

1 [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MjUxNDQ0OGUtYjlhZS00MWVjLTlkN2QtNDA5NTEwNmZmOGI3%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%3atru%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjUxNDQ0OGUtYjlhZS00MWVjLTlkN2QtNDA5NTEwNmZmOGI3%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%3atru%7d)

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

8 Wednesday, April 3, 2024

9 This session was held in person at the Russell House Theatre

10 PRESIDING CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN

11 Chair Wayne Outten called the meeting to order at 3:00pm EST.

12  
13 **Called Meeting of the Faculty Senate**

14 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN welcomed the audience to the Faculty Senate meeting.

15 **Approval of the March 2024 Faculty Senate meeting minutes:** Minutes were approved.

16 ***Provost's Report***

17 VICE PROVOST MARY ANN FITZPATRICK provided the Provost's report. The  
18 administration's response to the Senate resolution statement of Principles of Academic Freedom  
19 and Free Expression, which was passed last April, regarding policy changes and a request that  
20 the administration report back to Faculty Senate within a year of the April 5<sup>th</sup> 2023rd resolution.

21 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK brought to the Faculty Senate's attention the issue of academic  
22 freedom on behalf of the President and the Provost. The Office of the Provost manages the policy  
23 change process for the whole university. VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK discussed the  
24 committee charge and set of committee recommendations. Recommendations included:

- 25 • The University of South Carolina should adopt a statement of freedom of expression  
26 comparable to the Chicago Principles.
- 27 • The committee proposed a more elaborate statement for consideration of the Board of  
28 Trustees.

29 The BOT carefully considered this proposed statement and the recommendations throughout the  
30 course of the year and on November 8th, 2023, the President and the Board of trustees adopted  
31 UNIV 6.0 Freedom of Expression and Access to campus. It outlines speech expression and  
32 access to campus for students, faculty members, staff members, and members of the public who  
33 are not part of teaching, research, or official functions of the university.

34 The proposal of UNIV 6.0 adopts the core principles articulated in what we call the Chicago  
35 Principles. The policy also states that the policies and procedures of our institution are  
36 interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment and Article 1, Section two of the  
37 Constitution of the State of South Carolina. The revised policy did not specifically define or

38 include academic freedom, which is a core discrepancy with respect to what the Senate  
39 recommended.

40 The fact that the policy talks about freedom to engage in debate and civil discourse around  
41 competing ideas nor does it imply that all expression is constitutionally protected on our campus.  
42 It very clearly states that incitement to violence or lawless actions, fighting words, true threats,  
43 child exploitation as defined by law and harassment are prohibited. Any university or community  
44 member who believes they've been subjected to harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct  
45 can file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Concerns that do not fall within  
46 this category can be discussed with administrators openly about your concerns and your  
47 complaints.

48 Faculty are free to have a non-disruptive session and to have your own counter sessions or  
49 counter programming to the degree that you would like to express a different opinion. VICE  
50 PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that she would be remiss if she didn't say to her faculty  
51 colleagues that events across the U.S., within South Carolina, and throughout the South since the  
52 Constitution of this committee in 2021 have sharpened the university's awareness of the  
53 importance of defending freedom of expression and academic freedom. There have been two  
54 recent consequential steps that have been taken by the university to defend this core  
55 commitment.

56 The first and most consequential movement is the revision of the Faculty Manual. The 2023  
57 manual clearly states: a) the university adheres in principles to the 1940s statement of principles  
58 on academic freedom and tenure of the American Association of University Professors, as well  
59 as the 1970 interpretive remarks; b) to affirm that the university shall defend academic freedom  
60 against any encroachment when faculty members speak or write as citizens; in that case, they  
61 shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline. Faculty shall indicate that they are not  
62 speaking for the university. The protection of academic freedom and the requirements of  
63 academic responsibility apply to all faculty including part-time faculty and teaching assistants.

64 Staff who teach in some of our programs have protections of academic freedom. They are  
65 teaching within that context; these principles apply to our role as professors and teachers. If your  
66 academic freedom has been compromised, you can apply to a faculty grievance committee.

67 It is important to remember the changes in our faculty manual are not approved until they are  
68 vetted by the Office of General Counsel, the Office of the President, and most importantly the  
69 Board of Trustees.

70 The faculty manual is the governing document that specifies the relationship between the  
71 university and the faculty. As UNIV 1.00 clearly states, in the event of any inconsistency  
72 between the faculty manual and policies and procedures manual, the faculty manual is the final  
73 authority. It is extremely important the work that you do, the work that you're thinking of doing  
74 and revising the faculty manual.

