

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 3, 2008

Faculty Senate Secretary, Rebekah Maxwell (Law Library) announced two phone numbers for the use of regional campus senators: 803-777-6073 to report attendance at meetings, and 888-531-0685 to ask questions or make comments during a meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert G. Best (School of Medicine) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, especially new senators.

2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes

Chair Best asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of June 25. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

a. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Gail Wagner, Chair

Professor Wagner (Anthropology) announced that the Committee is in the process of updating the forms for submitting course changes, and that the updated forms will be available online when they are revised.

Professor Wagner noted two typographical errors relating to course changes in the College of Arts and Sciences (see Attachment, pages 8-14). On page 10, Section A, Department of Geography, right column, the listing regarding: GEOG 104: The change to this course regarding proposed title and course description has not yet been formally submitted; thus, there is no change. The current course should be shown in both columns as it was approved on June 27, 2007: "104 – Introduction to Physical Geography. (3) Basic concepts of landform geography, climatology and meteorology, and biogeography." These corrections have been made to the online report from Curricula and Courses.

The second correction appears on page 12, Section C, Program of Marine Science. Re: the new course MSCI 502, Principles of Coastal Geomorphology: the crosslisting should be GEOL 502 and not BIOL 502.

With these corrections in mind, the Committee recommended that the Senate approve the courses and curricula changes for the College of Arts and Sciences on pages 8-14. The changes were approved.

Professor Wagner then recommended that the Senate approve the changes noted for the Moore School of Business (See Attachment, pages 14-16), and the College of Nursing (page 17). These changes were approved as submitted.

Chair Best then invited to the podium Dr. Harris Pastides for his first address to the Faculty Senate as the 28th President of the University of South Carolina.

4. Reports of Officers

President Harris Pastides

President Harris Pastides thanked the Faculty Senators and the University community for the warm and generous support that he has received since the announcement of this selection by the Board of Trustees as the President of the University. He noted that since his selection, the flurry of activity has been mostly positive, but asked that the Senators keep in their thoughts the welfare of Will Boling, a young USC student who is recovering from injuries sustained in a serious traffic accident.

The President confirmed reports of an additional 3% budget cut from the state legislature resulting from declining state revenues. This cut, in combination with the 2.67% cut that was announced at the end of the last fiscal year, will present special challenges, but the President expressed confidence that the situation would be handled in the most effective way possible. He noted that the University has survived much worse in its 207-year history, and thanked USC's Provost, Chief Financial Officer, and new Vice President for Planning, Dr. Ted Moore, as well as the deans and faculty, for their assistance in managing the upcoming challenges.

President Pastides announced Focus Carolina, a major strategic planning initiative to be launched this year. It will be the most comprehensive strategic plan in the University's history and will invite the participation of every individual in each segment of the University community. Dr. Pastides expressed his desire for collegiality and communication as tools to discover and make use of the great ideas of all University members. He hopes to have opportunities for substantive dialog with Senators at Senate meetings.

The three basic elements of Focus Carolina will be (1) priority setting, (2) matching resources to University needs for fundraising initiatives, and (3) increasing operational efficiency. The President reiterated the importance of communication, cohesiveness, and in recognizing the value of each of the University's campuses. He noted that while the University's administrative functions may appear to be very Columbia-centric, that we are actually a system of eight universities, each of which has a unique mission. The regional campuses have as much impact on their respective regions as the Columbia campus has on its region, and the same responsibility for making a positive impact. President Pastides called on all the University's faculty, students, staff and alumni to come together to maximize the power, good will and good works of the entire system, and to use that power of good to advance the University's potential. The vision phase of Focus Carolina is in the planning stages now, with many engagement opportunities to come in the form of setting goals, initiatives, action plans and results.

A related initiative is Carolina's Ideas, which will offer a platform for receiving the advancement ideas of the University community. Dr. Pastides noted that these will not be consultants' ideas, but the ideas of the people in the best position to contribute – the University community. Carolina's Ideas will soon have a Web presence.

President Pastides is also interested in cultivating the ideas of the University's students. As an inaugural activity in this regard, the President recently held a forum in which he invited the students to help him select his new University vehicle. The students picked a Mini Cooper – black and white with a garnet stripe and a garnet Gamecock emblazoned on the roof. The President remarked on the necessity to watch his driving while in this high-profile vehicle.

