

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 6, 2019

1. Call to Order

CHAIR MARCO VALTORTA (Computer Science & Engineering) – called the meeting to order.

1. Corrections to and Approval of Minutes

CHAIR VALTORTA – called for corrections to the minutes of the February 6th meeting. There were none and the minutes were approved.

2. Report of Faculty Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Elizabeth West, Secretary

SECRETARY ELIZABETH WEST (University Libraries) – thanked everyone who volunteered for Senate committees. The slate of nominees has been posted and the vote will occur at the April meeting. She noted a corrected: Ramy Harik on Instructional Development is with CEC, not Education.

There are still several vacancies. Professional Conduct needs four volunteers; 3 are the regular slots of the 3-year terms, one is a vacancy for a term ending in 2021. Members must be tenured and at the rank of Professor or Librarian. Grievance has a vacancy and members must also be tenured and at the rank of full professor or librarian.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor John Gerdes, Chair

PROFESSOR JOHN GERDES (Integrated Information Technology) – brought forth 8 different proposals that were made: 3 by Arts and Sciences; 1 by Business; 1 by Education; 1 by Engineering and Computing; 1 by Information and Communications and 1 by Public Health.

There was no further discussion and the proposals were approved.

PROFESSOR GERDES – announced that one HRSM proposal that was made last time that was in the approved list had a change in the concentration which created some problems after the new

information came to light and the College requested that that be pulled and it was not implemented.

CHAIR VALTORTA – commented that this was not a precedent setting matter. This was a very circumscribed issue that, in the judgment of the committee, did not materially affect the changes requested so it is not seen as a precedent situation where someone could have a big proposal accepted and then selectively later request for things to be withdrawn from the proposal.

He thanked Professor Gerdes for his leadership. The number of proposals that went through his committee until now has reached about 600. This is an exceptionally high number. Chair-elect Mark Cooper discussed this with four Chairs and Chair-elects of Senate at the recent SEC ALDP meeting and apparently this number is way beyond what is normal for the work of a committee like this. This of course has something to do with degree maps and the changes in the way our curricula are represented.

c. Committee on Instructional Development, Professor Michael Weisenburg, Chair

PROFESSOR KAREN EDWARDS (College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management) - brought forth 1 proposal from Business and 1 from Information and Communications.

There was no discussion and the proposals were approved.

d. Faculty Senate IT Committee, Professors Heather Heckman/Simon Tarr, Co-Chairs

PROFESSOR HEATHER HECKMAN (University Libraries) – gave an update on questions and concerns regarding the university's new webpages. Co-Chair Simon Tarr sent out a memo that has been circulated to everyone. The brief version is that much of the trouble is communication and that it was unclear to faculty that there were changes that could be requested and it was further unclear that they didn't know who to make those requests to. Communications has already updated their tool box so there is now a listing of departments' site managers. If there is something someone wants changed about the website they can contact that person and they are also working to improve communications internally and with their site managers. Hopefully this will be a little bit better going forward.

3. Report of Officers

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES – congratulated Provost Joan Gabel who is now President-Elect of the University of Minnesota. University of Minnesota is a land-grant university and one of the best public universities in the United States. Founded in 1851, it has about 52,000 students, and is roughly number 8 in terms of sponsored research. The entire USC system recognizes Joan's incredible accomplishments over her four very impactful years here at Carolina. She's been impactful on the faculty of course, but also on students, staff and their families.

The President reported USC had a very good year related to the budget conversation. The governor recognized USC and all of public higher education by having recurrent funding in the governor's budget or the executive budget for the first time in many, many years. The House Ways and Means Committee goes from the Executive Branch to the House then to the Senate then usually to a conference and then if needed would need to sustain a veto by the governor but the House Ways and Means Committee including its chair Murrell Smith of Sumter South Carolina did a commendable job and they improved on the governor's budget. And so right now if passed as is, USC would receive some \$18 million in new funding for the system. The majority of that is for Columbia, in fact the governor's executive budget had about \$11 ½, and it went up to 18 in the House. What the administration is hoping to do is to mitigate what the average tuition increase has been in each of the last several years. They also don't want to get that amount of money and then getting a lot of unfunded mandates that would include things like health insurance rates going up.

