

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

April 24, 2012

1. Call to Order.

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES called the meeting to order, and welcomed his faculty colleagues, University officers, and guests.

2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes.

PRESIDENT PASTIDES asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of September 7, 2011. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

3. Report of the President

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES opened his report by announcing that the University that evening would be hosting a barbeque on the Horseshoe for the members of the General Assembly, the constitutional officers of the State, and the members of the Governor's Cabinet. The event is intended to showcase the University and to raise awareness for our government officials of how much dedicated work the University is doing with greatly-diminished appropriations. In three years, the University's state appropriations have fallen from about 25% to below 10%, in the range of 8.5 – 9.2%. The President noted that, although the economy appears to be recovering somewhat from the recession, there is likely to be no return to prior funding levels from our state government.

We need to be very sensitive to how much we can raise tuition this year. At the barbeque, the University's administrators will remind the General Assembly that so much of the Palmetto State's fate and fortunes derive from our University and from other colleges, and will ask for their greater support. The General Assembly approved \$5 million this year for USC's Palmetto College. Palmetto College is an online baccalaureate completion program to be delivered by Columbia, Aiken, Upstate, and Beaufort, mainly to South Carolinians who have completed part of their college degree and have become place-bound and unable to come to Columbia to complete the degree. Without a program like the Palmetto College, these students would have nowhere to turn but to for-profit universities, and our University can offer high-quality, lower-cost baccalaureate completion. We hope that the General Assembly will make this support ongoing. The General Assembly also approved \$10 million for the construction of a new Law School building.

The President reported that the state will likely mandate a 2% pay raise for faculty and staff. The state will not be providing the funding for the entire raise, just for the percentage of our state appropriations, so the University (and other state institutions) will have to make up the difference from other funding sources. President Pastides noted that, while results are not guaranteed, he,

the Provost, and Faculty Senate Chair Sandra Kelly will advocate with the Board of Trustees for an additional 1%, bringing the goal to a 3% raise. The University's administration team is working with the Faculty Welfare Committee and the Faculty Budget Committee on ideas for distributing the raise pool if we are successful.

President Pastides noted that we have had some wonderful news in terms of awards that have been conferred both on our students and members of the faculty. We have had three Goldwater awards among the student body. These are among the most prestigious awards in the United States, and we have three out of only 282 awarded in the nation. Goldwater recipients are Cole Franks, Daniel Grier, and Gerry Koons. The Goldwaters are for students enrolled in the STEM disciplines who have a bright future working toward a Ph.D.

Elizabeth Wilson won the Swanger Award, and the two Algernon Sidney Sullivan award winners are Nick Riley and Christina Gallardi. The winners will be recognized at commencement.

We had four USC professors who were noted by Princeton Review as being among the top 300 professors of the year. These awards are based on student evaluation and input rather than peer review. Those professors are Brad Collins (Art History), Tom Hughes and Mariah Lynch (Business), and Mark Sibley-Jones, who teaches English in the Honors College.

The President was particularly pleased that this year we had a faculty colleague win a Guggenheim fellowship, one of the most prestigious scholarly awards that can be given in the United States. Professor Fang Man, an Assistant Professor of Music, has been called "inventive and breathtaking" by Steven Smith, music reviewer the New York Times. Her original music has been performed by the LA Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic and many, many others. We are very, very proud of Professor Fang Man for winning a Guggenheim.

President Pastides was also extremely proud to report that the South Carolina Honors College has been ranked as the top Honors College in the United States among public universities. The President was especially gratified that the honors college concept is one that the University was early to embrace, having established our Honors College several decades ago as a special experience within a large public university. We arguably helped refine the concept, and the President congratulated Dean Lynn and the faculty of the Honors College on this achievement.

President Pastides noted that institutions of higher education were simultaneously losing state support and receiving increased pressure to keep tuition in check. We have increased the size of our student body in Columbia dramatically over the past several years for two reasons. The first reason is that we are a tuition-dependent university. Education is our product, our deliverable, and our best interests are served by reaching more customers. But the more important reason is that we need more education in South Carolina and in the nation. For about 150 years, the United States was the number one nation in the world regarding the percentage of the population with a college degree. Then the US was eclipsed by Canada, and in the last 15 years, we have fallen to 12th on the list.

