

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 5, 2014

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 distinguished guests.

2. Corrections to and Approval of Minutes.

CHAIR KNAPP asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2014, which have been posted on the Faculty Senate website and on the Faculty Senate Blackboard website. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as posted.

3. Reports of Committees.

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Rebekah Maxwell Secretary:

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Law Library) opened her report with an expression of thanks to Ms. Jeanna Luker and Ms. Yvonne Dudley in the Faculty Senate Office for their help in coordinating this year's committee nominations, to the volunteers who are willing to serve, and to the members currently serving on our Faculty Senate committees.

Before presenting the committee slate, Professor Maxwell reported that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has four candidates for the upcoming election of the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect. In the Steering meeting immediately prior to the meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the eligibility of the slate of candidates, which will be presented soon to the Senate.

Professor Maxwell then announced an additional nominee for the slate, and asked that the slate be amended to include Professor John Grego (Statistics) as a nominee for the Committee on Professional Conduct. She noted that several committees are still in need of nominees: the Committee on Professional Conduct, the Grievance Committee, and the Tenure Review Board, and asked that interested parties get in touch with her. She left the floor open for further nominations for the slate.

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

PROFESSOR BRIAN HABING (Statistics) presented proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Arnold School of Public Health on (please see attachment, pages 1 – 2). The proposals were approved.

Professor Habing asked that units be aware that if they intend to propose anything new, the proposals must be submitted to the Committee by the November meeting in order to have them included in the next bulletin. Proposals that miss the deadline will have to wait another entire bulletin cycle.

c. Committee on Instructional Development, Professor Charley Adams, Chair:

PROFESSOR BRIAN HABING, on behalf of Professor Charley Adams (Public Health) presented proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management. The proposals were approved.

d. Committee on Admissions, Professor Hunter Gardner, Co-Chair:

PROFESSOR HUNTER GARDNER (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) opened her report with a recap of an issue that the Committee has been working with since last semester. The Committee on Admissions has been working with Duncan Buell as a representative of Computer Science and Engineering to investigate and perhaps change whether USC's undergraduate admissions will accept AP Computer Science as satisfying a high school math or science course required for admissions. Currently we only accept Computer Science as an elective, although it is used occasionally as a substitution for Math or Science.

A letter submitted to the committee by Professor Buell has noted a few changes in state educational policies that suggest movement toward acceptance of AP Computer Science for admissions purposes in other states. Thirteen states allow it to count as Math or Science for high school graduation. Currently only 4 states allow it to count for college admissions, so it is under consideration in the rest of those 13 states. USC is not proposing to change any of its admissions requirements without the approval of the Commission for Higher Education, so this gesture in many senses is largely symbolic.

The Committee on Admissions concurs with the Computer Science Department in its larger effort to recognize that Computer Science is an important STEM discipline and that it should be considered as a core 21st century academic subject. Moreover, we recognize that advanced high school course work in Computer Science is as rigorous and demanding as many other science and math courses that we accept as satisfying admissions requirements. Our Senate's vote of approval would basically indicate that the Senate concurs with the judgment of the Committee on Admissions about the importance of Computer Science in high school and undergraduate curricula and that we should recommend a change in policy to the Commission for Higher Education.

Professor Gardner read the statement prepared by the Committee:

“The Committee on Admissions considered a proposal from the Computer Science department to allow AP Computer Science taken in high school to count toward satisfying the high school college preparatory course requirement in Math and/or Laboratory Science. We vetted this proposal with department chairs in Math, Chemistry,

Biology, and other affected departments, as well as the Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. We took into consideration what other states are doing and we consulted with SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE), the SC State Department of Education, and the College Board (who administers the AP program), and we asked the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to provide an impact assessment. Taking all this into consideration, the Committee supports this proposal, provided CHE would also approve AP Computer Science A to be a suitable course for Math and/or Laboratory Science. The Committee brings this recommendation forward for consideration and approval by the Faculty Senate. The committee asks the Faculty Senate to approve this request and to recommend to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education that AP Computer Science should satisfy a college preparatory curriculum Math or Lab Science course requirement.”

