



The Office of the Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past several years, it has been rare for me to write you with positive budgetary news...but, today I am doing just that! Despite five months of “ups and downs” in the complex state budgetary process, the end result is that we received the \$3.5M to address our aging HVAC system in Penland, AND we received a boost in recurring appropriations of \$489,035. While institutions are required to pick up more of the state’s obligations for employee health insurance and retirement, it is still a positive budget for our university. Additionally, though we were told to brace for the loss of the technology dollars that have been in the budget for decades, that line was funded again for 2019, which will allow us to continue to make progress on educational technology. As you are following in the paper, the Governor utilized his veto option on portions of the proposed budget. The legislature will address those vetoes when they return to the Statehouse in September. Fortunately for us, the vetoes did not include higher education’s funding. The USC Board of Trustees has approved the budget for 2019. Cam Reagin will be working with cabinet members to release funds to them in accordance with our budget planning last spring.

Now that the funding has been secured for the HVAC system in Penland, we will finalize the project and construction management plan, which will require moving offices, labs, and classrooms to a temporary space when the construction begins. Because there are many required approval steps between receiving the funding and actually beginning the work, we have some time to work out the details. While this project will create inconveniences, we’ll want to reduce the impact as much as possible. With that in mind, a *Penland Transition Team* will be established to work alongside Brian Enter to ensure open communication, good planning, and minimal disruption.

There will be more information on the project as we move forward.

Regarding the 2019 budget, we are very grateful to our local delegation for their lobbying efforts on our behalf and for making certain that we did not have to go into operational dollars to replace the HVAC system or fund technology. When the opportunity arises, please remember to express your gratitude to our Statehouse members for the work they did for USC Aiken!

Best wishes,

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor