

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
October 1, 2008

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Faculty Senate Secretary, Law Library) gave the number for the use of the off-site Regional Campus Senators to report their attendance (803-777-6073), and the number to call with comments or questions (888-531-0685). She requested that anyone who wished to make a comment approach a microphone and identify him/herself and his/her department.

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

CHAIR ROBERT G. BEST (School of Medicine) called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the September 3, 2008, meeting. There was one correction that noted the proper name of the College of Engineering and Computing. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Invited Guests

CHAIR BEST introduced Maria Scalia, the Student Government Secretary of Advancement, to speak on several items of concern to the student body.

MS. SCALIA (Student Government, USC Secretary of Advancement) spoke on behalf of the Secretary of Academics of the Student Government's Executive Cabinet, and introduced some reform initiatives from Student Government.

Ms. Scalia provided an update on the initiative introduced last spring by Student Government to improve the advisement system. This initiative is complicated by the fact that the various Schools and Colleges have unique methods for conducting advisement, making unification or standardization difficult. Student Government representatives will assist in the effort by continually meeting with the deans of the various colleges and acting as liaisons between students, faculty and administrators. The goal of this initiative is an advisement system that will satisfy everyone.

A second goal of Student Government has been that of an enhanced online course catalog which will include course descriptions, syllabi, and textbook lists. This goal will be incorporated into the One Carolina initiative, and Student Government appreciates the University's efforts in this regard.

A third concern is textbook affordability. Ms. Scalia noted that this is a major issue on campus, noting that current textbook costs average about \$900 per year for the average student. Steps that professors can take to facilitate textbook affordability include not requiring new editions unless the new content is substantial, using pricing information in making book adoptions for classroom use, and promoting alternative ways of acquiring textbooks. Student Government is researching additional ways of making textbooks more affordable. One idea is that of open textbooks – free-access online textbooks from open-source platforms that can be printed and bound for a fraction of the cost of regular

textbooks. These online textbooks can be customized by the professor in accordance with lesson plans. Flat World Knowledge is the first major firm to specialize in this type of resource, and NYU, Harvard and Yale are among the schools that have begun using open textbooks. Student Government continues to research the concept and welcomes the faculty to do the same and to give their feedback.

Ms. Scalia noted the recent passage of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2008, which includes substantial regulation regarding textbook affordability. The act requires textbook publishers to sell unbundled copies of textbooks – without added accessories such as CDs. It also requires that textbook companies disclose pricing information in a way that allows professors to take it into account when selecting textbooks for classroom use. These provisions will be in force by 2010.

Student Government has invested an additional \$10,000 in the Textbook Turnstile Program at the Thomas Cooper Library. The program offers the opportunity for students to check out textbooks for classes that have over 100 students, or for textbooks that are over \$100. The program has been a great success and Student Government continues to assist in enhancing and expanding this valuable resource for our students.

Ms. Scalia's final concern was the State Legislature's under-funding of the PASCAL program – Partnership Among South Carolina's Libraries. The Legislature has reduced funding for PASCAL by 90% for the 2008-09 fiscal year, and affects all colleges and universities in the state. Ms. Scalia noted that Clemson lost access to database resources valued at \$200,000, and predicted comparable setbacks at USC. Ms. Scalia asked the members of the Faculty Senate to publically voice concern over the loss of funding for PASCAL and will keep the Senate informed about an initiative of Student Government and the Thomas Cooper Library to build a statewide coalition for restoration of the PASCAL program.

On behalf of the Student Government Association, Ms. Scalia invited the Senators to forward questions or concerns to the Secretary of Academics, Ms. Chenwei Zhang, or Student Body President Andrew Gaeckle.

CHAIR BEST introduced the next guest, Jeff Crane, who delivered a presentation on the Yearly Equitable Seating program at USC.

JEFF CRANE (Athletics Director of Revenue Development) opened his presentation with an invitation to the Senators to call 803-777-SEAT with any questions about the Yearly Equitable Seating (YES) program, and to visit the program's Website at www.yesdonation.org.

