

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FACULTY SENATE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Senators please join through the Senate's Blackboard organization page

1. Call to Order

Parliamentary Authority shifted from 11th to 12th edition of Robert's Rule of Order

2. **Corrections to and Approval of Minutes:**
September 9, 2020: Note: attendance corrected
3. **Special Items:** Election of a Chair-Elect (Candidate Information)

Introduced Chair-Elect nominee- Audrey Korsgard, Darla Moore School of Business

NOMINEE KORSGARD: Senate is a platform for raising faculty concerns

- Senate translates faculty's input into action

4. **Invited Guests** -Derrick Meggie, Director of State Government Relations

MEGGIE: Reach Act requires instruction on the constitution and foundational documents

- Started in 1920's and amended over the years but was never repealed.
- 2018 Bills were filed the House and Senate to update and reaffirm the statute. Passed the Senate in 2019.
- University requested amendments because of two issues
 - The original bill required the course to be taught by American Government. They convinced the Senate to include History, African American Studies, and Political Science courses.
 - The bill included a comprehensive exam that could prevent students from earning a degree, even if they passed the course while failing the exam. This exam was eliminated.
 - The university was successful in having added documents related to the African American experience and expanded the AP exemption for IB coursework.
 - The bill is likely to be reintroduced and passed again. We want to get ahead of the legislation.

SENATOR KHUSHF: Why were just these three disciplines chosen? Can other areas be included?

MEGGIE: We attempted to expand. Members were concerned about expanding. We cannot expand at this point, but perhaps later we can.

CHAIR COOPER: Cross listing may allow other areas to have access.
Cooper: Is the Emancipation Proclamation included?

MEGGIE: In addition to the Emancipation Proclamation

5. Reports of the Officers

PRESIDENT ROBERT CASLEN

- Thanks to the faculty for adjusting to the changing environment
- Recognize several faculty- in 2020 faculty garnered a record 279.5 million in Research funding
- Through the Rapid funding initiative, the VP for research invested more than 877 thousand dollars in Covid-19 Research by faculty.
- Ron Prince was awarded an 11-million-dollar grant to establish a new NIH biomedical center
- Researchers from Institute for Families in Society 29-million-dollar grant from the state and federal offices of Health and Human Service for technical support of the Medicaid program
- 5 special internal research awards for racial justice and equity research fund

Financial Update-

- Projected losses due to the coronavirus pandemic. Cost saving measures were put in place including eliminating travel, 10% voluntary pay reduction for president, top coaches, and others, eliminating overtime, furloughs, merit delays
- Established Future Opportunity Group to explore long-term cost savings, streamline administration and reduce redundancies.
- Committee of 9 explores program realignment as a cost saving initiative
- We prepared for the financial challenges by adopting a frugal budget and numerous cost saving efforts
- Spring enrollment is still unknown but fall enrollment is better than anticipated
- If we continue to follow positive projections, he intends to lift furloughs and merit pay raises to go forward as planned
- Tuition to Freeze for fall 2021. There will be no reduction in aid from the state

Academic and research Excellence

- Ask faculty to consider teaching in person in the Spring semester, if possible. Take advantage of resources like CTE
- Faculty engagement is a concern of students and parent. We must empower students to be proactive

SACSCOC update

- Extensive team effort went into preparing report. Special recognition to Donald Miles, Sabrina Andrews and the office of Institutional research and analytics.
- Also thank and recognize the advisory group of faculty and administrators including Dr. Christian Anderson, Dr. Mark Cooper, Dr. Earnest Wiggins
- Reaffirmation report has been submitted and we look forward to next steps

Follow-up from September meeting

- Testing subcontractors following is being done and coordinated by each contractor in accordance their company's directives
- national guidelines being used in bookstore, foodservices
- 10-foot rule in classrooms- Instructors are expected to wear face coverings, be behind a plexiglass barrier, or be distanced from students
- Executive order 202063 by the Governor- Last call for alcohol at 11pm, but allows facilities to operate at full capacity, but they must still use 6 ft separation even at full capacity
- Testing- Currently our capacity outpaces demand. We are experiencing testing fatigue. We have launched and incentivized randomized testing among students. expanding testing hours and capacity. Intent is to test over 3000 students per week.
- PCR testing and antibody testing to inform us of both the infection rate and rate of immunity on campus
- We have the capacity to test 1000 person a day, 6 days per week
- Plan to test every student before sending them home for thanksgiving and prior to returning to campus in January

SENATOR FAIRCHILD- When is employee testing available?

PRESIDENT CASLEN: On the Covid website. I will get that information to you.

