

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**February 6, 2013**

**1. Call to Order.**

CHAIR SANDRA KELLY (Psychology) called the meeting to order and welcomed faculty senators, officers and guests.

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

CHAIR KELLY asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There were none and the minutes were approved as written.

**3. Report of Committees.**

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

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (School of Law Library) reported on a vacancy on the Intellectual Property Committee that had been created by the departure of a sitting member. After hearing about the vacancy at the December meeting, two volunteers have agreed to be nominated to fill it. The volunteers are Professor Jay Potts (School of Medicine) and Professor Duncan Buell (Computer Science and Engineering). Professor Maxwell thanked the volunteers and left the floor open for further nominations.

**b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Brian Habing, Chair:**

PROFESSOR BRIAN HABING (Statistics) opened his report with an expression of gratitude from the committee to for the assistance of Ms. Jeanna Luker in the Faculty Senate Office. Professor Habing noted that with all the courses coming through for the Carolina Core, the Committee would have been lost without Jeanna's hard work.

Professor Habing reported changes in curricula and courses 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 Arnold School of Public Health, and System Affairs and Extended University (see attachment, pages 1-13). The changes were approved.

**c. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Joan Culley, Chair:**

PROFESSOR JOAN CULLEY (Nursing) introduced Ms. Alisa Liggett, Director of the Office of Student Conduct, who was present to help answer questions as the drafter of a recent revision of the University's Student Code of Conduct.

The revision represents the first comprehensive review of the Code for over 10 years. Over the past few months, especially in the summer, the members of the Code of Conduct and Sanctions Review Committee met and drafted the new and improved Student Code of Conduct. The content has been streamlined; the language has lost the legalese so that the Code is very easy to understand for the students. There are specific examples regarding alcohol paraphernalia that were not in the previous code. The revised Code has been carefully reviewed and vetted extensively by the college, by the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support, the Office of General Counsel, Student Government and Academic Responsibility, as well as Scholastic Standards & Petitions.

The Committee offered the resolution concerning the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct for consideration and approval by the Faculty Senate. The resolution was approved.

#### **4. Reports of Officers.**

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES greeted his University colleagues and opened his report by thanking Chair Professor Kelly for her outstanding leadership of the Faculty Senate and her outstanding representation of the faculty as a member of our Board of Trustees Liaison Committee.

The President noted that it was Carolina Day, an annual day of advocacy and outreach to the General Assembly on behalf of the University. Between 300 and 400 USC students, faculty, and alumni, in groups of 10 – 30 people, visited with 100% of our state Senators and Representatives. President Pastides noted that, unfortunately, the legislature is not ever going to restore the funding that has been cut from University appropriations over the last several years, but if we bring them specific initiatives with a price tag, they are willing to listen. Last year, the legislature approved \$5 million for South Carolina Palmetto College, our online baccalaureate completion program. This year we are asking them to annualize that \$5 million and make it a recurring part of our budget.

President Pastides announced that the University has hired a Chancellor for Palmetto College, Susan Elkins, formerly at Tennessee Technological University, and a Vanderbilt grad.

President Pastides provided a brief overview of a second major initiative underway at the University, one intended to increase our flexibility. The initiative is called “On Your Time Graduation,” and would depart from adherence to the traditional four-year path. The initiative would enable our students to structure their own graduation schedules on a timetable that is best suited to achieving their life goals. The University would facilitate students’ ability to graduate on their own time by implementing a full semester in the summer and offering many more of the required undergraduate courses, as well as electives. We are asking the legislature for a recurring \$5 million to support this initiative, funds that would be used to pay faculty who wish to teach in the summer, and to pay for the additional services that students will need.

We are also asking the legislature for funding for a third initiative to address a disparity in the funding of higher education, particularly as it pertains to our three comprehensive institutions in Aiken, Beaufort, and Spartanburg at USC Upstate. The average amount provided in state appropriation for a South Carolinian who goes to college today is about \$2,500 dollars. That is the average subsidy across all of public higher education but at USC Beaufort the subsidy is about \$950, at USC Upstate it is about \$1,500 and at USC Aiken it is about \$2,000. We are below the median. We are asking the legislature either to create a formula for funding higher education that we can see and understand so that we can compete for funding, or to at least address the parity.

We also asked for \$225 million for deferred maintenance, and will probably get whatever share USC is to get from the amount be distributed throughout public higher education.

President Pastides reported on the topping out ceremony at the new Darla Moore School of Business. It is planned to be one of America's largest net energy neutral buildings. There is no guarantee that we will produce and/or conserve as much energy as we use, but the good news for now is that it is on time and on budget so far. The President recognized that the greatest feature of the building is the donor behind it, and expressed the University's gratitude to Ms. Darla Moore.

The President closed his report with two more pieces of good news. Our University is one of relatively few public universities on *The Princeton Review* 'Best Value' list. The President observed that we might have made the Top 10 list if the reviewers had taken into account the extent to which out-of-pocket expense to students and families was offset by lottery-funded scholarships.

