

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 9, 2015

1. Call to Order.

CHAIR AUGIE GRANT (Journalism) called the meeting to order.

2. Corrections to and Approval of Minutes.

CHAIR GRANT asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting the June 3, 2015. There were none, and the minutes were approved.

3. Report of Committees.

a. Senate Steering Committee, Elizabeth West, Secretary:

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH WEST (South Caroliniana Library) reported on two committee vacancies. The Tenure Review Board has one vacancy ending in August for terms of a year or less. The Steering Committee can appoint a willing nominee.

West submitted the nomination of Professor Ehsan Jabbarzadeh (Chemical Engineering) for a 3-year term on the Committee on Academic Responsibility. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the end of the meeting.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Kathleen Kirasic, Chair:

PROFESSOR KATHLEEN KIRASIC (Psychology) brought forward eight proposals from the College of Liberal Arts. There was no discussion and the proposals were approved as submitted.

4. Reports of Officers.

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES began his report by welcoming faculty back to campus. His report is a synopsis of the State of the University Address to be held Sept. 10 at 10 am on the Historic Horseshoe.

On September 2nd at the General Faculty meeting, Provost Gabel and Pastides welcomed the newest members of the faculty, 175 of them system wide and 120 of them in Columbia. There are about 74 non-tenure track and 46 tenure or tenure-track faculty in Columbia.

Pastides is beginning his 35th year in university life, his 18th at USC and his 8th as President. Over 65,000 students have graduated in his 7 years in the Presidency. A few weeks ago approximately 5200 new freshmen arrived on the Columbia campus and about 1400 transfer students as well. It is the biggest but also the best qualified class in the history of the university, according to SATs and ACTs and high school grades. The university is growing bigger and better at the same time.

Over the past 7 years, of course, the university has navigated around some significant roadblocks due to the economy but has also had some great accomplishments. The administration is working on the strategic plan known as “Focus Carolina” and will look at what the University of South Carolina might look like a decade from now in 2025, including anticipating societal and environmental changes.

Internal planning and strategizing is underway with a wide and broad participation especially in academic affairs. After discussing it with the Board of Trustees and other friends and advocates of the University, sometime during next year the plan will be publicized. Nothing fundamentally will change and the university will continue to following the four guiding principles:

First is providing a superior student experience in the classroom and beyond.

Second is to continue to gain recognition as a globally recognized high impact research university, meaning that faculty must be engaged in scholarship, teaching, and engaging in scholarship and community service as well.

Third, continue to develop new and flexible pathways for college access and affordability.

Fourth, that the university is an important and vital part of South Carolina’s overall economic, social, and cultural wellbeing.

Faculty excellence is key among many of the factors that demonstrate the university is making progress; as the student body continues to increase, so does the faculty in size and in quality. University leadership will continue to hire and maintain the best faculty in the history of University.

There is an aspirational goal of net 25 new faculty members per year above and beyond the replacement faculty, those who must be replaced due to resignation and/or retirement. The TERI system is ending but an accelerated number of resignations are expected as it ends.

Faculty salary compression continues to be an issue. There is about \$1.7 million available for faculty compression in unique and particular areas where surveys show that the Carolina faculty may be behind its peers and peer aspirant university.

Research is accelerating and last year was a banner year for sponsored awards. Externally funded awards of approximately one-quarter of a billion dollars made its way to the University of South Carolina, a 5.5% increase over 2014. At federal granting agencies and mission-based agencies the cut lines are incredibly conservative and tight with all of the wonderful competition there is around the country and yet Carolina was up 5.5%. According to Prakash Nagarkatti, that quarter of a million dollars equates to about half a billion in associated economic activity in Columbia, in the Midlands and beyond, through hiring, purchasing and other things that go on as part of a research work or a training grant.

