

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 6, 2006

1. Call to Order

Chair C. E. “Gene” Reeder called the meeting to order and welcomed the new Senators, reminding them of the wealth of information available for Senators on the Faculty Senate website (<http://www.sc.edu/faculty/index.shtml>).

2. Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for corrections to the minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Speakers

Dr. Fred Medway (Psychology) gave an overview of the SACS reaccreditation visit scheduled for 2011. A General Education Committee has been formed to bring together key stakeholders on the USC campus as well as the regional campuses. This committee, which reports to Karl Heider, Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, has been active in examining best practices at various research universities to determine the direction towards which USC’s general education programs should head. The committee also solicited feedback from a 35-member focus group resulting in excellent suggestions regarding general education. The committee’s next goal is to form leadership teams to target forthcoming objectives.

Mr. Scott Lewis, Director of Judicial Affairs, outlined changes resulting from research conducted by the Academic Integrity Task Force. A new USC Honor Code has been drafted and is available for perusal at: <http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>. The newly formed Office of Academic Integrity is soliciting comments and suggestions regarding the proposed Honor Code. Send comments to academicintegrity@sc.edu.

Ms. Chrissy Coley, Director of Retention and Planning, spoke about new student success initiatives and the Student Success Center which will be opening in the fall and will be housed in Thomas Cooper Library (for more information about the Center, visit <http://www.sa.sc.edu/ssc/>). Planned initiatives for the student success program include: supplemental instruction, tutoring, early intervention programs, and the establishment of a freshman call center.

Ms. Anna McLeod, Coordinator of Residential Learning Initiatives, gave an overview of the Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE’s) located currently in Bates House, Columbia Hall, and Sims Residence Halls. There will soon also be an ACE in Thomas Cooper Library. The ACE programs focus on individual consultations with students to help them with time management, exam preparation, anxiety reduction, and communicating with professors. For further information, visit <http://www.housing.sc.edu/rli/>.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) welcomed new Senators and reminded everyone to sign in or to call the Faculty Senate Office to report attendance.

The Senate Steering Committee is nominating Dr. Robert Best (Medicine) for the position of Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. Professor Kane opened the floor for further nominations. A vote will be held at the next Senate meeting.

A volunteer is needed to fill a slot on the Faculty Grievance Committee. Membership on this committee is restricted to tenured full professors or tenured librarians. Nominees for this committee vacancy should be sent to Dr. Reeder (Reeder@cop.sc.edu) or to Laura Kane (laura@gw.med.sc.edu).

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Matthew Miller, Chair-Elect

Professor Miller (Mathematics) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within the following: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Engineering and Information Technology, and College of Nursing. All motions from the committee carried.

Professor Miller asked that, if possible, submission of curricula matters be more evenly distributed over the academic year so that there is not a tremendous amount at the end of the spring semester. Also, Professor Karen Heid (Art) will serve as Chair of the committee for the fall semester.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Marja Warehime, Chair

Professor Warehime (Languages, Literature, and Cultures) announced that flu shots will again be available at no cost to faculty and staff who contribute to the Family Fund. The vaccine will be arriving in late September. A total of 300 shots will be available. Any changes regarding vaccination dates or flu shot eligibility will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

The committee continues to focus on preventive care benefits. Ida Fogle and Jeff Cargile (Human Resources) accompanied Professor Warehime to a meeting in May with Rob Tester, Director of the Employee Insurance Program of the State Budget & Control Board. Mr. Tester agreed to meet with a faculty representative during his twice-yearly visits to campus. This will allow faculty to express concerns more directly and begin a dialogue that might ultimately allow for greater input in discussions about benefits. Professor Warehime will meet with Mr. Tester during his December visit to campus, and asks that issues or questions be sent to her at warehime@gwm.sc.edu. She is willing to bring any issues, large or small, to his attention.

Professor Warehime also learned that the Legislature has committed funds to guarantee that there will be no increase in insurance premiums this year. However, the State Budget & Control Board indicates that cost control is a primary concern. Therefore, while the efforts to lobby for more preventive care continue, it might be wise to take advantage of existing preventive care measures. One such measure is the Wellness Partners Program, available for members of the State Plan, which allows the possibility of obtaining routine blood testing at very low costs.

Chair Reeder thanked Professor Warehime for her committee's diligent efforts and for agreeing to serve for a second term as Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee.

d. University Athletics Advisory Committee, Professor Augie Grant, Chair

Professor Grant (Journalism & Mass Communications) announced that the University Athletics Advisory Committee will continue taking reports from the Athletics Department and passing that information along to the Faculty Senate. A critical issue is the Academic Progress Report which requires the demonstration of progress in graduation rates for athletes. The committee is also investigating better integration of student athletes with the rest of the student body. The scheduling of athletic events is also an issue, and the Athletics Department has been consulting with the committee regarding Thursday night games and how individual travel schedules have an effect on a student athlete's ability to attend class and participate in exams. Finally, ticket allocation for faculty is being studied. There are a limited number of tickets designated for faculty, and the committee will work to protect this faculty ticket allocation to the maximum extent. Professor Grant welcomes input or questions regarding the committee.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen announced with delight the appointment of Dr. Jim Augustine as the new University Ombudsman, and thanked Dr. Augustine for assuming that responsibility.

