

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Professor Mark Cooper, Chair

1. Call to Order

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR MARK COOPER (Film and Media Studies) called the meeting to order.

2. Correction and Approval of Minutes

CHAIR COOPER – Minutes approved with amendment to reflect Senator Justin Byars attending both meetings: The Special Called Meeting on February 28, 2020 and March 4, 2020.

3. Introduction of Chair-Elect Candidate

CHAIR-ELECT CANDIDATE PROFESSOR BETHANY BELL – Professor Bell presented her interests in serving as Faculty Senate Chair:

1. Improve Faculty Governance
2. Fixing Communication problems across campus
3. To strengthen the relationship between Faculty Senate and the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion
4. Helping staff established their governance
5. Have Faculty Senate general and approve an annual merit review process for all faculty

Discussion included additional concerns

CHAIR COOPER – Commence voting for the Chair-elect.

4. Reports of Faculty Committees

a. Committee on Curriculum and Courses, Professor Marianne Bickle Chair

PROFESSOR MARIANNE BICKLE (Interdisciplinary Studies) - Proposed 15 courses for approval: 12 from the College of Arts and Sciences; 2 from the College of Education and 1 from Arnold School of Public Health. Also 3 Experiential Learning courses were also proposed. Following a brief discussion of AFAM 218 (Typographical issue). Motion carries for all courses.

b. Committee on Instructional Development, Professor Karen Edwards, Chair

PROFESSOR KAREN EDWARDS (Department of Retailing) – Proposed one proposal for approval: EDEX 691 Inclusion: Co-Teaching studies with Disabilities. Motion carries.

PROFESSOR EDWARDS thanked the committee for its work during the semester and especially the recent months.

c. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Brett Altschul, Chair

PROFESSOR BRETT ALTSCHUL (Physics) – Introduced a proposal preventing a student getting suspended during the Spring 2020 Semester. (Proposal included with April 15, 2020 agenda)

Motion carries.

5. Report Secretary

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH WEST (University Libraries) – Announced results of the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect: 106 out of 107 for Professor Bethany Bell.

6. Report of Chair

CHAIR COOPER highlighted a few areas of interests:

- a. An Employee Assistance fund has been created. Thanks to the planning team including Caroline Agardy, Tracey Weldon Stewart, Will Elliot, the Bethany Bell. This was a faculty inspired initiative: shout out to Stan Dubinsky for being an early proponent. The initial response has been enthusiastic, \$26,210 from 114 gifts as of this morning. We have 9 applications so far. Once emergency paid sick leave is exhausted Agardy expects applications to increase significantly. If you have the capacity to contribute to this fund, or to the equally in demand student fund, please consider doing so.
- b. Future Planning Group teams are being formed in a spirit of unprecedented teamwork and transparency. Thanks to President Caslen, his staff, interim provost and vice provosts, CFO and his office. Look for updates on the FPG site and use the form there to indicate what you might like to see. FPG will have a major role in FY 21 budget development.
- c. The FPG is in a “discovery” phase. If you are following the national news, you know that a “phased” return to work is being considered. Discussions are focused at the moment on what that might look like for our campus. There are many considerations and logistical complexities. Lots of smart people are working very hard on it. Mid-May looks like a point by which some major decisions will need to be made.
- d. There is considerable uncertainty with respect to the financial situation, with estimates that enrollment may be down 10% or as much as 30%. If 30%, that would have serious budget consequences. The president is committed to ensuring that we retain the faculty,

staff, and infrastructure necessary to recover quickly after the crisis passes. Capital projects will be delayed.

- e. Strategic Planning will go ahead. I believe there is an acknowledgement that we will likely need to revise the plan after the crisis passes. The president wants to protect, however, a sense of big-picture priorities so that we do not sacrifice the long-term interests and identity of the institution to short term needs.
- f. The Faculty Senate chairs from the USC system chairs had a productive meeting on the 13th and plan to meet again in May to continue discussing system-level governance.

7.Unfinished Business

SENATOR RAMY HARIK (Mechanical Engineering) – Presented a draft for discussion as requested at the previous meeting. A Proposal Affirming Appreciation and Support for President Caslen’s Executive Leadership

Two amendments were proposed:

- A Resolution Affirming Appreciation and Support for President Caslen’s Executive Leadership **and all University’s Administrators**

- extends its appreciation for the tireless and principled executive leadership of President’s Robert Caslen **and all members of the university who have worked diligently with him.**

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Two amendments were approved:

- A Resolution Affirming Appreciation **of** and Support for university leadership in **a Time of Crisis.**

- extends its appreciation for the tireless and principled executive leadership of President’s Robert Caslen **and all members of the university who have worked diligently with him.**

Returning to original motion of Resolution. Motion carries. Resolution adopted.

8. New Business

SENATOR BETHANY BELL –With a concern about students and probation.

CHAIR COOPER - Suggestions to have the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petition revisit and then we will have a motion to debate.

9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

SENATOR NESET HIKMET – In the spirit of friendship and future celebration I extend an olive branch.

SENATOR BETHANY BELL – Encouraging senators to donate to the Staff Sick Leave Pool.

CHAIR COOPER – Senator Traci Testerman encourages faculty to donate stimulus checks.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.