

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

June 17, 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 28, 2009. There were none and the minutes were approved as written.

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 College of Education, College of Engineering and Computing, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management, the School of Music, and the Arnold School of Public Health (please see attachment, pages 8-41). The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate accept the changes.

Prior to the Senators' consideration of these changes, an unidentified Senator asked if there was a quorum.

Chair Best explained that a quorum would be 70 people. He noted that the primary purpose of having a summer meeting of the Faculty Senate is to approve course and curricula work in order to avoid delay in starting the courses in the fall. The Senate generally does not take up controversial business during the summer. Chair Best invited a call to count for a quorum, with the understanding that if a count was done and a quorum was lacking, no business could go forward and the meeting would have to be adjourned. There was no call for a count and the meeting proceeded.

Chair Best called for debate or discussion of issues associated with the proposed curricula and course changes on pages 8-41. There was none and the changes were approved as written.

Professor Wagner then presented the annual report of the Committee on Courses and Curricula for the 2008-2009 academic year. The Committee reviewed and sent on to the Faculty Senate 370 proposals for course and curriculum changes; it also reviewed 7 proposals that were not sent on to the Senate for approval.

In addition to handling the items that were submitted to it, the Committee also engaged in discussion about:

- Policies and Procedures, which have been under revision this year and are still continuing
- Forms, particularly trying to relate the Undergraduate curriculum course forms to the Graduate School curriculum course forms and trying to standardize both
- Coordinated with the new General Education requirements and entered into discussion with the people working on the General Education requirements
- Worked on setting up a webpage for the Committee. The web page will provide all the Committee's basic information in one place, including forms in both PDF and Word. The site will also have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. The Committee is still working on this project, as it takes much coordination between different parts of the University to make certain that the questions are answered correctly.

The incoming Committee chair will be Professor Jennifer Vendemia (Psychology).

4. Reports of Officers

INTERIM PROVOST TED MOORE greeted the Senators on behalf of President Harris Pastides, who was out of country, and conveyed the President's sincere best wishes, as well as his regret that he was unable to be at the meeting. The President and the Provost wished all a productive and pleasant summer.

The Provost announced that his remarks would concern students, some leadership changes, and some resource issues.

Provost Moore first reported some very sad news regarding the recent deaths of two USC students. One student, Wayne Sprow of Union, South Carolina, was a rising junior. The second, freshman Sarah Troutwin of Lexington, South Carolina, had moved here from New Jersey about a year ago. The University administration is in communication with the students' families and has extended all possible support from the Carolina family. The Provost asked for a moment of silence to honor Ms. Troutwin and Mr. Sprow.

Provost Moore then recalled that last year the University admitted 3,850 new freshmen in the fall semester, which was a record at the time. This year, the University has accepted a record number of incoming freshmen that exceeds the number accepted last year, and has received confirmations from a record number. While figures will change during the summer months, a firm count of incoming freshmen should be available in about two months.

The Provost made several observations regarding leadership changes at the USC. The University has had a number of searches underway, including one for Provost. The College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management has a new Dean. Coming from Virginia Tech, Dr. Brian Mihalik will be joining us in August. Dr. Mihalik will be taking over from Dr. Sheryl Kline, who has

been Interim Dean for two years. Dr. Kline will be assuming the role of Associate Dean of the HRSM College, and Provost Moore thanked her for her noble service of the last two years.

The Arnold School of Public Health has an active Dean search, as well, which is in the final stages. The University is negotiating with a finalist and the Provost hopes to be able to announce good news soon.

A search is also underway for a Vice President for Research and Graduate Education; that search is also in its final stages. The University is negotiating with a finalist and the process is expected to conclude in early July.

The search for Provost has produced three candidates, all sitting Deans at the University, which means that another Dean search will be launching within the next few months. The President will be speaking with each candidate once more and will make his decision sometime in late June or early July. Provost Moore expects the transition to take place in August.

The Provost noted that this was likely his last Faculty Senate meeting as Provost, as the new Provost would be on board by the next meeting in September. Provost Moore will be moving to a position in Finance and Planning to help align the system wide resources and mission of the University.

