AGENCY NAME:	University of South Carolina Aiken		
AGENCY CODE:	H290	SECTION:	20B

Fiscal Year 2027-28
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-28, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*		Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	X	Not requesting any changes.
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*		Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Kelly Epting	803-777-8411	eptingk@mailbox.sc.edu
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Kevin Russell	803-777-0781	russelkr@mailbox.sc.edu

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-28 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Michael Amiridis 8/21/26	Thad H. Westbrook 8/21/26
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Michael Amiridis	Thad H. Westbrook

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus
Agency Code:	H290
Section:	20B

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Tuition Mitigation	2,293,000	0	0	0	2,293,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	C - Capital	Nursing/Health Sciences Building Expansion	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	C - Capital	Deferred Maintenance – Campus-wide Facilities and Equipment	13,500,000	0	0	0	13,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	C - Capital	Penland Building Façade and Welcome Center Renovation	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	C - Capital	Science Building HVAC Replacement	7,000,000	0	0	0	7,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			47,793,000	0	0	0	47,793,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Tuition Mitigation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $2,293,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $2,293,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports multiple Goals, Strategies and Objectives contained in the annual Accountability Report, but primarily Goals 1 and 2 related to Education, Training and Human Development.

Excellence is measured through regular reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern

Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, along with program- and discipline-specific accreditation reviews. Factors associated with The University's ability to attract, recruit, retain and educate students in today's competitive higher education market are also detailed in the university's annual Accountability Report.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Aiken, its student body of over 4,500 and the faculty/administrative and support staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment of services rendered by outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The University of South Carolina Aiken requests $2,293,000 in new recurring funding to enhance access and affordability for in-state students by offsetting inflationary and mandated cost increases associated with the provision of higher education services. Consistent with the University of South Carolina System, these funds provide a mechanism for USC Aiken to continue its mission of creating a more educated South Carolina and strengthening workforce outcomes in the region by maximizing its investment in student support services, new and enhanced degree and certificate programs, and the recruitment of accomplished faculty researchers and instructors. We take pride in the fact that we have managed this with no increase in tuition since the 2018-19 budget year. USCA continues to strive to maximize its utilization of available resources to offer a high-caliber education at a price far lower than the national average. In fact, 50% of USC Aiken students pay no out-of-pocket costs for tuition after scholarships and other financial aid. And, with approximately 45% of our students having a family income of $60,000 or less, 36% of our students are Pell eligible and 22% are first-generation. In alignment with our strategic plan, these funds would allow for calculated investment in the priorities identified through our campus strategic planning process, including delivering a flexible and relevant curriculum; addressing the pressing needs of the region; improving student support and auxiliary services; enhancing the campus experience; and bolstering a sustainable foundation. While new funding previously received helped offset mandated increases and partially mitigate tuition increases, it did not fully account for inflationary costs of maintaining operations, new programming, or a push toward academic and research excellence. This progress must continue and this budget request, while modest, will work to advance access, affordability, and excellence in public higher education across South Carolina. This request reflects an adjustment of our existing appropriation based on the most recently published Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) data. If this request is not granted it will become increasingly difficult to meet the workforce demands of the region and state and to offer competitive wages to allow us to retain highly committed, high-quality faculty and staff.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Nursing/Health Sciences Building Expansion

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$20,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

CPIP Plan Year 2028 – 1 of 4

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

With the inclusion of this project in the University's CPIP, the concept of this project has had vetting within the USC System. Further approvals would be required of the USC Board of Trustees, CHE and as applicable the JBRC and SFAA.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

This project is intended to support State and University initiatives and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested for the renovation.) The existing operating budget will continue to provide funding for operations.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

As the School of Nursing continues to grow, more space is needed, particularly for classroom, lab, and office space. Additional classroom space is needed as our program has expanded to two additional campuses and is tele-streamed to students. Expansion of the existing facility to increase capacity in high-demand health programs and better meet regional workforce needs. The project will support enrollment growth, enhance student training environments, and strengthen the institution's ability to produce qualified healthcare professionals. The planned addition of MSN and DNP programs within the next few years will also require additional space. The current Exercise and Sports Science programs are scattered in the Business and Education building and would be moved to this space and able to take advantage of the enlarged lab and classroom spaces. The current simulation labs need expansion and could be utilized by other health science majors in this shared space.

