

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**April 28, 2008**

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

**Past Chair James R. Augustine** called the meeting to order, as **Chair Robert Best** had conflicting duties and was unable to be present. Past Chair Augustine asked for corrections to the minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

**3. Invited Guests**

**Ms. Chenwei Zhang** (Secretary of Education/USC Student Government) briefed the Senators on some educational initiatives that Student Government intends to advance in the coming year.

1. Improve Advisement System: Students' current perception of USC's advisement system is that it is in disarray and varies widely from one school or department to another. Student Government's Executive Cabinet and the Student Senate are working with University administration to research ways in which advisement could be improved. Ms. Zhang noted that this effort will require increased communication between the various schools at USC regarding advisement procedures, and interaction with other colleges and universities to see how advisement is handled elsewhere. She emphasized that Student Government is anxious to assist in the process to improve the advisement system.

2. Enhance Online Course Catalog: A long-term goal for Student Government is a more comprehensive online course catalog, with descriptions of courses, syllabi, and lists of textbooks required for each course. Ms. Zhang cited benefits to students, who would be more informed regarding the requirements and level of difficulty of courses offered, and to professors, who would be able to rely on students' level of orientation regarding the courses. She predicted that an enhanced online course catalog would help reduce the confusion of the drop/add period, with better-informed students switching courses less often. Student Government will be meeting with University Technology Services in the fall to discuss this issue.

3. Control Expenditures for Textbooks: Ms. Zhang noted that rising textbook prices create a continuing problem for students, with the average student spending around \$900 on textbooks each semester. She listed several things that professors can do to help control the cost of textbooks, including not requiring new editions unless the new content is substantial, becoming informed of pricing before selecting textbooks for courses, and promoting alternative ways of acquiring textbooks. She mentioned the SC Book Exchange Program, initiated by Tommy Preston at USC, that connects students looking to sell books with those looking to buy. Ms. Zhang also described the Library Textbook Turnstile Program, whereby Student Government underwrites purchase of qualifying textbooks to put on reserve in the Library. Student Government is also planning to lobby

for textbook disclosure legislation at the SC Statehouse. This objective, if attained, would require textbook companies to list their products and prices and to offer textbooks a la carte without bundling them with extras such as CDs and workbooks, which drives the prices up. Ms. Zhang suggested that Senators visit the following Website for more information on textbook affordability: <http://www.uspirg.org/higher-education/affordable-textbooks>

She also asked that Senators and professors who have questions or input about any of the above initiatives contact Andrew Gaeckle, Student Body President, at [gaeckle@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:gaeckle@mailbox.sc.edu), or Chenwei Zhang, Secretary of Education, at [zhang42@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:zhang42@mailbox.sc.edu).

#### **4. Reports of Committees**

##### **a. Committee on Admissions, Professor Shirley Staples Carter, Chair:**

Professor Carter (Journalism & Mass Communications) presented two proposals addressing progression requirements. Proposal #1 [see Attachment 2, pp. 32-33] addressed a modification of the language in the introductory paragraph and in Section 3 in the Undergraduate Bulletin of the “Progression Requirements” for the Department of Sport & Entertainment Management.

Proposal #2 [see Attachment 2, p. 33] added a new section and new language regarding entrance requirements in the Undergraduate Bulletin for the Department of Sport & Entertainment Management.

Both proposals passed unopposed.

##### **b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Ina Rae Hark, Chair:**

Professor Hark (English) presented changes in curriculum and/or courses within: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, College of Engineering and Computing, the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sports Management, the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, the College of Nursing and the Regional Campuses [see Attachment 1, pp. 7-21].

