

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 7, 2005

1. Call to Order

Past Chair James R. Augustine called to order the meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina of September 7, 2005. He then transferred the gavel to the new Chair of the Faculty Senate, Dr. C.E. “Gene” Reeder.

Dr. Gene Reeder thanked Dr. Augustine for his three years of dedicated service to the Faculty Senate, and then welcomed the Senators to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the new academic year. He conveyed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of Chair of the Senate, and pledged to dedicate himself to the job and to maintain an “open door” philosophy. He encouraged Senators to stay active in Senate activities, to engage their faculty peers in issues related to the Faculty Senate, and, in particular, to explore the various resources available on the Faculty Senate website. Dr. Reeder said that he looks forward to working with the President, the Provost, and the Vice Presidents over the next few years.

2. Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

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

Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) went over the following issues for the benefit of the new Senators:

- Senators should sign one of the attendance sheets or call the Senate office to report their attendance.
- Regional Campus Senators should call 777-6073 to report their attendance.
- Regional Campus Senators may call 888-531-0685 to speak while the meeting is in session.
- There are no excused absences for Senators. A Senator may send a representative from his/her department, but that person cannot vote or sign in as a Senator. For extended absences, replacements may be elected or appointed. The Faculty Senate office should be notified of such changes.

Professor Kane then reported the following:

- Dr. Gene Reeder (Chair, Faculty Senate) and Dr. Bill Bearden (Chair, University Athletics Advisory Committee) have been appointed to serve as representatives on the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Dr. Wanzer Drane will continue to serve as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate.

- Dr. Gene Reeder (Chair, Faculty Senate) and Dr. John McDermott (Chair, Faculty Budget Committee) will serve as representatives on the newly configured Academic Budget Policy Committee.

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

Professor Giurgiutiu (Mechanical Engineering) presented to the Faculty Senate a new program called the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, to be implemented in the Fall of 2006. An Errata Sheet was distributed to replace pages 9 through 12 of Attachment 1 to the meeting agenda. The proposed curriculum is an interdisciplinary program proposed by the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Chemical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Information Technology. Corrections to typos were made (on page 1, section B, line 4 should read “BIOL 243 or EXSC 223” and line 5 should read “BIOL 244 or EXSC 224”; on page 2, section D, line 6 should read “CHEM 541 and CHEM 542”). A vote was taken to approve the new program in its entirety. The motion carried and the program was approved.

c. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor John McDermott, Chair

Professor John McDermott (Moore School of Business) asked the Senators to feel free to contact him with questions, comments, or information concerning budget matters.

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen conveyed his confidence that he and Dr. Reeder would maintain an excellent and productive relationship during Dr. Reeder’s term as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

President Sorensen discussed how the University is accommodating the transient students who are survivors of Hurricane Katrina. A dozen law students have already been processed into the University, and about fifty more students in various academic programs are expected. A center has been established on Pickens Street in the USC Naval Reserve Armory to process the hurricane survivors who arrive in Columbia. The center is part of the larger relief effort called SC Cares, which is being coordinated by Samuel Tenenbaum. Approximately 800 survivors have thus far arrived. USC faculty, staff, and students have responded in extraordinary ways, and the President is gratified to see people transcending race, social class, and economic, political, and institutional boundaries to come together for this common need.

The President mentioned the website where one might go to access information about how to volunteer: www.sc.edu/katrina. In addition, one of USC’s faculty, Renee Gibson, is a certified liaison for the American Red Cross and can be reached at 777-1121 or via email at Gibson@gwm.sc.edu.

President Sorensen reported that he is currently meeting with legislative leaders to impress upon them the importance of supporting the University. He has received cordial and convivial responses, but he knows there is further work to be done to secure funding by the end of May. The President mentioned that over 100 new faculty were welcomed at the General Faculty Meeting, and that over 100 more new faculty are expected next year and the following year.

President Sorensen invited the faculty to the groundbreaking ceremony that will take place on September 15th for the Innovation District.

The President was asked to comment on the Athletics Department's "four strikes and you are out" policy. He suggested that the Faculty Senate invite Eric Hyman, Director of Athletics, to a meeting to discuss the policy. The President described a circumstance that illustrated how being redemptive rather than punitive can better serve students who were brought up "on the streets" in underprivileged environments. The new policy includes a rigorous counseling and monitoring program.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker gave updates on two active dean searches. The search for the campus dean of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy is under way, and applications are being reviewed. A search committee has been composed for the dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology, and the ad for that position has been sent to the appropriate outlets.

5. Report of the Secretary

No report.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business

A faculty member suggested that the Chair of the University Athletics Advisory Committee be invited to speak regarding the new drug testing policy. Chair Reeder responded that he would pass that suggestion along to Dr. Bill Bearden, Chair of that committee.

8. Announcements

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, October 5th at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

9. Adjournment

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