The YES program is a fair implementation policy that attempts to generate needed revenue to support all Athletics programs by collecting yearly donations to maintain seats in various areas of Williams-Brice Stadium. Mr. Crane noted that many of USC's peer institutions in the SEC have put together programs that are similar to YES to address the issue of athletic fund raising. USC currently ranks 8th in athletic fundraising in the SEC.

Seat donations range from \$50 to \$325, and each faculty/staff member will receive a \$145 seat donation credit. Thirty percent of faculty/staff seats will not be charged a YES donation at all because they fall in the \$145 or lower areas. October 31st is the deadline for faculty and staff to return the letter of intent regarding keeping or relocating their current stadium seats. Those wishing to relocate will be given an appointment to come in and pick new seats at Williams-Brice. Subsequently, ticket applications will go out on the usual schedule and tickets will arrive in August.

The Athletics Department seeks to treat all donors and faculty/staff members equally. Those who have had a particular seat over the years at Williams-Brice Stadium will have the opportunity to maintain the seat if they wish. The program also seeks to create opportunities for new donors to come in. To provide equitable customer service, the Athletics department has staff available for consultations with donors regarding how the YES program is going to work. The program's Website contains a map that shows the annual seat donations for different areas of the Stadium.

Mr. Crane concluded by thanking the Senators for their input in formulating the plan for the YES program and for the support they have shown for the Gamecocks.

4. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Rebekah Maxwell, Secretary:

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Law) brought forward the names of three nominees to fill vacancies on faculty committees.

Professor David Reisman (Biological Sciences) was nominated to finish a term on the Faculty Advisory Committee. The term expires in 2010.

Professor Ken Gaines (Law) and Professor Karen Brown (University Libraries) were nominated to finish a term that expires in 2010 on the Committee for Instructional Development.

The floor remained open for additional nominations for the duration of the meeting.

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

PROFESSOR GAIL WAGNER (Anthropology) presented the recommendations of the Committee that the Senate accept the changes in courses from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Moore School of Business, and the College of Engineering and Computing (please see Attachment, page 8-12). The changes were approved.

Professor Wagner noted that an edit had arisen during the meeting regarding the proposed course changes from the Regional Campuses – Palmetto Programs (please see Attachment, pages 13-15). On page 14, #2, re: Professional Foundations (27-30 hours) for the entry for SOCY 220: STAT 201 is added to the parenthetical material so that the

edited sentence reads, “(PSYC 227 or STAT 201* may substitute) *unless it is used for general education requirements”. The edit and the course changes were approved.

5. Reports of Officers

President Harris Pastides

PRESIDENT PASTIDES noted that the day marked the anniversary of his second month as President of USC. He described the beauty of early autumn in South Carolina and wished that he had equally beautiful news to share about the finances of the University. However, the President has been told that the state’s Bureau of Economic Advisors will be meeting shortly to consider whether an additional round of budget cuts will be necessary, and the President is expecting the additional cuts. It is possible that there will be more budget cuts early next year, and the President, his cabinet, the Deans and the faculty will be working on plans for coping with the budget shortfalls.

In the recent 2.67% cut last summer, the University was able to absorb most of it at what the President referred to as the central level, but he did not know how long this approach would be feasible. The more recent 3% reduction in state appropriation was distributed strategically across academic and service units. He remains committed to preserving tuition, and thereby the accessibility and affordability of a USC education, for as long as possible, but noted that we cannot cut the fundamental quality of the education that we provide. During the recent parents’ weekend, President Pastides heard from hundreds of parents and families, in-state, across the nation and around the world, who spoke specifically about the quality product that we deliver. The challenge facing the University with the impending budget cuts is how to preserve or conserve tuition, continue to provide a quality education, and continue to foster an environment where faculty have what they need to sustain satisfying and committed careers with the University.

