

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**April 28, 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 April 1, 2009.

PROFESSOR YVONNE IVORY (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) offered a correction: comments made on pages 3 and 4 attributed to Professor Chris Rorden were actually made by Professor Stephen Sheehi (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures).

CHAIR BEST also offered a correction: in the comments of Professor Jerry Hackett at the top of page 10, the phrase should read “algorithmic reasoning” and not “arithmetic reasoning”. The minutes were approved as amended.

**3. Reports of Committees**

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

PROFESSOR WAGNER (Anthropology) reported changes in courses and curricula from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Moore School of Business, the College of Education, College of Engineering and Computing, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management, and the Arnold School of Public Health (please see attachment, pages 14-30). The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate accept the changes. The changes were approved as written.

Professor Wagner then presented for the information of the Senators (no action required) a description of an experimental course from the Program of Linguistics (please see attachment, page 31). She then invited comments or questions.

PROFESOR CHRISTIAN ANDERSON (Education) asked why a department would list a course as experimental rather than offering it as a special topics course.

An UNIDENTIFIED PROFESSOR in Linguistics explained that the program is running the course on page 31 with a graduate level course, creating an occasion where the two levels, graduate and undergraduate, meet together. The structure is different from the traditional 500-600 structure and results in its designation as experimental.

**b. Faculty Budget Committee, Professor Andrew Gowan, Chair**

PROFESSOR GOWAN (Music) reported on the ongoing “blueprint” meetings in which the University’s various units present their strategic plans for the future. The academic units have finished presenting their plans and the service and administrative units will begin presenting shortly. Professor Gowan and Chair Best are invited to be present at these meetings and they attend as many as they can. Professor Gowan noted that he has been impressed with the quality of the University’s leadership, and their good decision-making during this difficult time.

Professor Gowan provided an overview of the Focus Carolina Committee on Operating Resources. The membership of this committee is very like the University Finance Committee chaired by Rick Kelly, USC’s Chief Financial Officer, and includes numerous people in the budget office, two deans, the current and past Chair of the Faculty Budget Committee, and Chair Best. The group has had its first meeting and has set as its goal a review of USC’s current budget model to determine if any changes are required. The group intends to examine the way in which the academic units are taxed, and to consider various ways of paying for the necessary services on campus.

The Budget Committee is in the process of creating a survey of faculty opinions on budget issues and their prioritization. The Committee feels that opportunity for input will be maximized if the survey is conducted early in the fall semester rather than in the summer.

**c. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Rebekah Maxwell, Secretary:**

PROFESSOR MAXWELL ( Law Library) reported on an unexpected vacancy on the Faculty Committee on Admissions, for a term of two years. She presented the Steering Committee’s nominee, Professor Matthew Kostek (Public Health). She then called for additional nominations. There were none at the time, and Professor Maxwell left the floor open until the end of the meeting for additional nominations.

**4. Reports of Officers**

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES and INTERIM PROVOST TED MOORE delivered their reports earlier at the General Faculty Meeting.

**5. Report of the Secretary**

There was no report of the Secretary.

**6. Report of the Chair**

CHAIR ROBERT BEST noted that this was the last Faculty Senate meeting of the regular semester, and that the June meeting would be the final one in his term as Faculty Senate Chair. He observed that during his time as Chair-Elect and Chair of the Faculty Senate, it has become obvious that the academy is changing – not only here at the University but nationwide.

Chair Best recommended a number of publications to help faculty and Senators stay in touch with these evolutionary changes, and noted that some of the articles actually speak to some of the core issues that we are currently discussing in the course of general education requirement development, in context of the Focus Carolina committees, and the Faculty Manual revisions. Chair Best observed that we need to monitor the new directions of the academy because our role as faculty is changing as well, and recommended the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a way to stay in touch, as well as the online journal *Inside Higher Ed*.

The Chair observed that pressures on higher education are increasing as resources are shifting away. The general public is becoming increasingly aware of the value of higher education, and the importance of access to education, at the same time that support from funding entities is decreasing. Instead of simply wishing for a return to the status quo, faculty must be aware of impending changes and engage proactively in planning how to get the maximum positive outcome during challenging budgetary times. He remarked that USC is in exceptionally good hands with regard to its administration, but that change is inevitable and, in terms of increased support from the legislature, he didn't see it getting easier in the immediate future.

