FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 5, 2011

1. Call to Order

PAST CHAIR PATRICK NOLAN (Sociology) called the meeting to order, and welcomed Senators, faculty and staff colleagues, and University Officers.

2. Corrections and Approval of Minutes

PAST CHAIR NOLAN 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. Reports of Committees

a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Rebekah Maxwell, Secretary

PROFESSOR MAXWELL (Law Library) presented a nominee for a committee vacancy. Professor Ellen Douglas Schlaefer (Music) has agreed to be nominated for a vacant partial term (2013) on the Committee on Libraries. The Senators accepted her nomination. Professor Maxwell left the floor open for further nominations.

Professor Maxwell reported on several other committee vacancies:

Faculty Grievance Committee: 2 full terms ending in 2014
Committee on Honorary Degrees: 1 partial term ending in 2012
Tenure Review Board: 1 full term ending in 2014

Professor Maxwell encouraged Senators and faculty members to get involved with committee work, and to contact her if they are interested in filling any of these vacancies.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Peter Binev, Chair

PROFESSOR BINEV (Mathematics) opened his report with corrections to the information presented in Attachment 1 of the agenda packet:

On page 12, under Department of Exercise Science, at the end of first paragraph of the current column “or public health” should be stricken through and then on the proposed column the last sentence should end “fitness, or motor development.”
On page 16, for the Department of Exercise Science under item 3, “Public Health” should be stricken through in the current column and deleted in the proposed.

At the end of page 18, under System Affairs and Extended University, at the end of the list courses to which Distance Education Delivery is being added you should add: MGMT 374 Management of Human Resources. (3)

Professor Binev reported new changes in courses and curricula from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Moore School of Business, the Arnold School of Public Health, and System Affairs and Extended University (please see attachment, pages 9 - 18).

The Committee recommended that the Faculty Senate accept the changes. The changes were approved as amended by the corrections presented by Professor Binev at the beginning of his report.

PAST CHAIR NOLAN noted that, while the approval of course and curricula changes may appear to be a pro forma endeavor by the time they reach the Faculty Senate, the Committee invests a tremendous amount of work and time vetting the changes and resolving any issues or problems. He thanked Professor Binev and the Committee for their dedication to this important work.

4. Reports of Officers

PRESIDENT HARRIS PASTIDES greeted his faculty colleagues throughout the University system and opened his report with an overview of the new funding formula that is being developed for South Carolina’s colleges and universities. When the state’s universities have reached a level of agreement on the basics of the formula, negotiations for appropriations can begin with the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly. Accountability Based Funding (ABF) features several categories of accountability:

- Educating South Carolinians – i.e. counting the number of students that are being educated.
- Measuring the aspects of progression of our students from freshman to sophomore, sophomore to junior, and graduation for 4, 5, and 6 year graduation.
- Our impact on the economy.
- Preparedness of our students for the job market or for graduate school.
- Other components, including diversity.
Every college has its own idea about accountability and metrics, and it is a great challenge to bring divergent public colleges together to agree on the metrics. University leaders support greater accountability, but they have communicated to the Governor that the accountability initiative should be underpinned with a hope of new money and more money. A funding system built on taking funding from one university to provide for another would not generate necessary consensus throughout the state’s university community. We have a long way to go, but the President feels that progress is being made.

President Pastides reported on the September 23rd ground-breaking for the new Darla Moore School of Business, noting that it was an inspiring day. The new Moore School will be an experimental building and one of 20 projects around the country that will be partially funded by the US Department of Energy. It will also be one of only four projects in the nation with the goal of energy net zero. Energy net zero means that a building will produce the same amount of energy that it uses. If we get it right, the Moore School will be the largest building in the United States with a net zero energy accomplishment. The President concedes that it is a stretch goal and that there is no guarantee that we will meet that goal, but we are going to try. The building will capture storm water to use for flushing toilets. Captured storm water will be used to irrigate the plants on the top of the building, as well as the plantings around the property. After use, the captured rainwater will be filtered, purified, and eventually sent into the public waterways around Columbia.

The building will have a mixed roof made up of green roof and white cool roof spaces. (Everything from this point are goals.) Its heating system will be 40% more efficient, with solar panels on the roof producing 100% of the electricity used in the building. Ninety percent of the construction waste that is generated in the building construction will be recycled. Over 50% of all the construction materials will be obtained locally from local and regional manufacturers. Upon completion of the Moore School, we will have over 1.3 million square feet LEED-certified green buildings on the USC campus. That will be more than any other university in the southeastern part of the United States. If we get it right, we will save approximately $1.5 million per year in energy costs for all the green buildings on campus and it will be the first LEED platinum building on campus (there are others in SC, but we will be the largest).

President Pastides is proud to be associated with a university where we are attempting a project like this. The University’s administrative team has worked closely with faculty members, students, and Faculty Senators from the Business School to determine their needs for the building.

