

## **GENERAL FACULTY MEETING**

### **September 6, 2006**

#### **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 April 26, 2006 General Faculty Meeting. There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

#### **III. Report of the President**

President Sorensen began by recounting his adventures helping students move into their new quarters in the fall. Since he remains somewhat incognito by not announcing his name and title to each family, he is treated to interesting conversations while acting as a veritable pack mule. "But it was a wonderful experience," he said.

The president introduced Dr. Jerry Odom, former USC Provost, who was recently named Executive Director of the University Foundations.

President Sorensen reported the following:

- *US News and World Report* has ranked USC Aiken number one in the category of "Comprehensive Public Colleges in the South." USC Upstate was ranked number three in that category.
- A Center for Teaching Excellence is being developed. Recruitment is underway for a new Vice Provost for Faculty Development, who will oversee this project.
- A Student Success Center is also in development and will be housed in Thomas Cooper Library in the fall. Professor Jed Lyons (Mechanical Engineering) will serve as the Center's Director.
- A second cohort of USC's Magellan Scholars was recently named. USC has more than 66 Magellan Scholars with over \$180,000 in university-funded support for their research projects. These projects span all academic disciplines and are supervised by faculty mentors. A third round of Magellan scholars will be announced in the spring.
- This past year was a banner year for USC students with regards to scholarships and fellowships. USC had a Truman scholar, four Fulbright Scholars, two Goldwater Scholars, three National Science Foundation Fellows, a Udall Fellow, and a Madison Fellow. Faculty are encouraged to direct promising students to the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs.
- The President commended Dr. Mickey Myrick's efforts in the development of his company, Ometric Corporation. This success story serves as an example of the myriad research opportunities within the University and the state of South Carolina.
- The Educational Lottery scholarships are encouraging more and more of South Carolina's top high school seniors to attend USC. 98.5% of our incoming freshmen receive some form of lottery scholarship. 80% of USC's undergraduates are South Carolinians. The quality of freshmen at USC is at its

- best; average SAT score is 1171 (up seven points from last year, while the rest of the nation shows a 7 point drop).
- 310 students have enrolled in the highly selective South Carolina Honors College (average SAT score is 1398 for this group).
  - Capstone Scholars number 550 (average SAT score: 1304)
  - 22% of USC students received a Pell Grant. *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* reports that USC has the highest proportion of African American students of any public flagship university in the U.S.
  - The South Carolina College of Pharmacy welcomes this fall its first class of 190 students, 110 of whom are on the Columbia campus. Competition for these slots was very stiff.
  - Enrollment for the USC School of Medicine has become increasingly competitive. The entering class has the highest average MCAT and GPA scores of any class since the school's inception. There were over one thousand applicants for 78 openings.
  - The Law School reports that its entering class has the highest average LSAT scores in the school's history.
  - USC was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research institution of very high research activity. USC was the only university in the state of South Carolina given this top designation.
  - The legislature awarded USC two million dollars for this fiscal year to establish an Environmental Genomics Center that will allow for research on how freshwater resources change and adapt in response to urban development. After this fiscal year there will be \$500,000 in recurring funds to enable the recruitment of faculty clusters in the School of the Environment. Madilyn Fletcher has been appointed Director of the School of the Environment.
  - For its student recruitment efforts, USC was one of five American colleges and universities to receive a 2006 Noel-Levitz Marketing-Recruitment Excellence Award.
  - The Public Health Research Center of the Arnold School of Public Health is complete. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Gary Snyder has been recruited as the Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications.
  - Two additional research buildings are under construction. Horizon I (corner of Main and Blossom) will be ready for occupancy in February 2008 and will be principally dedicated to future fuels research, specifically fuel cell research and hydrogen manufacture. It will also house the USC Columbia incubator and provide facilities for shared engineering and basic science equipment. Discovery I (across from the Colonial Center) will be designated for biomedical research, neuroscience imaging, and cancer prevention and control programs.
  - This has been a good year in terms of support from the General Assembly. In addition to the 3% average raise for faculty and staff, USC received: \$4 million in recurring funds to hire additional faculty, \$2 million for the Environmental Genomics Center, and \$30 million for the Endowed Chairs program.

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

Provost Mark Becker gave a report on the 2005-06 tenure and promotion cycle:

- 47 files went through the process, resulting in 73 decisions.
- Four files were remanded due to criteria or incorrect use of criteria.
- The President agreed with UCTP in 85% of the decisions, with the Provost in 92% of the decisions, with Deans in 90% of the decisions and with Department Chairs in 71% of the decisions.
- UCTP agreed with the Provost in 82% of the decisions, with the Deans 85% and with the Chairs 86%.
- The Provost agreed with the Deans in 95% of the decisions and with the Department Chairs in 74%.
- Deans agreed with their Department Chairs in 90% of the decisions.
- Units voted 96% of the time in favor of the candidate and 4% of the time not in favor of the candidate.

The Provost gave an update on the Faculty Excellence Hiring Initiative, and then asked the Deans to introduce new faculty within their respective schools. 151 new faculty were hired during the 2005-2006 cycle. After the conclusion of the Provost's report, President Sorensen noted that 51% of tenure-track faculty hired were women. In addition, 54% of USC Columbia faculty report to women deans or women school directors.

#### **V. Old Business.**

There was no old business.

#### **VI. New Business.**

There was no new business.

#### **VII. Good of the Order.**

There were no items for the good of the order.

#### **VIII. Adjournment.**

President Sorensen declared the meeting adjourned.