

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 7, 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 October 10, 2007 meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Invited Guests

Eric Hyman, Athletics Director, presented the Master Plan for the Athletic Department Facilities. The plan can be found at: <http://gamecocksonline.cstv.com/ot/scar-06-master-plan.html>.

Nicholas Payne, Student Body President, thanked the faculty for supporting the Grade Forgiveness Program that was recently implemented. He also discussed the ongoing problem of high textbook costs. He asked that the faculty consider the following in order to help reduce the cost of textbooks:

1. Turn book orders in on time.
2. Avoid bundled textbooks.
3. Use Blackboard to post course material online.
4. Avoid frequent new editions.
5. Discuss textbook options with publishers.
6. Encourage students to buy books at the USC Bookstore, which offers price matching.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Ina Rae Hark, Chair

Professor Hark (English) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Computing, College of Nursing, and Regional Campuses [see Attachment 1, pp. 7 – 8]. All motions carried.

b. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Constance Schulz, Chair

Professor Schulz (History) gave an overview of the charge of the Faculty Advisory Committee and described some of the problematic areas of the *Faculty Manual*. The committee will be examining the *Faculty Manual* and making recommendations for changes.

5. Reports of Officers

President Andrew Sorensen

President Sorensen thanked the Senate for agreeing to delay the meeting by one hour to accommodate the memorial service for victims of the North Carolina beach fire. During the past nine emotionally draining days, the University has once again demonstrated its extraordinary sense of community by the outpouring of support from students, faculty and staff. Letters of condolence have been arriving from all over the country and all over the world. The President is profoundly grateful to be part of this University's family.

The President said Eric Hyman is doing an extraordinary job and that we are fortunate to have him as our Athletics Director.

President Sorensen announced that Gary Walters has been selected as the Director of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). In his new role at the CHE, Director Walters has proposed the formation of a 9-person committee comprised of representatives from each of the higher education institutions in South Carolina. This committee will collectively approach the General Assembly to ask for monetary support.

The President said that it appears that there will be a reduction in funding originating from lottery monies. Lottery money goes directly to individual families in South Carolina. Last fall, 98.5% of South Carolina resident freshmen had lottery scholarships. These scholarships are helpful in attracting and keeping very bright students in the state. The reduction in lottery funding is a concern. In addition, it seems that there will be less tax revenues this year than last year. The entire funding picture suggests that USC needs to think of other sources of revenue, such as philanthropy.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Becker extended a special "thank-you" to Dennis Pruitt (Vice President for Student Affairs), Jerry Brewer (Associate Vice President for Student Affairs), and all those involved with Student Affairs and Student Life for the nonstop support they have and are providing to friends and families of the victims of the tragic North Carolina fire.

The Provost thanked Professor Schulz and the Faculty Advisory Committee for their efforts to update the *Faculty Manual*.

As a follow-up to Eric Hyman's presentation about USC Athletics, Provost Becker spoke about the stringent time management skills that student athletes must learn in order to succeed in both the academic and athletic environments. Data suggest that student athletes learn this skill very effectively, in comparison to students not directly involved with athletics. This is an example of yet another dimension of the lives of student athletes.

As an addendum to Nicholas Payne's presentation, the Provost mentioned that the USC Bookstore in the Russell House not only offers price matching, it also gives a percentage of textbook sales profits to University of South Carolina scholarship programs.

6. Unfinished Business

Professor Schulz thanked Christine Curtis (Vice Provost for Faculty Development) and Elise Ahyi (Assistant Provost for Academic Policy) for their help with the examination and improvement of the *Faculty Manual*.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Announcements

Chair Best announced that Scott Lindenberg has asked for faculty volunteers to serve on the Board of Student Publications and Communications. Those interested should call 777-3915.

The Chair announced that cards and flowers were sent on behalf of the faculty to each of the families of the students who died in the North Carolina beach fire. In addition, a palm plant was sent to the respective sorority and fraternity houses.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2007 at 3:00 pm in the Law School Auditorium.

9. Adjournment.

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