

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 7, 2005

1. Call to Order

Chair Gene Reeder called to order the meeting of the Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina of December 7, 2005.

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) reported only thirty-six responses to the call for volunteers for University Faculty Committees. A follow-up message has been sent to each department with a request to distribute the volunteer forms a second time. Additional forms are available at the Faculty Senate Office.

b. Committee on Admissions, Professor Thorne Compton, Chair

Professor Compton (English) announced that the Committee on Admissions will be reporting in the spring on new strategies for the collection of information during the holistic admissions process.

c. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Matt Miller, Acting Chair

Professor Miller (Mathematics) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within the following colleges: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Information Technology, College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, School of Music, and Regional Campuses. Two editorial changes were made: on page 11 [Attachment 1], a comma was added after "STAT 515" in the box at the top; at the bottom of page 11, under the change for description for STAT 517, the words "programming skills" were replaced with "computing procedures." All motions from the committee carried.

d. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor John McDermott, Chair

Professor McDermott (Moore School of Business) reported that the Faculty Budget Committee has drafted a report entitled "A Guide to the Budget of the University of South Carolina" for the purpose of clarifying the University's budgeting system. The report is still in its first draft, but will be available for dissemination shortly.

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

Professor Bearden (Moore School of Business) reported that Kent DeMars, Head Coach for Men's Tennis, was a guest at the committee's last meeting. The Men's tennis team has made the NCAA tournament twelve years in a row, and everyone on the team has a GPA over 3.5. The team is one of thirteen to be recognized by the NCAA as an academic All-American team. DeMars emphasized that faculty should be responsive to requests for grades and attendance, as this information is very helpful to the program and to the freshman athletes themselves. The Committee continues to review the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics document, and is in the process of looking at the section on curriculum integrity.

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

The President and Mrs. Sorensen were delighted to greet over 1300 faculty and staff at the holiday party held recently at their home. The President noted that visitors seemed well-pleased with the holiday breakfast banquet, as evidenced by the number of heaped plates leaving the premises.

Details regarding travel arrangements for attending the Independence Bowl game were shared with the faculty.

President Sorensen announced, with sadness, the death of former Governor Carroll Campbell and asked the faculty to remember the deceased's family in their time of bereavement.

The President continues discussing budget proposals with leaders of the legislature. Formal documents will be presented over the next few months as trends in enrollment and expenditures are reviewed.

Three candidates for the position of Vice President for Advancement were brought to campus recently.

During the Thanksgiving period, President Sorensen took some time to reflect on the events of the past year and to bring to mind all of the things for which he is thankful. His experience during the past three and a half years with USC has been remarkable, and he is very grateful for the University's faculty, students, and staff, as well as for the University's many exciting opportunities.

At recent meetings with alumni associations in New York and New Jersey, the President was gratified to find a large number of high school students in attendance. The students asked detailed questions about USC programs and, in general, expressed keen interest in our University. Despite a notable lack of accurate geographic perspective among these students, President Sorensen was thrilled that USC is now being perceived as a "hot school."

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker reported that the search committees for deans of the School of Law and the College of Engineering are very active. He will keep the faculty updated as to their progress.

The Provost thanked Professor Miller for standing in as Acting Chair of the Committee on Curricula and Courses. He also commended Professor McDermott for the work he and his committee are doing to explain the University's budget.

Provost Becker reinforced Professor Bearden's point that faculty need to provide the Athletics department with progress reports on student athletes. He told a story illustrating how doing this can positively affect a student's academic experience.

The Provost then spoke about the issue of service to the University. He stressed that, despite emphasis on research and teaching, service is still important, and that faculty evaluation processes should clearly define the service component and that it should be figured into pay raises. In short, service should be recognized and rewarded.

5. Report of the Chair

Chair Reeder attended the Regional Campuses Faculty Senate meeting and found it very insightful. He thanked the Regional Campuses for the invitation. Professor Reeder also recently attended the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics meeting at Washington State University. In addition to the development of best practices, the meeting focused on responding to the NCAA Presidential Task Force on academic integrity and academic eligibility issues.

Professor Reeder again encouraged the Senators to volunteer to serve on University committees and to encourage fellow faculty members to do the same.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business

Chair Reeder announced the "open mike" session of the meeting and asked if there was any new business to discuss. Professor Marcia Castro (Geography) asked about the University's response to recent racist events involving the Greek Village. President Sorensen explained that racist and offensive comments were made on some blog sites about African American fraternity members. The comments were reprehensible and completely unacceptable, and their origins were investigated. One student was dismissed from the University and removed from his fraternity. National Fraternities have taken disciplinary action with all involved. The President pointed out that it was he who spearheaded the move to have an African American fraternity or sorority built in the Greek Village, and he is very much concerned about the recent incident.

Professor Karen Fox (Medicine) brought up the issue of patents being submitted by predoctoral or postdoctoral students without the knowledge or consent of their mentors. There is a concern

about the protection of material. Professor Fox suggested that members of the Intellectual Property Committee make themselves available to review disclosures that come through the Intellectual Property Office. Chair Reeder responded that the Faculty Advisory Committee is currently looking at the structure, function, and composition of every committee and that this issue will be reviewed.

8. Announcements

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on February 1st, 2006 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

9. Adjournment

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