This level of change brings challenges but also brings opportunity to engage as a university in the planning for who/what we want to be for the next year, the next decade, or even the next 100 years. This type of planning is currently underway with Focus Carolina. The administration's plea that the faculty get involved is genuine. Chair Best has been energized in the role that he's had with one of the Focus Carolina committees, and has seen the seriousness with which the University's leadership has taken people's ideas and input. He feels that the faculty will be impressed by the strength of ideas that have come from the first round of initiatives, and commended those who have worked on Focus Carolina.

Chair Best noted that the University's junior faculty must be wondering how the current changes will affect them, and he feels strongly that they are safe and in good hands. Many initiatives are aimed at putting resources in the right places to enable our junior faculty to grow and take root here.

For mid-level faculty who have not achieved full professorship, the Chair discussed the impending changes to the Faculty Manual, particularly clarification of issues related to the promotion and tenure process. These changes to the manual have been born from concerns raised by the faculty and the Chair referred faculty to the online location of the proposed changes at <http://www.sc.edu/faculty/manual.shtml>.

To the University's senior faculty who might be fearful of a change in the status quo, Chair Best suggested that we not fight the change. Some of the change is not within our control, and it is on the way. As we have no opportunity to reject it, we must soberly look at the change and figure out how best to position ourselves. While this approach will be difficult, the Chair is confident that our senior faculty is up to the task.

The Chair also noted impending changes for the nation's non-tenure-track faculty, including defining what they do, how they do it, protecting academic freedoms, protecting their positions, giving them some security and mechanisms for airing their concerns. USC may be ahead of the

curve here, as the University was already focusing on these complex issues even before the current economic climate.

Chair Best remarked that it has been a huge privilege to have served as Senate Chair for the last two years, and expressed confidence in the ability of Chair-Elect, Patrick Nolan, who will take over in the middle of August. Chair Best noted that he would not have traded his years as Senate Chair for any other two years, and thanked the Senators for being part of the Senate during his tenure.

## **8. Unfinished Business**

SECRETARY REBEKAH MAXWELL returned to the stage and called for further nominations to fill the two-year vacancy on the Admissions Committee. There were none, and Professor Matthew Kostek (Public Health) was elected to fill this vacancy.

## **9. New Business**

PROFESSOR DON EDWARDS (Statistics) noted that at the Faculty Senate's April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting he had moved for a change in the language of a portion of the General Education Learning Outcome Core Component for Analytical reasoning and Problem-Solving. The change was approved, but Professor Edwards recommended another amendment to reduce the number of "ands" in the amended language and to allow more flexibility.

Professor Edwards moved to amend the passage that reads, "Apply mathematical and statistical methods and analytical reasoning to critically evaluate data, solve problems, and effectively communicate findings verbally and graphically" to read "Apply the methods of mathematical, statistical, or analytical reasoning to critically evaluate data, solve problems, and effectively communicate findings verbally and graphically."

PROFESSOR MARCO VALTORTA (Computer Science and Engineering) stated that the way the current general education requirements are now, it is not possible for a student to take, for example, a statistics course and a computer science course to satisfy the requirement. The requirements are written in such a way that a student is allowed to take 2 mathematics courses or 2 statistics courses or 2 computer science courses or 2 philosophy courses. The student is also allowed to take 1 mathematics course and 1 course from statistics, computer science, or philosophy but not 2 courses, one of which is from statistics, computer science or philosophy and the other one of which is from another discipline chosen from among statistics, computer science or philosophy. Professor Valtorta asked Professor Edwards whether he intended to address this problem with this amendment.

PROFESSOR EDWARDS replied that at this point in time, we are proposing learning outcomes and that it was his understanding that the committee is going to decide what course combinations would satisfy the learning outcomes.

CHAIR BEST asked Professor Edwards for clarification regarding whether his motion was intended to address the issue raised by Professor Valtorta, and Professor Edwards replied that it was not.

PROFESSOR VALTORTA stated that he would vote in favor of the motion but that he personally understood it to address that issue precisely.

The amendment was approved.

## **10. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **11. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on June 17, at 3:00 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.