

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 4, 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 March 7, 2007 meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Speakers

Dr. Jed Lyons (Mechanical Engineering) gave an overview of the mission and vision of USC's new Center for Teaching Excellence. The Center, located in Room 511 in Thomas Cooper Library, officially opened for business in September 2006. Its overall mission is to meet the teaching needs of USC's faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants. The Center's specific goals are as follows:

1. To enhance the pedagogical knowledge and effectiveness of all who teach at USC
2. To enable the wise use of new technologies to enhance student learning
3. To provide synergy to campus teaching support activities through a systems approach
4. To support pedagogical research and productive scholarship
5. To promote a university culture that values and rewards teaching

Dr. Lyons distributed a survey to collect feedback on the five goals listed above, as well as to gather data on teaching challenges USC faculty must face. For further information about the Center for Teaching Excellence, visit <http://www.sc.edu/cte/>.

4. Reports of Committees

a. 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, the College of Engineering and Information Technology, the College of Nursing, and the Arnold School of Public Health [see Attachment 1, pp. 7 – 13]. All motions from the committee carried.

b. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Andrew Gowan, Chair

Professor Gowan (Music) gave a brief description of the charge of the Faculty Advisory Committee. The committee has begun the process of updating and revising the *Faculty Manual* to make it a more cohesive document. A handout outlining some proposed changes to the language in the *Faculty Manual* was distributed and discussed. These changes will be acted upon by the General Faculty at the May 2, 2007 meeting.

Professor Michael Myrick (Chemistry & Biochemistry) asked for justification for the proposal to add the statement that faculty in administrative positions are not eligible to serve on faculty committees. Dr. Gowan said that traditionally deans have never served

on committees; also, there was a sense that administrative faculty might have undue influence on faculty committees.

Professor Laura Kane (School of Medicine) expressed concern with the proposal to strike the words “or tenured librarians” from the list of faculty members eligible to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee. The concern is that removing librarians from the committee would completely disenfranchise faculty librarians in the tenure and grievance process. After some discussion, Professor Gowan said that the Faculty Advisory Committee would revisit the issue at its next meeting.

Professor Myrick suggested that it might be more productive to focus on changing the “most offending” portions of the *Manual* or to simply proofread the document without changing the substance of the entries. Dr. Gowan responded that there is no intent to change policy but rather to make editorial changes.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen began by thanking all faculty who work with graduate students. The Graduate Student Award ceremony was held earlier, at which awards for graduate student poster sessions were distributed. There were 85 proposals submitted this year and competition was intense.

The President thanked Professor Jed Lyons for his work as Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence. Having benefited from similar programs in the past, President Sorensen suggested during his first year at USC that such a center be established to help all faculty reach their maximum teaching potential. He is pleased to see the idea come to fruition.

There has been an unprecedented number of freshman applications received this year – over 14,600 for 3,500 openings. This is the highest number of applications received in the history of the University.

The President is pleased with the high quality of applicants coming through the various search committees. His goal during his time with each candidate is to sell them on USC and on the move to Columbia.

A large number of families from other states and other countries are touring the campus on a regular basis. The President is very grateful to Dennis Pruitt, Vice President for Student Affairs, and to the student ambassadors for their collective efforts in offering campus tours.

The Endowed Chairs program has reached a total of \$11 million through a combination of private gifts and matching State dollars. President Sorensen thanked Dr. Pastides and his staff for spearheading this effort.

The President and Rick Kelly (Vice President and Chief Financial Officer) presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees encouraging them to increase the amount of money USC spends on deferred maintenance. The \$2.5 million increase each year is not sufficient to meet deferred maintenance needs.

President Sorensen praised Dr. Richard Hoppmann for his creative and dedicated service as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine.

Provost Mark Becker

Dr. Becker announced that, sadly, Professor Anthony Edwards, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, passed away today. Dr. Becker said that Dr. Edwards will be sorely missed by the University family and most especially by the faculty, staff, and students of the Graduate School.

The School of Medicine dean position has been filled. Dr. Donald DiPette, currently the chairman and professor of the Department of Medicine at Texas A&M Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, will assume leadership on July 1. Dr. Becker joined the President in thanking Dr. Hoppmann for doing a tremendous job as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine.

The Office of the Vice President for Research & Health Sciences has announced the appointment of Randall Rowen as Campus Dean for the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Rowen served as Interim Dean so the transition will be a smooth one.

The search committee for dean of the Moore School of Business has submitted a final report to the Provost. Dr. Becker will move forward with the final steps in the hiring process.

Interviews have begun for dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Becker encouraged the faculty to participate in the interview process and to take the opportunity to meet each candidate. He and the President take feedback from the faculty under serious consideration.

Dr. Becker thanked Dr. Andrew Gowan and the Faculty Advisory Committee for undertaking the daunting (but not impossible) task of updating the *Faculty Manual*. The process will take months but is necessary since, in its current iteration, the *Manual* “doesn’t hang together well.” Christine Curtis, Vice Provost for Faculty Development, will help facilitate this project. All changes to the *Faculty Manual* must be approved by the full faculty.

Four areas are being addressed regarding the general education portion of the accreditation process. These areas focus on the concept of learning beyond the classroom. They are:

- Study Abroad (experiencing education outside one’s culture and/or native language). Contact person: Pat Willer, Student Affairs and Academic Support.
- Undergraduate Research (encouraging students to push the frontiers of knowledge and explore new forms of creation or exploration beyond the classroom setting). Contact person: James Knapp, Director, Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Service Learning (to bring greater knowledge across the campus and to look at various service learning models and opportunities). Contact person: Karl Heider, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
- Internships (helping students to pursue an educational experience in the corporate or non-profit environment). Contact person: Karl Heider, Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Professor Laura Woliver (Political Science and Women’s Studies) made a plea for raising money to support the study abroad program for those who cannot otherwise afford it. Professor Tony Reynolds (Mechanical Engineering) asked that some mechanism be established to allow international undergraduate students to come to USC as lab assistants or temporary employees. The Provost assured the faculty that both issues will be investigated.

6. Report of the Chair

No report.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

Professor Laura Woliver expressed concern about the slipping salary ranges for the rank of professor at USC, and suggested that it should be stressed to the Legislature that this salary issue is making it harder for USC to recruit and retain faculty. President Sorensen expressed his agreement and invited the faculty to go along with him to speak to the Legislators in support of this issue.

Professor John Grego (Statistics) distributed a handout regarding the “Congaree Regional Waterfront Park” and expressed his concerns for the project. In response, President Sorensen said that the park is a “dream” and that no formal plan has been presented, nor has any money been raised for the project. There is zero University involvement in the proposal. Professor Grego asked that the faculty be given a chance to absorb the document he distributed. Chair Reeder invited Dr. Grego to bring the issue to the Senate’s attention at the next meeting, after everyone has had a chance to look at the information.

9. Announcements

Professor Woliver asked that information regarding memorial services for Dr. Anthony Edwards be distributed to the faculty.

Professor Don Barth (Art) announced that there will be an auction this evening at 7 in the Capstone building to support the McMaster Gallery. Faculty and staff have donated their artwork to the auction.

The next meeting will be held May 2, 2007 at 3 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium, immediately following the 2 p.m. General Faculty meeting.

10. Adjournment.

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