

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 1, 2010

1. Call to Order

CHAIR PATRICK NOLAN (Sociology) called the meeting to order, and welcomed new and returning Senators, faculty and staff colleagues and University Officers. He thanked both returning and new Senators and committee members for their willingness to be involved in faculty governance.

2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes

CHAIR NOLAN asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2010. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Reports of Committees

a. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Jennifer Vendemia, Chair

PROFESSOR VENDEMIA (Psychology) opened her report with an update on the Committee's investigation of classroom technology, which was conducted over the summer. She noted that an area of concern involves the difficulty in getting access to tech support when faculty encounter computer problems in the classroom. The committee suggests making the connections to tech support more obvious on the Website, and also recommended that the University put desktop computers in the classrooms that don't have them. The Committee has sent its recommendations to the Provost's Office and expects to move forward on these initiatives this year.

Professor Vendemia reported changes in courses and curricula from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Social Work, and System Affairs and Extended University (please see attachment, pages 12-18).

The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate accept the changes, to include the following correction: Regarding course changes from the College of Arts and Sciences, on page 15, the cross-listing for LING 533 should be GERM 517. The changes were approved as amended.

4. Reports of Officers

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES welcomed back faculty colleagues and Senators, and opened his report with an update on the University's freshman class this fall. We welcomed a robust and energetic class of approximately 4,473 students from within the state and from around the United States. The President noted that a recent newspaper article was not accurate regarding over-

crowdedness at the University. Every student has accommodations and Patterson Hall is being thoroughly renovated for use as a suite-type residential facility with approximately 550 new beds. We have received surprisingly few complaints regarding class registration or other issues that might be attendant with the largest entering class in our history. President Pastides is pleased that the University can do its part to respond to the call of President Obama, in a recent address at the University of Texas, for 8 million more Americans to receive a bachelor's degree by 2020.

The President notes that the University also benefits from the students' tuition. South Carolina has a net sticker price of tuition that is higher than that of surrounding states. This is so for two reasons: 1) We receive a smaller state appropriation than that received by public universities in surrounding southeastern states. 2) The lottery-funded scholarship acts as a voucher that goes directly to the student and does not provide direct support or subsidy to the University. South Carolina students can receive their awards and take them to any university – both public and private – in the state that they choose to attend.

The University receives approximately 2.5 times the tuition in round numbers from an out-of-state student as we do from a South Carolinian – approximately \$25,000 a year from an out-of-state student and about \$9,000 from an in-state student – before scholarships and other financial aid programs are accounted for. This factor brings our University more in line with the operation model utilized by private universities. It is not our choice, as we have lost approximately half of our state appropriations within a 24-month window, yet we continue to execute our mission.

The President is most sensitive about faculty welfare, not only regarding the pressures that increased class sizes create for faculty during the work week, but about faculty members' ongoing satisfaction with being on the faculty at Carolina. Provost Amiridis, Vice President Moore and the schools' Deans will work together to develop a plan to stretch some resources to help deserving staff and faculty receive increases going forward. The plan has not yet been written, but the Provost hopes to have it designed by the end of the calendar year.

President Pastides then reported news from the units. Designing is underway for the new Darla Moore School of Business. The President is excited not only about what the building will look like but how it will work together in the Innovista live-work-learn-play concept. The building will be located across from the Koger Center on one side and next door to the Carolina Coliseum on the other. Greene Street will one day be a true pedestrian crossroad coming from the core campus and moving down to the river and the baseball stadium. The Moore School of Business must in its design and execution bring the sustainability that we want to bring to this historic Southern town.

Regarding news from the School of Law, the President and the Provost will meet with the Blue Ribbon Panel, a select group of educators from around the country who will work with us in

developing the next era of the Law School. The panel will be looking at what the niche and what the special role of this historic and treasured institution can be, looking at its role not only in South Carolina but around the nation.

President Pastides observed that perhaps the faculty and Senators had been reading about the new collaboration between the University's Medical School and the Greenville Hospital System. The President noted that no state funds are being used in this enterprise, which is the result of a partnership with the Greenville Hospital System. He is optimistic that health care reform will bring additional financial opportunities and new revenues for the education of medical students, nurses, and other health care professionals.