The statement will be posted on Blackboard, along with the letter from Professor Duncan Buell, writing as the representative of Computer Science. This information will be available for review between now and the next Senate meeting when the Committee will ask for a vote on approval of the Committee on Admissions’ statement. The Committee hopes to have on hand at the April meeting Professor Buell and Scott Verzyl from Admissions to vet other questions that Senators may have.

PROFESSOR ERNIE WIGGINS (Journalism & Mass Communications) asked if the Committee on Admissions had any information about the possibility of students not meeting admission requirements because they had Computer Science but did not have the traditional laboratory sciences and thus were prevented from entering the university.

PROFESSOR GARDNER noted that, currently, the University does not have the specific statistical data to allow us to track this.

5. Reports of Officers.

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES greeted his faculty colleagues across the University system, and opened his report with an overview of his recent activities.

On February 21st, he received the approval of the Board of Trustees for a reorganization plan which will streamline our central higher administration. The President has merged seven positions into four and will not fill several vacancies. The plan will take advantage of some of the strengths of the four senior-level administrators, who will be taking on even more responsibility. The plan will also save almost a half-million dollars a year in annual salaries and fringe benefits. Ed Walton has been designated as Senior Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer. Leslie Brunelli will become Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Derrick Huggins will become Vice President for Facilities and Transportation. The President was particularly delighted that even more diversity will be present in central administration. Derrick Huggins becomes the first African American Vice President in this University’s history. Leslie Brunelli becomes another female in a top leadership position. Wes Hickman, who had

been serving in an interim role, is now the Director of Communications and Marketing, and Chief Communications Officer for the University.

President Pastides then delivered an update on the University's Tuition Time Out proposal to the State Legislature. We had asked for approximately \$11 million from State Government to allow us to freeze tuition rather than raise tuition. Unfortunately, the proposal did not receive a favorable reaction in the House of Representatives. We still have an opportunity with the State Senate. The President noted that no public university had good news coming out of the House Ways and Means Committee. There is little sentiment for what we have called fair funding or better funding for public higher education. President Pastides thinks frequently about what we could have done better or what we might do better in the future. We still have a chance in the Senate and conference committee, but the President cautions that in our state at the moment, higher education is not a high priority. The President received a wonderful email from Chase Mizzell, President of the Student Government Association. Chase and his peers at Clemson University and the College of Charleston are sending a letter to state government and contemplating a letter writing campaign as a demonstration of support of better funding for public higher education. It is hard to know what else would work because we have tried over and over and over again the courteous meeting route, the "we've got a good story to tell" route, asking members of the business community to help and so perhaps it is time we increase our decibel level, always doing it respectfully, but being louder than we have been in the past. President Pastides pledged to keep the Senators and faculty posted about how we continue to develop through the appropriations process. He invited questions, as well as any advice, from the Senators.

Last week, the President served as the SACS reaffirmation chair at the University of Florida, a peer flagship institution from a neighboring state that competes in the same athletic conference. He noted that it is hard to describe what it feels like to hear that there is \$500 million of new money going into the research universities at the University of Florida at the initiative of state government.

President Pastides delivered good news on the Fulbright front. We have a record number of applicants who have been recommended for further consideration. The President was a Fulbright scholar himself, and is very committed to the welfare of that program. President Pastides also serves on the Fulbright Executive Board in Washington. Eleven USC students have been recommended for consideration. There were 10,000 applicants around the United States for these coveted posts.

President Pastides then delivered an overview of the recent textbook controversy involving some of our state's public universities, including USC. The S.C. House of Representatives removed \$17,000 from USC Upstate's budget for selecting a book, co-edited by our own Professor Ed Madden here in Columbia, chronicling the life challenges of South Carolinians who have declared themselves to be gay. The President has read the book and found it to be a book about struggle, perseverance, and lots of hope. It is a very positive book although there are stories of struggle and pain imbedded. The House removed approximately \$60,000 from the budget of the College of Charleston for a book

that they had chosen to be a freshman year reading book. We have taken a very strong stand about faculty prerogative, academic freedom, and the importance to accreditation that the faculty has the prerogative of assigning books and readings to students. Of course, we achieve balance in everything that we do but one doesn't often achieve balance in the same moment or in the same hour or in the same book or even in the same class. Balance is something that is achieved over the entirety of an undergraduate experience.