Focus Carolina, the University’s strategic planning initiative, is progressing briskly and the President will soon be able to address the Senate and the General Faculty with specifics of the first three phases: the vision, the mission, and the goals. He will be recruiting faculty to become involved in the initiatives, and the early part of 2009 will be dedicated to the creation of actionable objectives and specific strategies. The President and Mrs. Pastides have been traveling to the regional campuses and have now been to 5 of the 8, and he praised the University as a “constellation of bright stars,” with citizens all over the state identifying “their” star – their regional campus – in the constellation. The entire constellation outlines the State of South Carolina, and there is phenomenal power and strength in that particular outline. The President noted that it helps to have that statewide strength and power when talking about the budget to members of the legislature. He might be talking to a member of the House from Allendale or from Lancaster or from any of our other regions, and those legislators will know firsthand how the University serves people and communities throughout the state.

The President invited questions, and also invited the Senators to the “Fall Sabbatical” event at the President’s House on the evening of October 24th, beginning at 6:30pm. President Pastides reiterated his commitment to open communication with the Senators and invited their input by phone or email.

Vice Provost Helen Doerpinghaus

VICE PROVOST HELEN DOERPINGHAUS (Office of the Provost) provided an overview of the Carolina Service Learning Initiative, a group of faculty, staff and administrators who work together to encourage service learning. Service learning is the incorporation of academic course work with meaningful community service and time for reflection. USC now has over 120 faculty members who report that they are doing service learning, and the Initiative attempts to provide some support to those faculty. The Center for Teaching Excellence has held seminars on service learning, and there are small grants available from the Center for Teaching Excellence, from the Honors College and from University 101. The group has put together a handbook, designed for those who want to get started with service learning, but useful even for those who are already engaged in it.

Vice Provost Doerpinhaus invited the Senators to visit the website of the Office of Student Engagement at <http://www.sc.edu/studentengagement> to find out more and to request a copy of the handbook. She noted how beyond-the-classroom experiences enrich the lives and learning of our students and shared a Chinese proverb: “I hear, I forget; I see, I remember; I do, I understand.”

6. Report of the Chair

CHAIR BEST reported on his recent trip to Birmingham to attend the third meeting of the Faculty Senate Chairs of the SEC. The gathering of Faculty Senate Chairs was initiated by Vanderbilt about five years ago as a way for the Chairs to share information and experiences relating to issues involved in faculty governance. The meeting was hosted by USC in April and 11 of the 12 SEC Schools were in attendance. Ten were able to attend in Birmingham. Chair Best observed that talking with the representatives of the other schools and comparing similarities and differences has been an enlightening experience. One of the concerns that all the schools share is the need to get the faculty voice expressed in positive ways to make good changes at the institutional level. The Chairs agreed that the group should affiliate with SECAC (the SEC Academic Consortium) with which Provost Becker has been involved. Chair Best had a productive meeting and feels certain that ideas and information from the group will benefit us all.

Chair Best drew the attention of the Senators to recent articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed. The gist of the articles is the role of tenure in the academy and how that is changing. The articles presented a bold figure: 70% of the faculty throughout the nation are not on the tenure track. The Chair hopes that the articles will inspire some meaningful discussion of the issue in the months ahead. He encouraged the Senators to think of themselves as vehicles for communication between

the faculty, the University Administration, and the University's faculty governance system.

7. Unfinished Business

Secretary Rebekah Maxwell (Law Library) asked for additional nominations to fill committee vacancies. There were none and the floor was closed for nominations. Professor David Reisman (Biological Sciences) was confirmed as a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee. As provided in the Faculty Manual in instances of multiple nominees for a single vacancy, a special election will be held to fill the vacancy on the Committee for Instructional Development. Ballots will be distributed within 7 days to the voting members, and the Secretary will report the results at the next Senate meeting.

8. New Business

There was no new business to come before the body.

9. Announcements

PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN ANDERSON (Education) announced the College of Education's fall research lecture, which will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 3:20 pm in Room 126 of Wardlaw College (first floor). The speaker will be Dr. Bruce Johnstone, former Chancellor of the State University of New York, and former President of the University at Buffalo. Dr. Johnstone is the Director of the International Comparative Higher Education Finance and Accessibility Project at SUNY Buffalo. The title of his talk is "The Economics and Politics of Tuition".

10. Adjournment.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at 3:00 pm in the Law School Auditorium.