

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 2, 2005

1. and 2. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair James R. Augustine called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written. The Chair noted that the Senate will continue to use the new summarized version of minutes during meetings and that the verbatim transcript of each meeting will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

3. Reports of Committees

a. Faculty Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) presented a slate of nominees for committee vacancies [see Attachment 1, p. 9]. A correction was made to the names listed under the Faculty Grievance Committee: Jerry Hackett's name was moved to the "Nominees" column and Gary Luoma's name was moved to the "Rotating Off" column. The floor was opened for additional nominations to committees.

b. Committee on Admissions, Professor Don Stowe, Chair

No report.

c. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Victor Giurgiutiu, Chair

Professor Giurgiutiu (Mechanical Engineering) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within the following colleges: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Engineering and Information Technology, and Arnold School of Public Health [see Attachment 2]. A vote was taken for each separate motion. All motions passed. Information on an experimental course in the College of Arts and Sciences was shared with the senators.

Professor Marco Valtorta (Computer Science & Engineering) suggested that the committee consider adding MATH 374 as an option under requirements for the B.A. or B.S. in Mathematics Specialization in the College of Education.

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

No report.

e. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Timir Datta, Chair

No report.

f. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor Davis Baird, Chair

No report.

g. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Linda Allman, Chair

No report.

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

Professor Bearden (Moore School of Business) shared with the Senate the following items:

- Coach Tanner attended the committee meeting and spoke about practices involving athletes and the academic environment. In particular, he addressed the issue of how things are handled when students miss exams or classes as a result of being on the road.
- Drs. Malone and Walters presented a 30-minute overview of the process of drug testing.
- Russ Pate, Faculty Athletics Representative of the University, reported on the progress of the “special admits.” The majority of these students have a satisfactory academic status.
- At its next meeting, the committee will address a document entitled “Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics” drafted by the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (see <http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/A.html>). The committee’s intent is to bring the document forward to the Senate to request some level of support.

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Andrew Sorensen announced that the Ways and Means Committee of the State Legislature has recommended a 4 % increase in compensation for faculty and staff. Details have not been specified. After four budget cycles since becoming President of the University of South Carolina, President Sorensen is “euphoric” that legislators have responded favorably to his ongoing quest to improve the compensation packages for USC faculty and staff. He is actively lobbying senators in hopes that the Senate will recommend an equivalent amount (or higher) of increased compensation.

The Ways and Means Committee did not approve a 2.5% cut in the University’s budget. President Sorensen hopes there will be a similar result in the Senate. In addition, the \$30 million sequestered from the Lottery Fund for the Centers of Excellence is still secure.

There had been talk of cutting the budgets of USC Salkehatchie and USC Union down to zero over a three-year period. That was not sustained thanks to the efforts of legislators,

congressional delegations, and local higher education commissions from the Union and Salkehatchie regions. The President hopes their efforts will be successful with the Senate as well.

In addition to having their budgets approved, extra money was made available for each of the eight USC campuses. A noteworthy increase was a recommendation from the Ways and Means Committee for \$1 million above USC's budget request for its hydrogen fuel cell research efforts in collaboration with the Savannah River National Laboratory.

President Sorensen received a warm response after testifying before the South Carolina Senate Education Committee. He is pleased to have received unsolicited expressions of support for what USC is doing.

After visiting several campuses during the last few weeks, and after hosting McNair Scholar candidates and speaking with the fifty finalists for the Carolina Scholars program, the President felt the need to thank USC faculty for their openness, accessibility, and friendliness towards current and prospective students.

The President commended Professor Berube and his debate teams for having secured the number one, number 10, and number 33 spots in the national rankings of debate teams.

President Sorensen will soon begin his next round of Bow Tie Bus Tours to each of the forty-six counties of South Carolina. This spring, he will go on nine Bow Tie Bus Tours to places such as Lancaster, Rock Hill, and Charlotte (where there is a very active alumni association).

