

# **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**October 2, 2013**

## **1. Call to Order.**

CHAIR JAMES KNAPP (Earth & Ocean Sciences) called the meeting to order and welcomed Senators, members of the University Administration, faculty members, and guests.

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

CHAIR KNAPP asked for any corrections to the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2013. There were none and the minutes were approved as posted.

## **3. Invited Guest.**

PROFESSOR IRMA VAN SCOY (Education), Executive Director of USC Connect, shared information about USC Connect, as well as a new recognition, Graduation with Leadership Distinction, which was approved by the Faculty Senate at the June meeting.

Professor Van Scoy opened her report with some background on USC Connect. “USC Connect: Integrating Learning Within and Beyond the Classroom” is our Quality Enhancement Plan for the University of South Carolina at the Columbia, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union campuses. The initiative is part of the accreditation process for SACS. Rather than focusing on checking off boxes or jumping through hoops; we can think of accreditation in terms of how it supports us in reaching our goals. Accreditation can help us share with the rest of the world the high quality of the programs that we have at Carolina. The Quality Enhancement Plan is a part of the accreditation experience that gives us an opportunity to focus on a particular area as a university-wide effort. About four years ago, a committee of faculty, staff, and students, with input from Focus Carolina, the Carolina Core, and the broader University community, brought together the plan for USC Connect, which we are now implementing.

USC Connect recognizes that while the core of students’ academic experiences is the Carolina Core (their Gen Ed) and their academic major, students are also engaged in meaningful ways outside the classroom. We have an award winning Student Affairs Division at the University of South Carolina that provides student experiences in community service, internships, global learning, and other areas. Many of our faculty members facilitate the same types of experiences for their students. USC Connect is about helping students integrate these beyond the classroom experiences with their coursework. What students are learning in one setting can inform their experiences in another. The final piece is for students to be able to tell their story - what they know and can do that they can articulate to employers, or in their applications to graduate school, that really sets them apart. If they are here at Carolina, they are going to have an education that helps set them apart.

USC Connect provides resources for faculty, and Professor Van Scoy encouraged faculty members to visit the initiative's webpage (<http://www.sc.edu/usconnect/>) to check out the resources and other information, and to consider applying for a grant in spring on integrative learning which is supported by USC Connect.

Professor Van Scoy had three points that she asked faculty members to consider (with accompanying Powerpoint slides):

1. We have a searchable database in USC Connect that serves as our central clearing house for students to find experiences. Faculty can go online and enter an experience in about 5 minutes. Faculty, staff, and students use the database to search by a pathway such as "Community Service" or "Global Learning" or to see what is happening in a particular semester. We want your items in the database so that students and others can be more aware of your work and take advantage of the opportunities that are available. We hope you will check out the [searchable database](#).
2. Last spring, USC Connect asked faculty for beyond the classroom recommendations for their majors. For example, what opportunities in community service might you suggest that would be relevant to your students and their major? Is there a semester that would be the best semester to study abroad? Are there peer leadership opportunities in your college or program that you would recommend? Currently, we have flyers for about 40 programs on our website under "Find Experiences". You can [click on a program](#) and see what has been recommended by the faculty of that program. We are working toward posting 100% of our programs so all students can find recommendations for their majors.

We are also beginning to get interest from parents. We need to remember that our web audience is bigger than we might imagine. Parents and other interested parties are looking on-line to see what it means to have a Carolina education. The program recommendations demonstrate the ways we help students integrate learning in all of our programs.

3. Then the most exciting and brand new opportunity that was passed this June by Faculty Senate: [Graduation with Leadership Distinction](#). USC Connect, as our Quality Enhancement Plan, proposed developing a distinction for students. The details of the distinction evolved as we collaborated with the Carolina Leadership Initiative and through input of faculty, staff, and students. Graduation with Leadership Distinction is an opportunity for students to be recognized for demonstrating learning across experiences including the application of what they know and can do to make a difference in the world. This distinction will appear on transcripts beginning spring 2014. Students can earn the distinction in one or more pathways [Community Service, Global Learning, Professional and Civic Engagement, Research].

We ask that faculty think about USC Connect and Graduation with Leadership Distinction in terms of their own programs. On the Faculty Senate Blackboard site is a handout (the file is posted in “Supplemental Material” within the “Attachments” link in Blackboard). The handout offers detail on the key concepts of USC Connect and the level of performance required in each USC Connect category for Graduation with Leadership Distinction.