SUMMARY

The vision for this building is for it to be able to house nursing and other health science majors under a single roof with more efficient utilization of expensive laboratory and simulation space.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Deferred Maintenance – Campus-wide Facilities and Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$13,500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	This request is made to fund items tracked on the university's Facilities Condition Assessment to provide a safe and productive learning environment on campus. Life cycle maintenance needs have not been included on the CPIP.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	No approvals have been obtained to date for these projects. Approvals would be obtained as required.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	This project is intended to support State and University initiatives and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested for the renovation.) The existing operating budget will continue to provide funding for operations.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	This request will address many existing facilities needs including restroom upgrades, roof replacements, HVAC equipment replacement, flooring replacement, painting, elevator refurbishments, various budling envelope and window repairs and replacement to prevent water infiltration. Additionally, this will include electrical panel replacements, emergency and exit light replacements, boiler replacement, door and lock replacements, and sidewalk and landscaping repairs. Finally, this request also includes road and parking lot repaving and striping. Here is a cost estimate by category: Roofing projects $1,500,000

SUMMARY	HVAC $1,850,000 Interior finish $1,500,000 Building Envelope $1,400,000 Exterior infrastructure $800,000 Plumbing/Restrooms $1,450,000 Elevators $500,000 Electrical $500,000 Roads, Parking lots and infrastructure $4,000,000

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
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FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Penland Building Façade and Welcome Center Renovation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$5,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	Currently on CPIP as Project 3 of 5 for 2026-27 for $2,000,000. However, this expanded project will be added to CPIP at the next available opportunity (April 2026) as Priority 1 for FY 2026-27

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	With the inclusion of this project in the University's CPIP, the concept of this project has had vetting within the USC System. Further approvals would be required of the USC Board of Trustees, CHE and as applicable the JBRC and SFAA.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	This project is intended to support State and University initiatives and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested for the renovation.) The existing operating budget will continue to provide funding for operations.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

	This project will create both an Admissions Welcome Center along with a One-Stop Service Center for all those who visit and attend USC Aiken. The Welcome Center will serve as the starting point for recruitment of new students, family, community members, and others who we plan to entice to attend the university. By providing The Pacer Welcome Center, the university's recruitment presence and efforts will be greatly expanded and will allow USC Aiken to compete more effectively for outstanding South Carolina students. In turn, we anticipate this will help us grow the university, raise additional revenue, enhance our community presence, and provide a much more centralized place for the visitor experience. Adjacent and importantly contiguous is the Pacer One-Stop Shop. The One-Stop will provide excellent, high-level student service in an environment staffed by experts from

SUMMARY	across the Division of Enrollment Management in coordination with the Bursar's Office. As an aid to both recruitment and retention efforts, the One-Stop staff will be able to solve problems, answer questions, provide intake for paperwork, and walk students through any process at the university. At USC Aiken, this will bring to an end "the higher education shuffle" which frequently occurs on college campuses as students are consistently referred around campus. The One-Stop staff will be empowered with space, technology, and authority to solve issues, intervene on students' behalf, and provide an overall excellent customer service experience while providing critical support to retention efforts. The renovation of space is key to these endeavors as we need to provide environments which are both conducive and supportive of the missions of both The Welcome Center and the One-Stop Shop. Many other universities across the country have seen great results by providing dedicated services in one place with the space to conduct important learning and problem resolution. With the adjacent operations mentioned above, USC Aiken will be able to provide outstanding service to our students, the community, and perhaps most importantly, support the critical recruitment and retention efforts which are vital to the continued success of the university. The project was partially funded in the amount of $5,000,000 for Fy 2026-27. This request will provide the remaining funding needed to complete the project as planned.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Science Building HVAC Replacement

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$7,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

CPIP Plan Year 2028

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

With the inclusion of this project in the University's CPIP, the concept of this project has had vetting within the USC System. Further approvals would be required of the USC Board of Trustees, CHE and as applicable the JBRC and SFAA.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

This project is intended to support State and University initiatives and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested for the renovation.) The existing operating budget will continue to provide funding for operations.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

Constructed in 1989, this scope will replace all the HVAC and plumbing systems and some electrical systems in the Science building. Most of these systems have not been replaced since original construction. Systems to be replaced include chillers, cooling towers, water systems, boilers, expansion tanks, VAV boxes, Air handling units as well as electrical panels, and lighting. The building will be required to continue to be online and operational throughout the project, so the project includes the cost of bringing in temporary equipment to maintain operations as this is the only Science building on campus.

SUMMARY

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$897,357 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	Current plans do not include FTE reductions for USC Aiken. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Education and General Unrestricted (I.A) and associated Employee Benefits (II). The University of South Carolina Aiken is dedicated to preserving the instructional program of the institution, and therefore reductions suggested are intended to be the least impactful on institutionally supported instructional programs. In some cases, reductions to other University programs are proposed to allow for internal reallocations to preserve instructional activity. Both academic and service units are funded from the Campus' general fund which is comprised almost exclusively from the State General Fund and student tuition and fee revenue. The University of South Carolina Aiken is dedicated to preserving the instructional program of the institution and therefore the reductions suggested are intended to be the least impactful on institutionally supported instructional programs. In some cases, reductions to other University programs are proposed to allow for internal reallocations to preserve instructional activity. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	$200,000 – Reduce Funding for Education and Analysis of Emergent Trends in Accreditation/Compliance and Other Risk Areas– Annually, the University is required by both State and Federal agencies to provide data and analyses to meet accreditation and compliance regulations. Additionally, data analytics, participation/sponsorship of seminars by industry knowledge experts, and participation in benchmarking activities are used to identify emerging trends that are a growing concern both locally and nationally. Some examples of topics are students' ability to pay for college, reduction of default rates, trends in online education, and teaching efficiency, etc. This reduction represents approximately 50% of the funding available for these activities. The reduced ability to conduct/be involved with these activities will hamper the institution's ability to meet the growing expectations of both State and Federal Agencies. Additionally, reduction of these funds could result in increased difficulty in addressing new risks as they emerge. $200,000 – Reduce Funding for Student Retention, Progression and Graduation (RPG) Efforts - There has been growing concern with student retention, progression, and graduation rates at both the State and national levels. USC Aiken has invested in pilot projects using academic coaches/success managers and topical seminars to help students meet their goals. Initial data from these projects indicate that this model has positive impacts on RPG. Reductions would jeopardize the ability to continue these as well as related projects. $200,000 – Reduce Funding Intended to Support/Seed Academic Programs -The development of new programs takes time and often additional efforts of faculty and staff. This funding will limit the development of new programs intended to support the needs of our regional and State economies. Partnerships are also intended to provide enhanced work-readiness opportunities for South Carolinians. USC Aiken's current enrollment boasts approximately 91% South Carolinians. The University pays great attention not to lose sight of the overall mission to serve students of the Palmetto State.