President Pastides observed that in certain aspects, our new academic year is similar to the two years before it – we begin with economic pressures, but also with great students and faculty. What he perceives to have changed is our attitude we bring to our challenges. Two years ago, the Focus Carolina program was designed to help the University cope with the economic realities that we faced. Last year, we were waiting to see what changes we could expect. The President sees this year's attitude as being far less about what the economy will bring to the University than about how we can drive ahead together as a community to do the things necessary to accomplish our mission, but with the understanding that there is likely to be no government windfall headed our way. Even when the economy rebounds, the President believes that the deal with the government will not be as it was. While he does not believe that the state government is relieved from the responsibility to support the University better than it does today, he believes that government support in the future will be more ad hoc, and more specific relative to tuition and to other purposes, than it was in the past.

President Pastides expressed his excitement about the year ahead, noting that while it will be every bit as challenging as the two prior years have been, we have a very, very good leadership team and an excellent, dynamic faculty. He echoed Chair Nolan's sentiments and thanked Senators and all involved in faculty governance for their service. The President then invited questions from the floor (there were none).

PROVOST MICHAEL AMIRIDIS greeted his faculty colleagues and welcomed everyone back for another year. He opened his report by echoing the President's remarks regarding the incoming freshman class. The Provost is delighted to have the students here, and recognized the Student Affairs office for outstanding work in recruitment, and for managing the details that have allowed the advisement and accommodation of the new and returning students to go smoothly. Provost Amiridis noted that the academic credentials of the larger class were approximately the same as those of last year's entering class, indicating that we were able to attract a larger pool of qualified applicants and convince more of them to come to USC. This is a clear indication of our reputation going up, as students vote with their feet – the students and their families selected us based on what they feel we have to offer. The Provost also thanked the

College of Arts and Sciences for the job they have done in welcoming and accommodating these students. The Provost disputed the impression recently left by The State newspaper that we see students as dollar signs. Although the University definitely sees a benefit from the students' tuition, we took in more students this year because our mission is to educate more people.

Provost Amiridis followed-up the President's report that his office is working on a plan to adjust faculty and staff salaries. While he notes that there is not a lot of money available, the Provost's Office will be working with the academic Deans and the Faculty Welfare Committee in the formulation of the plan, and expects to have everything together by the end of the Fall semester, with adjustments made at that time.

The Provost's Office will soon submit the University's SACS document, a 600-page study, with a supplement of approximately 1,000 pages and including approximately 3,000 electronic links.

The University has three dean searches underway. The searches for the Law School and the Honors College are in process. Dean Les Sternberg of the College of Education has announced that this year will be his last as Dean, and the search for the College of Education is commencing. Dean Dennis Poole of the College of Social Work has agreed to chair this search and will move quickly when the College of Education has elected its faculty representatives.

Provost Amiridis introduced his next topic with a reflection on his experiences as an elementary school student in Greece. Each year, he dreaded the first week of class because students were required to write an essay describing how they spent their summer vacations. The Provost then described for the Senators what he'd done this year during the summer – worked on the expansion of the University's medical program in Greenville and the partnership between USC and the Greenville Hospital System. What we have agreed on and what our Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees of the Greenville Hospital System have approved is a foundational agreement that sets the tone and is, in essence, the constitution for expanding the medical program there to a 4-year program. While many elements are involved in these agreements, the most critical for the Provost is making sure that we have, and that the agreements represent, the right vision for the expanded medical program there. We must have clear and appropriate lines of academic authority and faculty governance there, and spell out the financial commitments made by our partner, the Greenville Hospital System. The Provost feels that these elements are set out very clearly in the resulting documentation.

