

1 https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Yjc1NzVkODQtMjg1MC00YWl5LWE4NzktZDIzY2IzNTQ5MjNh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%224b2a4b19-d135-420e-8bb2-b1cd238998cc%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%220bb698ef-7d87-46c5-9dd6-1e40607d2783%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

9 **THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FACULTY SENATE**

10 Wednesday, April 25, 2023

11 This session was held in person and online.

12 PRESIDING PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS

13 A correction was made to the Fall 2022 General Faculty meeting minutes.

14 President Amiridis called the meeting to order at 3:00pm EST.

15 **Called Meeting of the General Faculty**

16 PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS welcomed faculty to the General Faculty meeting as the university approaches the end of the academic year. The President observed that the General Faculty meeting has less faculty participation than Faculty Senate meetings.

17 President Amiridis stated that as the semester ends, there are not as many students walking on campus as we begin final exams, however there are many visiting parents and prospective students. The administration and staff have been very busy, particularly since it is spring break in other states. Most of the visitors are for 2024 students.

18 There is a record number of student applications. This year, the number of applications is 42,000. Last year the university processed 47,000 applications. This year there were over 31,000 out of state applications, making decisions very difficult regarding which students to admit. The university also faced a surprise because of a significant increase in the yield compared to previous years. Yield is the percentage of acceptance of students who decide to attend USC.

19 The administration is still waiting for the final numbers (by May 1st). There is some potential for some attrition in the summer. The bottom line is the university is on track for its largest freshman track in history, exceeding 7,000 students. Last year the university admitted approximately 6,600 freshmen.

20 The large number of incoming freshmen can be a problem to some extent, not for housing but for academics. PROVOST ARNETT has been working with Deans and Department Chairs in some cases. This is a good problem to have, particularly in this very competitive environment. Transfer students are expected to be at the same level or perhaps at a decreased level since Technical Colleges (which is a feeder for us) have faced enrollment declines consistently over the past several years.

21 The increase in yield is a strong indicator that USC is becoming more favorable as a choice for students.

41 Last week there was a dedication for the 700 Lincoln Street residence hall in honor of
42 CELIA DIAL SAXON. She was a celebrated black educator in Columbia, throughout the
43 state, and known nationally. She was a community builder. During the Construction she
44 was a student at the South Carolina Normal School for Teachers. That was the way to
45 become a teacher during that era. For decades, she taught primarily lower levels at the
46 Howard School and the Booker T. Washington High School. PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS is
47 very proud for this naming of this building for which we celebrate Mrs. Saxon's
48 contributions and her impact on many black students. Also, through this dedication we
49 continue our work to acknowledge and reconcile the difficult pieces of our past. For
50 these reasons, President Amiridis thanks the Presidential Commission Invested in
51 History; they are the persons who recommended the naming. Thanks, are also
52 extended to the Board of Trustees for approving the naming.

53 This was a timely decision. We are also honoring a student who walked on our campus
54 and spent time on our campus. She advanced life through knowledge and committed
55 her life to sharing this knowledge with other members of the community and improving
56 the lives of others. We (the university) honored a former student from 150 years ago at
57 the same time we are honoring and celebrating current students (e.g., Fulbright awards,
58 Rotary awards, NSF awards, Awards Day). Graduation with Leadership Distinction is
59 being held. All celebrations are being held and being recognized. Faculty are also being
60 celebrated for their time at the university.

61 This is the most rewarding and enjoyable time of the year for PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS.
62 When the President see students and families, particularly at graduation, he is reminded
63 why he is in academia.

64 The university provided a new activity for students: "Breakfast at Midnight". This event
65 provided food during final exams. The administration provided breakfast beginning at
66 10:00pm and continued past midnight. Over 1800 students showed up at Russell
67 House. It is times like this that make President Amiridis' job wonderful.

68 PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS asked faculty for a favor. Students are looking for faculty
69 members, not deans and administrators. Please attend commencement ceremonies.

70 **Report of Provost Arnett**

71 PROVOST ARNETT commented that she is wrapping up her first academic year at
72 USC. She is here for the long haul; she wants to invest time learning about the campus,
73 faculty, staff, and students. Provost Arnett has been listening and learning from faculty
74 and staff. She wants to know what makes this campus unique and how to differentiate
75 ourselves from other universities. USC is very popular. We will probably have a class
76 that exceeds 7,000 this August which is record breaking.

77 PROVOST ARNETT conducted listening tours in every department and college. She
78 asked faculty and academic staff:

- 79 • What inspires you?
- 80 • What are you proud of within your college and department?
- 81 • What do we need to work on?

82 In addition to the Imagine Carolina for Undergraduate Students, an Imagine Carolina
83 for Academic Faculty and Staff was held. A webinar was held several months later.
84 Between the two events, over 350 faculty and staff members participated. PROVOST
85 ARNETT was inspired by the passion faculty and staff shared their thoughts about how
86 we can make USC even better.

87 The following are items PROVOST ARNETT learned over the past year and how she
88 hopes we will work in the future to fix situations:

89 • Student pay

90 ○ Issue: Low pay and stipends has been an issue for students. Pay has
91 also been a deterrent in faculty recruiting graduate students.