$297,357 – Reduce Support for Campus Maintenance/Renewal Projects – USC Aiken has made efforts in recent years to do more to address its aging facilities and infrastructure. This would reduce the available funding for maintenance/renewal projects and fleet replacements and put greater burden on related systems in subsequent years.

$897,357 – Grand Total

Calculation is based on recurring state appropriation funding totaling $29,911,890 currently included in the FY2026-27 University of South Carolina Aiken Budget received from the State as provided by the Executive Budget Office.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

These cost savings would be realized by delaying hires and/or not filling vacant positions, reducing the scope of or eliminating programming, and by deferring maintenance expenditures into future periods. All such decisions will have an impact on operations and service levels across all areas of the University.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Reducing Cost and Burden to Businesses and Citizens – USCA

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

USCA has implemented programs and taken steps over the last several years designed to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education, to include significant revisions to our General Education requirements. Providing a quality workforce to the businesses within the State is a vital aspect of continuous economic development. The savings to citizens and business of the state are incalculable. The economic impact of the University on the State of South Carolina is significant, and highlights are provided further below.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION

Serving Our Region: USCA educates the next generation of professionals, so they have the broad understanding and critical capabilities necessary to succeed in their careers, enjoy a full life, and contribute as citizens and neighbors, building vibrant communities for decades to come.

Accreditation: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Economic Impact: USC Aiken pumps more than $350.7 million annually into the South Carolina economy, most of which benefits Aiken and Aiken County. (Estimate from the Darla Moore School of Business, 2021.)

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

The only published State of South Carolina regulations pertaining to USCA are those contained in Chapter 119 dealing with motor vehicle registration, parking, obeying traffic signs and adhering to posted speed limits while on campus. These regulations were promulgated under the authority of Section 59-117-40 of the S.C. Code of Laws. All tuition, fees and fines are reviewed annually before being presented to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. These tuition and fees are included in the annual budget and are related to providing instructional services to enrolled students. There are a few fines contained in that schedule which relate to parking, traffic violations, smoking or Student Judicial Affairs.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION

The university's regulations do not pertain to business operations. Nor do they pertain to the citizens of the State in general. The University has taken steps over the last several years to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education.

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

USCA has been consistently highly ranked by U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges guide. The university has been recognized 21 times among the top three in the Regional Comprehensive Public College in the South category. Fourteen times it has been honored as the #1 institution in that category. Additionally, USCA has been recognized as a top institution for veterans and their family members. Some of USCA's Points of Pride include:

SUMMARY

Student Debt: 31% of the students who start college at USCA and graduate do so with no debt. The average debt load of USCA students is $19,415, which is far lower than the national average of $32,731 as of January 4, 2021, according to the Federal Reserve.

Alumni: 20,000 Alumni of record

NCAA Athletics: 5 men's teams and 5 women's teams.

Student-Faculty ratio: 15:1 creates opportunities for individualized learning

Talented faculty including recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, the Governor's Professor of the Year, and a Grammy-Award winning Artist-in-Residence

Honors and Distinctions

U.S. News and World Report (2021): #1 Regional Comprehensive Public College in the South. This 2021 distinction marked USCA's 23rd consecutive ranking among the top three in this category. The university has won the first place ranking fifteen times.

College of Distinction (2020): By demonstrating continued dedication to high-impact educational practices that influence both student learning and student success, USCA has been named as one of the nation's Colleges of Distinction.

The selection process at Colleges of Distinction requires that institutions adhere to the four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes. This process also includes a review of each institution's freshman experience as well as its general education program, strategic plan, alumni success, satisfaction measures, and more.

Additionally, USCA has been further recognized in the fields of Business, Education, and Nursing for 2020-21. The University received "Field of Study" badges in these areas from Colleges of Distinction. These additional awards are based on qualities such as accreditation, breadth of program, and the track record of success for the individual programs.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?