

FACULTY SENATE MEETING October 4, 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 September 6, 2006 meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Speakers

Dr. Bill Hogue, Chief Information Officer, gave an overview of how USC is endeavoring to gain a competitive advantage in the information technology arena. He talked about the following:

- *South Carolina LightRail*: an initiative of Health Sciences South Carolina involving a high capacity fiber network linking all major research, education, and health care facilities in the state
- *Center for Teaching Excellence*: now open and located in room 511 at Thomas Cooper Library (open daily from 10 am – 2 pm). The Center is directed by Dr. Jed Lyons (Mechanical Engineering).
- *Active Directory Exchange Project* (“The Email Project”): a new email system that will more effectively protect the security and efficiency of USC’s email directory and server. A beta test of the system will soon be conducted, and it is expected that students will begin to use the new system in the Spring semester.
- *One Carolina*: “the biggest software project in USC history”; designed to bring USC’s business operations and information flow into the 21st century. Bids have been received and the contract negotiation process is still underway.
- *Research Computing*: plans are in the works for the development of a research computing and IT infrastructure for the University. Nominations for faculty to participate in the project are being collected from the Academic Deans.
- *Security Privacy*: Within the next two weeks a Chief Security Officer position for USC will be posted.
- *Disaster Recovery*: An emergency planning group headed by Ernie Ellis (Chief of Public Safety) will include a focus on the IT side of disaster recovery to ensure the integrity of our communications infrastructure in the event of an emergency.
- *E-Learning*: A plan will be developed regarding distance education and other electronic learning opportunities.
- *Digital Asset Management*: a method of allowing research by faculty members to be available and searchable to a variety of audience, ranging from small groups of colleagues and students to the general public. A potential pilot project is currently being discussed.

Mr. Scott Lewis, Director of Judicial Affairs, gave an update on the status of the proposed new USC Honor Code has been available for perusal and comment at: <http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>. The Office of Academic Integrity is reviewing feedback and making changes. Additional comments and suggestions regarding the proposed Honor Code are welcome. Send feedback to academicintegrity@sc.edu.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) reported that the Steering Committee nominates Professor Judy Rink (Physical Education) and Professor Steve Lynn (English) to fill two vacant slots on the Faculty Grievance Committee. The Committee will soon appoint someone to a third slot, which is only a one year term. The floor was opened for further nominations.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Karen Heid, Chair

Professor Heid (Art) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within the College of Arts and Sciences. Corrections made to the distributed text are as follows: (1) on page 9, in the “Proposed” column, under “Design Option, Major Requirement,” 39 is the correct number of hours (36 should be crossed out); on the next line, 18 is the correct number of hours (15 should be crossed out); (2) on page 11, in the “Proposed” column, under “Certification Requirements,” the line “EDFN 300, EDPY 401, EDTE 402 (9 HOURS)” should not be crossed out [see Attachment 1]. All motions from the committee carried.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Marja Warehime, Chair

Professor Warehime (Languages, Literature, and Cultures) reminded the Senators that Mr. Rob Tester, Director of the Employee Insurance Program of the State Budget & Control Board, 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.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen thanked Bill Hogue for his IT leadership as CIO on the Columbia campus, and as Director of Information Technology at the seven other University institutions. A pitch for increased funding dedicated to information technology will be made to the General Assembly for the 2007-08 academic year. President Sorensen,

President Jim Barker (Clemson), and President Ray Greenberg (MUSC) will each request \$1.5 million in recurring monies. This increased funding will be partially dedicated to the LightRail initiative.

The President also reported the following:

- The possibility of mounting another Capital Campaign is being explored. Grenzebach Glier & Associates, Inc. has been hired to conduct a feasibility study and to make a recommendation as to whether or not a capital campaign should be mounted. The firm was impressed with the total of donations to the Family Fund by USC faculty and staff. This level of generosity serves as a visible demonstration of support for the University.
- The President's top priority with the General Assembly is a request for an increase in salaries for staff and faculty.
- The search for Innovista Director is underway. A recommendation will be made soon.
- Interviews are being conducted for Dean of the School of Medicine.
- To emphasize that the Innovista will encompass all fields of study (not just the physical and biological sciences), President Sorensen asked Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to give highlights of some of her new faculty. Profiles of several new faculty members were shared.

Vice Provost Ted Moore

Vice Provost Moore made the following announcements:

- Christine Ebert, Dean of the Graduate School, has announced that she will be stepping down at the end of the academic year. A national search for her replacement will be underway shortly. Davis Baird, Dean of the Honors College, will chair the search committee. Provost Mark Becker sends his sincere appreciation to Professor Ebert for her work during her tenure as dean.
- Joel Smith, Dean of the Moore School of Business, has announced that he will be stepping down by the summer of 2008. A national search for his replacement will soon be underway. Provost Becker expresses his appreciation for Professor Smith's success during his tenure as dean.
- Dr. Dennis Pruitt has assumed the position of Vice Provost for Academic Support. He will also continue in his role as Vice President for Student Affairs.
- The search is almost concluded for the Vice Provost for Faculty Development position. An announcement will be made in a few weeks.
- President Sorensen, Provost Becker, and several deans met recently with the Commanding General, the Deputy Commander, and the Command Sergeant Major of Fort Jackson to kick off several collaborative endeavors in research, teaching, and service. The group examined 17 proposals spanning the University's entire mission and developed by USC faculty. This promises to be the start of a strong future of collaboration with Fort Jackson.

6. Report of Chair

Chair Reeder reported that the Senate Steering Committee had a joint luncheon with representatives of Student Government as a way of building relationships and sharing mutual concerns. The luncheon stimulated effective dialogue and promised future collaborative relationships between student leadership and the faculty.

The Chair encouraged the faculty to consider serving on a University Committee. The volunteer form will soon be circulated in print and via email.

7. Unfinished Business

Professor Robert Best (Medicine) was elected Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. The floor was closed for further nominations to the Faculty Grievance Committee. Professor Steve Lynn and Professor Judy Rink were elected to serve on that committee.

Professor Mike Dickson (Pharmacy) asked the status of a memo regarding the memorandum of understanding for the creation of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. He requested that the issue be forwarded to the Faculty Board of Trustees Liaison Committee. President Sorensen endorsed this proposal, and Chair Reeder assured Professor Dickson that the issue would be forwarded to the committee.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

The next meeting will be held on November 1, 2006 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

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