The core ideas of both USC Connect and Graduation with Leadership Distinction are for students to learn in meaningful ways by integrating what they learn through beyond-the-classroom experiences with coursework and then apply their learning in real ways to make decisions and solve problems. Students’ graduating with Leadership Distinction need to be engaged in significant hours of core experiences in their selected pathway, as well short term, related enhancement activities (such as attending lectures or workshops). An example of an enhancement activity in Professional and Civic Engagement could be serving on a college committee as a student representative. Professor Van Scoy suggested that faculty members likely have opportunities for students in their areas that students can apply to Graduation with Leadership Distinction.

To Graduate with Leadership Distinction students need to go beyond integrating learning for themselves to making a public presentation about what they learned. All students can present at Discovery Day which occurs every spring semester. Students also might make a presentation at a professional association, independently or in conjunction with a faculty member. There are other options for presentation but the crucial factor is that students share what they have learned and its significance.

The e-portfolio is the current culminating experience for Graduation with Leadership Distinction and in that e-portfolio students address questions such as:

- What did I learn from my experiences beyond the classroom?
- How do they fit with my major and what I know?

Students also present a deep analysis of at least one concept from multiple perspectives and include a leadership section articulating how they have applied their knowledge to lead (or present a plan to lead in the future).

Professor Van Scoy concluded her report by encouraging faculty members to consider how initiatives in their programs could partner with USC Connect, in general and with regard to Graduation with Leadership Distinction. She then opened the floor for questions.

CHAIR KNAPP asked for clarification regarding the unit option for Graduation with Distinction in Research. The Graduation with Distinction in Leadership does not replace this option, does it? Professor Van Scoy confirmed that it does not. The Graduation with Distinction in Research is unit-specific and exists independently of USC Connect. It is possible for a student to have a distinction of both types upon graduation.

#### **4. Report of Committees.**

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

SECRETARY PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (School of Law Library) reported on two unplanned vacancies on the Faculty Grievance Committee. These are new terms that commenced in the middle of August this year and will run till the middle of August 2016. Professor Maxwell brought forward the names of two nominees: Professor Scott Price (School of Music) and Professor David Shields (Department of English). She left the floor open for further nominations.

CHAIR KNAPP observed that there is a great deal of very important business that takes place on the Faculty Senate committees. It is really important that we have dedicated faculty, as we do, to serve on those committees. Every year a request goes out for volunteers for these committees. Chair Knapp encouraged Senators to volunteer for committee service and to encourage faculty colleagues to consider committee service, because this is a vital aspect of the way that the University runs. The faculty play a major role in a lot of the work that goes on here.

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

PROFESSOR BRIAN HABING (Statistics) presented the committee's final report in regards to Distance Education Delivery (DED) materials. Future courses going up for Distance Education Delivery will have their proposals reviewed by the Instructional Development committee. The Faculty Senate Office will make sure that everything is steered in the right direction so no proposals are lost or misplaced.

Professor Habing reported on changes in courses and curricula from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management, the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, and the College of Nursing (please see attachment, pages 1-11). The changes were adopted as written.

#### **5. Reports of Officers.**

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES greeted his faculty colleagues throughout the University System and thanked those who attended this year's Faculty Food for Thought.

The president delivered highlights from his recent State of the University Address.

1. We are a globally recognized high impact research university.

At our core we are a research university. We are a Carnegie very high research university, along with the best public and private universities in the United States. We are not at the very top of that group, but we aspire to advance toward the top of that group.

2. We are recognized for a superior student experience.

President Pastides emphasized the word experience rather than education. He echoed the sentiments of Professor VanScoy regarding the importance of connecting the many initiatives and programs of the University, and also the opportunities available to USC students – not only in the Core Curriculum, USC Connect, University101, Leadership and Magellan, but also in campus life with over 400 organizations. The president’s goal is that we become known widely and deeply throughout the country and the world as offering a superior student experience.

3. We are committed to developing flexible models for college accessibility and affordability.

We do not want to be known as a university that shrugs its shoulders about the rising cost of education, and the University is developing several initiatives like “**On Your Time Graduation.**” On Your Time Graduation is an initiative aimed at increasing affordability by facilitating graduation in 3 years or 3-1/3 years. Other programs aimed at accessibility and affordability include: **Palmetto College**, our new online baccalaureate completion, and the **Gamecock Gateway** program, which allows qualified freshman students at Midlands Tech to live on campus and matriculate at USC as sophomores. After one year of experience, their progression rate from freshman to sophomore was greater than in the traditional freshman class. The **Gamecock Guarantee** is another initiative that covers the cost of undergraduate tuition and technology fees for about 450 first generation, low income students. The vast majority of these young people would not be in college anywhere without this financial support. This opportunity is available to qualified students whose family income is approximately at the poverty level. Funding is provided through the Capital Campaign and through scholarship money.