75 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that she would go through what was recommended. In  
76 some cases, the recommendations have been taken care of, in other cases they have not been, or  
77 not in the way the Senate would have liked.

78 In the document received, what was referred to as workplace bullying policy is now referred to  
79 as faculty workplace incivility policy. We now have language about academic freedom in that  
80 policy. VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that she is reviewing policies and adding  
81 appropriate references to the faculty manual.

82 The Senate stated that student athletes retain all the academic freedom rights of students. The  
83 request was to put the Senate version of UNIV 6.0 attached to the athletics policy. This was  
84 accomplished (i.e., Student Affairs Policy 6.28). This policy was passed by Faculty Senate, the  
85 Student Senate, and the Board of Trustees.

86 The third item in the Senate recommendations concerned communications. The faculty manual  
87 clearly states when you speak or write as citizens, you are fully within your rights, and the  
88 administration will not censor or discipline. These statements are yet to be inserted into the  
89 policy on communications; this will be accomplished. The policy has been agreed by the  
90 communication staff that language clearly in the policy and we will say when faculty members  
91 speak or write as citizens, they shall be free from institutional interference. We'll make sure that's  
92 in the policy. It is our policy, but we'll reinforce that in the communications policy.

93 The fourth item in the Senate recommendations was to add statements about academic freedom  
94 in all EEOP policies. All six EEOP policies have been revised, of which two are under the Civil  
95 Rights designation. The faculty manual as well as the statement about academic freedom is  
96 appended.

97 The fifth item in the Senate recommendations concerned human resources. The Senate  
98 expressed a deep concern that there was a differentiation across three or four policies about the  
99 concept of conflict of commitment and conflict of interest. In particular, there was concern about  
100 the research policy. The research policy on conflict of interest is trying to follow federal  
101 regulations to deal with situations in which faculty members are working on government grants  
102 but have a private operation that they have set up or they are really doing research for a  
103 corporation, and they are funded by a corporation.

104 Faculty who are actively involved in publishing need to make statements about any potential  
105 conflict of interest. Faculty need to: a) talk about who's supported the research; b) identify the  
106 funding; c) identify any potential conflict that may occur consequently between the research and  
107 funding source. We do this on a regular basis.

108 A faculty committee reviews plans that are developed. The university does not say faculty cannot  
109 do things. We work out plans in which we specify how we're going to handle a conflict of  
110 interest.

111 The policy in HR and the policy in the faculty policy are required to be developed by the  
112 university as a state agency. The conflict of commitment form must be filled out by faculty on an  
113 annual basis.

114 Faculty are allowed to consult, but they are not allowed to have another outside job, or at least  
115 they cannot have another outside job unless it has been very carefully discussed. This is part of  
116 our obligation as a state agency and part of our sense of ethics. What you are doing externally  
117 may not be in conflict with your obligations as a faculty member.

118 Conflict of interest has to do with: a) you operating as a member of our faculty; or b) making  
119 decisions if you are on a purchasing team.

120 Employing your spouse on a grant: a) It is not that you can't employ your spouse on a grant, but  
121 you need to declare this employment; b) We need to defend why your spouse and not another  
122 team member's spouse is employed; and c) The university needs to have a management plan.  
123 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that the policy does not prevent faculty from testifying  
124 (e.g., as an expert witness), but the university needs to be informed.

125 The final section of the Senate recommendations (section 5) addressed by VICE PROVOST  
126 FITZPATRICK concerned the library. There is a deep concern that non faculty librarians should  
127 be protected by academic freedom stipulations. Staff are not protected by academic freedoms  
128 stipulations, but it's important to know our library has 50 faculty members, the majority of whom  
129 are tenured faculty members. Unlike many university libraries, USC libraries have very few  
130 professional track faculty. Professional track faculty are also covered. The faculty manual is very  
131 clear that academic freedom applies to part-time faculty.

132 We need to support academic freedom for all librarians. The librarians are, for the most part,  
133 tenured faculty in the library school.

134 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK mentioned that the remaining sections of the Senate  
135 recommendations have been addressed in UNIV 6.0, as she had already discussed.

136 Together, the University has made great strides, and the faculty manual is the most important  
137 document across all these areas. It's been enshrined in our policy as the most important  
138 document. It is approved by the Board of Trustees.

139 SENATOR GEORGE KHUSHF (Department of Philosophy) asked for greater clarification  
140 regarding the freedom of expression for faculty.

141 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK explained that the policy has to do with the free expression of  
142 ideas. Academic freedom was not included in the policy. We have protection as a citizen under  
143 the first amendment; we won't lose our citizenship. We don't lose the ability to make statements  
144 as a citizen. Academic freedom is enshrined in the faculty manual; it trumps everything else.

