

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
October 10, 2007

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

Chair Robert Best called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the September 5, 2007 meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Guest

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. The program will include core knowledge, skills and attitudes as well as diverse learning experiences. The following six teams have been meeting on a regular basis:

1. *Effective and Persuasive Communication*
2. *Effective Mathematical Reasoning and Problem Solving*
3. *Science and Technology Literacy*
4. *Global Awareness and Multi-Cultural Understanding*
5. *Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility*
6. *Lifelong Learning*

Each team has defined overall goals and objectives. More information, including each team's annual report, can be found at <http://www.sc.edu/generaleducation/>.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Laura Kane, Secretary

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

- Douglas King (Libraries) has been appointed to fill a one-year term on the Committee on Curricula & Courses.
- The Steering Committee nominates Gail Wagner (Anthropology) to fill a two-year vacancy on the Committee on Curricula & Courses. The floor was opened for further nominations.
- Rebekah Maxwell (School of Law Library) remains the sole nominee for the position of Secretary-Elect.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Roberta Copp, Acting Chair

Professor Copp (Libraries) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: College of Arts and Sciences, Moore School of Business, and Arnold School of Public Health [see Attachment 1, pp. 5 – 9]. All motions carried.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Beth Bilderback, Chair

Professor Bilderback (Libraries) announced that the Faculty Welfare Committee is funding up to 250 flu shots this year. The shots will be available to all faculty with valid USC Faculty IDs. In addition, the committee is working on funding a limited number of Cardiovascular Health Screenings through the Department of Exercise Science.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen thanked Professor Medway for his work with the General Education curriculum revisions, and expressed his hope that all recommendations emerging from that effort will be approved by the faculty.

The President then spoke about an initiative called “ONE Vote ’08.” This initiative has been defined as “an unprecedented, bi-partisan campaign to make global health and extreme poverty foreign policy priorities in the 2008 presidential election” (source: <http://www.onevote08.org/>). President Sorensen has been invited to serve on South Carolina’s ONE Vote ’08 steering committee and asked that the Senate endorse the initiative.

The Darfur Rally (“South Carolina Responds to Genocide”) held on the steps of the State Capitol on October 6, 2007 was a success. There were over 4,000 people in attendance. The President was pleased that the University was well-represented at the event.

President Sorensen recently chaired a meeting of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Chancellors and Presidents. There is a push within that organization to get away from the singular attention to intercollegiate sports that many people associate with the SEC. The Provosts of the SEC have formed an organization called the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC). Provost Mark Becker has been Chair of that organization. In addition, the President proposed to the SEC presidents that the various Faculty Senate Chairs get together to discuss pertinent issues. As a result, Chair Best will host a meeting of the SEC Faculty Senate Chairs in the spring.

The President is delighted that Dr. Frank Berger and his colleagues have received a \$10.7 million, 5-year grant from the NIH. The grant will allow the continuation of the development of a comprehensive research center for colorectal cancer.

Two new publications have been produced to promote and market USC: a quirky brochure called “Top 11 Reasons Why the University of South Carolina is Cocky,” and a pocket-sized “Snapshot” of USC and its intellectual accomplishments.

Provost Mark Becker

The Provost spoke about the activities of the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC), and he announced that the University of Arkansas is the host institution for the SECAC main office.

The Consortium has two major types of activities: Initiatives and Affiliated Groups. The three Initiatives currently being sponsored by SECAC are:

- Education Abroad Initiative (led by University of Arkansas)
- Academic Leadership Initiative (led by University of South Carolina)
- Diversity and Recruitment Initiative (led by University of Georgia)

The “Affiliated Groups” activities will facilitate communication and the sharing of ideas and projects among individuals with similar roles at institutions within the SEC. For instance, the deans of engineering within the SEC have met several times to identify projects they might be able to complete as a team. The deans of architecture and design have also begun to meet. A third Affiliated Group is comprised of those responsible for university communications. It is anticipated that there will 7 – 10 SECAC Affiliated Groups by Fall 2008.

Further information about SECAC is available at the Consortium’s website: <http://www.secac.uark.edu/default.aspx>.

The Provost also announced that a series of recommendations regarding the refinement of the special admissions process has been submitted to the President. The recommended changes are intended to introduce greater clarity and efficiency into the special admissions process. The Provost, Director of Athletics, Faculty Athletics representative, and University officials responsible for undergraduate admissions developed the recommendations as part of a review and refinement process that started last winter, and will continue indefinitely.

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Best welcomed new Senators and reminded them that the *Handbook for New Senators* is available at the Senate website: <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/>. He also mentioned that there will be a Knight Commission Summit on Intercollegiate Athletics on Monday, October 15. Three USC representatives will be in attendance: Dr. Becker as a scheduled presenter, Dr. Best as Chair of Faculty Senate, and Dr. Bearden as Faculty Athletics Representative. It will be available via streaming video.

7. Unfinished Business

The floor was closed for nominations to the position of Secretary-Elect. A vote was called, and Rebekah Maxwell was elected. The floor was also closed for nominations to the Committee on Curricula & Courses, and a vote was called. Gail Wagner was elected.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Law School Auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

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