4. We are a vital part of South Carolina’s economic and overall well-being.

President Pastides referred to the state’s cultural well-being, its quality of life, its advancement in social justice and equality for all. He reported on the recent efforts of the university’s administration to appeal to state government for new funding initiatives. President Pastides is appealing to state government and to the public, as well, for what he is calling “Fair Funding” to get us on the path toward subsidizing public higher education as it should be subsidized. In return, he has offered a 3-year tuition freeze, and a pledge to forego funding for “earmarks” or “pet projects” in funding for the core mission of the University.

The president met with Governor Haley earlier this week, with the Senate majority and minority leaders, and with many other people and is receiving cautious support. The president emphasized that he did not promise a unilateral tuition freeze; he said “fair funding.” He added that we have to meet in the middle and we are now talking together about what fair funding might look like. Working toward a more permanent and comprehensive fair funding model could be called performance funding or accountability

based funding, but President Pastides is trying to get the tuition freeze in return for more money than USC has been given in the past 5 years. The president notes that this approach won't work for USC alone; it is either going to happen for all of public higher education or it won't work for anybody. He is gathering support to the degree possible across public higher education statewide.

The university will be working closely with student government leadership on the fair funding appeal, and with the faculty as well, in order to marshal the greatest visibility and support.

President Pastides was delighted to announce a \$1 million gift from Marva Smalls to the McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research. Ms. Smalls, an executive with Nickelodeon Television who grew up in Florence, wants the opportunities to participate in the aerospace and the broader high tech economy of South Carolina to not be limited to the children of affluent families. She expects us to work with K-12 in the Corridor of Shame and in other rural communities in our state that are frequently left behind.

The president concluded his report with the introduction of Jancy Houck as our new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. He suggested that she might address the Senate at some time in the future. Ms. Houck brings a fresh perspective, right off a \$3 billion plus campaign at Yale University. She has worked at the University of Florida, so knows the south, as well.

## **6. Report of Chair.**

CHAIR KNAPP delivered an update on some of the activities that have taken place since our last meeting. Chair Knapp attended the State of the University Address on the Horseshoe and applauded the leadership of the University for leading us in a positive direction.

The Faculty Senate Office is working with UTS to add all the faculty of the University to the Faculty Senate's Blackboard site so that the entire faculty can access the business of the Faculty Senate.

In addition, we are in the process of establishing a separate Blackboard organization for each of the Faculty Senate committees wherein they can conduct their business. This will be especially useful for some of the more sensitive committees that are conducting confidential business of either faculty or student matters; they can do that in a username- and password-secured environment where they can not only conduct their business but it would subsequently be available and archived for future committee members to come back and refer to.

The University has undergone a major transformation of our web presence and it is clearly much more outward-looking now than it used to be. It serves as an advertisement of the University to the world. There is work in progress to, perhaps, refine some of the components of the website and one of those is the web presence of the Faculty Senate. It

was not necessarily front and center previously but has gotten successively obscured by the new organization of the website. Chair Knapp has initiated a discussion with the Interim Vice President for Communications to meet and talk about ways in which we can elevate the web presence of the Faculty Senate not only outside the University but particularly inside the university so that we are recognized as a significant aspect – essentially a division of the University of South Carolina.

Chair Knapp has been continuing to engage in a discussion with the Office of Internal Audit regarding campus-wide power outages. The University experienced another outage since the Senate's last meeting. It was a little more controlled this time but still came as a shock to many. The discussion concerns ways in which we might better effectively communicate to the campus community at large the presence of an emergency situation. Not a crime alert but an emergency situation in which potentially operational or safety issues are at stake. Ways in which we might not only communicate in an effective and timely manner but also anticipate what the potential outfall of those types of emergencies are and try and mitigate those. The discussion is ongoing and Chair Knapp gathers that Facilities has been engaged in looking at this issue and trying to develop a campus-wide plan for dealing with those kinds of emergencies.

Chair Knapp closed his report with an update on the workplace bullying policy, which is currently sitting before the General Faculty. The policy has been discussed in this body many times over the course of the last year and has been open for a comment period since the General Faculty meeting in April. We are still receiving comments on those documents critical from the General Counsel of the university, which we are now in the process of incorporating and plan to put a revised version back both before the Senate and the General Faculty in the very near future. Chair Knapp encouraged Senators to be on the lookout for the revision to review the changes when they come forward. The document will be in the form of a track change document posted on the Blackboard website.

## **7. Unfinished Business.**

SECRETARY MAXWELL returned to ask for further nominations for the vacancies on the Faculty Grievance Committee. There were none and Professors Price and Shields were elected unanimously to the committee.

## **8. New Business.**

There was no new business.

## **9. Good of the Order.**

There were no announcements for the good of the Order.

## **10. Adjournment.**

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