

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 4, 2009

1. Call to Order

CHAIR ROBERT BEST (School of Medicine) called the meeting to order.

2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes

CHAIR BEST asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of February 4. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Rebekah Maxwell, Secretary

PROFESSOR MAXWELL (Law Library) presented the slate of candidates for election to fill vacancies on this year's faculty committees (please see attachment 1, page 12). Nominees are drawn from the pool of volunteers who respond to the annual forms that go out each fall. She asked for additional nominations. None were forthcoming, and Professor Maxwell left the floor open for further nominations.

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

PROFESSOR WAGNER (Anthropology) reported changes in courses, curricula and major designators from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computing, and the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies (please see attachment, pages 13-22). The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate accept the changes, incorporating an edit to resolve a typo in the first line at the top of page 21 (should read "1-3" instead of "(1 3)"). The changes were approved as written and edited.

c. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Charley Adams, Chair

PROFESSOR ADAMS (Public Health) presented an overview of the committees work. The Faculty Welfare Committee meets each month to consider matters of interest to faculty, such as compensation, benefits, and workplace environment. During the past year, the committee has investigated the issues of dependant tuition, the faculty friendliness of the Sasaki Plan, preventive health care, and changes to class scheduling. Based on a 2007 survey by the committee, the committee had placed on its agenda the issues of salary and salary compression, but soon learned that this was not the best year to tackle issues related to salary.

The Committee has been coordinating with the Quality of Life Subcommittee of Focus Carolina, sharing information of interest to faculty. For several years, the Committee has been funding preventive health care initiatives, such as the yearly flu shots for faculty, and has recently added cardiovascular screenings as well. At the time of the meeting, there were six free cardio screenings

available, and Professor Adams encouraged interested faculty to take advantage of this benefit by calling 777-0431 to schedule.

The Faculty Welfare Committee has its own account, the Faculty Enrichment Fund. This fund was established as a part of the Family Fund and underwrites initiatives such as preventive health care. The committee's expenditures must be approved by the Faculty Senate Chair. As of last month, the account balance was \$42,623.40, and Professor Adams encouraged Senators and faculty to make suggestions to the Committee regarding how the funds should be spent.

Professor Adams reported on the Committee's review of possible changes to the class schedule. The Committee is working with the Registrar's Office to investigate lengthening the interval between classes to accommodate travel throughout our growing campus. The Committee has also been considering factors that influence the sustainability of campus buildings. To that end, Professor Adams introduced USC's Coordinator of the Office of Sustainability, Michael Koman.

4. Invited Guest

Mr. Koman began his report on the Sustainability Office with consideration of the perception issues associated with the office. Although it's been a decade since USC began a Sustainable Universities Initiative, the Sustainability Office has been in existence only since last August. The Office has many projects in the works, and Mr. Koman used them to illustrate the University's commitment to sustainability.

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), which has existed for approximately 10 years, has undergone some revisions and will be working to address sustainability issues throughout the campus. The EAC has three new subcommittees to address climate change, education, and resource conservation. Membership in the EAC is open to faculty, staff, and students; and Mr. Koman invited participation from all interested parties. Last October, the Committee held its first annual Earth Summit, which produced 300 new strategies for USC's campuses to use in addressing sustainability.

Under The President's Climate Commitment USC is working to address climate change issues. Our University is one of over 400 universities nationwide that are working not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but to reach carbon neutrality within a set timeframe. The Sustainability Office is working on a long-term plan to achieve carbon neutrality.

The green building initiative continues. USC's Honors Residence Hall, as well as the Library addition that is currently under construction, are pursuing LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The Patterson Residence Hall, which will begin renovation next year, will be a LEED certified green building when completed. All of the University's buildings that are 10,000 square feet and above will pursue LEED certification as green buildings. The Office of Sustainability is working on detailed rules for facilities that are below 10,000 square feet to make sure they incorporate the same sustainability practices.

USC is currently working on a food composting program on campus in order to significantly reduce our waste stream. Students have not only demanded this initiative, but are taking an active role in implementing it.

The University is working on putting outdoor recycling bins throughout the campus.

Derrick Huggins and his team in Parking and Vehicle Management are working with the Environmental Advisory Committee to implement transportation initiatives designed to reduce the University's carbon emissions. One idea under consideration is that of expanding the shuttle system beyond the campus possibly to the suburbs and shopping areas; another is a carpooling program that would allow faculty, staff, and students to coordinate carpooling options through an online system. The University continues to use alternative fuels in the shuttle vehicles and are looking into ways to expand that initiative.

The University is aggressively seeking ways to implement renewable energies into the design of campus buildings. Student involvement in sustainability issues is at an all-time high. Many student organizations are addressing sustainability, including Student Government and the Residence Hall Association. Housing has Eco-Reps in the residence halls, and the Moore School now hosts a chapter of Net Impact, a nonprofit organization of students and professionals who use business skills to address sustainability issues.

