

# **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**June 15, 2011**

## **1. Call to Order**

CHAIR PATRICK NOLAN (Sociology) called the meeting to order, and welcomed Senators, faculty and staff colleagues, and University Officers.

## **2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes**

CHAIR NOLAN called for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2011. There were none and the minutes were approved as corrected.

## **3. Reports of Committees**

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

PROFESSOR VENDEMIA (Psychology) reported changes in courses and curricula from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computing, the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, the School of Music, the College of Nursing, the Arnold School of Public Health, and System Affairs and Extended University (please see attachment, pages 13-28).

The changes were adopted, and Chair Nolan thanked Professor Vendemia and the Committee for carrying out this important work.

## **4. Reports of Officers**

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES greeted his University colleagues and opened his report with an overview of various activities on campus. The University will soon host the Carolina Master Scholars Adventure Series, an 18-week course for middle and high school students who come to Columbia from across the United States. These young scholars are taught by University faculty and other experts. The program has a limited enrollment to ensure that students get individual attention. As part of their program, the scholars participate in various group projects. This year's curriculum includes a mock trial project called "Adventures in Law," as well as an "Adventure in Nanotechnology" and an "Adventure in Fuel Cell Technology." The "Adventure in Vex Robotics" features a robot-building competition with young people from across the country.

The University is hosting other programs as well, including the “Partners for Minorities” initiative in Engineering and Computing Sciences for rising ninth- through twelfth-graders, the Carolina Journalism Institute for rising seventh- through twelfth-graders, and a cooking camp for young people ages nine and older. We will have many dance and other arts conservatories on campus, including the “String Project,” music camps, athletic camps, and SAT and ACT camps. While our Columbia campus is humming at a lower level than it does during the academic year, it is humming nonetheless. The President noted that other campuses in the University System are hosting similar events.

We have a record number of incoming freshman and transfer students attending orientation sessions. President Pastides recognized and thanked the University Ambassadors, 75 student volunteers who donated 53,000 volunteer hours to the University last year. The Ambassadors greet and give tours to visitors to the University, including student visitors. The Ambassadors are overseen by Denise Wellman, who coordinates the University’s Visitors Center. The Ambassadors corps includes twelve presidential ambassadors who greet visitors to the President’s House and who assist other dignitaries who come to campus, such as Associate Justice Sotomayor, Ambassador Huntsman, and Surgeon General Benjamin who attended this year’s USC commencement.

President Pastides noted that we have a large number of students going through orientation because we will have a large number of freshmen here again in the fall – about the same number as last year, and perhaps a few more, for an approximate figure of 4,500. The University was not planning to increase the freshman class size from last year, but our yield has been higher this year than in years before. The yield is defined as those who sent in a deposit. The “melt” is defined as those who send in a deposit but decide to forgo the deposit and not attend. The University’s melt was minimal this year.

The President observed that the academic credentials of the applicants generally and in the freshman class will be the highest ever at the University of South Carolina. He also noted that, while accommodations will be snug again this year, there will be an on-campus room for each of our freshmen. Our student body diversity will be increasing, as well. Deposits from African-American students are up by about 8%, and for Hispanics, up about 24%. The South Carolina Honors College will be a little larger, due to a planned increase, and Capstone Scholars are on track to number around 500, a target number that is also designed by the University.

President Pastides provided an overview of the regional recruiting undertaken by the University as part of an initiative to increase our geographic diversity and, as a consequence, the national reputation of the University. This year, we are up 92% in deposits from California, up 25% in Ohio, 23% in Texas, and 10% in New Jersey.

Move-In Day this year is set for Saturday, August 13, which is also the deadline for registration. We will know the size of the freshman class better by August 14. The President invited Senators and faculty to participate in the move-in day activities, noting that faculty assistance to arriving students means a lot to the students and their families. To register, visit <http://www.sc.edu/moveincrew/>.

Convocation is scheduled for Sunday, August 14, at 4:00 p.m. at the Carolina Coliseum. President Pastides noted that Convocation is one of his favorite times of the academic year, and hopes to encourage increased participation by students and their families. Participants read the Carolinian Creed together, and participate in other University traditions, such as the singing of the Alma Mater. Students are introduced to the Deans and the faculty is recognized. The President observed that it is truly a wonderful day.

