

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 26, 2006

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

Chair Gene Reeder called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

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

Professor Bearden (Moore School of Business) reported that the committee met in January with Harold White, Senior Athletics Director for Academics, to discuss student athlete enrollment across colleges. Review of that data suggested that athletes are enrolled in a wide variety of University programs. The importance of attendance and grade reports from faculty was reiterated. Val Sheley, Senior Associate Athletics Director, reported that academic performance rates were satisfactory for all teams.

At the March meeting, Val Sheley reported on the final academic performance rates data. Although five programs in the SEC were subject to penalties, USC teams performed well in general. 235 teams in the SEC were satisfactory in terms of average performance rates. The committee also reviewed data from the U.S. Department of Education regarding: team expenses, gender distributions, and coaches' salaries. Russ Pate, the Faculty Athletics Representative, presented data at the March meeting regarding missed classes due to practice and competitions. Very few teams missed more than ten percent of their classes.

Professor Bearden made several positive comments about the recent 2006 All-Sports Banquet at which athletes were recognized for both athletic and academic performance. The banquet was a success and a very positive experience for all involved.

The committee was notified that the 2006 Auburn game and the 2007 NC State game will both be moved to Thursday nights.

At the next Senate meeting, the committee hopes to report on the new budget for the Athletic Department.

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

Professor Giurgiutiu (Mechanical Engineering) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within the following: Undergraduate Bulletin, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Engineering and Information Technology, College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, and the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies [see Attachment 1, pp. 8-20]. Two corrections were made: under Department of Religious Studies (page 10) the new course designator should be RELG 367; and under Department of Physical Education (page 13), "Core Requirements for Physical Education Teacher Certification" should

be changed to “Core Requirements for Athletic Training Program.” All motions from the committee carried.

c. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Judith Alexander, Chair

Professor Alexander (Nursing) announced that the proposed Faculty Manual changes regarding the descriptions of the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion, the Faculty Budget Committee, and the Intellectual Property Committee were approved by the General Faculty at its April 26, 2006 meeting. For more information, visit the Faculty Senate website: <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/manual.shtml>.

d. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Marja Warehime, Chair

Professor Warehime (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) thanked the faculty for responding to the Faculty Welfare Committee’s Survey on Recruitment and Retention. The survey was sent out to 1,154 full-time faculty on the Columbia campus, and there were nearly 500 respondents (a 41.9% response rate). 80% of respondents cited salary as the most important issue in faculty recruitment and retention. The other top issues cited included: the campus environment, support for research, benefits, and tuition waivers, each of which was cited by at least 20% of respondents. The committee is in the process of analyzing the remainder of the data and will present a full report at a later date.

Professor Warehime gave an update regarding another long-standing agenda item, preventive care insurance benefits. Since the Senate passed the resolution requesting the support of the President and the Provost in conveying the importance of this issue to the employee insurance program’s staff, the committee contacted other faculty welfare committees in the state to enlist their support. Clemson’s and USC Aiken’s Faculty Welfare Committees passed similar resolutions and are exploring the issue with their human resources personnel. Coastal Carolina has also committed to looking into the issue. The Committee thanks Jane Jameson from Human Resources for arranging a meeting with Robin Tester, the Director of the Division of Insurance Services. The meeting will take place in a few weeks. Dr. Warehime concluded her report by emphasizing that insurance-supported preventive care would be both forward-looking and cost-effective.

Chair Reeder thanked Professors Alexander and Warehime for “marshalling the troops and staying with the agenda” on their respective committees.

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen commended Professor Warehime and the Faculty Welfare Committee for their efforts, and added his enthusiastic endorsement to the idea of expanding health insurance coverage to include preventive care. “The more groundswell of support you get for this from other universities and agencies,” he said, “the greater the probability you will succeed.”

Professor Russ Pate has asked to be relieved of his position as Faculty Athletics Representative. President Sorensen has appointed Professor Bill Bearden as the new Faculty Athletics Representative, a position that reports directly to the President. This position serves as the “conscience of the academic standards of the University” as applied to intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Bearden will continue to serve as the Chair of the University Athletics Advisory Committee for the duration of his term.

The President was pleased with results of the recent Academic Awards ceremony for athletes. The grade point average for all 500 scholarship student athletes was 2.95 for the fall semester and a comparable number in the spring semester. No team had below a 2.0 grade point average. The NCAA has placed increasing emphasis on the need to perform well academically through its newly established academic progress reports. Student athletes must make demonstrable progress towards graduation every year. Faculty should notify the Athletics Department if student athletes are regularly missing classes or are not performing well.

President Sorensen congratulated all those faculty who were recognized at the General Faculty meeting for their academic scholarship, outstanding teaching, and dedicated service to the University.