Tuition at our University, in round numbers, is about \$10,000/year for in-state students and \$25,000/year for out-of-state students. Out-of-state students pay approximately 2.5 times the tuition of an in-state student, before any discounting is applied. Nearly 100% of the in-state students in the freshman class at the Columbia campus receive one of the lottery-funded scholarships, making their net average cost of tuition closer to \$4,000. While we cannot turn away in-state students in order to generate greater tuition revenues from out-of-state students, our number of out-of-state applicants was higher this year than ever before. This is not a universal phenomenon at colleges around the country; out-of-state applications tend to increase for colleges which are viewed, as Kiplinger's Magazine has called it, as "best value" schools. USC is frequently rated as a best value university.

The President asked and the Provost confirmed that the University will be introducing around 130 – 140 new faculty members this fall, in response to the last few years' growth in our student body.

President Pastides closed his report with comments regarding the many beautiful and creative programs he'd seen in the last several weeks: ballets, three Shakespeare plays by the drama department, and phenomenal musical productions, including one remembering the Holocaust.

4. Report of the Provost

PROVOST MICHAEL AMIRIDIS opened his report with an update regarding the Dean search at the College of Nursing. Four very strong candidates have been identified and they are going to be interviewing on campus between May 1 and 29. The Provost encouraged feedback from faculty and administrators who interact with these candidates.

The Provost reported that a memo has gone out to the University's Deans and Chancellors that describes the Palmetto College initiative. The memo is a three-page summary of what Palmetto College is: who the students will be, who will teach, where the degrees will come from, how it will be funded, how it will be administered and staffed. The initiative is a work in progress, and the Provost invites faculty and Senators to direct any concerns and questions to him or to Vice Provost Lacy Ford.

Provost Amiridis noted that he had announced the winners of this year's University Faculty Awards during the General Faculty meeting, and congratulated the winners again. This year's winners are:

John Gardner Inspirational Faculty Member Award

Leslie Hendrix

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Statistics

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

Norma Frizzell

School of Medicine

Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience

Xinyu Huang

College of Engineering and Computing

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Ada B. Thomas Outstanding Faculty Advisor

Wayne Outten

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Russell Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences

Geoff Alpert

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Russell Research Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering

Kenneth Reifsnider

College of Engineering and Computing

Department of Mechanical Engineering

USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Health Sciences

James Fadel

School of Medicine

Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience

USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences

Patricia Sullivan

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of History

USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering

James Ritter

College of Engineering and Computing

Department of Chemical Engineering

USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Professional Schools

Robert E. Ployhart
Moore School of Business
Department of Management

USC Educational Foundation Outstanding Service Award

John H. Dawson
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Carolina Trustee Professorships

James Hebert
Arnold School of Public Health
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Hans-Conrad zur Loye
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Juanita Villena-Alvarez
USC Beaufort
Humanities and Fine Arts

John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award (2011)

Leandro Junes
USC Sumter
Division of Science, Mathematics and Engineering

Clinical Practice Teaching Award

Brandon Bookstaver
South Carolina College of Pharmacy
Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences

Charles J. Carter
School of Medicine
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award

Northrop Davis
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Art

John L. Ferry
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Anthony Jarrells
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

Joseph Quattro
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biological Sciences

Michael J. Mungo Graduate Teaching Award

Milind V. Purohit
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year Award

Milind Kunchur
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Physics and Astronomy

THE PROVOST then invited Vice President Prakash Nagarkatti to deliver a report.

VICE PRESIDENT PRAKASH NAGARKATTI (Research) provided an overview of the recent activities of the Office of Research. The Office of Research has launched an ambitious agenda to increase research funding to about \$300 million and make our University one of the top 50 public universities.

To better understand how research support operates at other universities, the Office of Research has been gathering statistical information. Here are some of the highlights:

- 70% of research at both public and private universities is funded by the federal government.
- 10% is sponsored by state/local governments and industry.

- The federal government spends about \$32.5 billion on research funding for universities.
- Of that \$32.5 billion, almost \$20 billion is allocated toward supporting life sciences, with the remainder going to other areas.
- NIH provides almost \$20 billion to support university research.
- NSF provides about \$3.9 billion, with other agencies contributing about \$10 billion.
- Research funding has remained at about .4% of the GDP for the last 20 or 25 years.

How can USC compete with other universities for federal research funding? Dr. Nagarkatti outlined a strategy to help us focus our efforts.

1. Innovate, integrate, and pursue interdisciplinary research.

We have major strengths in life sciences and health sciences across at least six different colleges from Medicine, Public Health, Pharmacy, Nursing, Arts & Sciences, and Social Work. If we can integrate these strengths with other colleges and units, then we will be able to successfully compete. Dr. Nagarkatti used as an example the Medical School's center for inflammation, which was successfully funded on the strength of its interdisciplinary approach.