In terms of student life, a survey was conducted last year on what Carolina graduates liked best and not best about their experience at USC. The thing they liked the least was the advising system, in particular the way that underclass students, freshmen and sophomores, and transfer students are advised. To improve this the university is hiring roughly 25 new professional first year advisors. They are qualified at the Master's level can work hard at finding out the best advice possible and help students graduate on time.

Palmetto College, the initiative that was funded by the State a number of years ago, is an online 2-year baccalaureate completion program with approximately 9 disciplines; it will be expanded. It has about 1500 students, South Carolinians who likely would not receive a college degree without it.

Another important initiative that was funded by the State of South Carolina is "On-Your-Time graduation," which includes state-provided funding to pay professors who are willing to teach in the summer time, January, or in other shoulder academic seasons. This past summer there were 19,757 classroom seats taken, the most ever by far. Six hundred courses were offered and 43 Carolina Core Courses.

A lot of new classrooms are important in keeping students and providing them with the highest quality education. There are new students in the Darla Moore School of Business and in the in the new College of Information and Communications. Hamilton College was renovated as the home for the College of Social Work. Residence halls on the Horseshoe - Rutledge and Legare and Pinckney- are being renovated this year. A new advising center's offices and programs are beginning to move in the Close and Hipp Buildings of the former Business School.

The new 650 Lincoln dorm across from the Fitness and Wellness Center is not your grandmother's /grandfather's dormitory, with granite counter tops and 40 inch TVs, a great yoga studio and great eating opportunities for about \$900/month. Soon the Law School will move into a brand new Law Center on Gervais Street and the current Law Center will be renovated mainly as an educational building. College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management will be moving into in the Close-Hipp building next year.

There are a lot of public-private partnerships, including Boeing and IBM, and that's the wave of the future.

President Pastides then addressed the murders of the nine victims at Emmanuel Church in Charleston. He stated that it was a pain that all South Carolinians and indeed all Americans had to endure. Everyone saw an outpouring of support in the days and weeks and months afterwards that was equally unanticipated but welcome.

Pastides recounted that he knew he had to call for the flag's removal, and he made some phone calls to the Board of Trustees and some legislators. He was pleased the Board of Trustees supported him in that, and that the Governor called for the flag's removal. It was the leadership that was needed at that moment in time. USC is planning for a series of community conversations relative to race and relative to related issues, to create honest even if occasionally brutally honest opportunities for dialogue between people with different points of views. John Dozier, our Chief Diversity Officer, and members of the community are planning for those conversations.

Pastides closed by inviting the faculty to their annual Faculty Open House, at 6 pm Tuesday, October the 13th.

PROVOST JOAN GABEL began her report by thanking the faculty for a warm welcome, and expressing her excitement about what the university is doing. It really is quite notable to think about growth with improvement at the same time and not just in one area but across the board including student quality, research productivity, and responsiveness to students. She looks forward to working with the faculty to continue all these positive trends and all this good momentum.

She is learning fast and as she meets more and more people over the course of the year, either individually, academic units or collectively at the Senate, she will keep faculty updated and appraised. She welcomes the opportunity to visit with faculty.

Gabel reported that last year there were 91 decisions involving 63 faculty members, many of which involved 2 decisions on a single person. There were 26 applications for Assistant Professor for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor; 21 of them were successful for tenure and promotion. At all the other levels, i.e., tenure at Associate Professor, tenure and promotion to Professor and promotion to Professor, there were 37 submissions and 32 out of those 37 were successful. So the success rate was at its consistent high of over 80% which is a very good number.

All levels of agreement fell between 84-97%, so there was very good agreement. The highest agreement in the entire set of data along the chain was between the President and the UCTP at 96.77%, just shy of 97%. She thanked the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion for its work.

5. Report of Chair.

CHAIR GRANT welcomed his colleagues. He stressed the important role that the Faculty Senate plays in the life of the university and all the processes. Most of the work of this body is done in the committees and there are numerous opportunities for faculty to be involved in those committees as well as when the committees bring their work to the Senate for providing the approval. The committees and the Senate represent not only an opportunity for faculty to have a voice, they represent an opportunity for colleagues to have a voice. When new faculty come in wanting to know more about the university, more than just what's going on in their unit, these committees give a chance to get to know others from across campus and to participate in the decisions that affect all faculty.

Annual reports from all of the Faculty Senate committees that have been posted on the website. All of the meeting agendas, all of the minutes and all of the reports of the individual committees are there.

A new Faculty Senate IT committee was approved by Faculty Senate last spring and then approved by the General Faculty. After final approval comes from the Board of Trustees the formal process of appointing members to that committee will begin. The Ad hoc committee that former Chair Jim Knapp appointed is continuing to work, with four meetings so far this academic year. Nominations will be sought for positions on that committee and there will be a slate of nominees that are coming from the Ad hoc committee itself.

There are also three different efforts that are going on related to non-tenure track faculty. Following work of the Faculty Welfare Committee that started 2 years ago and a survey last year there is a concern that the faculty as a whole need to do a better job of allowing participation, recognition, for non-tenure track faculty in all aspects of what faculty do. To that end Faculty Senate passed a motion last year suggesting appointment of an Ad hoc committee; that committee has now been populated with the requirement of 4 non-tenure track faculty and 4 tenure track faculty. The non tenure track faculty slots have been filled, but the committee still needs three more tenure track members. Interested faculty should contact Chair Grant at augie@sc.edu.

There has been a change in Faculty Senate staff. Jeanna Luker retired at the end of May, so Yvonne Dudley is stepping up and she is going to be a fulltime presence. An assistant will be hired to work with her.

The motion to change the grading policy to add minuses as well as pluses has been put on hold, as all of the Faculty Senates must agree. The work of the Scholastic Standards Committee is moving to the other campuses and periodic updates will be given during the year.

The Faculty Budget Committee is continuing to work with the Provost Office on the issue of faculty salary compression

Chair Grant is soliciting suggestions for guest speakers with the goal of bringing people who will have a conversation faculty senators to make sure the faculty are as informed and involved as possible in everything from their own work and research, service and teaching, to issues like parking.

6. Unfinished Business.

Secretary West returned to ask for further nominations for the vacancy on the Committee on the Committee on Academic Responsibility. There were none and Professor Ehsan Jabbarzadeh was unanimously elected to the committee.

7. New Business.

There was no new business.

8. Good of the Order.

CHAIR GRANT introduced President Pro tem of the Student Government, Ross Lordo, who requested an opportunity to report on what the Student Government is doing.

ROSS LORDO (Student Government) reported that this year Student Government is planning a big push to try to increase its relationship with the Faculty Senate.

Student Government is also trying to increase its transparency and outreach to students, and is looking at modeling Faculty Senate in placing minutes and livestreaming meetings on the website.

Student Body President Jonathan Kaufman is trying to develop a campus-wide app that will bring together a lot of different resources on the campus into one platform for students and faculty to utilize, like athletics, a campus directory, Carolina alert, the university social media, all in one place for students.

They are continuing to work on different programs that have been created in student government, such as the Carolina Closet where students can rent out different professional attire for them before they go to interviews. There is also a food pantry where students who don't have access to meals all week can go and get some food. They are accepting donations and seeking a director.

They are continuing to work on a program called Pillars for Carolina that's been in existence for 5 years. It's an extended orientation program that provides mentors for incoming students so they can have a little bit better transition. It's been a really successful program. There were 70 participants last year to over 200 with a waiting list this past summer.

Senator Marco Rubio came to campus recently and Student Government is working on bringing other presidential candidates to USC to speak to students to make sure they have an informed decision next year when voting.

Funds continue to be allocated to student organizations using the student government budget to help fund different programs that student organizations are trying to put on for their students.

Lordo thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak and looks forward to continuing the relationship between student government and the Faculty Senate.

CHAIR GRANT asked Professor Jim Knapp to stand and be recognized for his service as Chair.
(Applause)

9. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held October 7, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in the Law School auditorium.