The President congratulated Dr. Michael Amiridis (Chemical Engineering) for his appointment as Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology, and also Walter F. “Jack” Pratt, Jr. (currently at the University of Notre Dame Law School) for his appointment as Dean of the School of Law.

All faculty are encouraged by the President and the Provost to attend at least one commencement ceremony in May. A good faculty turnout at these ceremonies is a visible indication to alumni, parents, and friends of how much USC cares for its students.

President Sorensen thanked the members of the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion for their hard work, diligence, and thoughtful examination of the recent batch of files.

The President read a letter he sent to Professor Reeder congratulating him on having received the Distinguished Service Award from the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

Vice President Harris Pastides (Research and Health Sciences)

Dr. Pastides reported that one of the final candidates for the Dean of Pharmacy position has been brought in for a campus interview. A second finalist will be brought to campus shortly. Dr. Pastides thanked Dean Richter and the search committee for their work in bringing in a good slate of finalists.

The search for the Dean of the School of Medicine is under way. A professional search firm has been hired, and the search committee is optimistic about going through a rigorous and comprehensive screening process during the summer. Finalists are expected to be invited to campus in the early fall.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker announced that the search for the Law School Dean has been successful, and that Walter “Jack” Pratt, Jr., has been appointed to that position. In addition, the Provost is pleased that Professor Michael Amiridis has accepted the offer of an appointment as Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology. The Provost thanked both search committees and their respective chairs: Professor Tangali Sudarshan (College of Engineering and Information Technology) and Dean Fitzpatrick (College of Arts and Sciences), co-chairs of the Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology search committee; and Professor John Montgomery (School of Law), who co-chaired, along with the Provost, the search committee for Dean of the Law School.

The Provost continues to be impressed with the number and quality of successes of both students and faculty at the University. He commended the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs, particularly Novella Beskid and Jan Smoak, for their considerable efforts in assisting students in competing for national awards.

Provost Becker is very concerned about security lapses at the University. Over the past two years, three security breaches have occurred in which social security information has been inadvertently released. Faculty and individual departments should never create databases containing social security information; this is a very serious security issue and is in violation of individual rights and freedoms. Great care and caution needs to be taken to adhere to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The federal government takes protection of privacy very seriously and the Provost expects all members of USC to comply with these regulations.

In response to a question from the floor, Provost Becker said that the One Carolina project will eventually replace existing student record systems, and that this new system will eliminate the use of social security numbers for the identification of students. Until the One Carolina project is completed, however, we need to be vigilant in maintaining security and protecting privacy.

5. Report of the Chair

Chair Reeder announced that the regional campuses’ Faculty Senate has approved the change our Senate adopted earlier regarding the graduation requirements for summa cum laude. He also announced that a committee has been appointed in response to concerns about Intellectual Property. Professor Steven Hinckley (School of Law) has agreed to chair the special committee. Four additional members with outstanding records in terms of Intellectual Property have been appointed. A second special committee will soon be appointed to look at ways to improve the tenure and promotion process via more transparent, and less variable, reporting standards across University departments.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. New Business

During the “open microphone” session, Professor Barbara Koons-Witt (Criminology and Criminal Justice) remarked that faculty in her unit are concerned about the availability of grade distributions of classes and courses on the Registrar’s website. The concern is that students are able to identify the “easiest professor.” Barbara Blaney, the University Registrar, responded that this information was made available in response to a requirement in the Freedom of Information Act. The information, by law, must be made available to anyone who wants it. Small classes with ten or fewer students were eliminated in compliance with FERPA.

8. Announcements

Professor Venkat Lakshmi (Geological Sciences), Chair of the Academic Responsibility Committee, informed the Senate that, in light of recent events at Howard University involving plagiarism, the President asked his committee to look into the issue of academic integrity. An academic integrity task force has been created and charged with: (1) examining the effectiveness of the current rule of academic responsibility at USC, and (2) examining new methods for increasing awareness of academic integrity and responsibility. He introduced Scott Lewis, Director of Student Judicial Affairs, who shared that the task force is building an Academic Integrity Workshop intended for minor violators of the academic responsibility rule. The task force also hopes to develop an online tutorial to help better educate all students. In addition, there will be an academic integrity website that will include FAQ’s and a flowchart illustrating the steps involved with rule violations. Finally, the task force will prepare a report in the fall making “best practice” recommendations regarding the issue of academic integrity at USC.

Laura Page (Student Life), Director of Parents Programs, introduced a new program called Dinner Dialogues, to be implemented in the 2006/07 academic year. The Dinner Dialogues program will provide funding for faculty who would like to host dinners for their undergraduate students for the purpose of enhancing interaction outside of the classroom.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on June 21st, 2006 at **3:30 p.m.** in the Law School Auditorium.

9. Adjournment

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