Also, Professor Kirk Randazzo (Political Science) has been appointed faculty leader of our Leadership Initiative. The Initiative is engaged in several new activities, the first of which is a minor in Leadership Studies. It is administered by the Department of Political Science and launched last fall. The minor, Foundations of Leadership, requires one course on public speaking, organizational dynamics or management; 3 hours of experimental course work through opportunities including study-abroad service learning; a minimum of 8 hours of community service; and 9 hours from at least 2 different areas of focus - ethics, communication, diversity, or advanced leadership studies. A student can major not only in political science and minor in leadership studies, but could major in biology and minor in leadership studies. The President encouraged Senators and faculty to let their students know about the minor and suggest that they consider whether the minor might be useful to them in their major course of study.

PROVOST MICHAEL AMIRIDIS opened his report by echoing President Pastides' enthusiasm for the progress that the University has made with regard to Palmetto College, and the hiring of Dr. Susan Elkins as its first Chancellor. We are moving toward conclusion of the dean searches at USC Union, USC Sumter, and USC Lancaster. The Sumter search committee will soon announce the names of the finalists.

On the Columbia campus, we have made significant progress in the search for the new dean of the Darla Moore School of Business. Of the four finalists, one has visited campus already and the visits of two others are imminent. The search committee hopes to have seen all the finalists by the end of February. The Provost notes that we have a very strong group of finalists and that the committee hopes to name a new dean as soon as possible.

Provost Amiridis followed up on President Pastides' introduction of the University's "On Your Time Graduation" initiative. He noted that, while it is a very attractive proposition to capitalize on our under-utilized summer semester, the initiative generates many logistical and administrative questions: How does the new initiative mesh with the regular academic year model? Do faculty teach 2 out of 3 semesters? Do they receive extra compensation? What are the regulations? What are the HR rules? What are the state rules? Do we need additional faculty?

Many of the issues raised have to do with our student population. Is there the demand, first of all? Where does the demand focus? What are the financial issues? How would the new initiative affect the distribution of scholarship funds? It would take a proviso or a new law in order to change the way that the lottery funds are distributed.

We will need to consider new operational and financial issues. Where should we price the new summer semester? How do we make sure that we don't cannibalize the spring and the fall in terms of the size of the student body and what does this tell us about the size of the student body?

We do all of our building maintenance in the summer. How are we going to do the maintenance in the residence halls? How do we manage student services when most of the Student Affairs staff members do orientation and recruiting during the summer?

Provost Amiridis introduced Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick of the College of Arts and Sciences, who has agreed to serve as a Vice Provost for investigating and managing the issues associated with initiatives such as the "On Your Time Graduation." In this role she has led a group that worked over the last 8 months in identifying all relevant questions and start providing some possible answers for consideration.

VICE PROVOST MARY ANNE FITZPATRICK (Special Academic Initiatives) opened her report with an overview of work that was begun last summer by a Presidential Task Force on Summer School. While the Task Force does not have the answers to all of the questions, it began with the objective of laying out the issues involved in transitioning to a complete three-semester schedule at some point in the University's future.

The Task Force surveyed students and discovered that our students are very concerned with finances; specifically, they would like to see their scholarship money released on a schedule that would facilitate a student's ability to plan a course of study that is not tied to the traditional fall/spring semester system. Students (and faculty, as well) are concerned about flexibility of course offerings and about the pacing of courses during the

summer. Most summer courses have been offered in a 3-week session, a 4-week session, and a second 4-week session. Faculty have noted that there are certain types of academic material that does not fit well into a 3-week or even 4-week session. The University will still offer courses in these time frames, however courses will also be offered 6-week, 8-week, and 12-week sessions. These longer sessions already exist in the summer time table and they will be highlighted in 2013 in order to create course packages that will allow students the flexibility to complete 12-15 credit hours over the summer. We are in an exploratory phase right now as we are packaging these courses for next summer and as we move forward, we will be gathering information to see what students really want and what students will gravitate to.

For example, with the help of our Business School we will be offering business courses in Accounting, Economics, Marketing and Management for non-business majors. The School of Journalism may also offer a business journalism section in Journalism, which may fit well with the Business Institute for Non-Business Majors. The language faculty in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures have created a Summer Language Institute, a quasi-immersion intensive language program which will allow students to complete 12 credit hours in either Italian or Portuguese. This program will be offered this summer to see how effectively this works for students and how many students are interested in advancing in Italian and Portuguese. The Presidential Task Force has been working across the University to try to begin creating these wonderful packages for students that will help them to advance in their careers.

The Task Force has noted that we, as a University, are not very student-centered in terms of how we present information to students. For example, a number of distance education courses have been developed on the Columbia campus, yet these are not in the Palmetto College. These courses are taught during the summer, but not advertised in a way students can easily find them. We will also have an additional 900 dorms rooms available. While there is some discussion as to whether or not students would want to live in the dorms, we are creating a website that will make it very easy for students to have access to the pricing and registration information. It is approximately \$19 a night to stay in the dorm, and a student can also build a custom meal plan. We are making all of this information available for students so that we can make it as convenient as possible for them to see what we are offering.

