

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 7, 2007

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 February 7, 2007 meeting. Dr. Reeder made one clarification: with regards to the grade forgiveness proposal, the Senate voted in favor of going forward with the development of a grade forgiveness policy under the conditions specified in the minutes. The document will come back to the Senate for ratification at a later date. With this clarification, the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Speakers

Dr. Fred Medway (Psychology) gave an overview of the SACS General Education Curriculum Revision Initiative. The charge of this initiative is to develop a cohesive general education program for undergraduates. Out of a series of faculty focus groups, six teams and leaders have emerged:

Team 1: *Effective and Persuasive Communication* (Heidi Mills, College of Education)

Team 2: *Effective Mathematical Reasoning and Problem Solving* (Don Stowe, College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management)

Team 3: *Scientific Literacy and Technological Skills* (Tangali Sudarshan, College of Engineering and Information Technology)

Team 4: *Global Awareness and Multi-Cultural Understanding* (Martin Roth, Moore School of Business)

Team 5: *Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility* (Allen Miller, College of Arts and Sciences)

Team 6: *Lifelong Learning* (Cynthia Colbert, College of Arts and Sciences)

Each team has been meeting periodically and is comprised of 18 – 20 faculty and student members.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

On behalf of the Senate Steering Committee, Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) presented a slate of nominees for committee vacancies [see Attachment 1, p. 7]. The floor was opened for additional nominations to committees.

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

Professor Miller (Mathematics) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: the College of Arts and Sciences, the Moore School of Business, and the College of Engineering and Information Technology [see Attachment 1, pp. 8 – 15]. All motions from the committee carried.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Marja Warehime, Chair

Professor Warehime (Languages, Literature, and Cultures) announced that the committee has sent out a survey for the purpose of determining the top issues and priorities of University faculty. She asked that faculty members please take time to respond to the survey. Those in need of another survey should contact Professor Warehime or the Faculty Senate Office. The committee has also been working towards the development of a formal, “forward-looking” parental leave policy. A number of people, including Jane Jameson and Jeff Cargile from the Division of Human Resources, attended a recent lunch meeting devoted to the issue. Professor Warehime will keep the Senate apprised of developments in these areas.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen recently joined forces with James Barker, President of Clemson University, to make a plea for financial support to Senator Hugh Leatherman, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. This atypical joint venture has proven to be much more effective than the traditional independent approach. Among the items that have been approved by the House Ways and Means Committee and that will soon be considered by the Senate are:

- A 3% increase for faculty and staff. The President plans to recommend that faculty monies be distributed on a merit basis.
- A bond issue that would benefit all eight USC institutions plus 25 other public colleges and universities that comprise the public higher education system in the state. \$130 million has been requested to address deferred maintenance at the eight USC institutions.
- A request for an additional \$4.8 million in recurring funds for the Faculty Excellence Initiative. This would enable the University to hire more faculty and thus reduce the student-to-faculty ratio as well as reduce class sizes.
- A request for a total of \$4.5 million (\$1.5 million for each of the three research universities) for the development of statewide high-speed computing capabilities called LightRail. This much-needed computing system would link together South Carolina’s hospitals and research universities located along the I-26 corridor, with Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston serving as the principal nodes.

The President also discussed the following issues:

- *Parking on campus:* 2,400 additional parking spaces in two separate garages will soon be available for USC students, staff, and faculty.
- *Space:* Buildings are currently under construction on campus that will alleviate some of the space problems. This will of course be an ongoing issue.
- *Parental Leave:* President Sorensen encouraged Professor Warehime and her committee to continue investigating a progressive, enlightened parental leave policy that would be acceptable to the State Legislature.
- President Sorensen makes a point each year to place personal calls to the recipients of the Carolina Scholarships as well as the McNair Scholarships. This year there were 1,000 applicants for the twenty slots in the McNair Scholars program. Average SAT scores for these applicants is 1475.
- March 28th is “Carolina Day” at the State Legislature. The Carolina Action Network, the USC Alumni Association, and other groups will gather at 9:30 am on the steps of the State Capitol for a day of lobbying.
- A press conference is scheduled for Friday, March 9th to announce the first official tenant of the Horizon II building (the private venture capitalists building).
- The President thanked Professor Medway for taking the lead on the general education examination in preparation for SACS accreditation.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker encouraged the faculty to participate in Carolina Day on March 28 to help advocate for the University. He also asked the faculty to remember their colleagues at other USC campuses when looking for collaboration opportunities.

The Provost thanked Professor Warehime for engaging in discussion with Vice Provost Christine Curtis in the development of policies such as parental leave. He also thanked Professor Medway for his work with the General Education Initiative. He mentioned that general education is only part of a larger puzzle, and that the SACS accreditation is going to be a very major undertaking, especially in light of the work being done by U.S. Secretary of Education’s Commission on the Future of Higher Education. Our accreditors are under enormous pressure to make sure that what universities do is transparent to the public, that there is continuous improvement, and that there is sufficient documentation of these efforts.

The search for Dean of the Moore School of Business is moving rapidly. Five top-caliber candidates are scheduled to visit the campus. The Provost thanked the search committee for the fabulous job they have done recruiting such competitive candidates.

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Reeder reminded the faculty that elections for vacant slots in the Senate takes place during the spring. He encouraged Senators to remind department chairs and deans that a

“head count” may be necessary to determine the appropriate number of slots each unit is allotted.

7. Unfinished Business

There were no additional nominations for committee vacancies. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken. All persons on the list of committee nominees were elected by the Senate.

Professor Mike Dickson (Pharmacy) asked about the status of his request to have the Memorandum of Understanding for the College of Pharmacy mergers be reviewed. Dr. Pastides (Vice President for Research and Health Sciences) responded that a clear draft of the MOU will be shared with both Columbia and MUSC faculties and will be debated by the Pharmacy Joint Oversight Committee on April 10th.

Chair Reeder asked the Senators to check with their units’ mail distribution centers to be sure that items sent via Bulk Mail are actually being distributed to the faculty.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

The next meeting will be held April 4, 2007 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

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