Chancellor Tom Moore from USC Upstate has been particularly challenged in his home community of Spartanburg, SC, over this and we will stand tall with Chancellor Moore and with our faculty colleagues at USC Upstate and wherever challenges and assaults to this kind of faculty prerogative come up.

President Pastides recapped some good news that we're getting at the University. Our Athletics Department is generating lots of positive press in the media. Our applications here in Columbia, and to some degree throughout the system, remain very strong. We are confident we will have the brightest freshman class yet again at USC Columbia in the fall. We will work harder and smarter to anticipate the yield so we don't get into the unenviable situation of having more students than we believe we can do a great job taking care of.

That morning at Budget and Control Board, USC had two very important projects approved by a 3 to 2 vote, which will allow a wonderful new residential living/learning complex to be built behind the new Darla Moore School of Business that will continue to populate what we call our "West Campus." The number of beds will likely be somewhere between 850 and 900. The facility is mainly for upper class students who, we are finding, want to live close to campus. Our residence facilities on campus have basically become freshman residence halls. Once we take care of the 99% of freshman whom we more or less require to live on campus there are very few beds that our left for upper class students. This endeavor is a public/private partnership that will have eating and studying space near the Strom, near the Business School, and the Colonial Life Arena. The architecture will be brilliant and we are excited about that. We hope to open it in the fall of 2015.

The Budget and Control Board also approved a companion building for what we call the Horizon building, which is on the corner of Blossom and Main. This Horizon II building will be at the corner of Blossom and Assembly Street. It will also be a privately-developed building both for engineering faculty and researchers, as well as for private partners. We are very close to signing a good deal to have two or more private-sector companies that want to work alongside our colleagues in engineering to do great things right here at the University of South Carolina.

The President then opened the floor for questions.

PROFESSOR DIRK DEN OUDEN (Public Health - Communications Sciences & Disorders) asked about the response of the University to the textbook issue. Do we pay the fine and keep the book or do we actually remove the book?

PRESIDENT PASTIDES noted that the money at stake is not a fine but a permanent reduction in appropriations in the amount of the annual cost of running the freshman-year reading experience. The University is hoping to get the reduction overturned in the Senate. The book is still in use and the University has no plans to withdraw it.

The President closed his report by recognizing the excellent work on a current production of Richard III by members of our Department of Theatre and Dance. Jim Hunter did the lighting and Robert Richmond is the director. The play is currently running at the Folger's Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, and has gotten rave reviews in the Washington Post and elsewhere.

CHAIR KNAPP asked the President to comment on a recent academic freedom issue that involved USC's Columbia campus and the College of Social Work.

PRESIDENT PASTIDES provided a recap of the issue, which originated last semester and concerned a required course in Social Work dealing with leadership and women's roles. The book in question reviewed modern American Presidents and reported on their appointments of women in their administrations. The book made the statement that Ronald Reagan wasn't particularly known for promoting women in his administration but that Bill Clinton was. The book did not contrast Reagan and Clinton directly, but reviewed all the Presidents on the issue. The particular reading in question was not assigned; the professor was dealing with a different era in American history. The professor did not select the book; it was selected by the College of Social Work. A student in the class took offense to the statement – as is the right of the individual – and had a vigorous dialogue during the class. The student then posted comments about the issue on a Fox News blog, which generated complaints from across the country. President Pastides noted that at USC we choose books either through the prerogative of individual faculty members or the faculty in a department. Books for a foundations course like the one in question are generally determined by the appropriate faculty in the college.

We stood our ground and again talked about issues of academic freedom – the problem with the term “academic freedom” is that it is frequently misunderstood outside of the academy. Academicians understand the term to mean the advancement of inquiry and debate and the absence of censorship in terms of advancing learning and understanding. Many others interpret the term to mean license for those in the academy to exercise freedoms that no one else has. President Pastides observed that academic freedom issues are not new in higher education and not new to our University. He recalled that approximate issues appear to occur annually. Although this incident did not result in any diminution or cut to our budget, there were a lot of phone calls, as Ronald Reagan is a historic figure who engenders a great deal of passion in many ways.