145 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that Faculty want academic freedom. She recalled that  
146 The Senate requested a statement about resisting interference from the state. She observed that  
147 we are a state agency, so we cannot write that in our policies. We can't assert that in our policy,  
148 but we can protect the faculty through the faculty manual. She asserted that the definition of the  
149 employment relationship between this university and our faculty is a very complicated area  
150 because you're watched as a public institution on these things; it is like threading a needle. She

151 noticed that, for example, Stanford University can refuse to have people come, but you can close  
152 private institutions in ways a public university cannot.

153 SENATOR MEIR MULLER (College of Education) requested clarification regarding the issue  
154 of holding two full time positions unless it is vetted.

155 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK answered that holding two full-time positions is problematic.  
156 Can you hold two positions and exercise your duties to the university? She stated that many  
157 faculty members consult, and this is acceptable. This is an important part of our activities, and it  
158 enriches our experience here. But, no, you cannot hold another full-time position.

159 SENATOR MARK MINETT (Department of English) inquired about non-faculty appointments  
160 for libraries. When the manual referred to library policies in relation to non-faculty  
161 appointments, it was about policies affirming the freedom of expression as opposed to academic  
162 freedom of library employees.

163 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that everyone has the First Amendment rights to express  
164 their opinion. The issue when you're exercising your First Amendment rights is that you need to  
165 be clear that you're not speaking for the University of South Carolina. We all have First  
166 Amendment rights. We're citizens of the United States. No one is questioning that. It's an issue  
167 that you must be clear that you're not speaking on behalf of the university.

168 Freedom of Expression library policies include no mention of academic freedom or freedom of  
169 expression, and the committee is particularly concerned about non-faculty librarians whose  
170 employment is not governed by the faculty.

171 SENATOR MARK MINETT posed a scenario where a faculty member might give a presentation  
172 that is viewed in conflict with, say, the executives of the university.

173 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that this scenario is not related to conflict of  
174 commitment. The conflict of commitment has to do with outside employment paid or unpaid, or  
175 outside activities that might interfere with your core duties your core job. It does not relate to  
176 statements you are making. USC is a state agency. The institution spends a lot of time lobbying  
177 to present our point of view. There are some state laws that may result in a problem. We do  
178 everything possible to have that not happen, but that is the problem and anything we say here  
179 probably doesn't matter.

180 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK encouraged the faculty Senate to continue working on the  
181 faculty manual.

182 SENATOR MARCO VALTORTA (Computer Science and Engineering) asked about conflict of  
183 commitment when a faculty member is on leave or sabbatical.

184 VICE PROVOST FITZPATRICK stated that it is always best to disclose any work even when on  
185 leave or sabbatical. Justification needs to be provided when applying for a leave without pay and  
186 for approval to be granted, so this should be an easy case.

187 *President of the Student Senate*

188 STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT LAUREN HAMILTON was inaugurated approximately two  
189 weeks ago. She is excited to get started. President Hamilton is an out of state student from a  
190 small town in New Jersey just outside of New York City. She is an honors college student and  
191 nursing major. Her service activities include Executive board of authority and working in the  
192 Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Student Senate President Lauren Hamilton represents the  
193 undergraduate student population on campus. She is passionate about advocating for students.

194 Her responsibility as speaker of the Student Senate is to preside over our Student Senate. There  
195 are 50 seats. The Student Senate represents all undergraduate colleges and a delegation from  
196 Carolina Light. There is also a delegation from the Joseph F Rice School of Law. The Student  
197 Senate is currently seeking senators from the Colleges of Education, Social Work and HSM.

198 Being a part of this like servant leader body can be a thankless job. STUDENT SENATE  
199 PRESIDENT LAUREN HAMILTON appreciates that faculty make this time sacrifice to better  
200 the Carolina community.

### 201 *Student Body President Report*

202 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT PATTON BYARS was inaugurated two weeks ago. Mr. Byars  
203 is from Lexington SC. Attending the University of South Carolina is a dream come true. As  
204 Student Body President, Mr. Byars plans to listen to faculty; hear about faculty experiences and  
205 see how we can find commonalities to make this university truly the best.

206 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT PATTON BYARS' grandfather was a college professor and a  
207 dean of a college at Converse University. Higher education has always been important to his  
208 family. The three biggest aspects USC is advancing in this era include 1) learning environment  
209 and living environment through better housing and infrastructure, 2) classrooms advancements  
210 (e.g., smart classrooms), and 3) safety on campus. Student Body President Patton Byars also  
211 cares deeply about the student experience. He plans to build off the best first year experience.