The President reported the following:

- The Provost is searching for a new Vice Provost for Faculty Development to oversee the new Center for Teaching Excellence that is currently being developed. Additional resources have been committed to establish a Student Success Center in the fall. The administration supports these efforts with enthusiasm.
- A recent report in *U.S. News and World Report* ranked USC Aiken as the number one public comprehensive college in the south. USC Upstate was ranked third.
- This was a banner year for students regarding national recognition. The USC student body now includes a Truman Scholar, four Fulbright Scholars, two Goldwater Scholars, three National Science Foundation Research Fellows, and a Madison Fellow.

- With the help of the lottery, USC is doing an excellent job keeping South Carolina high school graduates in the state. Last year 96% of our incoming freshman had lottery scholarships. This year it is 98.5%. This illustrates that students are actively choosing to attend USC.
- The freshman class numbers 3,681. SAT scores of our incoming freshmen are up seven points from last year, while national and state averages have gone down. We are obviously attracting excellent students.
- USC continues to remain dedicated to the goal of educating all South Carolinians, regardless of economic backgrounds. 22% of our freshmen receive Pell Grants. In a recent issue of *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, USC was listed as the public flagship university (out of 51 universities) with the highest proportion of African American students.
- The holistic admissions process has been implemented and shows every sign of success. The new process involves looking at extenuating factors in addition to SAT scores and grade point averages. This enables the admission of promising students who underwent difficult periods in high school due to extenuating circumstances.
- USC was identified as a “Research Institution” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In addition, USC was the only South Carolina university assigned the “very high research” category by the Foundation.
- Construction of two research buildings and parking garages on campus continues.
- Funding from the State Legislature was unusually good this year. \$4 million in recurring dollars was allotted for new faculty positions. A 3% average increase was given to faculty and staff. \$2 million was given to establish and Environmental Genomics Center. \$500,000 in recurring money was allotted to hire new faculty in the School of the Environment. \$1,500,000 was given for research this year. Lastly, support was increased for each of the other seven USC institutions to offset a disparity in funding in past years.

President Sorensen concluded by stating that he is pleased to serve the University during such extraordinary times.

Vice President Harris Pastides

Dr. Pastides (Research & Health Sciences) thanked Dr. Randy Rowen and Dr. Richard Hoppmann for their service as Interim Dean at the College of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine, respectively. Negotiations are underway with a candidate for dean of the Columbia campus program in the College of Pharmacy. Six candidates will soon be interviewed for the School of Medicine dean position. Finalists will be brought to campus for interviews in late September or early October.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker congratulated Dr. Jim Augustine for his appointment to the University Ombudsman position. He thanked the Faculty Advisory Committee for their role in the creation of this position.

The Provost thanked Professor Medway for his leadership of the General Education Committee. The SACS accreditation is “just around the corner” in academic time, so this undertaking is extremely important. The Provost also thanked Scott Lewis and Chrissy Coley for their vital efforts.

The reorganization of the Provost’s office is nearly complete. Dr. Ted Moore has been moved into position of Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Dr. Chris Plyler is the Vice Provost for the Regional Campuses. Dr. Dennis Pruitt will be the Vice Provost for Academic Support (tentative working title). A search has been opened for the position of Vice Provost for Faculty Development. Dr. Bill Hogue will continue in his role as Chief Information Officer and Vice President. The Associate Provosts are Dr. Karl Heider and Dr. Christine Ebert. The Assistant Provosts are Dr. Phil Moore, Judi Blyth, and Elise Ahyi.

Provost Becker congratulated Dr. Gordon Baylis (who had been Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives) for his new position with Health Sciences South Carolina and thanked him for his service.

Professor Michael Myrick (Chemistry) asked if something can be done at the Registrar’s Office to ensure that students registering for certain classes meet prerequisite requirements. In response, the Provost said that the One Carolina software will address that issue. Meanwhile, not much can be done except to develop a prerequisite verification method within each department. Professor Michael Meadows (Civil Engineering) said that Professor Richard Ray in his department has developed a spreadsheet for just such use.

6. Report of Chair

Chair Reeder offered Dr. Augustine his congratulations on his appointment to University Ombudsman. He also mentioned that Bill Hogue will speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting about the One Carolina system. At the November meeting, a guest speaker will talk about the Healthy Carolina Initiative and the new Tobacco Use Policy.

7. Unfinished Business

There being no further nominations for Chair-Elect, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The motion carried. The Senate candidate for Chair-Elect will be Professor Robert Best.

8. New Business

Professor Mike Dickson (Pharmacy) asked the status of a memo sent to the chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee in April of this year regarding the memorandum of understanding for the creation of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Chair Reeder responded that the memo was turned over to the University General Counsel’s Office. President Sorensen guaranteed that a response will be given by the next Senate meeting.

9. Announcements

The next meeting will be held on October 4, 2006 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

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