6. Report of Chair.

CHAIR KNAPP opened his report with some comments on the issue of academic freedom. For the last couple of weeks, he has been in communication with the chairs of the Faculty Senates and faculty representative bodies of institutes of higher education across the entire State of South Carolina with respect to the general issue of academic freedom that has been raised by some of the recent events here in the State of South Carolina as detailed by President Pastides. Included in that list are Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, USC Upstate, USC Aiken, USC Sumter, USC Beaufort, Winthrop University, Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University, and Lander University. The goal of this group is to come to some consensus about how to communicate to the General Assembly here in the State of South Carolina, reaffirming in some way the primacy of academic freedom at our institutions. The original thought among the collected faculty leaders was that the group would attempt to fashion a uniform statement that could be approved by all of the faculty bodies. But it became obvious fairly quickly that, given the constraints that each institution was facing, that that would be unlikely in the timeframe of trying to issue a statement before the legislature might act on legislation concerning punishing institutes of higher education for their decisions about textbooks. As of yesterday, the group had arrived at a point where several institutions have moved forward with presenting resolutions to their faculty bodies. In consultation with both MUSC and Clemson in particular, we are hoping to follow a course in terms of approving a joint resolution among the three of our institutions individually that would be sent forward to the State Legislature. Chair Knapp considers it inappropriate to try and put the resolution before this body on short notice and take a vote on it. He proposed to take the language that MUSC would bring before their Faculty Senate next week, put it up for a period of comment for our Faculty Senate, and present the resolution for a vote at the April 2nd meeting.

One of the concerns is an interest to try and move this process forward before any vote is taken in the General Assembly. However, one of the considerations is that the budget process will likely extend throughout the rest of the spring and into the early summer and that even if it comes after a vote on the House or Senate floors, it would still be valuable to have a resolution coming from the institutes of higher education. The group felt that it would carry more weight if the language was uniform, at least among the major research institutes of the state.

Chair Knapp read the proposed language:

“We strongly support the vital importance of academic freedom in our institutions. This freedom and the occasional controversies it can cause are vital to the pursuit of knowledge and truth in every discipline. Further, securing this freedom is a key obligation to accrediting bodies of our faculties, institutions, and governing boards. We

therefore condemn any effort on the part of the government to restrict through legislation or otherwise free academic inquiry.”

The resolution will be up for a comment period on the Faculty Senate Blackboard website. Chair Knapp invited comments from Senators. Ideally, we would end up with a common language with our sister institutions, but Chair Knapp reported that most of the other Faculty Senate Chairs could not guarantee that that would be the case.

Chair Knapp met some days ago with Chancellor Susan Elkins from Palmetto College to explore ways in which we as faculty might engage with the university administration in advancing online and distance education. Chair Knapp believes that this is one of the major frontiers of higher education in this country and something in which we as faculty ought to be playing not only a major but potentially a leading role. It was a very productive meeting and both Chair Knapp and Chancellor Elkins believe there are many avenues in which we might collaborate in this arena of online and distance education. As a first step, the Chair has proposed that Chancellor Elkins begins meeting with the Committee on Instructional Development to establish a relationship with our Faculty Senate committee that has oversight of this area. Then, potentially down the road, we could formalize that relationship through ex-officio status of the Chancellor of Palmetto College on our Instructional Development committee to insure that there is regular interaction and feedback with the administration. Chair Knapp observed that there is a tremendous potential not only in serving the students and the citizens of South Carolina but also potentially a larger market as we move that forward.

Chair Knapp then provided an update on the process for nomination and election of the Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. While Chair Knapp has every intention of filling out the remainder of his term as Chair through August of 2015, Senate bylaws provide that there should be at any time either a Past Chair or Chair-Elect in place in the event that the sitting Chair is unable to serve. We are currently in the timeframe provided for selecting our Chair-Elect, who would serve in that capacity simply shadowing Chair Knapp over the course of the next year.

Chair Knapp was extremely pleased to report that for the first time in any recent memory, the Senate will be in a position to cast a vote between candidates for the position of Chair-Elect. We have a total of four highly-qualified and distinguished candidates for this position, representing three different colleges, all of who were duly nominated by a voting member of the faculty and each of whom has accepted the nomination. As our Secretary indicated earlier, the Faculty Senate Steering committee met today and certified the eligibility of all four candidates (in alphabetical order):

- Professor Augie Grant – Journalism and Mass Communications
- Professor Jim Hunter – Theatre and Dance
- Professor Charlie Mactutus – Psychology
- Professor Tom Regan – Sport and Entertainment Management

Chair Knapp provided a brief review of the election rules set out in the Faculty Manual, Faculty Senate Bylaws Article V – Elections, Section 1 provides that “Voting shall be by secret ballot, and a majority is required for election.” Voting must take place in person at the Faculty Senate meeting, there is no absentee ballot voting and no advance voting. The ballots will be paper ballots distributed at the Faculty Senate meeting and the vote will be counted and announced by the conclusion of the meeting.

