

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**June 27, 2007**

**1. and 2. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair-Elect Robert Best called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting (Chair Reeder was out of the country). There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

**3. Invited Guest**

Christine Curtis, Vice Provost for Faculty Development, gave an overview of the University's new "Family Friendly" policies that are in development. These policies will help USC recruit and retain excellent and diverse faculty. They will also provide a flexible and supportive work environment for faculty (particularly women faculty), and they will promote an academic culture that is supportive of families. The three primary policies are:

- **Faculty Dual Career Accommodation Policy**, whereby the Office of Human Resources will assist the spouse or partner of a newly hired faculty member in securing employment. A position is not guaranteed, but all effort will be made to find an appropriate fit for the spouse or partner.
- **Extension of the Tenure Clock/Probation Period Policy**, whereby a one-year extension of the tenure clock or probation period would be automatic (for both parents) in the event of the birth or adoption of a child. One-year extensions can also be requested for other reasons such as serious illness in the family, death of a parent, or similar circumstances.
- **Modified Duties Policy**, whereby a primary caregiver would be released from on-site duties for one semester in the event of childbirth or adoption. Research and scholarship duties would remain unchanged. The secondary caregiver may also request a modification of duties. Other life circumstances would warrant a request for modified duties as well.

Vice Provost Curtis hopes to have these new policies in place for the fall semester.

**4. Reports of Committees**

**a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary**

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Professor Kane (School of Medicine Library) presented the following nominees:

- Anthony Gregg (School of Medicine), to fill a three-year vacancy on the Faculty Advisory Committee

- Ruth Riley (School of Medicine), to fill a two-year vacancy on the Faculty Grievance Committee

The floor was opened for further nominations.

**b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Ina Rae Hark, Chair-Elect**

Professor Hark (English Language and Literature) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: the College of Arts and Sciences, Moore School of Business, and the Regional Campuses [see Attachment 1, pp. 6 – 13]. Sections 1E, 1F, and 2B were inadvertently left out of the printed attachment, so those sections were read aloud by Professor Hark. All motions carried.

Professor Dorothy Disterheft (English Language and Literature) remarked that perhaps the committee could discuss the style of the course descriptions to make them less redundant. Professor Hark replied that she would be happy to bring the suggestion to the committee’s attention.

**5. Reports of Officers**

**President Andrew Sorensen**

President Sorensen welcomed Dr. Best and then gave a University budget update. He will soon be presenting to the Board of Trustees a budget of \$996 million (this reflects a 56% increase from the \$640 million budget during Dr. Sorensen’s first year at the University).

The President also reported the following:

- A 6.9% tuition increase will be proposed. USC’s tuition for in-state residents will still be less than Clemson’s per year, even with the tuition increase.
- In a publication called *Academic Analytics*, USC’s Ph.D. programs ranked higher than Tulane University, UGA, Clemson and several other Universities in terms of scholarly productivity. USC’s Exercise Science Ph.D. program was ranked number one in the U.S.
- Summer campers are enjoying their experience at USC and are pleased with the friendly faculty, staff, and students.
- If the Governor vetoes the LightRail proposal, plans are in the works to try to override the veto. LightRail has gotten support from the House and Senate to give each of the three research universities \$1.5 million to develop high speed Internet connectivity between Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, and Clemson.

President Sorensen thanked Christine Curtis (Vice Provost for Faculty Development), Elise Ahyi (Assistant Provost for Academic Policy), and Marja Warehime (Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee) for their diligent efforts in the development of the Family Friendly policies. He is completely supportive of the proposals and intends to accept the

policies formally on behalf of the University provided there is no significant opposition from the faculty. He is eager to hear the faculty's reaction to the proposals.

### **Provost Mark Becker**

The Provost joined President Sorensen in thanking Dr. Curtis and Elise Ahyi for their work on the Family Friendly policies. Development of the policies has been motivated by real and pressing issues that have arisen over the years. The process of developing new policies such as these involves looking at best practices at other institutions in the country, as well as looking at the laws of the state to determine possible avenues.

The Southeastern Conference has developed an Academic Consortium comprised of Provosts who meet annually. At the upcoming retreat, a major agenda item will be the development of an academic leadership program. The goal of the program would be to increase in number and to diversify the pool of potential Dean candidates. This is a proactive attempt to make Dean searches more efficient.

Other issues to be addressed by the Academic Consortium are: Study Abroad programs (possibly sharing resources to support the programs) and the creation of affiliation groups (such as a group of Deans of Arts & Sciences, a group of Admissions Directors, a group of CIOs, a group of Faculty Senate Chairs, etc.).

## **6. Report of the Chair**

Chair-Elect Best and Chair Reeder attended a meeting of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics in April. This is an organization of Faculty Senate Chairs from across the country. One of its goals is to reform intercollegiate athletics by placing more emphasis on academics. A document is now available that recommends changes in four areas:

- Academic Integrity and Quality
- Student-Athlete Welfare
- Campus Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Fiscal Responsibility

Dr. Best encouraged the faculty to read the document which is available at the Faculty Senate Website: <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/reform.shtml>.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

There were no additional nominations for committee vacancies and the floor was closed. A vote was taken. Anthony Gregg was elected to the Faculty Advisory Committee and Ruth Riley was elected to the Faculty Grievance Committee.

## **8. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **9. Announcements**

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2007 at approximately 3:10 pm in the Law School Auditorium, immediately following the General Faculty meeting.

### **10. Adjournment.**

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