The President is delighted that he will be hosting a meeting of the board of directors of a large U.S. chemical company. This company is entertaining the prospect of moving one of their high tech subsidiaries to Columbia and being the first tenants in the first research campus building.

The President thanked Professor Bearden for his work with the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, and urged the University Athletics Advisory Committee to continue looking into the issue of academic integrity within athletics and making recommendations as appropriate. He stated that the issue of the relationship between academics and athletics has not yet been defined adequately. He feels that we need to work more strenuously with coaches, student athletes, and conferences to reinforce the idea that "students are students first and athletes second" – a message that is not uniformly accepted in our society. The SEC Presidents will be meeting in Greenville to discuss this issue.

Professor Dan Sabia (Political Science) asked the President if rising levels of crime on campus has been brought to his attention. The President responded that he is, indeed, aware of the problems and that he is in the middle of discussions regarding the issue. He stressed that we need to work together to reinforce safety to our students and to enhance

their sensitivity to their vulnerability. At the next meeting, the President will report on the issue.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Mark Becker began his report by thanking the faculty who participated in recruitment efforts for the McNair and Carolina Scholars. He pointed out that some of these prospective students not only have excellent academic records, they are also varsity athletes.

The search committees for deans are continuing the process of identifying candidates. The Music Dean Search Committee and the Honors College Dean Search Committee expect to bring candidates to the campus within a few weeks.

February 23rd was the first official meeting of the newly formed Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC). The Consortium met in Atlanta and brought forward four initiatives:

1. Collaborating across institutions on library acquisitions for enhanced purchasing and bargaining power;
2. Collaborating on study abroad programs and sharing resources to enhance study abroad opportunities;
3. Sharing best practices on minority recruitment to diversify student bodies and faculty complements; and
4. Developing an academic leadership program.

The Provost discussed a memo distributed to deans regarding Tenure and Promotion (T&P). In addition to standard T&P information, the memo stresses the importance of attending UCTP's spring semester seminar on preparing files.

The deans received an additional memo regarding the Faculty Excellence Initiative. This memo outlines the schedule for submitting proposals for new faculty positions funded by the Provost under the Initiative. Three types of positions will be funded: Cluster proposals (positions that cut across departments, schools, or colleges), "Innovative Additions to Faculty" positions, and Lottery Endowed Chairs Program positions.

The Provost addressed some of the rumors regarding the financial position of the College of Arts and Sciences. He reported that the rate of faculty hires since FY04 has been far greater than the rate of departures. To rectify the situation, a budget analysis and planning activity are underway. Some searches have been cancelled, some have been delayed, and some are continuing. The Provost applauds the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for her efforts to regain control of the situation.

5. Report of the Secretary

Professor Kane reminded the Chair that the floor was still open for nominations to committees. Chair Augustine called for additional nominations. There were none. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken. All persons on the list of nominees were elected by the Senate.

6. and 7. Unfinished and New Business

There was no unfinished or new business.

8. Announcements

Chair Augustine announced the results of the elections for Student Body officers. Justin Williams is the new Student Body President, Ryan Holt is the new Student Body Vice President, and Tommy Preston is the new Student Body Treasurer. The Chair thanked Zachery Scott, the outgoing Student Body President, for his work.

The Chair asked senators for help in selecting nominees to fill vacancies on the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion (UCTP). He explained that the group responsible for the nominations consists of those eight people who rotate off UCTP plus members of the Faculty Welfare and the Faculty Advisory Committees. Anyone with suggestions for nominees to this important committee is welcome to contact Martin Donougho (Chair of the Nominating Committee), Patrick Nolan, (current UCTP Chair), or members of the Faculty Welfare or Faculty Advisory Committees.

Finally, Chair Augustine announced that the April 6th meeting is cancelled and that the next meeting will be on April 26th at 3 p.m., following the General Faculty meeting which begins at 2 p.m.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.