
- Planned Fall 2020 forum in October 2020.
- Transfer applicability of courses into the Carolina Core
- Investment in additional 2+2 degree programs
- Guidelines for transfers changing majors prior to enrollment

Additional Resources
- National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Transfer Patterns [LINK]
- Institutional data for the Fall 2006, Fall 2011, Fall 2016 Transfer Cohort provided in partnership with OIRAA, Enrollment Data Analytics Office and University Budget Office
- Center for Integrative & Experiential Learning reflection activity [LINK]
- 2019-2020 Student Success Center blueprint data [LINK]