This year's book for the Freshman Year Reading Experience is *The No Impact Man* by Colin Beavan. The book is about a young family in the heart of New York City who attempt to live a carbon-neutral existence for a year. President Pastides is participating as an instructor in the Reading Experience and is looking forward to sharing ideas and dialog with some of our incoming freshmen.

President Pastides reported that this is the year that the University will be engaging with the Governor and with other public colleges in South Carolina in the development of a performance funding model, which should become the basis for performance funding for the University. The President is excited because there has been no performance funding for USC for about a decade. An existing formula has been neglected, and President Pastides provided an update on the broad categories that have been negotiated to date with the Governor and the General Assembly: graduation rate, access and affordability, economic development and job placement, and accountability and transparency.

The President expects that it will take about one more year to get the formula worked out. During the next academic year, there will be no particular formula. The University will continue its advocacy and lobbying activities and will be enlisting the help of faculty and students as it goes forward. In the following year, President Pastides is confident that the University will be able to prove by our performance that we deserve the support of the Legislature and the Governor.

President Pastides announced the beginning of a consultancy aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the University's two-year campuses. The President, the Provost, and colleagues from the regional campuses will be working with the US Department of Education and the Lumina Foundation to assess the operating models of the campuses and consider ways in which the models and missions could be revised and enhanced to maximize the utility of these campuses to the citizens of South Carolina. The President was clear that the intention was not to

diminish the roles of these campuses or to close them, but to increase our access and our responsibility to the people of our state.

President Pastides closed his report with an update on the search for a Vice President for Research on the Columbia campus. The search is an internal search and is being chaired by Joe DiPiro, the Dean of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. The President hopes to have a decision by the beginning of the fall term.

PROVOST MICHAEL AMIRIDIS greeted his faculty colleagues and reported that he, also, was participating as an instructor in the Reading Day experience and is looking forward to getting together with some of our freshman students to discuss the book. He encouraged faculty members to get involved in the event and welcome our new students to campus.

Provost Amiridis reported on the successful conclusion of three Dean searches in the Honors College, the College of Social Work, and the College of Education.

Professor Steve Lynn will be the new Dean of the Honors College. Professor Lynn has been with the Columbia campus for over twenty years, and has served as Chair of the Department of English, as Interim Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, and as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He is a graduate of the Honors College and has a strong commitment both to the Honors College and to quality undergraduate education at USC.

Professor Anna Scheyett will be the new Dean of the College of Social Work. She is currently the Associate Dean of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Scheyett is an experienced social worker and practiced in the field before going into academia. She has a very strong research record and a very strong administrative record as an Associate Dean.

Professor Lemuel Watson will be the new Dean of Education. Professor Watson is a South Carolina native and a graduate of USC. His undergraduate degree is in business from the Darla Moore School of Business. He received his doctoral degree in education from Indiana University. Professor Watson was a faculty member at Clemson before becoming the Dean of Education at Northern Illinois University. More recently, he has been the Director of the P-20 Engagement Center in Northern Illinois. He has been associated with Embassy Programs in Education, and was a Fulbright scholar in Belarus and Georgia, in the former Soviet Republics.

Provost Amiridis thanked the Deans that have served these colleges: Professor Dennis Pool in Social work for the last six years; Professor Les Sternberg in Education for eleven years, and Professor Tayloe Harding, who served as interim Dean of the South Carolina Honors College while also serving as Dean of the School of Music.

Provost Amiridis then provided an overview of recent changes in the Provost's Office. Efforts are underway to consolidate in the Provost's Office several programs and functions that are academic in nature but that had previously been distributed into other areas. International Programs has two such components: EPI, which has been part of the Graduate School and the Office for International Studies, which has been part of Student Affairs. These operations will be brought into the Provost's Office in an effort to streamline and coordinate operations and improve the service provided to students as well as increase opportunities for international scholars, students, and faculty. A companion goal is to provide increased opportunities for our faculty and students to go abroad.

After July 1, the Graduate School will be reporting to the Provost's Office. For the last two years, the Graduate School reported to the Vice President of Research. Provost Amiridis recognized Professor Tim Mousseau for his work in introducing new initiatives into the Graduate School and looks forward to his input as the Graduate School joins the Provost's Office.

Another area that is moving into the Provost's Office is Instructional Services. The Center for Teaching Excellence is already under the Office of the Provost, but some other Instructional Services reside in other areas. The Provost's Office is in discussions to try to consolidate those services as well, to make the Center for Teaching Excellence more prominent, and to make other Instructional Services better known and more accessible to the faculty.