The new Moore School will also be partially funded through an arrangement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). After a comprehensive renovation of the Close and Hipp Buildings, several hundred federal workers will occupy those spaces, contributing to the local economy, renting homes, buying homes, shopping, and mingling with the campus community.
The income stream from the long-term rental contract with the DOJ will allow the University to pay for the construction of the new Moore School.

President Pastides met on September 30 with a group of faculty, staff, and students who are concerned about safety issues and interpersonal violence. The tragic loss of Associate Professor Jennifer Wilson in the College of Education has motivated a greater awareness of campus and community safety. Safety experts from the campus, from SLED, and from USC Health Services addressed the group to highlight programs designed to increase awareness of, and effectiveness of, programs focused on safety issues involving physical and emotional danger. The “Stand Up Carolina” initiative seeks to educate the University community on effective responses when someone we care about is in danger. The President encouraged those interested to get involved with the committee.

The President announced that the State of the Student Body address would be delivered that afternoon at 5:30 p.m. by Student Government Association (SGA) President Joe Wright in the Student Senate Chambers in the Russell House. The SGA, like faculty and administrators, continues to be concerned about the cost of textbooks, and has made this a priority area for the coming year. Our students are also concerned about the size of the faculty and have been gratified to learn of the President’s and the Provost’s commitment to hire more faculty.

President Pastides announced the intention of the University’s administrators to request a base pay raise for faculty and staff in the next fiscal year. They will be working with the Faculty Welfare Committee and the University’s Board of Trustees on the negotiations.

On November 11, the University will launch its capital campaign. While we are continuously fundraising for the University, this initiative will have more of a public focus and a little more fanfare.

The President closed his report with a personal recommendation to visit the University’s Melton Observatory. The President and Mrs. Pastides had recently visited the observatory after having had dinner in Five Points, and their experience was so delightful that he encouraged the University community to take advantage of this jewel in our midst. The Observatory is open on Monday evenings, weather permitting, from 8 – 10 p.m. Find out more at: http://www.physics.sc.edu/~melton/

The President opened the floor for questions.

PROFESSOR AL PAKALNIS (Medicine) asked for more information about accountability based funding. Noting that one of the metrics was economic impact, he wondered if that means that USC is expected to create jobs.
PRESIDENT PASTIDES responded that the research universities will be evaluated differently from other publics because the Governor believes that we do have the ability to create jobs. The President envisions this happening through the myriad public private partnerships that we have. Most new companies that contemplate moving to South Carolina – Boeing is one, even the new tire companies that are coming – are interested in working with the University faculty. While we cannot be accountable for a specific number of jobs that were created specifically by the University, there are so many ways that we can create an economic impact - in the incubator and technology transfer, in the economists that we have at the Moore School, and beyond. We do need to be engaged out there both with the department of commerce and with the private sector.

6. Report of the Secretary

There was no report.

7. Report of the Chair

PAST CHAIR NOLAN had no report.

8. Unfinished Business

PROFESSOR REBEKAH MAXWELL (Law Library) returned to ask for further nominations for the vacancy on the Faculty Committee on Libraries. There were none, and the Senators unanimously elected Professor Ellen Douglas Schlaefer (Music) to the Committee. Professor Maxwell thanked Professor Schlaefer for her willingness to serve.

PROFESSOR AL PAKALNIS thanked Past Chair Patrick Nolan for his vibrant year as Faculty Senate Chair and nominated PROFESSOR SANDRA KELLY (Psychology) for Chair of the Faculty Senate.

PAST CHAIR NOLAN called for further nominations from the floor (there were none) and announced that nominations would be held open until Friday, October 14. Further nominations should be directed to Ms. Jeanna Luker in the Faculty Senate Office.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Good of the Order

PROFESSOR KENNETH CAMPBELL (Journalism & Mass Communications), on behalf of PROFESSOR AUGIE GRANT (Journalism & Mass Communications), read the following statement, address to the Faculty Senators of the School of Journalism & Mass Communications, regarding the parking issues involved with the location of the new Moore School building:
“I would like to ask you to bring up the issue of faculty parking at today’s Faculty Senate meeting. I’m sure you’ve seen the note from Parking Services that basically says that they are eliminating faculty parking places from both the N lot adjacent to the Coliseum and the Faculty lot across the street, and that they don’t plan to add any replacements, with the primary option being for faculty to pay $500 a year (or more for those who teach during the summer) for garage parking for the privilege of being on campus.

In my opinion, the primary issues are:

1. Faculty parking spaces were eliminated with no replacements, even though the University has plenty of land available for parking (including a large lot near the Colonial Center).
2. Faculty who have not had raises in years are being asked to reduce their take-home pay by paying for parking.
3. Faculty who have trouble parking will come to the office fewer days per week, inhibiting our ability to work with students, hold office hours, etc.
4. Faculty from numerous schools on this side of campus park in the N lots, so the issue is not a school issue, but a Faculty Senate one.”

PAST CHAIR NOLAN asked Professor Campbell to send him a copy of Professor Grant’s email and pledged to look into it to see what the Faculty Senate could do.

11. Announcements

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Wednesday, November 2, at 3:00 p.m., in the Law School auditorium.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.