212 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT PATTON BYARS is confident each of his objectives will affect  
213 faculty in some way. He is eager to meet with faculty senators. He wishes to collaborate with the  
214 faculty. Together we can and will solidify USC as the best university in the nation for students  
215 and faculty alike. Student Body President Patton Byars is looking forward to a great year of  
216 partnership between the two organizations and is eager to get started.

217 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN thanked Speaker of the STUDENT SENATE  
218 LAUREN HAMILTON and STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT PATTON BYARS for attending  
219 and speaking to the Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate Chair Outten stated that the relationship with  
220 student government over the past year was very productive. AMY THOMPSON, the outgoing  
221 president, has been very engaged with Faculty Senate and there have been times when they've  
222 had our back (e.g., Barnes and Noble proposed program).

### 223 *Reports of the Committees*

#### 224 *Committee on Courses and Curricular (C&C)*

225 C&C CO-CHAIR BRIAN HABING presented 12 proposals to the faculty senate. Prior to the  
226 presentation of proposals, C&C co-chair Habing stated that there was one typographical error on  
227 page three of the document. The error was fixed, and the resulting change was accepted without  
228 objection.

College or School	Number of proposals
Arts and Sciences	2
Music	1
Business	4
Engineering and Computing	3
Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management	1
Information and Communications	1

229

230

*The motion passed.*

231 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN requested that INDEV Committee and IT Committee  
232 (joint effort) provide the Senate with an update on the Blackboard Ultra Course view transition  
233 status for the campus. This addition to the agenda was accepted without objection. These two  
234 committees have been working together with the transition.

235 INDEV CHAIR MARK MINETT presented the information using PowerPoint slides. The  
236 talking points are as follows:

- 237 • USC will be transitioning to Blackboard Ultra Course View this fall. The new course  
238 shells are available.
- 239 • Zoom replaces collaborate in summer 2024. You can find Zoom in Blackboard under  
240 books and tools.
- 241 • There is a Beaufort exception. This is the system wide transition (phasing in).
- 242 • Collaborate will be made unavailable in Blackboard. The recordings will be archived by  
243 eLearning services and then collaborate recordings from August 2020 to May 2024 will  
244 be archived for one year and the guidance on that is to move them to Panopto.
- 245 • In July 2024, USC will renew its contract with Blackboard. The university negotiated the  
246 shortest term possible because we are conducting the LMS assessment more on that.
- 247 • Senate Web page under the agenda is where this PowerPoint is housed. There are a lot of  
248 ultra course view training opportunities coming up; they are also listed on the PowerPoint  
249 document. You are encouraged to take advantage of them.
- 250 • eLearning services is open and CTE provides training at departmental meetings as well.  
251 If you want training, reach out and it'll be there for you. If you find that you're not getting  
252 enough access to resources contact, you can contact Mark Minett.
- 253 • User training is coming soon: April 11th in Blackboard Ultra Course View (UCV) 101  
254 training.
- 255 • If you go to the Ultra Course view 101 training, there should be a Zoom training  
256 component.
- 257 • Zoom recordings will be saved in Panopto.

258 • The Zoom tool should be added to Course Content manually in the summer; it is  
259 expected that it will be added automatically in Fall 2024 course.

260 The federal government wants to make sure they're spending money properly on student  
261 financial aid and that students who receive financial aid are participating in classes. The  
262 university must conform to this regulation. The way in which we're doing that is described here.  
263 You should have all received an email about this issue. A communication from the university  
264 asking:

- 265 • Do you use Blackboard regularly.
- 266 • Within the first two weeks of your courses, have you placed assignments on Blackboard;  
267 and
- 268 • Have you used discussion boards in which students participate in those, they are marked  
269 as participating for the purposes of this regulation.

270 The university must provide evidence that students are participating. If faculty don't assign  
271 assignments in Blackboard, attendance, keeping track of attendance in Blackboard, it will not  
272 meet this requirement because it's not linked to banner. The university is required to monitor  
273 things that are linked to banner to report to the federal government.

274 Preloaded into everyone's Blackboard course is an attendance sheet, quiz for all students in the  
275 course to take so say you only keep readings in Blackboard for your students. If students enter  
276 Blackboard, they'll be prompted to participate in a Blackboard attendance quiz. They participate  
277 in that once during, I think, the first two weeks of the semester, and they're marked as  
278 participating for the purposes of the regulation.

