

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 1, 2004

1. Call to Order.

CHAIR JAMES R. AUGUSTINE – I call to order the Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina on this Wednesday, September 1, 2004.

2. Corrections to and Approval of Minutes.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – You should have before you, on the web or sent to you the minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting. I will entertain a motion to approve those minutes. Is there a second, please? A motion has been made to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting and has been seconded. Any discussion, please? All those in favor of that motion please say aye. Opposed no. The minutes stand approved.

Let me remind you if you have for some reason to speak during the meeting, please stand up and say your name clearly so that we know who you are. It is very hard to put the minutes together if there are these big holes where an unidentified speaker said something. So we appreciate it if you would be kind enough to introduce yourselves.

3. Reports of Committees.

a. Faculty Senate Steering Committee, Professor Sarah Wise, Secretary:

PROFESSOR WISE (Retailing) – The following information is for the Regional Campus Senators. Regional Campus Senators should call 777-6073 to indicate attendance at a Faculty Senate meeting via closed circuit broadcasting the day of the meeting. The Regional Campus Senators should call 888-531-0685 in order to speak directly at a meeting while it is in session. This is also the number to call if a quorum is requested.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee places in nomination the name of Bruce Konkle, College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, for a 2-year term on the Committee on Curricula and Courses.

The Committee places in nomination the name of Ted Moore, Moore School of Business, for a 2-year term on the Board of Visitors.

The Committee places in nomination the name of Gene Reeder, College of Pharmacy, for Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. The Committee places in nomination Laura Kane, School of Medicine Library, for Secretary-Elect of the Faculty Senate. Nominations will be taken at this time from the floor and near the end of the meeting.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Thank you, Professor Wise. Are there any other nominations for those positions? The Committee on Curricula and Courses, membership on the Board

of Visitors, Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate, or Secretary-Elect of the Faculty Senate? If not, we will hold those nominations open until the end of the meeting. Hearing none we will continue.

b. Committee on Admissions, Professor Don Stowe, Chair:

PROFESSOR STOWE (Hospitality, Retail, & Sport Management) – No report.

c. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Sarah Barker, Chair:

PROFESSOR BARKER (Theatre & Dance) – No report at this time.

d. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Carl Evans, Chair:

PROFESSOR EVANS (Religious Studies) – No report.

e. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Timir Datta, Chair:

PROFESSOR DATTA (Physics & Astronomy) – No report at this time.

f. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor Davis Baird, Chair:

PROFESSOR BAIRD (Philosophy) – No report at this time.

g. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Linda Allman, Chair:

PROFESSOR ALLMAN (Continuing Education) – No report.

h. University Athletics Advisory Committee, Professor William Bearden, Chair:

PROFESSOR DATTA – He just left but told me that there is no report.

4. Reports of Officers.

PRESIDENT ANDREW SORENSEN – I made an extensive report at the General Faculty meeting and I have no report at this time. I would like to introduce our new Provost, his first day on the job, Professor Mark Becker, a professor in the Statistics Department. (Clapping)

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Professor Becker do you have any comments?

PROVOST BECKER – I am pleased to be here. I presented my first Provost's report at the General Faculty meeting, so that will suffice for today.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Would there be any questions for either the President or the Provost? In spite of the fact that they did not make reports we always like to let them answer questions.

PROFESSOR MARCO VALTORTA (Computer Science and Engineering) – I wonder whether the Provost would like to comment about the changes to the Faculty Manual that were approved at the previous meeting? Particularly in light of the modifications to the role of the Provost contained in those changes.

PROVOST BECKER – I think the question was to comment on changes to the Faculty Manual. The changes in relation to the Provost position, I assume you are referring to the ones that have to do with the vice president for research and health sciences on certain matters floating through to the Provost. That is exactly the same reporting line in relationship that I had in my previous employ so it is very natural and comfortable to me because it is the situation that I worked in as a dean for nearly four years. My only comment is that it is a familiar environment and I don't anticipate a very steep learning curve given that it is an environment that recreates in many ways what I have been working on for some time. I don't have any major concerns at this time.

PROFESSOR VALTORTA – Thank you.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Let me just say in reference to those changes. As you know I serve on the Faculty Advisory Committee and I also have the privilege of meeting with the President once a month prior to these meetings and the President previously served as a Provost. These changes were hammered out by the current Vice President for Research and Health Sciences, Faculty Advisory Committee, the previous Provost, and a number of other individuals. It was also the case that some of us on that committee were members of the Provost Search Committee and we wanted to ensure that the academic integrity of the University and the position of the provost remained what it was in the past. I believe that is still the case. So I don't think we robbed the new Provost of any authority and responsibility but I think we just recognized the changes that have occurred as a result of the SDI report and the mandated coalescence of the health sciences colleges under the vice president for research and health sciences. Barring that I think we have helped insure that it is very clear to everyone what those responsibilities and duties are and I think in the process have maintained the integrity of both of those offices. That is just my birds eye view of this.

5. Report of Secretary.

PROFESSOR WISE – No report.

6. Unfinished Business.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – We do have these nominations open for a position on the Committee on Curricula and Courses, for membership on the Board of Visitors, for the

Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate, and for the Secretary-Elect of the Faculty Senate. Are there any additional nominations for those offices?

PROFESSOR VALTORTA – Could you please repeat the names of the current nominees?

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – I remember three of them but the fourth you will have to help me with. Please go ahead and read them.

SECRETARY WISE – The names of the nominees are:

1. Committee on Curricula and Courses - Bruce Konkle from the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies.
2. Board of Visitors – Ted Moore from the Moore School of Business.
3. Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate – Gene Reeder from College of Pharmacy.
4. Secretary-Elect of the Faculty Senate – Laura Kane from School of Medicine Library.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Are there any other nominees for those positions? If not I declare the nominations closed and those individuals are elected.

7. New Business.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Is there any new business to come before the Faculty Senate at this time?

PROFESSOR KEVIN LEWIS (Religious Studies) – I want to suggest that the Faculty Welfare Committee might consider giving relief from the high participation fees at the Strom Thurmond Athletic Center for faculty. While we are proud of the facility, we know that our students appear to be using it for free while we are charged there seven times the fee we are charged at the Blatt P.E. Center, and we have suffered through three years of depressed salaries.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Thank you, Professor Lewis. Professor Allman from the Faculty Welfare Committee is in the audience and I think she has duly noted that.

PRESIDENT SORENSEN – Mr. Chair, the students floated a bond for \$40 million to pay for the cost of the Center's construction. So, if the faculty would like to float a bond and help the students pay for that Center, I think that should be considered. So please bear that in mind when you discuss faculty participation in the Center.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Students paid for the Strom Thurmond fitness center.

PROFESSOR LEWIS – There is a fee on their tuition?

PRESIDENT SORENSEN – Yes, they pay a fee.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – A board mandated fee.

PRESIDENT SORENSEN – They floated a \$40 million bond on which the students are paying 100% of the debt service. So I just want to make sure that the committee notes that when they are deliberating this subject.

PROFESSOR LEWIS – Thank you.

8. Announcements.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – We have a member of Student Government, Nicole Modeen, to speak very briefly to us.

STUDENT NICOLE MODEEN – Hello everyone. As he said, I am Nicole Modeen from Student Government. I am actually a Senator from the College of Liberal Arts and the Chairman of the Academics Committee, which is what brings me before you. My committee has been working along with Carla Patat, sitting next to me, who works with Zachery in Cabinet under Academics. We are investigating and researching into what is called "Pick-a-Prof" which is an online website that kind of combines a bit of Teachers Reviews, bit of Blackboard, and a bit of many other options. To try and increase students interest in registering for classes, getting online syllabi before they register, understanding what sorts of expectations there are before coming into a class so that maybe we won't have so many people sign up and drop and add and drop within that time. I don't want to get into all of the information, but we've been going back and forth, evaluating the pros and cons of the program. Mainly I just wanted to note the idea to you all and ask for you to please either give us your feedback on that. If you would like us to come and give you a more formal presentation, we would be more than happy to. If there is a specific committee you would like us to go talk to, we definitely love to do that as well. Either way we really would like to work with you on this so that we can get something through Student Senate and with the executive power as well to get the students a little bit more involved and active in picking their courses and staying interested in academics. Are there any questions for me right now? We have given our contact information as well. If you are interested in "Pick-a-Prof" you can try a demo at <http://demo.pickaprof.com>, and log in as e-mail: demo@pickaprof.com and the password is "demo" and that gets you onto the website to see what it is about, and all the different features are that they offer.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ZACHERY SCOTT - Very briefly before Nicole sits down, I do want to thank her and Carla for actually coming out. She is chairing the Academic Committee like she said and Carla is in charge of the Academic Affairs in my cabinet. For those of you who don't know me, I am Zachery Scott, current Student Body President here at USC. When they proposed this idea I know that versions of it have come up in the past and some have had positive things to say about them and some negative. Our big goal this year is better communication with the faculty. Dr. Karl Heider, the Interim Associate Provost, was speaking to a University committee the other day and he said he keeps within an arms reach at all times two different lists. One list is a list of all the great things that he thinks about USC that we are doing well. Whether it is

first year programs, first year reading experience, Honors College what not - it is a long list. But he also is smart enough to keep a second list and that is a list of things he thinks that the University could improve on - that is his goal list. I encourage each of you and challenge you to make your own separate lists and take that short list (hopefully it is a short list) and contact Student Government and let us know what your concerns are. When we have happy well informed faculty, that translates into happy and well informed students. So we have just as much invested interest in this as you do. Whether you agree or disagree with "Pick-a-Prof" or any program like it, that is fine but let us know so that we can improve on it in the future years. That is all. Are there any questions for us?

PROFESSOR DATTA – So how do I “Pick-a-Prof” – I teach so how do I pick it?

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – This is a service geared toward the students.

STUDENT MODEEN – It is actually for students to use pretty much. What the professor can go in and do is put their syllabus online. There is a way that you can post previous comments from students - for example - you can see evaluations and see the feedback that you get from students is available there. They also have places where the students can make schedules. Say they are looking at five classes and it will put it up similar to the way VIP does but it allows you to input your other meetings or schedules that you might have. So that they can get a better idea of well if I am looking at this and their syllabus says that I can expect two hours of reading for homework every night - that is not going to work with this that and the other. So it is not actually for the faculty, but more a resource, another place for the faculty to help the students in picking classes and making sure that it fits them correctly for the way that they learn. And that it kind of works well for them to add and drop courses so we don't continue to have that problem.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – In addition to what Nicole said, our motivation is not to get students to pick easy courses - it is just to help them navigate through the master's schedule. Are there any other questions for us?

PROFESSOR KIRSTIN DOW (Geography) – I am interested in whether that program will help students understand the requirements of their major and minor programs?

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – We are not sure which way to go. I know you have pretty specific committee structures, and what are main goal is - is to sit down with several of you, look at this program, programs similar to it and find out which components you like and why plus which components you don't like and why. We can sort of mix and match and find the program that best suits the needs and desires of the students and faculty here at USC.

STUDENT MODEEN – If I can add to that, you mentioned their major requirements. There are certainly options on "Pick-a-Prof" where you can go to the company and say (they call them customization choices) we give you whatever computer document that has all the major requirements so the student can go on and say "I want to be a political

science major. I have taken six political science courses and it looks like there are three remaining or something like that. Does that not answer your question?

PROFESSOR DOW – It does but it leaves me with my concern that I would hate to see student's use this as an alternative to faculty advising. Because there are things that we know about our departments – like this class is offered this semester and it won't be offered for another 3 semesters if you need it for your major. As a faculty advisor, I don't want them not to come and talk to me because there are things we will never be able to codify in that kind of programming. That message is very important to me in presenting this type of system.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – It is my understanding that faculty advising is mandatory. Is that not correct? In the Department of Political Science it is.

PROFESSOR DOW – Whether that actually works in practice.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL MYRICK (Chemistry & Biochemistry) – I was just wondering, are you looking at this program as being a replacement for Blackboard or something?

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – No, this is a supplement for the students to use in addition to all the other resources that USC provides for them.

STUDENT MODEEN – The way we talked about it in our committee it was a way of getting rid of students going to "Teacher Reviews" and "Rate My Professors" where they tend to not have as much control over the website. Then you get fake reviews, things that are not monitored, and you can really trust them as a source. So it is an alternative for students to use this which offers a system where the professors have a say in it, they hopefully have worked with us to come up with it. So they are not going to other sources for things that are not really helpful.

PROFESSOR DATTA – It is still not clear to me. I dearly want to help my students, there is no question about that, but what do I do so a student can benefit? What do you expect us to do? How do we help this whole system?

STUDENT MODEEN – At the moment we don't have anything set up because we haven't gone to them and actually signed on to use their service. Ideally at the beginning or just before the semester when students are picking classes, we would ask you to submit a syllabus to the company and they would but that on. If there are any additional resources or if you already know what texts you are going to be using, you would put that on as well. It is primarily for the beginning of the semester. As you mentioned Blackboard is traditionally used during a semester and we don't want to replace that - that is a good source and the majority at least in my committee we believe in supporting as well. But this is more for students when they are initially deciding on classes they can see the requirements and understand what they need to be prepared for in entering your class.

PROFESSOR JERALD WALLULIS (Philosophy) – What research and investigation did you do in selecting “Pick-a-Prof” and are there other alternatives that you compared it with before you decided to use this service?

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – We haven't yet decided to use this service. We haven't, as Nicole said, decided on "Pick-a-Prof." It is one of the services that we looked at that are geared toward students that we feel can best help them. The ones that we used in the past and signed onto don't have the caveat that the professors can go in there and participate, as well as review some of the posting that students are giving that might not be as professional as we would like them to be. Nothing has been signed. We are generally looking into this and before we go any deeper we wanted to check it out with the faculty and talk about your thoughts on the program. If we need to scrap this and start with something else, that is easily done.

UNIDENTIFIED SENATOR – There is a service that obviously supplies this system. Who pays for it? Do the students pay for it? Does the University pay for it?

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SCOTT – I am sure there is an indirect cost somewhere in there that would have to be done through the Web Master but I would guess the costs are paid for by the sponsors of the program. So whatever students sign on there - there would be a flashy thing (I am not a computer person) in the corner and any student that wishes to click on that will pay for it.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Alright. Thank you very much. I don't know about Dr. Heider's long list and short list and I don't know about Pick-a-Prof but I know I am on my student's short list for what that is worth.

Please note on the second page of the agenda the annual reports for all of the committees. Although we did not have any reports from any of them today, many of them have worked very hard throughout the year and those annual reports will tell you what they have been up to. Also we have the list of the fall and the spring Faculty Senate meetings as well as the date for the April General Faculty meeting that is on a Tuesday. The Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn to Wednesday, September 29, 2004 at 3 pm in this room.

PROFESSOR MARLENE MACKEY (Nursing) – Haven't you skipped a part in the agenda? Or you haven't given an opportunity to ask for new information or new business? You responded to one person and then went on to the next item?

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – Do you have some new business?

PROFESSOR MACKEY – My new business has to do with some of the e-mails that you and I have sent back and forth. The request to ask Dr. Pastides to give a report to the Senate.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – I did ask him to do that. I am trying to arrange a time for him to do that but today was not the day or the time.

PROFESSOR MACKEY – Okay.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – That is why it is not on the agenda. My job here is to serve the faculty and I do everything I can to do that. If you send me an e-mail, I will follow up on it but I can't follow up on it apart from the schedules and the things that other people have to do and the schedule of the Senate itself. But I have followed up on that and spoke to the President about it this morning and to the Provost about it. Okay?

PROFESSOR MACKEY – Thank you.

9. Adjournment.

CHAIR AUGUSTINE – The Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn to September 29, 2004. Is there a second? All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed no. We are adjourned till September 29, 2004. Thank you.