FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
February 3, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 PM in Currell College Auditorium by Chairman Becker.


The minutes of the Senate meeting of Dec. 2, 1992 were approved with the following correction: On page 3, 8th line from the bottom --.... Karen French...

II. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

IIA. Report of the President, President Palms:

The President discussed the background of the plans of the Justice Department to locate its training center for solicitors and prosecutors on the USC campus. The currently favored site next to the Business Administration Building is the site chosen by the Justice Department, not by the University. The President introduced Charlie Jeffcoat who discussed the current plans. Mr. Jeffcoat stated that before the current "B" lot was closed for construction a free parking garage for faculty and staff would be opened across the street. This garage would be built with Justice Dept. money, so there would be no charge for faculty and staff use. There would then be more faculty/staff parking spaces than are currently available on the "B" lot. The Justice Department would also be requested to replace the floor space in the buildings currently on the site. There will also be room for two additional USC buildings on the site.

The faculty also expressed concern about student use of the current "B" parking spaces. They were also concerned that apparently no academic impact study involving faculty members was made.

IIB. Report of the Provost, Provost Moeser:

1. (Justice Dept. facility): The Provost stated that the faculty was not consulted about the location of the Justice Department faculty because of the delicacy and sense of urgency surrounding this project. He reminded the faculty that this is a University facility from the start. It will be leased to the Federal government for 20 years and then will be available for other University use.

2. The University Future Committee is idle until college reports are submitted.

3. The search committee for Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is about to be constituted.
4. The Honors College search committee is in the midst of its search; it is currently reviewing dossiers. Searches have begun for campus deans at Sumter and Union. Finally, an internal search will soon start for an Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

5. The increase in our admission standards has apparently led to an increase in numbers and quality of accepted applicants.

Charles Mack (ARTH) asked the following questions about the early retirement proposals.

1. How were faculty members involved in reaching decisions on buy-out proposals?

2. Was the FWC involved or another Faculty Senate committee in arriving at the buy-out proposals?

3. If not, how does this fact relate to stated objectives by the administration to involve faculty more in decision-making decisions?

In response to these three questions the Provost stated that the Faculty Welfare Committee was consulted and its suggestions were used to modify the plan.

4. I was asked to find out what are the real terms of the buy-out proposal. There were a number of different dates -- May and December -- mentioned and people are curious which ones really were meant.

5. Is there coordination with potential plans of other state agencies since everybody is interested in getting rid of people?

6. What happens if a faculty member signs up irrevocably with the USC plan and then a more advantageous plan is proposed by the state at a later date?

The Provost stated that the details of what happens will depend upon state action. In any event as long as the faculty member has not actually retired, the University would allow that member to choose the plan that is most advantageous.

III. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

IIIA. Senate Steering Committee, J. L. Safko: No report.

IIIB. Grade Change Committee, Prof. Sally Boggs, Chair:
At the request of Charles Weasmer (GINT) the requests for Prof. Merry, Ill (BADM E324) were returned to committee. The remainder of the report was accepted as submitted.

IIIC. Curricula and Courses Committee, Alexander Gilchrist, Chair:

An editorial correction was made: on page 10, HIST 201 and 202 are being changed to HIST 111 and 112. The corrected report was accepted by the Senate.

IIID. Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee, Jarvis Latham, Chair:

The committee reported on its proposal to change the drop date without penalty to eight weeks in the normal term and 57% of shortened terms. An amendment was made to change this to four weeks and 29% of shortened terms. This was then further amended to six weeks and 43% of shortened terms. After discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the various proposals, the Senate adopted the six weeks and 43% of shortened terms proposal with the appropriate changes to be made in the catalog.

Senators were asked to remind their fellow faculty members of the statement on page 38 of the Faculty Manual:

"Instructional staff members are responsible for informing students in their classes of the methods to be employed in determining the final course grade and of any special requirements of attendance which differ from the attendance policy of the University. At the request of the student, a faculty member should make available information and/or an evaluation of the student's progress prior to the free drop date."

The committee then presented for information the proposed changes in progression requirements in the Department of Psychology (Section II of the agenda). A motion was made and seconded to reject the Department of Psychology's request. Ed. Mercer (CHEM) pointed out that the problem was not with Psychology but the creation of the so called "academic boat people," students who are off probation but unable to proceed with a chosen degree program. After further discussion the motion was defeated and the changes will take effect.

Section III for the School of Music was submitted for information.

IIIE. Faculty Library Committee, Prof. Scott: No report

IV. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, J. L. Safko: None
V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Charles Mack (ARTH) asked what has happened to his request concerning hiring of academic deans and administrators. Chairman Becker reported that Faculty Advisory is still considering the matter.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Wolfgang Elfe (GSO) proposed the resolution submitted in Attachment 4 of the agenda: “Without diminishing the current student parking allotment, priority in lot assignments will be given to faculty and staff.” After discussion, the motion was approved and forwarded to the Parking Committee.

Charles Alber (GOS) read a statement that is attached to these minutes. John Safko (PHYS) and Charles Weasmer (GINT) both recommended that Prof. Alber express his concerns to the University Future Committee.

Ed Mercer (CHEM) requested this body to instruct the appropriate committee to address the problem of university standards and program standards. They are so desperate that in excess of 10-15% of the undergraduate students on this campus are unable to pursue a major and are cut loose with improper advisement. Could the Senate or the Chair direct it to the appropriate committee, to come back with a report in a timely fashion? Provost Moeser said that this is the first job he would assign the new Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies. He will work in concert with the Committee on Undergraduate Instruction. The Provost expressed doubt that a large number of students are involved, but that it is a problem that needs to be resolved.

Charles Mack (ARTH) proposed that the Faculty Senate consider instituting a beginning-of-the-semester meeting in January on the 1st Wednesday when school is back in session. Chairman Becker referred the matter to the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Tom Powers (SUMTER), following the instructions of the faculty at USC-Sumter, proposed a motion on religious activity at university events. This motion is attached to the Minutes. Chairman Becker ruled this a substantive motion and referred it to the Faculty Advisory Committee.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Marcia Welsh (MEDS) informed the Senate of the creation of the South Carolina Conference of University Faculty Chairs. It is made up of the chairs and chairs-elect of all state-supported colleges and universities in South Carolina. It constitutes a united front of all state-supported colleges and universities and creates a lobby for higher education in South Carolina.

We all know that faculty traditionally do not get involved in politics but the time is here when we really do not have any choice but to become involved. We are
competing for dollars with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, and others. These organizations all have lobbyists. They all have constituents that go to the legislature and make their demands known. We traditionally do not do that. Unless we start becoming more vocal as far as our needs are concerned we are going to get left behind.

We ask you to become involved with us. We basically have two major projects in the works. The first one is an appearance of faculty, staff and students on the State House grounds some time in April. We will let you know about that at a later time. In February, however, we need you to write letters to your legislators asking them please to support funding for higher education. It doesn’t need to be a long letter; a short letter will do, perhaps giving a personal experience of something that you have seen happen because of diminishing funding of higher education such as too much reliance on adjunct and part-time faculty or deferred maintenance of buildings. Some faculties on other campuses are having to buy their own chalk, pencils, etc. Here we have had increased class sizes and reduced library budgets.

We talked to lobbyists and they say that legislators do not respond as well to petitions or to form letters as they do to personal letters. They said that to see faculty writing letters in any kind of numbers would be a real message since this faculty has never done it before. We saw what the teachers did -- they got raises simply because they organized, they wrote letters, they went to the State House. We are asking you to take a lesson from that. But don’t ask for raises, that would only be seen as self-serving; ask for general support. The South Carolina Conference of the AAUP has also voted to undertake a similar effort. Spartanburg and Sumter have had their legislative delegations visit the campus for discussion of needs.

Charles Mack (ARTH) asked that with the issuance of new telephone books the old ones be recycled.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM