

## Minutes for the Meeting of the Committee of Nine – July 29, 2020

Submitted by Stacie Davenport

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Faculty Senate, chaired the meeting. The meeting began at 2:30.

### Members Present:

Prof. Mark Cooper, Chair, Faculty Senate, CAS

Prof. Gloria Boutte, Instruction and Teacher Education COE

Prof. Tena Crews, Department of Sport and Entertainment Management - College of HRSM

Dr. Heather Heckman, Associate Dean for Technology, University Libraries

Prof. Coretta Jenerette, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, College of Nursing

Prof. Marco Valtorta, Computer Science and Engineering, CEC

Prof. Thomas Vogt, Chemistry and Biochemistry, CAS

Prof. Patrick Wright, Management DMSB

### Non-voting members present:

Prof. Alexander Beecroft, Language, Literatures and Cultures, CAS

Prof. Shirley Staples Carter, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, CIC

Prof. Susan Cutter, Geography, CAS

Prof. Carol Harrison, History, CAS

Prof. Scott Weiss, Director of Orchestra, School of Music

### The following were also present:

Dennis Pruitt – VP for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support

Kelly Epting - Associate VP for Finance and Budget

Mandy Kibler – Associate VP for Administration and Finance and University Controller

Joe Sobieralski – Assistant VP for Administrative Operations and Chief of Staff

Professor Cooper called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last meeting (July 22) were approved.

All meeting minutes will be added to the Faculty/Staff web page.

The main topics of this meeting were updates on budget and cost savings. The main highlights are summarized below:

### **Budget Update**

Kelly Epting discussed the budget that was approved by the Board of Trustees on June 19, 2020. She also reviewed the Columbia Budget Model. Slides were provided with the discussion and are added to the meeting minutes. Ms. Epting provided the following highlights:

### Highlights from Budget discussion:

- Estimated 10% enrollment decrease for the 20-21 school year

- No Tuition or Fee increases although a small increase in Housing/Meal Plans
- Bates West designated as quarantine dorm
- FEMA expected to pay 30% of PPE costs
- Support units have a 10% budget cut, while academic units are expected to have a 5% budget cut

The presentation ended with a brief series of questions and discussion on the prepared materials.

### **Cost Savings Update**

Mandy Kibler provided an update from the Future Planning Group 4, providing the following highlights:

- Furloughs provided an expected one-time cost savings of \$4.6M which includes salary and fringe
- Consulting contract savings is expected to be near \$940,000
- UofSC has a freeze on hiring and travel unless mission critical
- If Federal Grants are used for travel they can be processed as long as the Dean approves.

The Committee recommended that future deliberations may be augmented to include “front line” faculty on the Cost Containment Team or Future Opportunities Group.

### **Other Items:**

Joe Sobieralski provided an update on future EAB meetings highlighting keeping the Wednesday at 2:30 time slot open, understanding that this time may change in the near future due to class schedules. Likely topics will include an overview of the higher education landscape as well as the role of EAB in the work of the committee.

Professor Valtorta advised the committee that the Policy Advisory Committee has prepared a policy (HR 1.89 – Separation Incentives) that includes provisions for a Voluntary Separation Plan. This plan has recently gone through the open comment period and has not yet been approved by the President. This policy describes the framework which a college could use to apply for this program.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46pm