279 If faculty don't use Blackboard, you can go into Banner. You will need to within the first two  
280 weeks of the semester for the regular semesters. It's a shorter time for summer courses or shorter  
281 courses, non-full semester courses. You'll need to go into Banner and mark attendance for your  
282 students there.

283 Every course has a Blackboard page created for it regardless of whether other faculty use it or  
284 not.

285 MR. AARON MARTERER (University registrar) encouraged faculty to inform students about  
286 the quiz and have students complete this quiz themselves. It gives the financial aid office the  
287 ability to contact Title IX aid recipients directly and say you need to go do this, in your class to  
288 be eligible for the aid.

289 SENATOR ALEX REYNOLDS (Department of Psychology) stated that at his prior institution,  
290 faculty were required to complete this task 1) the first time the student attended the course and 2)  
291 the last time that they participated in the class. If you had a student that disappeared midway  
292 through, faculty would have to report the last time they attended class because we all had to take  
293 attendance.



294 MR. AARON MARTERER (University Registrar) doesn't foresee moving to type of attendance.  
295 USC will be using the grade of F for never attended or stopped attending; you can add that last  
296 date there. We're also using the withdrawal grades as the last date of attendance.

297 SENATOR CHAZ EVANS (School of Visual Art and Design) stated that he likes Blackboard  
298 Ultra Course View. However, Ultra View mobile app, and its functionality need to be  
299 reengineered in some fashion.

300 SENATOR STEPHANIE ACKERSON (Department of Biological Sciences) noticed a common  
301 mistake with Blackboard Ultra. If we have this attendance being put in automatically the students  
302 will get a reminder to do it and that's all of them. Any time you put something new in Blackboard  
303 Ultra it's automatically hidden from students. Senator Ackerson reminded us to remind  
304 colleagues to make sure it is unhidden from the students so that they can participate.

305 They've made it viewable or hidden at that level of granularity. It's viewable through the  
306 students, but it would be good if we got the check box. Anytime you put anything thing in  
307 Blackboard, it's automatically hidden from students.

308 SENATOR IOANNIS REKLEITIS (Department of Computer Science and Engineering) stated  
309 that students are adults and that it is their choice to get into class or not. Acting like Kindergarten  
310 teachers and checking out for attendance looks like a big step backwards.

311 SARAH CARROLL (Department of Economics) stated that the university is not generally  
312 enforcing tracking of student attendance here. It's just for the first two weeks and for financial  
313 aid purposes. She stated that she also is not a fan of treating students like children or  
314 kindergarteners. It is important that we should not misunderstand that policy. It is just the first  
315 two weeks of the semester. They must go in once and verify that they are attending the class and  
316 after that, as far as she can see, we don't have to add anything.

317 INDEV CHAIR MARK MINETT stated that summer semester starts May 1st, 2024, so a small  
318 overlap with Collaborate and Zoom both being active and again reminded us that Collaborate  
319 recordings from Spring 2024 will be archived; Collaborate recordings from August 2020 to May  
320 2024 will be archived for about one year. Faculty should start migrating all collaborate  
321 recordings to Panopto now.

322 The LMS assessment committee consisting of faculty and administrators from across the UC  
323 system jointly between the Senate and the Provost Office has been meeting. A survey has been  
324 developed, implemented, and deployed. It is on the Blackboard landing page. INDEV CHAIR  
325 MARK MINETT encouraged us to complete the survey. There are different streams for students,  
326 faculty, and staff. The results will all the university to gather information about what faculty  
327 priorities and experiences as we move forward with developing a recommendation for the next  
328 long term LMS contract.

329 SENATOR ERIK DOXTADER (Department of English) stated that he is not familiar with  
330 Panopto. He asked what kinds of administrative tools come with this LMS and the ways in which  
331 the faculty and their work on this platform is used by administrators or by the company. Senator

332 Doxtader believed there was a case to be made that this platform violated EU privacy standards.  
333 That argument was made to him by several faculty members.

334 INDEV CHAIR MARK MINETT asked for clarification regarding Senator Doxtader wanting  
335 information the administration is collecting from LMS, what information the LMS provider is  
336 collecting.

337 SENATOR DOXTADER stated that yes, he would like to know what kinds of tools are on the  
338 backside of this that we never see.

339 INDEV CHAIR MARK MINETT acknowledged that some concerns about privacy have been  
340 raised as well by some faculty. Information can be pulled from Blackboard and synthesized into  
341 Banner. Will this allow the administration to provide a sketch or full data picture of our students  
342 and their progress?