Many sustainability efforts are underway or ready to launch. The Recyclemania project is coming to a close. For the last month, students have sponsored and participated in this nationwide recycling contest. Wade Hampton is leading the residence halls. USC recently sent nearly 50 students to Washington, DC, to Powershift 2009, a learning initiative that teaches students how to address climate change on their own campuses. Alternative spring break efforts include a Net Impact team that will travel to New Orleans to do green rebuilding projects. Earth Hour is scheduled for March 28, sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. One of our USC graduates works for this organization and has asked USC to be a flagship member in this effort to turn lights off for one hour at 8:30 pm on that day.

The National Teach In will be held on the USC campus on April 16-17. This is an annual event to raise interest and awareness related to climate change issues and will be the inaugural event leading into Earth Day. Students may be inviting participation from faculty in these events. Students are also working aggressively with Student Government to implement a "green fee" among students. This idea could work something like a revolving loan fund where students could direct where the money would be used on campus to promote sustainability issues, likely towards new alternative and renewable energy projects. The savings generated by the projects would then go back into the fund to increase the support available for new projects across campus. Mr. Koman cites this initiative as a great example of how our students are stepping up to address campus environmental issues.

Mr. Koman closed by encouraging Senators and faculty to participate in the initiatives that he discussed, and to let the Sustainability Office assist with developing educational or research partnerships and study opportunities involving issues of environmental responsibility. Interested parties may contact him at koman@sc.edu or at 803-777-5428.

PROFESSOR MARCO VALTORTA asked Mr. Koman to comment on the status of the wood chip plant at the bottom of Sumter and Main Streets.

MR. KOMAN reported that the plant is up and running. It's still being tweaked, but the gasification system works very well. When the plant is producing at 100% capacity, it could furnish up to 33% of the total energy on the Columbia campus. Not only would the energy be coming from a renewable resource, but it could save about \$2 million per year.

5. Reports of Officers

INTERIM PROVOST TED MOORE delivered the report on behalf of President Harris Pastides, who was in Atlanta for an SEC Presidents meeting. Provost Moore directed his observations to the three categories of planning, law, and money.

The Focus Carolina Goal Teams have been charged, they have met, are continuing to meet and will be conducting some town hall meetings in April. The Provost invited the Senators to visit the Focus Carolina website at www.sc.edu/focuscarolina, which will be the primary vehicle for communicating with the University system about Focus Carolina.

Regarding money, the federal stimulus funding has been the prominent topic in the news and the University is devoting a great deal of focus to planning how to pursue the stimulus funding. Provost Moore invited Senators and faculty to visit the University's website www.sc.edu/research/stimulus. He reminded the Senators that although stimulus funding would be one-time money, the University has many one-time needs and that the funding would be well-used. The Provost noted that, according to the current version of the legislation, it would be one-time funding but spanning two years, which would be very meaningful support for USC.

Provost Moore drew the Senators' attention to three pieces of state legislation that the University is monitoring closely. One is referred to as the 70/30 Bill, which requires any public institution of higher learning in the State of South Carolina to have a student population that is at least 70% South Carolina residents. While noting the worthiness of the goal, the Provost observed that it is very difficult to achieve for a number of institutions. USC is somewhat under 70% currently, with around 68% residence students. The Citadel is under 50%, and The College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina and even our friends at Clemson are under 70% resident students. Although the bill failed in the House Ways and Means Committee, it will soon be on the House floor and a number of institutions are following it closely.

The second bill under scrutiny by the University requires that before an employee can be let go as part of a reduction in force (RIF), the unit must discontinue the employment of any contract and post-retirement employees it may have.

The University is monitoring a third bill, informally known as the Campus Closings Bill. This bill was passed by the House Ways and Means Committee and will be debated on the House floor in the coming week. The bill would require the University of South Carolina (mentioned in the bill by name) to study closing its two-year campuses and then close them. The University is already undertaking an extensive survey of the entire campus system – geography, location, how many students are served by each campus, and many other variables. We are offering alternative language to better suit the strategic goals of the university system, and would not dictate closing campuses.

Provost Moore then noted the USC baseball team's recent 2-0 victory over the Georgia State University Panthers. Former Provost Becker was in Columbia to watch the game, and Provost Moore observed that "we invited him up basically to see his team come in second place."

6. Report of the Chair

CHAIR BEST reported on his work as a member of one of the Focus Carolina committees, the Quality of Life Committee. This group is looking at the kind of environment we have at USC, and how we might make this an inviting place to work and study, and to become "a destination of choice" for faculty, students and staff. The committee meets each week for an hour to an hour-and-a-half. Chair Best congratulated committee Chair Paula Feldman on her leadership and praised this faculty-led initiative.

The various Faculty Senate committees have been working on individual webpages, and Chair Best has worked with the Provost's Office and with Information Technology Services to get the pages initiated in the very near future. Faculty will be able to track the activities of the committees, access relevant forms, and benefit from greater organization and communication regarding committee issues.