What got that started was not the Governor or the House but the Senate or two senators, one Democrat one Republican who at the end of last season proposed the Higher Education Opportunity Act which would direct a revenue source, which is an increase in tax revenue from online retail sales to public higher ed. The beauty of that is that it didn't take money away from anyone else so they did not propose that all tax revenue from Amazon and other online retailers would go to higher ed only the increase. But that's been increasing by about \$100 million a year from online retail sales, and that would be diverted or directed toward public higher ed and so the Senate has now received the budget and they're working on the higher education budget as well.

USC also has a capital project funding of about \$39 million including \$15 million that would go toward a new School of Medicine at the Bull Street property in the budget. There's still a ways to go but it's looking better than it has before at this late time of year.

There's a cost of living increase for faculty and staff at 2%. It could go up. They're talking between 2 and 5%. That would be for employees earning only less than \$100,000.00 a year. That would be the State appropriated raise.

USC would be mandated not to increase tuition if the new funding goes through. So there are strings attached there. USC can't both get the money and raise tuition and that's why it's critically important that USC's net position be better off than if they did not receive that money and were able to increase tuitions.

Carolina day on January 30th was successful. That is USC's annual lobbying or advocacy day and they've done more and more of that online and social media than ever before and it seems to be it seems to have had a good impact.

The President has been asked to deliver his last lecture. It will be at the Russell House Theatre on April the 3rd. A last lecture sounds very ominous and foreboding and he wants to pack into it everything he wants others to know. He is planning as a starting point to synthesize his core values and his academic values with his aspiration for USC students. For example: being curious, representing the dignity of all persons; the importance of preparation; excellence; listening to their inner voice; willpower; civic engagement and others.

The secret to all leadership is communication. Not always fluffy, happy, cheery communication. Sometimes that's a good thing to do when recruiting students to come to the university, but it's also candid, difficult occasionally. The student body politic is concerned about the same things faculty are but perhaps more so in several areas like diversity and inclusion. There's really "no limit" to their passion. He thinks the vast majority of students are passionate about increased diversity and not only in terms of statistics but in the way the university includes people and makes all people feel welcome and comfortable and really part of the university family. Not only students by the way but faculty and higher administration, and USC has a good long way to go yet to get to where they want to be.

They're also passionate about sustainability and the earth and again USC as a university community is not nearly where it needs to be in that area although they've made good strides. So those are two very important areas for the next president.

Pastides recognized two juniors at the university who have been named Truman Scholar Finalists, among the most prestigious awards offer to juniors in universities. Their names are Bennett Lunn and Jack Gabel.

Current senior Adriana Bowman has been named the Pickering Fellow providing her 2 years of paid grad school and a new pathway to a career as a Foreign Service officer.

USC is 1 of 15 public research universities that have been selected to participate in an NSF Program called Aspire, the National Alliance for Inclusive and Diverse STEM Faculty and this builds on USC's very active work in the area of mentoring graduate students along with other universities in the Southeast from under represented ethnicities, backgrounds who will be prepared to take faculty positions in universities.

This past Saturday Pastides joined students around 11:15 pm at the Fitness Wellness Center to dance a little bit with the students who were having their dance marathon. They raised over \$1 million for the 2nd year in a row for the Children's Hospital. It's a Prisma Children's Hospital but 100 percent of the doctors who work there are USC School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics' employees, faculty and nurses. So it certainly went to a great cause.

Dr. Frank Berger was recognized through resolution by the General Assembly this past January for establishing the Center for Colon Cancer Research and the Colorectal Cancer Prevention Network. That's resulted in many thousands of South Carolinians to receive screening when they might not otherwise have been able to.

PROVOST JOAN GABEL – reported that the university had leadership week from January 18th to February 2nd. This is its 3rd year of Leadership Week as a follow up to or as the next iteration of some of the leadership programming that they have been doing over the course of several years. Preliminary numbers show that student participation increased from about 300 students over last year and 83 percent of the students reported that their knowledge and skills for leadership increased.

Create a Vibe, which is part of the USC creativity project for this , is happening later this month on Admitted Students Day. This event is a combination of exhibits, workshops and performances, inspirational talks all focused on creativity and is free and open to the public. It will take place at the Longstreet Theatre and the Journalism School and the date of that is March 23rd between 1-4 with just ongoing events during that window of time.

The Teaching Toward Inclusive Excellence Program offered by CTE has been very well attended by faculty. There were 10 sessions offered in the fall of 2010 with attendance of over 500 faculty in those sessions. Ten more sessions will be offered this spring and sign-ups give every reason to expect similarly robust participation. She's very grateful to the faculty and to CTE for coming together so that everybody can work together towards having a sense of belonging in their classroom and otherwise.

From the Grad School and from Cheryl's office. The COACHE Survey administration is ongoing. She encouraged everyone who's been invited to participate to do so. The better the response rate, the more useful the data will be. Faculty who haven't received an invitation and think they should have can contact Cheryl and she'll send them a link for participation.

Also, summer compensation policy revisions that came out of HR for faculty summer compensation have been approved. They'll get posted soon. Lots of policy provisions get posted but she brings this to the faculty's attention because Faculty Senate addressed this with guiding principles and those have been incorporated. The results of Senate activity last spring have been incorporated into what will be posted and so she encourages senators to take a close look and provide the appropriate feedback if there are any concerns.

Reviews of Internal Grants are ongoing. She should have news about that ideally by the end of the month maybe in very early April but soon. Nominations have been received for Faculty Awards and that review process is underway too. Both of which are done by committee and using a shared governance process.

USC was selected as part of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)'s STEM Pipeline Program. Very exciting opportunity. The 15 inaugural institutions include Florida State, Georgia State, the University of California, the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin. Operationally, Cheryl Addy as the Dean of the Graduate School will be taking lead on this. Obviously, John Dozier was very actively involved and they expect this to become a campus-wide conversation and process.

Gabel gave an update on the Excellence Initiative. The Faculty Welfare Committee wrote a letter to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee on the Board of Trustees, who is Leah Moody, asking for an update on the Board's position and plans for the Excellence Initiative and that prompted a conversation which is expected to get someone from the Provost's Office on an agenda to make presentations to the Board about the possibility of moving this to its next phase. So a soft update but at least heads are being picked back up and conversation is renewed about the Excellence Initiative and more formal discussion about next steps.

4. Report of the Chair

CHAIR VALTORTA - reinforced the Provost's recommendation to fill out the COACHE Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey. This is a national survey. It has been run by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for more than 10 years. It has taken place at about 250 colleges, universities and state systems. It is analyzed by researchers and led to a large number of reports and papers about various aspects of faculty job satisfaction. For example, he looked today at the report on the differences in job satisfaction between international and non-international faculty members.

He thanked President Pastides for hosting the senators in his box at the Colonial Life Arena for the women's basketball game against Georgia on February 14th. All of the slots were filled.

An update on the Presidential Candidates Search Committee. The committee met on February 13th for a position update and March 4th for another position update. In both cases by conference call with some of the members meeting in person. The PCSC website has details such as the position description. It still has the contact forms to provide nominations and other input. The deadline for full consideration of nominees is tomorrow, March 7th. He was assured on March 4th that all nominees are contacted and all nominators from the faculty are contacted too. His experience with faculty colleagues who have nominated candidates confirms that this has happened. The timeline for the search has been reaffirmed. In the last 2 weeks of April finalists will come to campus. That's the current timeline and according to the presentation by Parker Executive Search representatives to the Senate in February, there will be an effort to include many constituents of the university community, of course including faculty.

The Provost already gave an update on the Excellence Initiative situation. He added that Leah Moody, the Chair of the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee, responded positively to the letter. Trustee Moody thanked Welfare Committee Co-Chair Bethany Bell and indicated that she will research the issue and speak to Bell and Valtorta at the meeting of that Committee of the Trustees with the Faculty Board of Trustees Liaison Committee of the Faculty Senate, on Friday March 15th. The Provost may have more up-to-date information than what Trustee Moody had indicated in her email to Bell and Valtorta.

The yearly USC System Faculty Senates, Assemblies, and Organizations Conference will take place here in Columbia on Friday, March 29th. Suggestions for the agenda can be sent to Valtorta.

The blueprints for academic excellence presentations will start tomorrow. The format includes a discussion of priority for the coming year about 45 minutes and the budgets about 15 minutes. A representative from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and Valtorta or the Chair-elect, Professor Cooper, will attend.

5. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. For the Good of the Order

There was nothing for the good of the order.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3rd at 3pm, Gambrell 153.