

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING
September 5, 2007

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 May 2, 2007 General Faculty Meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

III. Report of the President

President Sorensen welcomed the faculty back from summer break and then gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following:

- The President is very pleased with the increasing amount of coherence across the multiple USC campuses.
- The University has in place a three-fold plan for attracting and retaining South Carolina's young people:
 1. **Attract the most talented high school students to our University.** (Due to the lottery, 60 percent of students who scored 1390 or higher on the SAT remained in-state in 2006.)
 2. **Give USC students a first-rate education and provide them with skills necessary to perform intellectually challenging – and financially rewarding – jobs.** (The President has received numerous emails and calls from parents expressing their gratitude for the caring, supportive attitude of USC's faculty and staff.)
 3. **Stimulate the growth of companies within the state that require a sophisticated workforce so that our students will have ample employment opportunities.**
- Last year, the total student head count across all campuses was 40,293. This year, that figure will be over 41,000.
- There were over 15,000 applicants for undergraduate admission for the fall freshman class at USC Columbia. The University is obviously becoming more attractive and competitive. It is also striving to become more accessible by: 1) admitting 1500 students for January admission, and 2) working with two technical colleges to establish bridge programs that will facilitate a student's transfer from a technical college to USC.
- 585,000 feet of research space in the Innovista has either been completed or is near completion. The Horizon Center and Discovery Center are well underway. Scientists are at work in the Horizon Center, which is already receiving national recognition. All efforts are being made to ensure that new construction is energy-efficient and environment-friendly.

- A total of \$75 million in funds was raised this past year (\$66.9 million in new monies and \$8.1 million in pledges made in previous years). The number of donors has increased by 44%.
- During 2006-07, USC students won 37 fellowships worth more than \$1.1 million. This is an indication that the students of our University remain competitive nationally.
- USC has been awarded a total of \$185 million in grant funding this year for research, public service, and training projects. This is a 75% increase since the 2001-02 academic year. This is an extraordinary increase in light of a flattening of NIH funding.
- The University Police Department has increased its security efforts this year by conducting simulated disasters and by establishing a command center that is equipped with sophisticated electronic devices.

The President concluded his report by inviting Mr. Marvin Chernoff to speak about an upcoming Darfur rally that will be held at the State House on October 6 at 2 p.m.

IV. Report of the Provost

Provost Mark Becker introduced Christine Curtis, Vice Provost for Faculty Development. Dr. Curtis gave an overview of the new Family-Friendly Policies for USC Faculty. These policies include:

- Extension of the Tenure Clock & Third Year Review
- Modified Duties Semester for Faculty
- Dual Career Accommodation Policy

For policy details, visit <http://www.sc.edu/provost/policiesfamilyfriendly.shtml>.

The Provost thanked Dr. Curtis for her work in supporting USC faculty. He then assisted the deans of the schools and colleges in introducing over 190 new faculty. President Sorensen welcomed the new faculty and congratulated the deans on their successful recruitment efforts. The President also offered words of congratulations to Dr. Curtis and Elise Ahyi (Assistant Provost for Academic Policy) for coordinating the complex process of establishing the new Family-Friendly Policies for USC Faculty.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.