

**GENERAL FACULTY MEETING**  
**April 28, 2008**

**I. and II. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

**President Andrew Sorensen** called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the meeting of September 5, 2007. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved as written.

**III. Report of the President.**

**President Sorensen** reported on the following issues relating to the budget and the new fiscal year:

The Legislature approved continued funding for the University's Endowed Chairs Program. The Senate approved 10 million dollars, and the House approved 30 million. The rules of the SC legislative body provide that such funding will not be lower than the lower figure of one house or higher than the higher figure of the other, so the final figure will be between these limits. President Sorensen and others will continue to lobby for an appropriation that is closer to 30 million for the Endowed Chairs Program.

The cut of 2.68% in the USC Columbia budget stands, and that fact is not expected to change. The amounts of budget cuts at the other seven USC institutions vary, but all are in the 3-4% range. President Sorensen explained that in the 1990s, the Legislature established a funding formula for all colleges and universities in the state. The amount of funding was fixed, based on enrollment at that point in time. Consequently, the formula is not responsive to increases or decreases in enrollment, resulting in schools with decreased enrollment receiving more funding per FTE student, and those with increased enrollment receiving less. The majority of USC institutions have seen dramatically increased enrollment, resulting in institutional growth that has outpaced funding. The University had hoped to compensate for the funding cuts through below-the-line measures, but the Legislature voted to remove most of them.

The President announced that the Legislature has appropriated funding for a 1% raise for faculty and staff. President Sorensen lobbied valiantly for a double-digit increase, but the Legislature did not approve it.

President Sorensen will preside at fourteen commencement ceremonies during the next two weeks. He remarked that he has always found special meaning in shaking the hands of the graduates, hearing their names called, and seeing their families' pride in them at the ceremonies. The President urged faculty to attend and noted how much faculty participation means to the students, and to the President as well.

President Sorensen commended the Tenure and Promotion Committee, with whom he'd met that morning. He noted that they, perhaps more than any other University

committee, are charged with establishing the academic stature of the University and that their hard work deserves recognition.

In conclusion, the President reminded the faculty that he and Mrs. Sorensen would be hosting a reception for new faculty at their home that evening, and that they and Provost Becker were looking forward to welcoming all new faculty members.

#### **IV. Report of Provost.**

**Provost Mark Becker** presented the faculty awards winners for the 2007-2008 academic year. The winners are:

**Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award:**

Benjamin L. Hankin – Psychology  
Rekha C. Patel – Biological Sciences

**Ada B. Thomas Outstanding Faculty Advisor:**

Thomas L. Leatherman – Anthropology

**Russell Research Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering:**

Pradeep Talwani – Geological Sciences

**USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Health Sciences:**

Marlene A. Wilson – Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience

**USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Professional Schools:**

Kendall J. Roth – Moore School of Business

**USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering:**

Edsel Pena – Statistics

**USC Educational Foundation Outstanding Service Award:**

Daniel L. Reger – Chemistry & Biochemistry

**Carolina Trustee Professorship in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Areas:**

Sandra Kelly – Psychology

**Carolina Trustee Professorship in the Health, Engineering, Medical and Science and Mathematics Areas:**

Roger Sawyer – Biological Sciences

**Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Awards:**

Ken Shimizu – Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Grigory Simin – Electrical Engineering

Daniel Smith – English  
Stephen Stacnyk – Biological Sciences

**Michael J. Mungo Graduate Teaching Award:**  
Ralf Gothe – Physics and Astronomy

**Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year Award:**  
Sanjib R. Mishra – Physics

On behalf of President Sorensen and himself, the Provost invited the faculty to a reception in honor of the award winners, to be held in the lobby outside the auditorium immediately after the General Faculty Meeting.

## **V. Reports of Committees.**

### **Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Constance Schulz, Chair:**

Professor Schulz (History) explained the function of the Faculty Advisory Committee and introduced the draft of the first stage of revisions to the Faculty Manual. As Professor Schulz explained, the Faculty Manual is the basic contract of faculty members with the University, and its contents govern such subjects as promotion and tenure and administrative challenges. The first set of changes is designed to bring the language of the Faculty Manual into compliance with current USC policies and administrative structure. Copies of the changes were available at the General Faculty meeting and are available on the Faculty Senate's Webpage at [http://www.sc.edu/faculty/manualchange\\_pro.shtml](http://www.sc.edu/faculty/manualchange_pro.shtml). The changes have been approved by the faculty Advisory Committee and recommended to the faculty by the Faculty Senate. They must be approved by the General Faculty in order to be considered by the Board of Trustees, and Professor Schulz, on behalf of the Faculty Advisory Committee, presented them to the General Faculty for approval.

President Sorensen called for questions or comments on the changes to be addressed to Professor Schulz.

Professor Tracey Weldon (English) expressed concern regarding what appears to be a dilution of the University's commitment to affirmative action on page 1 of the proposed changes.

Professor Schulz responded, noting that the intent was not to compromise the affirmative action policy, but to add another category, that of sexual orientation, for whom Affirmative Action would be important. Professor Schulz moved to amend the changes to add the following as the first sentence of the new manual, "The University of South Carolina System is committed to the policy and practice of affirmative action and equal opportunity education and employment for all qualified persons", to be followed by "It is the policy of the University of South Carolina to recruit, hire, train, promote, tenure and otherwise make educational and personnel decisions without regard to race, color,

religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status (except where sex or age is a bonafide occupational qualification).” The motion carried.

Professor Marco Valtorta (Computer Science and Engineering) moved that the wording regarding the reporting of sick leave (page 8 of proposed changes) not be changed from *should to must*. The motion failed.

The General Faculty voted to accept the entire package of modifications to the Faculty Manual, as amended regarding the affirmative action policy on page 1.

Professor Schulz concluded her report by informing the faculty that there will be more changes in the next year. Three different Faculty Manual Revisions Subcommittees will be reviewing language on tenure and promotion process issues, research policy issues and special issues (matters that don’t fit into the other two categories), and will be submitting proposed changes during the year.

President Sorensen thanked Professor Schulz and the Committee for their work.

#### **VI. Old Business.**

There was no old business to come before the body.

#### **VII. New Business.**

**Professor Judi Burgess** (Medicine) announced that the Department of OB/GYN will be sponsoring the second annual Carolina Women’s Health Research Forum. The Department invites submission of abstracts from faculty and students who are doing research in women’s health or women’s issues generally. The research will be presented in poster form at the forum. The Department of OB/GYN will have an article about the forum in the May issue of the Carolina Times, and Professor Burgess invited interested persons to visit the forum’s Website at <http://whrf.med.sc.edu/>.

#### **VIII. Good of the Order.**

No further matters were brought forward for the good of the order.

#### **IX. Adjournment.**

President Sorensen reminded the faculty of the reception for the faculty awards winners immediately following the faculty meeting in the lobby outside the auditorium.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.