Included in the motions from the College of Arts and Sciences was a new major, the BS in Environmental Sciences, which includes a selection of Geology courses in the program of study. Professor Scott White (Geological Sciences) moved that the proposal regarding this major be referred back to the committee, pending further discussion of the Geology courses to be included, and the opportunity of the Department of Geological Sciences to draft a letter of concurrence. Professor Gwen Geidel (Assistant Director, School of the Environment) responded, noting that the proposal had been on the table since 2005, that a faculty member from Geological Sciences had helped to draft the curriculum and to choose the Geology courses to be included, and that three separate faculty forums had

been held to address concerns of any interested faculty. The motion to refer failed. The original motion carried, as did the motions from the other colleges.

Past Chair Augustine thanked the Committee for its work.

## **5. Reports of Officers**

### **President Andrew Sorensen**

President Sorensen welcomed Past Chair Augustine back to the podium, then gave a brief summary of matters discussed at that day's General Faculty Meeting. Two subjects of discussion had been various legislative proposals that are under consideration as well as the faculty excellence awards. President Sorensen thanked the award winners for their achievements and service to the University, and encouraged the Senators to offer congratulations to their colleagues who received awards. He invited Senators to pick up a copy of the modifications to the Faculty Manual that were unanimously approved in the General Faculty Meeting

The President noted the upcoming commencement ceremonies, and encouraged the Senators to attend the ceremonies and show their support for the graduates.

President Sorensen announced that he and Mrs. Sorensen were hosting a reception for new faculty at their home that evening, and encouraged any new faculty in the audience to attend. He requested that Senators with new faculty colleagues convey the invitation to them.

The President concluded his comments with a description of a reception given at the Russell House by the students to honor him and Mrs. Sorensen. It was a lovely event, organized by the current and past presidents of the Student Government Association, and the Sorensens received a number of wonderful gifts. Among the gifts was a rose to be planted in the University Rose Garden in Mrs. Sorensen's honor, and a personalized basketball jersey for President Sorensen.

One of the highlights of the event was the attire of the USC vice presidents, whom the students had asked to come dressed in mufti. The President noted that the blue jeans worn by Provost Becker appeared to be about 15 years old, and that Vice President Pastides wore a football jersey and helmet. Vice President for Advancement Brad Choate's ensemble was the prize-winner, and included t-shirt, bow tie, flip-flops, and removable tattoo sleeves.

The President thanked Andrew Gaeckle, current president of the Student Government Association, and the students, for the warm reception.

## **Provost Mark Becker**

Provost Becker joined President Sorensen in welcoming Past Chair Augustine back to the podium in Chair Best's absence.

The Provost added his comments to those of Dr. Sorensen regarding the student reception to honor the Sorensens, and revealed that his ancient-looking blue jeans were, in fact, only six weeks old. Provost Becker's outfit for the occasion was pronounced "most authentic" by former student body leader, Jay Laura.

The Provost thanked and congratulated the members of the University Committee on Tenure and Promotions as they conclude their work for this year, having reviewed over 60 files. The Provost praised the committee for its dedication and hard work, and expressed admiration for the quality of the faculty members coming forward in the process this year.

Provost Becker then announced the winners of the faculty excellence awards, and encouraged the Senators to carry the good news back to their departments, and to congratulate the winners.

[For a complete list of winners, please see the minutes of the General Faculty Meeting, April 28, 2008.]

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

**Past Chair Augustine** presented a short report on behalf of Chair Best. On Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, Chair Best served as the host for a meeting of all the SEC Faculty Senate Chairs. Ten of our 12 colleagues from around the Southeastern Conference were here. Past Chair Augustine thanked Chair Best for leading the meeting and for speaking on the Southeast Conference Academic Consortium, and President Sorensen for hosting the visitors at his home that Friday evening, and for speaking at dinner that evening at the Capstone. The visiting faculty senate chairs had a wonderful experience and enjoyed their time at USC.

President Sorensen added his thanks to Chair Best for his role in hosting the meeting, and for the work he put into its organization.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## **8. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **9. Announcements**

Past Chair Augustine noted that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at 3:00 PM in the law school auditorium.

## **10. Adjournment.**

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