The Provost's Office has been working with Dr. Moore and the Financial Planning Office to prepare a ten-year budget projection for the project with some of the final details still been negotiated. Provost Amiridis noted that local news media have reported criticism of the efforts to partner with Greenville, but observes that no source is disputing the need for physicians in the state of South Carolina. He further observed that if \$100 million dollars had fallen into our laps, perhaps the University would have approached the effort differently, but the deal we had on the

table was a specific proposition from a strong partner, and that is what we followed. The Provost acknowledged that some legitimate questions have been raised about the expansion, some of them from our own faculty members in the School of Medicine. They are concerned about finances and about the applicant pool. The Provost feels that that our officers have done their due diligence regarding the program and that they have strong, legitimate answers to these questions. He has confidence in the integrity of the process and that the program is one of which the University will be proud.

PROFESSOR AL PAKALNIS (School of Medicine) noted that while he believed that doctors are wonderful and that we need more of them, he would like to know how the Greenville program would benefit USC in Columbia.

PROVOST AMIRIDIS responded that the University has a mission to educate physicians. He feels that we are meeting this mission in Columbia and have been talking about expanding the effort here. He views the present initiative as an opportunity to expand the mission in Greenville without causing a negative effect or a sacrifice at the School of Medicine in Columbia. Enlarging either program enhances the reputation of the School of Medicine and the University and the Provost hopes that our physicians here and in Greenville will find ways to work together and collaborate for the benefit of our entire institution.

PROFESSOR PAKALNIS observed that the two-year experience that the students already have is excellent and that he saw no problems with it, but questioned the need to duplicate the experience.

PROVOST AMIRIDIS stated that he did not believe that the Greenville experience would be a duplication. Our partners in Greenville have expressed in interest in flexibility and innovation in creating a different experience than the one available in Columbia. They want to place more emphasis on health care delivery, to integrate the curriculum earlier, and have a separate accreditation. As the Greenville program will be accredited separately by LCME, the University will have the opportunity to experiment more at Greenville.

PROFESSOR PAKALNIS asked why there needed to be two separate accreditations.

PROVOST AMIRIDIS responded that one of the main reasons was the desire to keep a wall between the finances of the Greenville and Columbia programs. If we have one accreditation, you have one set of finances. A second reason is the desire by the leadership of the School of Medicine to prevent negative fallout in Columbia from an experimental approach in Greenville if the innovation doesn't go well.

PROFESSOR RICH GOODWIN (School of Medicine) wondered what the vision was for the Greenville Medical School. Would the focus be on basic research or clinical practice? What would the program look like?

PROVOST AMIRIDIS noted that while the total vision for the program will depend to some extent on the faculty of the program, the vision in Greenville is to look more closely at outcomes-based research, at health care delivery research, and to take advantage of opportunities offered by very broad population and patient bases.

VICE PRESIDENT TED MOORE greeted the Senators, faculty, officers, and guests. He opened his report with the introduction of Chris Wuchenich as our new Director of Law Enforcement and Safety, following the retirement of former Director Ernie Ellis.

Dr. Moore then gave an update on the search for Vice President for Human Resources. This is a system wide position and by the end of the year we should have a candidate who will be appointed by the President. The search is being lead by USC Aiken Chancellor Tom Hallman.

Vice President Moore delivered updates on planning and the budget. He discussed two major studies that have arisen from the work of Focus Carolina groups. One is the campus system study which was charged by the President about 1-1/2 years ago with answering the question – “How should the USC system be configured and operate itself in order to produce more college graduates for our state?” This study group includes the chancellors and deans of the two-year campuses, and in the last year has been assisted by Huron Group, a consulting firm who are doing important work for us. For each of our eight campuses they have chosen three different reference groups. One is peer aspirants, another is competitors in terms of enrollment and the third group is identified using a statistical technique called cluster analysis - finding a set of schools that look like USC Aiken, USC Columbia, and so on. The benchmarking results are very interesting and will be available in various formats in the near future.

The Finance & Planning Office is also completing the Campus Master Plan, the architectural plan for the physical infrastructure at USC Columbia. Each of the campuses in the system has a master plan. The plan for Columbia is essentially finished and will be available for the faculty in the near future.

The Vice President then reported on the budget. The University has lost \$105 million in recurring state funding in the last two years. State appropriation now for the whole system is approximately \$121 million; for Columbia only it is about \$86.7 million - bearing in mind that the system is a billion dollar institution. We behave and look a lot more like a private institution than we have before. In terms of tuition revenue, it is about \$475 million systemwide and for Columbia only it is about \$359 million or so.

Last spring, Vice President Moore predicted that we were probably looking at another double-digit percentage decrease for the system again this year and, unfortunately, that prediction appears to be accurate. When the figures are known precisely, he will communicate them to the faculty. The Vice President’s main message to the faculty is that we will work through these

difficult times. We have done it before; it is not happy, it is not pleasant, but we will get through it.

Vice President Moore followed up on comments by the President and the Provost concerning the record class size at Columbia and through the system this year. The Vice President disagreed with the reports in the local media speculating that the University had opened its doors to bring in many more students in order to deal with the state budget cuts. As this year's deficit is \$24 million, Dr. Moore observed that it would take a great number of students to offset that kind of loss, but that is not what we do. We raised admissions because that is our mission and we had excellent students, excellent applications, and a strong yield rate, a historically high number of applications. The Vice President saluted the faculty for helping to accommodate the larger number of students this fall.

6. Report of the Secretary

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Law Library) added her thanks to those of Chair Nolan and President Pastides to new and returning Senators and committee members systemwide for participating in faculty governance. She then announced current vacancies on faculty committees: one on the Committee on Honorary Degrees, one on the Tenure Review Board, and one on the Admissions Committee. These are all three year terms beginning in this academic year. Professor Maxwell invited Senators and faculty interested in serving on committees to contact her.

7. Report of the Chair

CHAIR NOLAN opened his remarks by welcoming returning Senators, as well as new Senators, throughout the system, noting that they are both honored and challenged by their colleagues' confidence in them. The Faculty Senate is as effective and as productive as we make it. Those who get involved value faculty governance and take it seriously. Faculty Senators are in a position to carry information from the meetings to their units and to keep faculty colleagues informed about the issues and initiatives discussed in the Senate. Perhaps even more importantly, Faculty Senators have the ability to bring forward to this body issues, problems and concerns from their departments and their colleagues.

Chair Nolan then observed how fortunate we are at the University to have leaders who have come from the professorate: President Pastides, Provost Amiridis, and Vice President Moore are faculty members at heart. The issue of salaries was something that was raised to them by members of the Faculty Senate. Even though budget times are very difficult and there is no new money - and we have been talking about losing even more money from state appropriations - they felt compelled to find some way to do something to adjust for the fact that a number of faculty members have not been getting raises and our burdens have been increasing. We have taken on course overloads, we've advised more students, and we've extended ourselves more.

Our administration is responsive, but it is responsive to the issues that we take to it. Chair Nolan encouraged Senators to bring their departmental and classroom concerns to the Faculty Senate. One avenue is to go to the standing committees. The committees do a great job of researching an issue, finding the information, finding out what needs to be done and bringing it forward. Chair Nolan invited calls to himself and to Faculty Senate Secretary Rebekah Maxwell in the event that someone is unsure of the appropriate committee to contact with a concern. They will try to find a venue or identify an avenue by which to bring the issue forward.

Chair Nolan observed that we are facing a number of issues: classroom technology, increased class sized, heavier utilization of classrooms, facilities maintenance, and campus cleanliness. Faculty members are going to have to take greater responsibility for productive input on these challenging issues, and Chair Nolan invited contact from faculty and Senators with concerns and ideas.

8. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Announcements

PROFESSOR EVA MONSMA (Physical education and Athletic Training) announced that on Friday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Steering Committee for the Women's Health Research Forum will sponsor a conference at the Daniel Conference Center at the Moore School of Business. The Committee is accepting abstracts now through October 1. Professor Monsma encouraged Senators to invite faculty who might be interested in submitting abstracts. There are fees required to register or attend the conference, and it will benefit many faculty, particularly those interested in women's health issues, all the way from the medical to the psychosocial ends of the spectrum. Interested faculty can get more information at <http://www.lwhrf.med.sc.edu>.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on October 6, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in the Law School auditorium.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.