When we consider infrastructure issues, there are a number of subtleties that become involved. A robust summer course schedule will need more support services to respond to student needs, and necessitate a shift in support services if students use the summer coursework as a means to free up other semesters for internship or study-abroad opportunities.

USC already has one of the largest summer school programs among our competitive institutions. Last summer we served about 9,400 undergraduate students in summer school. Many of our graduate programs are offered in the summer. We are trying to set it up so the schedules are very clear, and so that fewer courses have conflicting schedules so that students can start to package things. We are starting this summer in what might

be considered a very initial phase to scale up summer offerings. We don't want to decrease our service to students in the fall and spring but rather to offer opportunities for students to move through their degree programs more efficiently, and to relieve some of the pressure on some of our high-enrollment courses during the rest of the year. The Task Force is working with the Registrar's Office to facilitate a smooth transition to the longer-session summer courses.

Vice Provost Fitzpatrick encouraged Senators and faculty to ask questions or offer advice.

PROFESSOR EVA CZABAEKA (Mathematics) brought up two points:

1. Maintenance on the dorms is done during the summer. If the dorms stay open during the summer, the rooms may not be ready for the returning students in the fall.
2. The faculty in many departments do research and travel during the summer and may not be available to teach additional courses then.

VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK noted that the figure that she reported earlier, 900 additional rooms available during the summer, already accounts for the facilities that are closed for maintenance and refurbishment. Our current structure already allows for additional students to be housed without disrupting the summer maintenance schedule. The Task Force will be studying whether the summer students use or want these additional rooms, as a large number of summer school students are upper classmen and already live off campus.

Regarding the summer courses, she clarified that no faculty member would be required to teach in the summer. Participation is entirely voluntary. As a research university, we are committed to maintaining an environment that nurtures faculty research. Currently, the College of Arts and Sciences alone has 80 Ph.D. level instructors who welcome the opportunity to teach the summer courses, but if personnel issues ever become a problem, the Task Force will work with the faculty to identify options.

PROVOST AMIRIDIS underscored these perspectives noting that, while neither housing nor personnel issues are a problem right now, if they ever become problems, the University's Administration Team will work with the Faculty Senate to identify the most useful options. He suggested that if the summer program were to become wildly successful, faculty members might benefit from increased scheduling flexibility, as well, in possibly being able to choose which semesters they teach in.

## **5. Report of Chair.**

CHAIR KELLY reported on the activities of some of the Faculty Committees:

-The Faculty Budget Committee continues to work on compression issues and has gathered extensive data. They are currently looking at compression issues in different units and will continue to do so over the spring.

-Faculty Welfare Committee, next to Curricula and Courses, is probably one of our busiest committees. The Committee will soon be distributing a faculty satisfaction survey, and Chair Kelly encouraged Senators to promote the survey and to encourage unit colleagues to participate. The Committee needs good participation in order to have a useful survey, and is planning on using the data from the survey to guide its actions over the next 3 or 4 years.

The Committee also continues to work on the Faculty Code of Conduct. Dr. David Mott, the Chair of Faculty Welfare, as well as Erin Connolly and Christine Whitaker, Christine Curtis in the Provost's Office, and Chair Kelly met with Henry White from Legal Counsel to look over what the Committee has drafted so far. In response to input from the Senators at the December meeting, the definition of bullying has been modified. Chair Kelly thanked the Senators and faculty for their email feedback. The Committee hopes to be able to report on the status of the Code of Conduct at the March meeting. Chair Kelly will send email notification of background materials so that Senators may review them ahead of the meeting.

Chair Kelly reported on her presentation at the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, where she gave a brief overview of what our faculty does, including teaching, research, and service.

Chair Kelly also attended a retreat of the Board of Trustees, where the main topic of discussion was buildings and grounds. She found it encouraging to see the Board's interest in increasing classrooms at the University. There was not as much discussion about research space, but the Chair is hoping that research space will make its way into their plans. Mr. Thad Westbrook, a Board of Trustee member who chairs the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee for the Board, will be coming to address the Senate in March. Chair Kelly encouraged Senators to think about what sorts of questions that they would like to ask a Board of Trustees member.

## **6. Unfinished Business.**

SECRETARY MAXWELL returned to solicit nominations from the floor for the vacancy on the Intellectual Property Committee. There were no further nominations. Since we are lucky enough to have two people interested in this vacancy, we will hold a paper ballot election. Ballots will be distributed within the next 7 days and Secretary Maxwell will report the results at the March meeting.

Also at the March meeting, the Steering Committee will be presenting the slate of volunteers for the coming committee cycle.

## **7. New Business.**

There was no new business.

**8. Good of the Order.**

There were no announcements for the good of the order.

**9. Adjournment.**

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in the School of Law auditorium.