

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
May 2, 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 April 4, 2007 meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) reported that the Steering Committee nominates Professor Augie Grant (Journalism and Mass Communications) to fill a vacant slot on the Faculty Welfare Committee. The floor was opened for further nominations.

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 College of Education, the College of Engineering and Information Technology, and the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management [see Attachment 1, pp. 8 – 19]. All motions carried.

In addition, Professor Miller distributed a correction to a curriculum proposal that was approved by the Faculty Senate at the March 7, 2007 meeting. The original proposal contained an incorrect description of the business courses and free electives required for the Major in Computer Information Systems offered by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. A motion was made and carried to accept the corrected description as distributed.

c. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Christine Whitaker, Chair

Professor Whitaker (School of Medicine Library) made a motion in favor of the ratification of a Course Grade Forgiveness program as outlined in the distributed document [see Attachment 2]. The motion carried. The document, which was also approved by other USC campuses, will likely go into effect in the fall 2007 semester.

d. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Andrew Gowan, Chair

Professor Gowan (Music) reported that the General Faculty approved, with one exception, the proposed *Faculty Manual* changes involving the choice of Tenure and Promotion unit criteria as well as eligibility and length of term for Faculty Senate committees (see <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/manual.shtml> for the proposed changes). The exception was that the strikethrough of “tenured librarians” under Faculty Grievance

Committee was withdrawn, to the effect that tenured librarians will continue to be eligible for service on the Faculty Grievance Committee.

4. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen congratulated all faculty who received awards for outstanding scholarship and teaching at the General Faculty meeting. He then gave the following updates:

- *Congaree Regional Waterfront Park* (brought to the Senate's attention by Professor John Grego at the last meeting): The President wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Waterfront Commission to request that two University faculty members be formally added to the Commission. The names, which were provided by Professor Grego, are: William Graf (Dept. Chair, Geography) and Madilyn Fletcher (Director, School of the Environment). Professor Grego said that an informal meeting took place at which the interested parties walked the property.
- *Legislative Funding*: The President is hopeful that the collaborative approach among USC, Clemson, and MUSC for higher education funding will encourage legislators to sustain budget increases for USC.
- *LightRail*: plans to develop a broadband IT highway linking major South Carolina educational institutions are underway.
- *Health Sciences South Carolina* is a collaborative effort to improve the quality of health care in South Carolina by supporting research related to health and medicine. Included in this collaboration are: Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Greenville Hospital System, Palmetto Health, and the three research universities (USC, Clemson, and MUSC). Candidates for President of HSSC are currently being interviewed.

Provost Mark Becker

The searches for dean of the Moore School of Business and for dean of the Graduate School continue. These processes should be concluded soon and official announcements will be made.

The Provost encouraged faculty to attend at least one USC commencement ceremony per year. These events are very important to the institution and are especially significant to our students. Visible representation by the faculty is important and very much appreciated.

Provost Becker announced that this is the last meeting at which Dr. Reeder will preside. He thanked Dr. Reeder for the tremendous job he has done over the past two years.

5. Unfinished Business

There were no additional nominations to the Faculty Welfare Committee and the floor was closed. A vote was taken and Dr. Grant was elected.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Announcements

Chair Reeder announced that although he will continue in his service as Chair until the end of the summer, the June meeting will be chaired by Dr. Robert Best who is currently Chair Elect of the Senate. Dr. Reeder took a moment to express his appreciation to the Senators and to those faculty who serve on committees. He said that participation in faculty governance is important to all of us. Dr. Reeder also thanked President Sorensen and Provost Becker for their support during his term as Chair. "It has been a great ride but it's time to get off the train," he concluded.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on June 27, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Law School Auditorium.

8. Adjournment.

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