Section 2 here of Article V states that: “If one position is to be filled,” which would be the case with Chair-Elect, “a candidate receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.” Our Parliamentarian, Bill Sudduth, confirms that a majority in this case refers to a majority of the votes cast, not of the eligible votes. The majority of the vote will be determined by the number of senators physically present in order to participate in the vote. “If no candidate receives a majority, the candidates receiving the highest and the next highest number of votes shall be the nominees for a second vote.” In principle, by the end of the second ballot we should have a majority candidate. In the unlikely case that there would be a tie, the Chair of the Senate casts the deciding vote. This is the only condition under which the Chair casts a vote.

Biographical information for our four candidates will be available on the Faculty Senate Blackboard site following this meeting. We will conduct a vote of the Senate at the April 2, 2014 to choose the Chair-Elect. Chair Knapp encouraged all Senators to attend and to encourage their colleagues who are Senators to attend.

Chair Knapp has conferred with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, which has agreed that it would be appropriate for each of the candidates to have the opportunity to address the Senate for a short period of time at the April meeting. Each of the candidates will be able to speak for a maximum of three minutes to address the Senate and then subsequently for questions from senators for up to 3 minutes per candidate. With four candidates, that could be as long as 25 minutes. Time allocations will be strictly enforced.

7. Unfinished Business.

CHAIR KNAPP responded to an inquiry from Professor Earnest Wiggins at the February meeting regarding the status of parking and parking security on campus. The Chair of Welfare, Professor Erin Connolly, engaged members of the administration with this inquiry. We received some feedback and then subsequently Chair Knapp brought up the issue before the Board of Trustees at its most recent meeting. As President Pastides has now divulged, there is a major new construction project about to begin in the West Campus. Chair Knapp was assured by the new Chief Operating Officer Ed Walton that none of this activity would go forward were there not sufficient parking on campus for all faculty staff and students. What is not clear is the extent to which that parking will continue to be offered free of charge for faculty, or whether at some point faculty have to pay at some level for their parking. Chair Knapp argues that if we do go down that road, it should be done in equitable fashion rather than penalizing the faculty or staff who might be parking in a given parking lot. Chair Knapp believes that those are discussions

that will need to go forward and now that there is more public understanding of what the plans of the university are, we can start to engage in those in a more formal way. PROFESSOR WIGGINS thanks Chair Knapp and Professor Connolly for addressing his inquiry. He also noted that the administration should be aware that there are some faculty who are concerned about being forced into a pay situation which heretofore was not the condition for faculty.

CHAIR KNAPP reiterated his conviction that if the University is to go to paying for parking that the process should be done in an equitable way and not just for the faculty who might be affected in a specific parking lot.

Chair Knapp noted that another part of Wiggins' inquiry was related to safety concerns in the parking garages. We don't yet have feedback on that particular issue but this is something upon which the discussion can continue.

PROFESSOR MAXWELL returned to solicit nominations from the floor for the slate of committee nominees. There were none, and the slate was approved as amended with the addition of Professor Grego as a nominee for the Committee on Professional Conduct.

8. New Business.

There was no new business.

9. Good of the Order.

PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN ANDERSON (Education) expressed his support for the resolution on academic freedom, and wondered if there was a way to take the resolution beyond the Legislature and to the public, especially as non-academics frequently misunderstand the concept of academic freedom.

CHAIR KNAPP reported that he had given some thought to perhaps writing an op-ed piece as Chair of the Senate, or co-authoring an op-ed to The State newspaper with Dean Anna Scheyett from College of Social Work. While he hasn't approached Dean Scheyett about that yet, such a collaboration could be an avenue to get the issue into the public spotlight in a more constructive way, rather than keeping it in the confines of the General Assembly.

10. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on April 2, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in the School of Law Auditorium.