Dr. Pastides thanked Chair Best for providing a good historical record of the Faculty Senate. He noted the importance of his office having the trust and confidence of the faculty and of the Board of Trustees, and pledged to work closely with the faculty, through the Faculty Senate, to maintain that trust and communication.

The President expressed his desire not to raise tuition in response to the latest round of budget cuts, noting that we must do all that is possible to maintain access to the University. He spoke of his own undergraduate experience in a public university, and the good value he received, noting that only when we would have to cut the quality of the education we provide would he feel justified in raising tuition. Our strategic planning initiatives will help ensure that we will be able to be an even better University in the years ahead.

Professor Marco Valtorta (Engineering & Computer Sciences) asked the President to comment on the notion of “substantive dialog” with the Faculty Senate.

President Pastides explained that while he realizes that the only way to lead the University is to develop the confidence of the faculty, he knew of no way to develop confidence but through open communication. He sees the Senate as an important forum for communication and, when he brings information to the Senators, he hopes that Senators will bring information to him about subjects that they consider important. While he does not expect unanimous agreement on all issues, he would like the opportunity for discussion. If the subject is too complex to settle in Faculty Senate meetings, arrangements will be made to further the discussion outside the meeting.

Chair Best noted that, even before Dr. Pastides was selected as President, he made every effort to channel the faculty voice, and that we are looking forward to developing these relationships and moving forward.

Provost Mark Becker

Provost Mark Becker then provided an update on this year's administrative searches. Dean searches will be conducted in the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, and in University Libraries. Two Vice President searches will also commence, for Research in Economic Development (a vacancy created by Dr. Pastides' selection as President), and for Advancement (a vacancy created in the spring when Brad Choate took a position outside the University).

Changes in the Provost's Office include: Ted Moore, formerly Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, is now Vice President for Planning, reporting directly to the President. Helen Doerpinhaus is now Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Research and

Health Sciences has become the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, with the health sciences moving into the Provost's Office, so that now all academic deans now report to the Provost. Russ Pate, who was in the Office of Research and Health Sciences, is now Vice Provost for Health Sciences. Ed Walton, who was formerly in the Office of Research and Health Sciences, has joined the Provost's Office and is responsible for the budget and operations activities of that office. The Provost's Office is also wrapping up a consultation from the Human Resources Office to evaluate staffing and finalize appropriate administrative support.

Provost Becker provided an update on a matter of old business, the question about the levels of promotional raises for faculty. The matter had been referred to the Salary Equity Committee, who had been asked to look at practices at other institutions and to benchmark where we are relative to those institutions, and to look at different ways in which we might reflect promotions with salary increases. The Salary Equity Committee has reported its findings to the Provost who, on September 11, will meet with the Council of Academic Deans and with the Faculty Advisory Committee to share its recommendations. The Provost plans to report the final resolution to the Faculty Senate in either the October or November meeting.

Provost Becker concluded his remarks by commenting on the misleading nature of an anonymous flier entitled "Timely Information for all Faculty Senators" that was received by some Senate members.

5. Report of the Chair

Chair Best noted that the business of the Presidential Search Committee had been concluded, and throughout the search process, the faculty were included in all interviews and all aspects of the entire process. It is Chair Best's feeling that the Board of Trustees was very attentive to faculty concerns and the faculty voice as expressed through comments to Chair Best or anonymously through the Faculty Senate Website. He feels that the process was one of great integrity, and is privileged to have been a part of it.

The Chair expressed his gratitude for the service of the Faculty Senators, and that of those who have volunteered for committees. He directed the attention of new Senators to the form in the back of the auditorium where they can record their attendance. He then formally welcomed Dr. Harris Pastides to the Faculty Senate meetings.

An unidentified Senator asked why there was a Faculty Senate meeting scheduled during the summer.

Chair Best explained that the purpose was simply to keep business flowing, owing to the long lapse between the April and September meetings. He noted that it is understandable if people find it difficult to attend the summer meeting, and that it is without question the most poorly attended meeting on the Senate calendar.

6. Report of the Secretary

There was no report of the Secretary.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on October 1, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. in the Law School auditorium.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.