92 ○ Resolution: The university has increased minimum graduate pay to
93 \$14/hour for all graduate students. This fall the minimum will increase to
94 \$15/hour. This is a small step but an important step.

95 • Graduate School Dean

96 ○ Issue: Interim Dean in place

97 ○ Resolution: A Graduate School Dean is being hired. The search is
98 underway with three finalists. Campus visits are complete.

99 • Facilities and Infrastructure

100 ○ Issue: Facilities and infrastructure concerns

101 ○ Resolution: Administration is beginning to work with facilities to resolve
102 some of the issues (e.g., installing hot water in Wardlaw). Other issues
103 have been addressed in Hamilton and McMaster. Facilities manage over
104 six (6) million square feet of space. An analysis is being conducted
105 regarding how the university utilize space and update the master plan.
106 The provost office is also looking at a space audit to ensure current and
107 future needs are met.

108 ○ Positive news: There is some optimism regarding future space. For
109 example, the College of Nursing has a partnership with Lexington
110 Medical Center that will help us educate 80% more nurses by offering us
111 a 50,000 square foot building that will be completed in 2024. The new
112 building will hold a nursing simulation center and teaching space on the
113 hospital campus. The Health Science Campus of the Bull Street District
114 will provide state-of-the-art space for clinical education and bring
115 together our researchers to help meet South Carolina's health
116 challenges. The initial stage of the Health Science Campus will include a
117 health education building to house the School of Medicine and a
118 multidisciplinary research building. Together we estimate that those two
119 will be 300,000 square feet of space.

120 • Faculty and Staff

121 ○ Issue: Better retention

- 122 ○ Resolution: The administration is working on a strategy for better
123 retention, more frequent hiring, and improved tenure and promotion
124 process. Part of this challenge has been a shortage of permanent
125 leadership. It has been a very busy year of hiring deans.
- 126 ○ Positive news: Tommy Hodges has been hired as the Dean of the
127 College Education. David Banush has been hired as the Dean of
128 Libraries. Michael Sagas has been hired as the Dean of the College of
129 Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management. Committees are in the final
130 stages of the search process for the Deans of the 1) Graduate School,
131 2) Darla Moore School of Business and the 3) College of Social Work.

132 PROVOST ARNETT is forming an Implementation Committee based on
133 recommendations from Imagine Carolina. This committee begins meeting in May 2023.
134 Nominations for the committee are welcome. Send nominations to Mary Alexander.

135 PROVOST ARNETT thanked faculty and staff for their candor during the listening
136 sessions and for the hard work throughout the past year. Time spent with faculty and
137 staff has been a bright spot for Provost Arnett. There is a vibe at Carolina that is very
138 different from any institution she has been at in her academic career. This year a shared
139 understanding has been built regarding “where we are as a university”. Provost Arnett
140 now wants faculty and staff to identify “where we want to go forward as a university”.
141 Provost Arnett is excited for the future we are building together; she is here for the long
142 haul.

143 Question from Professor Brad Altschul: How were faculty and staff chosen/invited to
144 Imagine Carolina? He didn’t know about this event. Provost Arnett stated that the
145 invitation went out to all faculty and staff in the USC Today electronic newspaper.

146 **Faculty Senate Chair’s Report**

147 DR. WAYNE OUTTEN, incoming Faculty Senate chair, introduced a series of changes
148 to the Faculty Manual.

149 Proposed Faculty Manual changes

- 150 ○ Section 1:
 - 151 ○ Propose to add a section on budget committees to each College.
 - 152 ○ Revision to voting rights regarding professional track faculty.
- 153 ○ Section 2:
 - 154 ○ Clarification to the types of faculty appointments.
 - 155 ○ Revisions to the grievance procedure.
 - 156 ○ Revisions to the academic integrity and ethics section.
 - 157 ○ Revisions of the leave policy.
 - 158 ○ Revision to the academic freedom statement.

159 A move was made for approval of the changes. Changes were approved.
160

161 In addition to the stated Faculty Manual changes, the Faculty Senate has made
162 progress in several other areas. Last year faculty made a resolution to divest from fossil

163 fuels, which required a response from University Foundations. That response was
164 received last Friday and will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting (June 7,
165 2023).

166 Last year the Instructional Development Committee recommended the formation of a
167 new committee called the Carolina Core Review and Revision Committee. The first
168 phase of this committee's task is to conduct an internal and external review of general
169 education objectives and requirements for the purpose of identifying best practices and
170 pain points in that process. Dr. Outten expects to receive a report within a few weeks.
171 This process will continue into the fall of 2023.

172 Faculty Senate passed a resolution on Freedom of Expression. This resolution was
173 modeled after the Chicago Principles. Faculty Senate requested the Administration
174 incorporate these principles into university policies. This was presented at a recent
175 Board of Trustees meeting.

176 During Fall 2023, revisions of the Carolina Core will continue. The Faculty Manual will
177 continue to be revised. There is still a lot of work to be completed. Faculty Senate also
178 hopes to continue to bolster job security for professional track faculty.

179

180 **Old Business:** none

181 **New Business:** none

182 PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS stated that university award winners will be announced
183 tomorrow. The Fall General Faculty meeting is Wednesday September 6th.

184 The meeting concluded at 3:30pm EST.

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