2. To be successful nationally, we need to focus on problems or opportunities that are unique to our region.

Focal points in South Carolina could include the fact that our state is in a stroke belt, or that we have health disparities, or that we have major obesity problems. Other examples include nuclear energy or coastal environment. Dr. Nagarkatti stated that such a concept can be applied to any area including those in Arts and Humanities such as for example, in music. We could address such issues such as obesity for example by looking at health factors, environmental factors, genetic factors, and psychological factors. We could integrate other disciplines and colleges, such as Education for health literacy education, or Social Work or Business.

Dr. Nagarkatti outlined several initiatives that the Office of Research is developing to take advantage of the fact that we are a comprehensive university.

The ASPIRE program has received enthusiastic response. The Office of Research received almost 200 applications and invested about \$2.5 million this year funding almost 30 – 35% of applications received to promote interdisciplinary research across multiple colleges and units.

We are trying to develop undergraduate and graduate programs and have initiated a number of initiatives like starting online journals, trying to promote NSF funded research experience for undergraduates. We are collaborating with several historically black colleges and universities

(HBCUs) and this summer we are bringing a large number of minority students to work with our faculty. We are going to incentivize the faculty by trying to provide \$2,000 to \$3,000 to help them in terms of their salary support, as well as money needed for supplies, thereby supporting the minority training program. We are trying to promote the diversity in research. We are trying to develop an effective mentoring plan. Dr. Nagarkatti is going to various departments and giving talks about how to help junior faculty get mentoring from senior faculty. We are trying to develop that at the college level as well as at the university level, including the development of a research mentoring institute, the details of which will follow

We had a research retreat in which we talked about how to incentivize faculty for their outstanding research and scholarly activities. That is something that we will try to focus on at the university level. We want to promote faculty entrepreneurship and help the faculty submit SBIR and STR grants. Representatives from the Office of Technology Commercialization will visit every department to talk to the faculty about these initiatives.

Another initiative will focus on improving media relations and development activities. We will increase efforts to promote research in regional newspapers, national papers and other media outlets and make the public aware of the exciting research that is going on here at USC.

We are trying to establish a database of all global research activities. We want to promote global research in terms of applying for major source of funding from USAID, the World Bank, the Gates Foundation, and similar entities.

Lastly, the Office of Research is working to develop the infrastructure by providing the faculty with some of the cutting edge facilities that are necessary to carry out state of the art research. Again, the ASPIRE III grant which gives almost \$100,000 was aimed at trying to improve the infrastructure.

Vice President Nagarkatti opened the floor for questions.

PROFESSOR DRUCILLA BARKER (Women's Studies) noted that there are many departments on campus that are already conducting interdisciplinary scholarship, and called for more recognition of these programs. She used as an example an interdisciplinary program in Linguistics, where scholars collaborate across the humanities, social sciences and health sciences.

VICE PRESIDENT NAGARKATTI agreed that the University has some very active interdisciplinary initiatives and that the Office of Research is interested in building on the strengths to put together some interdisciplinary initiatives that will be competitive nationally.

5. Reports of Committees

PROFESSOR JIM KNAPP (Earth and Ocean Sciences and Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee) presented to the faculty a proposed revision to the USC Faculty Manual. The proposed revision comes from the Faculty Advisory Committee in consultation with the University Committee on Tenure and Promotions. Two years ago, the Committee made a group of major revisions to the Faculty Manual concerning the provisions for tenure and promotion. Included was another provision allowing secondary units to participate formally in the process of review of tenure and promotion files. It came to the Committee's attention over the course of this past year that there was an oversight in terms of developing those provisions, wherein, the procedures used by secondary unit were to be developed by a secondary unit, but there was no oversight anywhere else within the university community in terms of what procedures they might promulgate.

The proposal is an attempt to rectify that situation. Included in the agenda packet for this meeting is a document showing the current and the proposed language. The Faculty Advisory Committee will present the proposal for a vote at the General Faculty Meeting in September. Professor Knapp noted that there will be a review and comment period over the course of the summer. He encouraged faculty members to review the proposal, and invited anyone with questions or concerns to get in touch with him.

6. Old Business/New Business.

There was no old business, and no new business.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. President Pastides invited the faculty and guests to a reception in the lobby outside the auditorium in celebration of the award winners and of the commencement season.

The next General Faculty meeting will be on Wednesday, September 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium.