

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING
September 3, 2014

1. Call to Order.

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES called the meeting to order and greeted his faculty colleagues across the University System. He welcomed everyone back to the start of a new academic year.

2. Approval of Minutes.

PRESIDENT PASTIDES asked for corrections to the General Faculty minutes from the meeting of April 29, 2014. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Report of the President.

PRESIDENT PASTIDES stated that his report is an abbreviated version of the State of the University, to be given on the Horseshoe at 10:00 a.m. on September 4.

To begin, the President provided background information on himself. He is beginning his 34th year in academia, his 17th year at the University of South Carolina, and his 7th as President. He previously served as Vice President for Research and Health Sciences and prior to that as Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health.

President Pastides received his baccalaureate degree from what was formerly known as the State University of New York at Albany, now the University at Albany. His Master's and Ph.D. are from Yale University. He noted that he and his wife, Patricia Moore-Pastides, live on the Horseshoe and enjoy interacting with their student neighbors.

The President is honored to lead a brilliant community of scholars. The University of South Carolina's 5,000-strong freshman class has the highest SAT score in school history and the SC Honors College remains the number one public honors college in the United States. The University's core mission, of course, is teaching, scholarship, research and public service, and the education provided to our 47,000 students throughout the "universities" of South Carolina on 14 different campuses with 32,000 of those students here in Columbia. The key to Carolina's success and growing reputation nationwide is providing a superior student experience. To provide a more flexible way to accelerate a baccalaureate degree, the University is introducing "On Your Time," which means the traditional model of 8 semesters spread over 4 years does not have to be the path for everybody. Interviews were conducted with many of the incoming freshmen, a large number of whom have advanced placement credits, regarding the amount of time they would like to take to earn their degree. There is no single right answer but there is a best answer for every student.

The number of course offerings in the 2014 summer session were increased - 500 courses in 110 different subjects. One hundred fifty-three of those courses were from the Carolina Core, the classes that can be most difficult to register for because of the number of students that are trying

to get in. Over 18,000 classrooms seats were filled during the summer, a 15% increase over 2013. Students have started registering for large numbers of credits in the summer – 12 or 15 and in certain cases even 18 credits. The President recognized all of the deans for their help, notably Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, the Vice Provost for Special Academic Initiatives and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Lab requirements have often impeded a student's ability to graduate, so some important laboratory sections have been compressed into one week.

This year, three-year baccalaureate degrees will be offered in approximately 45 different majors, from Economics to Mechanical Engineering, from Psychology to Marine Science, from Public Health to Tourism Management. The students are required to do the same amount of work and complete the same number of credits, but their academic advisors can work with them so they can accomplish the BA or the BS degree in as little as three years.

There will also be accelerated joint baccalaureate and master's degree programs. These traditionally would take 6 years to complete but they will be offered in a 5 year program. There will be for the first time a joint BS/MD degree. For Honors College students in this program, their fourth year of study for their BS degree will also be their first year of medical school, enabling them receive a BS and an MD degree within 7 years from graduating high school.

Palmetto College, which is South Carolina's public on-line degree completion university, has seen steadily increasing enrollment. People in South Carolina and across the United States who have previously left college for reasons other than flunking have the opportunity to graduate with a baccalaureate degree from the University of South Carolina instead of turning to for-profit institutions that incur a serious debt.

President Pastides reported that faculty research funding brought in over \$230 million in sponsored awards last year, a 4.5% increase over the year before. Federal grants topped \$150 million with record awards from the NIH and the NSF. The only year that was higher had the stimulus funding included. The President recognized Dr. Nagarkatti for his leadership.

The University is working to secure new revenue streams because it is approaching the limit of tuition increases. A new source is global marketplace non-degree online programming, where an individual studying abroad would be able to take three courses in areas where it will help their employability or their own academic potential. Launching this fall are programs in South America in Engineering, in Business, and in Public Health. There are tremendous market opportunities in Asia and in South Africa. The University is working with a private partner for registration and translation, and with indigenous high quality universities to help mentor the students.

Last year University administrators discussed with government leaders the fact that every state dollar invested in public higher education increases South Carolina's annual economic activity 25 fold. However, that effort did not translate into significant new funding. In 2008 state appropriation was roughly \$230 million and today it is roughly \$100 million for the entire university system.

The capital campaign “Carolina’s Promise” started with a billion dollar goal, and \$870,855,302.00 has been brought in to date. The campaign will conclude on June 30, 2015.

The President stated that the faculty are the backbone of our university and while he is glad that there was 2% increase to salary, it is hardly enough. The administration will continue to advocate for additional support of employee pay both to the faculty and staff, as well as looking at job satisfaction, work site wellness, and other areas.

President Pastides spoke about the construction and renovation projects occurring on campus, including the renovations of the Women’s Quad and the old health sciences building for the Journalism School, and groundbreaking for the Law School and the opening of the Darla Moore School of Business. The President urged faculty to visit the Moore School, which is not only the state’s greenest large office educational building but probably the nation’s and will remain that way for a while. It is engineered to be an energy neutral building which means it will produce as much energy on average in a year as it consumes.

