

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 2, 2005

1. Call to Order

Chair Gene Reeder called to order the meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina of November 2, 2005. He then introduced Ms. Yvonne Dudley as the newest member of the Faculty Senate staff.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Reports of Committees

a. 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; School of the Environment; and the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management. A typo was noted on page 9 (Attachment 1): under Department of Theatre and Speech, both cross-listings should read "THEA 565." Information regarding experimental courses in the College of Arts and Sciences was shared with the faculty.

b. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor John McDermott, Chair

Professor John McDermott (Moore School of Business) reported that his committee will be compiling a report on the operation and structure of the University's budgeting system. The report will be a compilation of information gathered from a number of sources, including a meeting of the Academic Budget Policy Advisory Committee where Professor McDermott and Professor Reeder received a presentation on USC's macro budget policy, structure, and operation. In addition, Ted Moore, the Associate Provost in charge of the budget, was a guest at the Faculty Budget Committee meeting and helped clarify the budget process at the college level by walking through the budget process of an anonymous unit from beginning to end.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Marja Warehime, Chair

Professor Marja Warehime (Languages, Literature, & Culture) announced that the Faculty Welfare Committee is sponsoring flu shots again this year. It does not appear that there will be any problems with availability of the vaccine; hence, all Family Fund contributors will be eligible to receive the flu shot.

The Faculty Welfare Committee has met three times since the beginning of the semester and has set an agenda including three major items: (1) preventive care benefits, (2) tuition aid for faculty children, and (3) parental leave policy. The committee is currently focusing on the first item, and has sent a formal letter ([Attachment A](#)) to Provost Becker encouraging the equivalent of an

annual physical for faculty as a valuable and attractive benefit. 86% of USC faculty (87% for all USC campuses) are covered under the State Health Standard Plan which does not provide any benefit for regular health screenings. Preventive care is being increasingly recognized by insurers as being cost effective. The committee holds that having the President's and the Provost's support in the pursuit of this benefit would be in step with the University's efforts to take a proactive role in public health for South Carolina.

Professor Warehime placed before the Senate a resolution stating:

“The Faculty Senate respectfully requests that President Sorensen and Provost Becker express the University's support for a preventive care benefit available to all faculty *and staff** as part of the basic health plan and convey the desirability of this benefit to the appropriate members of the State Employee Insurance Program staff.”

** added as a friendly amendment per request by Professor Marco Valtorta (Computer Science and Engineering)*

The resolution passed.

d. University Athletics Advisory Committee, Professor Gene Reeder, Stand-In Chair

Professor Reeder introduced Mr. Eric Hyman, Director of Athletics, who spoke about his theories on measurement, accountability, and desired outcomes as related to USC athletics. Highlights of his speech are as follows:

- Components of a successful athletic program:
 - **Integrity** (play within the competitive, institutional, conference, and NCAA rules)
 - **Enrichment for student athletes** (promote an enriching experience for students)
 - **Wins vs. losses** (strive for more wins than losses, but focus on the experience)
 - **Education** (athletes must fulfill their academic goals)
 - **Positive visibility** (represent the values of USC)
 - **Teamwork** (students and staff must focus their energies and work as a whole)
 - **Contribution to society** (help student athletes develop into contributors to society)

- The Athletics Department is working on:
 - Long-range master plan for facilities
 - Donor ticketing system
 - Adding a women's sport
 - Long-range personnel plan
 - Review of Athletics Department policies
 - Departmental campaign

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hyman's work and, in particular, for his integrity and his commitment to being a citizen of the University. The President also made known his delight that "Coach Spurrier found a way to have our football players live up to their full potential last Saturday evening."

The President and Mrs. Sorensen attended a Houston Texans game as guests of Bob McNair, who is a former USC Student Government Association President, benefactor to USC, and owner of the Houston Texans. Mr. McNair sees President Sorensen as somewhat of a good-luck charm since the Texans have won every game the President has attended thus far. Following the game (the Texans' win ended a losing streak), President Sorensen pressed his advantage by suggesting to McNair in his "timid and shy way" that he increase the McNair Scholarship endowment to \$14,500 a year per student (to cover over 90% of room, board, tuition, textbooks, and some travel money). Mr. McNair graciously agreed. Mr. McNair is also willing to consider increasing the scholarship amount for McNair Finalists once he has been provided with data.

The President discussed the *Innovista* and its multiple foci, emphasizing that the community will encompass "five R's": research, retail, residential facilities, restaurants, and reflection. Vice President Pastides led an effort called *Live!Innovista* for the purpose of forming committees and making recommendations. Following is a list of *Innovista* committees and their chairpersons:

- Committee on Retail, Bonnie Drewiany (Mass Communications)
- Art Committee, Phil Dunn (Chair, Art Department)
- Green Committee, Jerry Mitchell (Geography)
- Information Technology Committee, Lorie Edwards (Deputy CIO)
- Health and Physical Activity Committee, Sara Corwin (Public Health)

President Sorensen expressed his enthusiasm and excitement for the *Innovista* enterprise and noted that information about those shaping its evolution will be available at his website.

The President reported that there was an increase of 1,150 people at this summer's open house (held yearly from July first through Labor Day weekend), for a total of 3,650 visitors. The fall open houses have also resulted in increased attendance, reinforcing the notion that the University is becoming increasingly attractive to prospective students.

Having taught Preventive Medicine for 12 years, and having served as Dean of two schools of public health, President Sorensen is, naturally, very supportive of the idea of preventive health benefits and promises to present the idea to various state agencies. He asked the faculty to keep in mind, however, that most policies must be made available to all state employees; hence, the question is: how do we achieve these expanded benefits and at what cost? In addition, the President hopes that, should the Faculty Welfare Committee propose to give free or reduced tuition to faculty dependents, they also provide sources of revenue for such an endeavor.

In response to a comment from the floor, President Sorensen agreed to check with Mr. Kelly about adding additional lighting to Parking Lot B on Henderson Street.

The President asked those who believe in the efficacy of prayer to pray for Professor Nancy Lane (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) who recently suffered a bad fall and is in Intensive Care with severe head trauma.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker gave an update on the Dean searches. The search committee for Dean of the School of Engineering will be interviewing candidates in December. The Law School Dean search committee has been formed. The search for the College of Pharmacy Dean continues. Information regarding membership of all search committees is available at the Office of the Provost's website.

The Provost announced that he will be putting together a search committee to create an ombudsman capacity within the University to help resolve faculty issues impartially.

The Provost echoed President Sorensen's support for preventive healthcare. He cautioned the faculty, however, that USC is not an autonomous institution and does not have the ability to develop its own set of benefits. With regard to tuition assistance for faculty dependents, the Provost suggested looking into lottery scholarship rates, as it seems that the majority (97%) of freshmen from South Carolina enter USC with lottery scholarships. As such, the tuition assistance may not be needed.

In response to questions at past meetings, the Provost discussed the budget for the College of Arts and Sciences. For FY 2006, the budget is balanced. There is no deficit. In FY '03 the budget for the College of Arts and Sciences was \$68 million; in FY '06 it has increased to \$87.6 million. Along with the increased budget, expenses have increased, growing at a rate faster than the rate at which revenues have grown. This is primarily due to faculty growth (on average, there have been 40 new hires per year in the College of Arts and Sciences). The Provost congratulated Dean Fitzpatrick and her staff for their work during this period of change in the University's budgeting system.

5. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Announcements

Chair Reeder announced that the Senate Steering Committee has appointed Professor Nancy Miller (Law Library) to serve a three-year term on the Russell House Advisory Board.

The Chair announced that, beginning today, Faculty Senate meetings will be recorded using live video streaming. This will allow the meetings to be viewed via the Faculty Senate website in real time. Following the meetings, the recordings will be archived and available for viewing. The recordings will serve as the official transcripts of meetings; summary minutes will continue to be distributed.

Chair Reeder reminded the faculty to consider volunteering to serve on Senate committees when the volunteer form arrives later in the month.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on December 7, 2005 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

8. Adjournment

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