343 *Faculty Advisory Committee and Steering Committee issue*

344 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN stated that there is a scheduling problem with  
345 the June 5th summer meeting this year. The Faculty Senate had this room originally but after our  
346 scheduling, new student orientation requested the use of the room, and they are one of the few  
347 organizations on campus that trumps faculty senate in terms of using a room. For that reason, he  
348 proposed Faculty Senate shift the meeting time of the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to 10:00am. This room is  
349 available at that time.

350 *The motion passed.*

351 The Steering Committee proposed (in March) a slight change to our Senate Standing rules. This  
352 would be Rule 2 that governs meetings. An explanation of the proposed changes is as follows:

- 353
- 354 • Schedule faculty Senate meetings between September and May.
  - 355 • This proposed schedule would eliminate the scheduled summer meeting.
  - 356 • The June meeting will still take effect in 2024.

357 These rules would go into effect for the next calendar. The reason for that is because nearly all  
358 faculty are on 9-month appointments that end on May 15th. It's always been problematic that we  
359 have a June meeting when people are off doing other things for the summer and not on contract.  
360 It's also problematic in the sense of not having a quorum at the June meeting. We've handled this  
361 by saying the quorum for the June meeting is whoever shows up, which is not really a great way  
362 to run faculty governance. It's sort of ripe with opportunities for abuse. This rule would get rid of  
363 the scheduled summer meeting. The downside for some folks is that it would add to meetings, to  
364 the schedule one in January after we return and then one in May. It would allow us to complete  
365 all business that we normally have in the spring, which often consists of a lot of stuff, especially  
366 from the courses and curricula committee that does require approval throughout the entire spring semester.

367 Nothing in these changes prohibits the Senate from calling a special meeting if we need to. If we  
368 felt like something happened, like let's say externally to the university and we needed to meet in  
369 the summer, we could still call that meeting and have that meeting. This is not eliminating the

370 option. It's simply saying we're not going to have a scheduled regular meeting in the summer as  
371 part of our standing rules.

372 SENATOR ERIC ROBINSON (School of Journalism) stated that there may be a contradiction  
373 regarding the proposed January meeting. It cannot be the first or second Wednesday.

374 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that the tentative calendar for next year has the  
375 faculty Senate meeting on the second Wednesday in January.

376 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that faculty are on contract through Christmas  
377 break. Technically, we're on and the semester starts before the 2nd Wednesday. The suggestion  
378 was made that there be a provision allowing it to be held another day if necessary for  
379 contingencies (e.g., COVID or some other issue arose).

380 One option would be to put in a statement of something to this effect unless otherwise ordered by  
381 the steering committee. The steering committee has realized that there were some problems with  
382 what was presented on March 1. Another option is to add in after "September to May" the phrase  
383 "unless otherwise ordered by the Senate Steering Committee."

384

385 *The amendment was seconded.*

386 *The amendment passed.*

387 *The motion passed.*

388 ***Election of the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect***

389 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that there are two very strong candidates for the  
390 position. There is nothing worse for democracy than an uncontested election, OUTTEN said. The  
391 candidates were invited to speak before the Senate. Candidates were presented in alphabetical  
392 order.

393 ***Dr. Susan Bon (College of Education)***

394 DR. BON (College of Education) thanked the Faculty Senate for the opportunity to speak. She  
395 was honored to receive a call and encouraged to run for the position. Given the nature of this  
396 position and the opportunity that comes with it, she is delighted to be running against somebody  
397 who's so wonderful and so very well suited. The Faculty Senate has a truly a genuine choice  
398 here. Dr. Bon believes that her colleague is very well suited for this position. Thank you for your  
399 consideration and for the opportunity to share her interest in serving as the next Chair of the  
400 Faculty Senate. This role represents an opportunity to pursue the greater good on behalf of  
401 faculty and the academic community of South Carolina.

402 DR. BON has been in higher education for 27 years. After 27 years in higher education the past,  
403 10 serving here at the University of South Carolina she has had a wide range of leadership  
404 opportunities and experiences and truly been genuinely joyful in my service in higher education  
405 and pursuing the good of academic service. Dr. Bon thinks of this important role and

406 responsibility and believes whoever takes on this responsibility must earnestly pursue some very  
407 non-negotiable values and hopefully diligently take on the academic quality and excellence that  
408 are the hallmarks of what we do as academics.