On June 11, the President and the Provost presented the proposed fiscal year 2010 budget to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. The President began the presentation by providing some of the guiding principles that he has given USC Deans, Vice Presidents, Chancellors, and his finance team. The President also has also shared these principles with the Faculty Senate and the entire University, but the Provost revisited them:

- Preserve the core mission, teaching research and service; maintain the high quality of a Carolina education.
- Ensure an excellent environment and support for our research and scholarship efforts.
- Remain fully engaged in outreach and service. Maintain our impact.
- Protect health and safety.
- Improve our physical infrastructure to the extent that we can.
- Hold the general tuition increases as low as possible while covering inflationary costs and still honoring these values.

The Provosts admits that this is a daunting task, but believes that the budget accomplishes these goals. While not austere, the budget definitely preserves the integrity of the mission of the University. It features for the Columbia campus a 3.6% tuition increase. The 3.6% rate is not a coincidence; it is the rate of inflation of the cost of higher education, based on the Higher Education Price Index. The President asked the Vice Presidents and Chancellors to hold the tuition increase, if possible, to 3.6%. With a lot of good work from many people, they succeeded.

The budget also features a small amount for the Faculty Excellence Initiative, which has been enormously successful. The University's administrative leaders had determined that they could not abandon that initiative, so it continues on a slightly smaller scale. The budget also includes some health and safety initiatives, consistent with the values and principles mentioned.

The budget contains, as well, some student support initiatives, such as improvements in the advisement process. Twenty-three percent of the tuition increase is budgeted for increases in the cost of utilities. Another 2 or 3% of the tuition increase is for higher costs of periodicals in the University's libraries. These are virtually unavoidable increases in cost.

The President showed the Board members exactly how the proposed budget supported or was consistent with the values and principles that he had laid out. The budget was approved and the President and the Provost will be presenting the same budget to the full Board on June 26.

Provost Moore reported on plans for the Federal stimulus funding that the University will receive. Approximately \$20 million is expected for the Columbia campus, nearly \$4 million for the School of Medicine, and \$5 million for the other senior and regional campuses in the system. The total anticipated stimulus funding is \$29 million. The expectation is that will be repeated again next year, so this is one-time money, but for two years.

President Pastides has released the stimulus guidelines to University administrators system-wide who have budgetary authority. By coincidence, the Focus Carolina goal teams had just reported their proposed initiatives to the President. He is studying them now and will begin planning implementation. The President is prioritizing the initiatives from the goal teams as he allocates stimulus funding and has instructed the University's Deans and Vice Presidents to focus on these initiatives to the extent that we possibly can.

Provost Moore notes that some of the Focus Carolina initiatives will need recurring funds, and so are not suited for stimulus funding, but the University will be looking for resources and budget opportunities to support these initiatives as well.

The Provost asked for questions from the Senators and then recognized Chair Bob Best for his extraordinary service and leadership. The Provost observed that Dr. Best is not only a wonderful friend but an exemplary citizen of the University. The Senators applauded Dr. Best on the occasion of his last Faculty Senate Meeting as Chair.

Provost Moore bid farewell as Provost and assured the Senators that “. . .in the world of Finance and Planning, we will not let you down.”

5. Report of the Secretary

There was no report of the Secretary.

6. Report of the Chair

CHAIR ROBERT BEST reported on the activities of Focus Carolina, which has wrapped up the planning process. Chair Best recalled how, when Focus Carolina was first convened, group members understood that there was really no money to implement much of anything. The group members put aside the idea of no money and formulated their best initiatives anyway, and Chair Best observed how gratifying it was to have the stimulus funding come through just as Focus Carolina finalized its recommendations. Chair Best noted how President Pastides and Ted Moore, in his role as Vice President for Planning, have really “put their money where their mouths are”, and he thanked them for their support.

Chair Best concluded his formal report, observing that his last two years as Faculty Senate Chair have been an honor and a pleasure. He noted that his work as Chair has been a valuable learning experience and that he has come to understand the University in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. Chair Best believes that the University is on the right trajectory as he hands the gavel over to incoming Chair Patrick Nolan (Sociology). He thanked the Senators for their support.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Announcements

There were no announcements.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on September 2, at 3:00 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.