Chair Best reported on a number of other University-wide activities. He announced March 18 as the date of the Faculty Manual Review Forum. This will be a town hall kind of forum, much like the Focus Carolina forums on April 6-9. Chair Best asked all Senators to take the news of the forum to the faculty in their units, and to encourage their colleagues to attend and participate in the discussion of proposed changes to the Faculty Manual. The supporting materials will be posted on the Faculty Senate website prior to the forum.

The General Education Committee is continuing its work on curriculum revision, and will share information at a future Senate meeting.

7. Report of the Secretary

There was no report of the Secretary.

8. Unfinished Business

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Law Library) called for additional nominations for the faculty committees' slate. There were no additional nominations. The slate was approved as submitted from the Steering Committee, and all the nominees were elected by the Senate.

Committee members rotating off and rotating on are:

- Academic Responsibility: Rotating off is Maria Mabrey (LLC) and rotating on will be William Sudduth (UNIV LIBR).

- Admissions: Rotating off is David Whiteman (POLI) and rotating on will be Bonnie Drewniany (JOUR).
- University Athletics Advisory: We are losing James Augustine (MEDC, OMBUDS) and Manton Matthews (ENGR&COMP) and gaining Rick Stephens (JOUR) and Zach Kelehear (EDUC).
- Bookstore: Is losing Stephanie Nace (ART) and Dwight Underhill (HEAL) and gaining Douglas King (UNIV LIBR) and Yvonne Ivory (LLC).
- Curricula and Courses: Is losing Karen Heid (ART) and Gail Wagner (ANTH) and rotating on will be Peter Binev (MATH) and John Kupfer (GEOG).
- Faculty Advisory: Rotating off are Judith Rink (PEDU) and Camelia Knapp (GEOL) and rotating on will be Laura Walls (ENGL) and Jan Breuer (BUS).
- Faculty Budget: Losing McKinley Blackburn (ECON) and gaining Camelia Knapp (GEOL).
- Faculty Grievance: Will be losing Ruth Riley (MED LIBR), Larry Wyatt (MUSC), and Vladimir Temlyakov (MATH) and gaining Alvin Fox (MEDC) , Franklin Berger (BIOL) and Beth Bilderback (UNIV LIBR). We will also be losing Patrick Nolan (SOCY) on Grievance and we will be seeking to replace him in the very near future.
- Faculty Welfare: Rotating off Augie Grant (JOUR) and Ken Gaines (LAW) and rotating on will be Varsha Kulkarni (PHYS) and Jihong Liu (HEAL).
- Honorary Degrees: Rotating off are James Carper (EDUC) and Sarah Sweitzer (MEDC) and rotating on will be Jeong-Hwan Park (NURS) and Nancy Baker (MUSC).
- Instructional Development: Is losing Judith Alexander (NURS), Terrye Conroy (LAW LIBR) and Rebecca Gettys (UNIV LIBR) and gaining Steffan Strauch (PHYS), Jeremy Lane (MUSC) and Sandra Schmidt (EDUC).
- Intellectual Property: Is losing Cheryl Harris (JOUR) and David Shields (ENGL) and gaining Kenneth Campbell (JOUR) and Elisabeth Sudduth (UNIV LIBR).
- Libraries: Is losing Patrick Selmi (SOWK) and Jennifer Wilson (EDUC) and gaining Pamela Jewett (EDUC) and Lee Walker (POLI).
- Scholastic Standards and Petitions: Is losing Matthew Kostek (HEAL) and Jeong-Hwan Park (NURS) and gaining Ronald Davis (MUSC) and Andrew Graciano (ART).
- Tenure Review Board: Rotating off is William Bearden (BUS) and rotating on is Don Jordan (SCI EDUC).
- Russell House Advisory: No vacancies this year; membership remains stable.

- University Disability Affairs: Is losing Michael Reed (MEDC) and gaining Marna Hostetler (UNIV LIBR).

Professor Maxwell thanked all who volunteered for committees this year and those whose service was coming to an end. Chair Best echoed these sentiments, noting that committee work is a significant commitment of time from the members, but guarantees that the faculty voice is represented and that the faculty governance system moves forward.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Announcements

CHAIR BEST reminded the Senators of the availability of the services of the Employee Assistance Program. This program offers assistance to University faculty and staff who are struggling with stressors of all kinds – emotional, financial, or interpersonal. Chair Best noted that in trying times, these kinds of services are especially important, and he asked the Senators to make their faculty and staff colleagues aware of this program, and to encourage them to take advantage of the resources when needed.

The Chair encouraged the Senators and faculty in general to be prompt in submitting their book orders for upcoming semesters. All students benefit from the timely submission of book orders, but some groups need to purchase all their books at one time and late orders are especially disruptive.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on April 1, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in the Law School auditorium.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.