409 First off, the principles that I'd like to go through, and the ideals are that Faculty Senate is a  
410 critical partner and has shared responsibility for academic excellence. It is our responsibility as  
411 faculty to guard academic tradition with astute care and keen attention to our purpose foremost is  
412 to promote an educational environment that is marked by excellence and aligned with the  
413 essential values of integrity, respect for human dignity and the consistently clear promise of  
414 opportunity and belonging for all. As faculty, we are the pursuers of knowledge. We do this  
415 through research, and we share it in our teaching. We are educators. We guarantee high quality  
416 instruction. We mentor, we guide our colleagues and our students. They are striving to become  
417 better versions of themselves through learning and growing both personally and professionally.  
418 We are honored to be a part of that journey. Above all, we are the academic specialists, we are  
419 the ones with the skills, the knowledge, and the passion for our science, and that drives us to  
420 pursue and shape a rich, diverse, transformational, and engaging educational environment. We  
421 cannot, however, accomplish this important goal without the work in collaboration with our  
422 administration at the university.

423 So, if we want to achieve our individual and our collective institutional commitments to these  
424 ideals, namely a diversity-rich, transformational, and engaging educational environment, we  
425 must come to the table and collaborate and work and be a part of the conversation, the  
426 discussions and the decisions that are made as part of an institution. If we fail in our efforts to  
427 collaborate, shared governance is not working as it should. It is incumbent on us to accept our  
428 responsibilities proactively and thoughtfully as faculty to pursue academic excellence and to that  
429 end to engage thoughtfully in deliberation as an academic community. That means thoughtfully  
430 deliberating with one another as well as with the administrators we work with. This is especially  
431 important when academic ideals and non-negotiable values are at risk. Transparency and  
432 respectful communication are the linchpins of meaningful collaboration.

433 DR. BON stated that she would hope that any who would serve in this role would commit to  
434 fostering relationships among faculty and the university administrators. Dr. Bon asked that the  
435 future Chair-elect commit to work with a humble spirit and a kind heart and to exemplify our  
436 values and our ideals. She expressed hope that we would all be and feel empowered collectively  
437 to commit to fundamental principles that define our academic community specifically toward an  
438 unwavering commitment to a diversity rich transformational and engaging educational  
439 environment.

440 ***Dr. Liam Heim (College of Nursing)***

441 DR. HEIM is an associate professor at the College of Nursing. Dr. Heim has been a faculty  
442 member at USC for 17 years and an adjunct faculty at two other universities prior to working at  
443 USC.

444 DR. HEIM (College of Nursing) has been involved in university level governance for seven  
445 years. His experience has been with five Senate affiliated committees and non-Senate service,

446 such as judicial affairs and five years on the IRB. In addition to serving on committees, Dr. Heim  
447 chaired the Faculty Advisory Committee and Faculty Welfare Committee. He is also a faculty  
448 senator.

449 His leadership experience includes 1) directing the Nursing College pre-doc to faculty pipeline  
450 program, 2) chairing college level governance committees, 3) chairing the College Faculty  
451 Council, which comprises over 80 full time faculty; 4) completing two fellowships; 5) serving on  
452 two national interprofessional boards of directors over eight years; 6) serving as Vice president  
453 on one of those boards; and 6) being inducted as a fellow in Nursing's highest Academy.

454 DR. HEIM stated these credentials to show that he is capable of leading effectively both inner  
455 professionally at multiple levels and at our university. DR. HEIM stated that he is here today  
456 because he made an informed decision to run for faculty Senate Chair. He chose the opportunity  
457 to serve this body and this university even if it is at the cost of delaying his progression to the  
458 rank of Professor. DR. HEIM asked the Faculty Senate to vote based on his experience with  
459 Senate governance, professional leadership experience and skills to effectively lead this body.

460 DR. HEIM believes everyone in this room values shared governance, democratic processes,  
461 fairness, and a culture of collegiality. This important work is done by both tenure and  
462 professional track faculty, and each should have a voice. As chair of Faculty Senate, Dr. Heim  
463 stated that he would endeavor to continue the Senate and AAUP's work to defend shared  
464 governance, represent the faculty's values and interests, and ensure the faculty perspective is  
465 considered before important governance decisions are made by the President, Provost, or Board  
466 of Trustees.

467 As Faculty Welfare Chair, a member of the Steering Committee, and a member of the President's  
468 Advisory Committee, DR. HEIM currently meets with the university administration as often as  
469 three times a month. As Faculty Senate Chair, DR. HEIM would strive to enhance those  
470 relationships. Shared governance means we have input and have a role in checks and balances.  
471 The faculty manual charges the Senate with co-governance over academic matters. Dr. Heim  
472 envisions governance committees considering where we would like the university to go and who  
473 we want to be as a university. The University vision statement says our students changed the  
474 world for the better. This can be said for all of us. You are here involved and committed to the  
475 success of your students and the university.

476 We are an R1 university, but we should also consider what our niche and unique draw is to  
477 undergraduate students beyond research experience and how we effectively show return on  
478 investment to those students and the parents funding them. DR. HEIM challenged us as a Senate  
479 and through our governance committees to think about what we can do and offer in our own  
480 colleges and departments to: (1) create innovative offerings such as the unique and recently  
481 created undergraduate certificates, experiential learning opportunities, and unique modalities of  
482 providing education; (2) create partnerships with industry and community organizations; and (3)  
483 better communicate what it is we do, and how it helps our students develop as persons, citizens  
484 of the world and future employees.

485 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN thanked DR. BON and DR. HEIM for agreeing to run.  
486 These are two outstanding candidates.

487 *Paper ballot voting occurred.*

488 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN provided a list of announcements while the ballots were  
489 counted.

490 Several faculty members withdrew their names from the slate of nominees to fill committee  
491 vacancies from the ballot. This unfortunately occurred after the Faculty Senate voted them in. By  
492 the time of the June meeting there will be only a handful from the standing committees that we  
493 voted in last time. Replacements for all those positions will be identified. The slate is not ready  
494 for today's meeting.

495 **Good of the order**

496 SENATOR ERIK DOXTADER requested the chair talk a bit about the meeting of April 12 with  
497 the workforce development manager from the CHE on curriculum alignment.

498 SENATOR MARK MINETT stated that CHE will be on campus to talk to the University  
499 regarding curriculum and workforce development. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN and  
500 Senator Minett have been invited to attend that meeting. Other university persons invited to the  
501 meeting include TRENA HOUP (Director of Academic Programs). Faculty senators were invited  
502 to attend online. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN's informal opinion is that the situation  
503 is still in flux and that the faculty were invited to be made aware of the university's activities in  
504 this area,

505 SENATOR MINETT believes there's a state level apart from the Commission on Higher  
506 Education. There's a state level kind of task force on workforce preparedness that is engaging  
507 with the Commission on higher education. This group has recommendations to share. He invited  
508 all senators to attend online or, if they were invited to do so, in person.

509 SENATOR TREY FRANKLIN (Department of Biology) stated that South Carolina enacted a  
510 new constitutional carry law on March 7th, 2024. Several colleagues have asked questions  
511 relating to how this new law impacts us here on the university campus. Although the prohibition  
512 for citizens to carry firearms inside state buildings has not changed, other details regarding where  
513 on campus individuals are allowed to carry may have. SENATOR FRANKLIN witnessed  
514 confusion about the implementation of the law and its effect on our campus in conversations with  
515 other faculty members and renewed statements of the importance of the safety of our students,  
516 faculty, staff, and the whole USC community. SENATOR FRANKLIN requested that upper  
517 administration and other appropriate entities within the university provide an official statement  
518 or policy and perhaps situational guidelines to help us navigate these changes safely. He also  
519 asked senators to engage colleagues and collect related questions.

520 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN asked the USC CHIEF OF POLICE to attend the June  
521 5th Faculty Senate meeting to specifically talk about this and how the university is going to

522 handle implementation of this new law. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN realizes that not  
523 everyone will be able to attend that meeting; he will.

524 Answering a question from SENATOR MINETT, CHAIR OUTTEN confirmed that the General  
525 Faculty meeting will be held April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. It is typically held in the Koger Center.  
526 Everyone is encouraged to attend. Attendance is usually sparse, unfortunately, but there is  
527 important work, and it ratifies the decisions that we made as a Senate there. What we pass here  
528 at the Senate, any faculty manual language that we pass here at the Senate must be approved at  
529 the general faculty meeting before it goes to the board. So, it is an important step in that process.

530 SENATOR MARK MINETT, speaking as the president of the AAUP chapter here at the  
531 University of South Carolina, Columbia let everybody know that there would be a chapter  
532 meeting on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00. It will be held on Zoom. He said: If you reach  
533 out to me, I can provide you with the Zoom link. At that meeting, we are going to be discussing  
534 some of the work that the AAUP chapter has done over the over the year, get a sense of people's  
535 concerns and of the challenges that currently face us as faculty and higher education more  
536 generally. SENATOR MINETT also stated that a new secretary and an at large member for the  
537 chapter will be elected at the meeting. He encouraged all interested members to reach out to him  
538 via email.

539 FACULTY CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN reminded all that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be  
540 on June 5 at 10am in the Russell House.

541 ***Results of the election***

542 Receiving a majority of the votes, DR. LIAM HEIM was voted in for Faculty Senate Chair-  
543 Elect. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN congratulated DR. LIAN HEIM and thanked DR.  
544 HEIN and DR. SUSAN BON again for running.

545 The meeting adjourned at 4:41pm EST.