The President turned to safety issues on campus. Although the number of incidents is about the same every fall, the University aspires to have zero incidences. The number of officers patrolling in populated areas – especially at night, both in uniform and out of uniform – have been significantly increased. New technology, including cameras and street lighting, have been implemented as well as a new app that will be released very shortly. Called “Guardian,” it is available to students, faculty and staff. It functions as a personal call box. A person walking across campus who feels uncomfortable can press a button that immediately goes to headquarters of USC law enforcement and safety. They will dispatch a safety officer who will come and find you via GPS, unless you call and cancel it. It can also be programmed to go off after a set amount of time, so you can cancel it after you reach your destination.

Security is a collective responsibility. Students are frequently told not to make themselves easy victims and to travel in groups when out late, but the bad people out there know that every fall thousands of students arrive and some may be easier targets than others. So we ask the students to travel in groups especially when they walk. Transportation out of Five Points has been increased so people can get safely to where they want to go. And a program called “Standup Carolina” has been implemented which is a resource for person who may be concerned about the welfare of a coworker.

The President called on Provost Amiridis to introduce the new faculty.

4. Report of Provost.

PROVOST MICHAEL AMIRIDIS greeted his faculty colleagues and opened his report with an overview of the highlights from last year’s tenure and promotion cases.

We had 127 decisions last year involving 79 faculty members many of which involved two decisions on a single person. There were 46 applications for assistant professor for tenure and promotion to associate professor. Forty-one of them were successful for promotion and 40 of them were successful for tenure. At all the other levels (i.e., tenure at associate professor, tenure and promotion to professor, tenure at professor, promotion to professor and tenure as librarian) –

we had 35 cases and 29 out of these 35 cases were successful – so the success rate again is above 80%. Our policy also requires that we provide detailed statistics at each different level regarding the agreement between the different administrative levels. What percent of the decisions did the chairs and the deans agreed on, what percent did chairs and the provost, the provost and the UCTP, and the UCTP and the president agreed on. In general there was very good agreement in all of these cases. The lowest agreement was 85% between the provost and the chairs of the departments. Other levels fell between 85 to 90%. The highest agreement in the entire set of data was between the president and the UCTP at 97.5%. The Provost thanked the University Committee on Tenure and Promotions for its work.

Provost Amiridis reported that more than 90 tenure track faculty members were hired this year. More than 90 universities made national news by announcing a plan to hire 100 new faculty members over the next 5 years and Carolina had 92 in one year, last year. This is following similar groups of faculty members that we brought in the year before and the year before that for the faculty replenishment initiative. Carolina also had more than 60 instructors, clinical faculty and research faculty that were hired this year, bringing the total to more than 150 new faculty members on campus.

Provost Amiridis then asked the Deans to introduce their new faculty. The following list is a summary:

College of Arts and Sciences: 28 new faculty members in the following departments: Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Earth and Ocean Sciences, English Language and Literature, Environment and Sustainability Program, Geography, History, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Sociology, Statistics, Theatre and Dance, and the School of Visual Art and Design.

Moore School of Business: 21 new faculty members in Accounting, Economics, Finance, International Business, Marketing, Management, and Management Science.

College of Education: 10 new faculty members in Educational Studies, four in Instruction and Teacher Education, and three in Educational Leadership and Policies.

College of Engineering & Computing: 7 new faculty members in Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

College of Hospitality, Retail, & Sport Management: 5 new faculty members.

School of Law: 5 new faculty members.

University Libraries: 5 new faculty members.

College of Mass Communications and Information Studies: 3 new faculty members.

School of Medicine – Columbia: 22 new faculty members in Family and Preventive Medicine; Internal Medicine; Neurology; Medical Education; Neuropsychiatry; Pathology/Microbiology; Pediatrics; Pathology, Physiology and Neurology; and our Ultra Sound Institute.

School of Medicine-Greenville: 2 new faculty members.

School of Music: 6 new faculty members.

College of Nursing: Several new faculty members.

College of Pharmacy: 1 new faculty member.

Arnold School of Public Health: 11 new faculty members.

College of Social Work: 7 new faculty members.

Palmetto College: 10 new faculty members on the following campuses: Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union.

Provost Amiridis and President Pastides welcomed all new faculty to the University.

PRESIDENT PASTIDES urged faculty to become acquainted with the Magellan Scholar Program, a great example of interdisciplinary cooperation. Students are eligible to apply for up to \$3,000 to work with any professor independently on a proposal. It is usually developed in the junior year but can also be in the sophomore or senior years. One example is the project of art major Nikolai Oskolkov. For his Magellan Scholar project he wanted to paint the famous Leonardo da Vinci painting of the Madonna of the Rocks but he wanted as well to create the dyes and the paint using the same minerals and natural elements that Leonardo would have had available to him in the 16th century. For that he worked with a chemistry professor first to literally fabricate, manufacture colors, the dyes, and he painted the canvas working with David Voros in fact in the Art department. It was a brilliant use of the Magellan Scholar program. So there is innovation and creativity not only among our new faculty this year but throughout the student body and the university.

5. Reports of Committees.

There were no committee reports.

6. Old Business.

There was no old business.

7. New Business/Good of the Order.

PROFESSOR JIM KNAPP (Earth & Ocean Sciences) introduced himself as Chair of the Faculty Senate and on behalf of the faculty of the University of South Carolina welcomed the new faculty. He reiterated the President's statement that faculty are the backbone of the University,

and encouraged new faculty to engage with the Faculty Senate, which plays a significant role in the governance of the University.

8. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. The next meeting of the General Faculty will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 2:00 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.