

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

May 2, 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 September 6, 2006 General Faculty Meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

III. Report of the President

President Sorensen remarked that enrollment data indicate that USC is increasingly attractive to students from South Carolina as well as those from elsewhere. It is estimated that there will be 3,500 freshmen in fall of 2007. There have already been nearly 14,900 applicants for those openings; this is the highest number of applicants in the history of the University. USC will also be able to accommodate 1,500 freshmen in January. Data indicate that more South Carolinians are enrolling. From 2002 to 2006, there has been an increase of 2,500 South Carolinians enrolled across all USC campuses.

The President also gave the following updates:

- The Honors College has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of applicants. Thus far, there have been over 1,600 applicants for 310 openings (a 30% increase in the number of applicants from last year).
- The Law School has had 2,019 applications for 220 openings. This is the highest number of applications in the Law School's history.
- The School of Medicine has had 1,940 applicants for 85 openings. This, also, is a record high. The School of Medicine's entire student body is comprised of South Carolinians, children of alumni, or those with strong educational ties to South Carolina.
- There are over 1,000 applicants for 25 McNair scholar openings.
- Faculty from the College of Engineering and Computing have announced an initiative to reduce carbon emissions and other polluting chemicals from the burning of coal. A pledge of \$5 million was received from the Santee Cooper utility and South Carolina's electric co-ops, establishing the "Clean Coal Partnership." The President hopes that the State will match this dollar for dollar through the endowed chairs program. This would create \$10 million to endow research in this important area.
- It is likely that USC will get an increase in funding from the state legislature this year. This is in part due to collaboration among USC, MUSC, and Clemson University.

IV. Committee Reports

Faculty Advisory Committee: Associate Dean Andrew Gowan (Music), Chair, discussed proposed changes to *The Faculty Manual*. The committee will be making revisions in an effort to make the document more cohesive. A handout was distributed outlining the committee's first proposed changes, to include the following:

- Language added to the description of Faculty Committees (pages 4-5 of *The Faculty Manual*) regarding eligibility to serve and the length of terms for appointed members.
- Language changed/added to the description of the Faculty Grievance Committee (page 8 of *The Faculty Manual*) regarding eligibility to serve and the length of terms for student members.

Professor Ruth Riley (Medicine) expressed the desire of tenured librarians to continue to be eligible to serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee, as librarians have been active participants on the committee in the past. She offered a friendly amendment to the committee's motion, proposing to eliminate the strikethrough of the words "or tenured librarians" from the proposed new language of the Faculty Grievance description. This would allow tenured librarians to continue service on that committee. The friendly amendment was seconded. A vote was taken and the committee's motion, including the friendly amendment, carried.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

There was no new business.

VII. Report of the Provost

Provost Mark Becker presented the 2007 teaching and research awards and invited everyone to a reception in honor of award winners. (For a list of awards and winners, visit the Office of the Provost's "Faculty Awards" Web page at <http://www.sc.edu/provost/facultydev.html>.)

VIII. Good of the Order

There were no items for the good of the order.

IX. Adjournment

President Sorensen declared the meeting adjourned.