Provost Amiridis then provided an update on the budget. At the time of the Faculty Senate meeting, the budget had not been approved, pending a meeting with the Board of Trustees. The University Administration Team will propose an increase in tuition by 3.9%. The Provost noted that this increase stays true to the promise that the University would try to manage its finances in a way that would allow a smaller increase than the increase last year of 6.9%. The new freshman class is not expected to be much larger than that of last year, but the sophomore class will be larger as last year's freshmen return. Provost Amiridis explained where the resultant revenue will be used. One place the funds will go is to keep the unit budgets flat, instead of decreasing them due to the cut in state appropriations. A second initiative where the revenue will be used supports student services, particularly those that support retention, graduation, and the QEP, USC Connect. The third component, which is by far the largest, is the support of instructional, faculty issues.

The University will be able to finance, through increased enrollments, the second phase of the Faculty Replenishment Initiative, provided that the proposed budget is approved through the Board of Trustees. The second phase of the Faculty Replenishment Initiative will be competitive, as it was last year. The Provost expects that we will be able to allocate another 40-50 faculty positions in the next fall. The Provost's Office will send out a call for proposals, but expects a shorter turn-around time; thus, the proposals will be due in the fall.

Another component requiring funding is a proposed adjustment of 1.5% of the salaries for faculty and staff. This initiative carries a couple of qualifiers. For faculty and staff to be in the pool that qualifies for the adjustment, they will have to be at salary levels below \$90,000 for faculty and below \$55,000 for staff. The second qualifier involves a merit component. Eligible faculty and staff will meet or exceed expectations for their positions. The Provost acknowledged that this proposed increase will not address salary compression or salary inequity issues, but notes that pending approval from the Board it is the best we can do in this environment and with the tools that we have available. The Provost's Office is working with the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Welfare Committee to create a plan to address the larger issues in a systematic way over the next few years. Provost Amiridis observed that, while the University will certainly face some criticism for proposing salary increases, he feels that they are appropriate given the increased workload for faculty and staff as the result of increased enrollment.

Provost Amiridis wished the Senators and faculty a safe and rejuvenating summer and opened the floor for questions.

## **6. Report of the Secretary**

There was no report.

## **7. Report of the Chair**

CHAIR NOLAN reported on efforts to locate his successor as Chair, and hoped that a candidate can be identified by the September 7 meeting.

Chair Nolan announced the relocation of the Faculty Senate Office to Suite 418 on the Fourth Level of the Thomas Cooper Library. He thanked Jeanna Luker and Yvonne Dudley in the Faculty Senate Office for making the transition successful and for reconstituting the office in its new location.

Chair Nolan then reported on the latest meeting of the Faculty Liaison Committee. The Committee met the previous week to discuss faculty salary issues, specifically those of compression and inequity. Chair Nolan observed that the Aiken campus has for some time conducted an annual study of salaries and has developed some fairly sophisticated ways of trying to make salaries comparable across years of experience and across disciplines. The Committee would like to institute this type of study to identify the dimension of the problem at the Columbia campus and system-wide. Chair Nolan thanked President Pastides and Provost Amiridis for addressing salary issues. These issues will be discussed in the Academic Affairs Committee and Chair Nolan hopes that the resulting dialogue will allow the Board of Trustees to see the dimension of the problem, and give them the kind of information that they may need to justify salary adjustments to the Legislature, to the general public, and to their colleagues.

Chair Nolan expressed the hope that the revitalization of the Faculty Liaison Committee to the Board of Trustees, and its involvement in issues of concern to the faculty, will inspire more faculty members to serve on the Faculty Senate, on faculty committees, and on the Liaison Committee. The Chairs of the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Faculty Welfare Committee also sit on the Liaison Committee and have the opportunity to be involved in substantive discussion of issues that advance the interests of faculty system-wide.

Chair Nolan thanked the Senators for their patience and kindness during his tenure as Faculty Senate Chair. He thanked President Pastides and Provost Amiridis for their collegiality and generosity. He thanked his colleagues in the Faculty Senate Office, on the Steering Committee, and on the Faculty Committees, and thanked the Senators for their support of faculty governance at USC.

### **8. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **9. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **10. Good of the Order**

Nothing was offered for the good of the order.

### **11. Announcements**

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, September 7, at 3:00p.m., following the General Faculty Meeting, in the Law School auditorium.

Chair Nolan wished everyone a joyous, a productive, and a restful summer.

### **12. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.