CHIAR COOPER: Mental Health Survey is also in the Friday email that provides information on employee testing

PROVOST WILLIAM TATE:

- Mental Health Awareness week- he only hears from students who are very happy; and those who very unhappy
- Students are asking for more engagement with faculty. Students want more time with faculty. He hears this quite often from students.
- In hierarchical manner his suggestions for course offerings are: 1) face to face- considered normal; 2) Hybrid- provides greatest flexibility (optional for those with risks); 3) Synchronous; 4) Asynchronous
- Students like asynchronous because they can sleep in, hang out, and party. When we free them up, in an undisciplined manner, they take advantage of it
- Wants to have conversations. We are better when we can have dialogue.
- We may be dealing with the corona virus in Fall 2021
- We must be as engaged as we can and as safe as we can
- Reach act- Make sure that through legislative action or other means that everyone who is interested in taking part, can take part in this. We should be as inclusive as possible from an intellectual point of view
- Exercise Science was ranked #1 twice in the past 5 years by the academy of Kinesiology.
- We must think about infrastructure issues collectively. We have to get a handle on how to prioritize upgrading our classrooms.

- infrastructure issues in science; we have to be smarter with spaces and build facilities, upgrading classrooms and usage of classrooms
- Data and institutional Research is housed in the Provost's office. How do we make strategic plan information accessible to faculty?
- We need better data on faculty analytics. In order to make sure faculty are recognized nationally and internationally we need good data.
- Carolina chairs are endowed chairs but currently there is no recognition for this honor. We must make it an event to recognize and celebrate this excellence.
- Related to mission and analytics, US News and World Reports indicated that we went down in rankings due to investment in instructional infrastructure and alumni giving.
- Alumni giving is at the bottom of SEC.
- Annual giving impacts the institution in national rankings and in our scholarship programs
- The amount we pay in Graduate Fellowships are "embarrassing." Annual giving program will be implemented to increase amount given in Graduate Fellowships
- Working on an annual giving campaign. We must build a culture of giving and charity to the university and towards the community
- The Honors College has a top ranking!
- Joel Samuels will help with building interdisciplinary research nodes.

SENATOR BELL-What is the status of merit raises?

PROVOST TATE: The President said the raises will come next fall. This usually goes through a faculty governance process

SENATOR MIHALIK- Synchronous, live, face to face, class meetings via Zoom should be considered a good substitute for in person teaching

SENATOR ABSHIRE- Students opt out and do not show up to face to face options

CHAIR COOPER: Near unanimous election of SENATOR KORSGARD as the Chair Elect.

Thank you to SENATOR BELL for her service

6. Reports of Faculty Committees

- a. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Spencer Platt, Secretary (nominees for two positions)

SECRETARY PLATT: Nominations to fill two committee vacancies. The nominees are Greg Neihhouse (Darla Moore School of Business) for the Budget Committee and Mary Horton (Universities Libraries) for the Tenure Review Board. Both are filling three-year terms and will require votes.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee's response to the Board's new policy on Presidential Selection is available via a link on the Faculty Senate webpage.

b. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor Marianne Bickle, Chair:

Proposed 4 new courses. Two are from Arts and Sciences and two are from the School of Music.

CHAIR COOPER: As a motion from a standing committee this needs no second. The motion carries.

SENATOR BICKLE: Motion to adopt the founding documents requirement related to the Reach Act as indicated and presented. As a motion from a standing committee, this needs no second.

SENATOR KHUSHF: Will there be an inclusion of Philosophy?

SENATOR BICKLE: For inclusion, Philosophy can put forward to proposal through the Curricula and Courses Committee, and there is the option of cross-listing

SENATOR KHUSHF: If cross-listed, by teaching it as a Philosophy course then it wouldn't satisfy the requirement.

CHAIR COOPER: If we start adding subject areas then the legislature is likely to undermine our efforts but if we use tools like cross-listing then we may avoid that scrutiny.

SENATOR THORNE: Does this mean that the best approach would be to fold it into the Carolina Core?

CHAIR COOPER: This would overlay existing requirements.

SENATOR BICKLE: AP and other high school courses may count toward this requirement.

SENATOR RANDAZZO: State legislature is unwilling to expand the list of departments, but cross-listing is a useful work-around.

SENATOR BICKLE: This only impacts incoming Freshmen.

PROF. KELLY: There is a misunderstanding of the last sentence, suggests a friendly amendment. Suggests we add "if courses meet program requirements."

SENATOR MCNULTY: Motion to change the language- to add "if courses meet program requirements."

VALTORTA: The added sentence is confusing. The current wording is clear.

The motion carries.

SENATOR MINET: This will have the impact of funneling students away from the global and to the American. Motion to remove Carolina Core from the proposal.

SENATOR RANDAZZO: This phrase is there to allow students to double dip. Otherwise it adds another 3 hours to the degree.

The motion fails.

SENATOR KUSHF-In this wording, cross-listing will allow for that would be taught in Philosophy but cross-listed with Political Science would fulfill the requirement. This alleviates my concern, in this wording. I want this reflected in the minutes.

SENATOR MINET: What is the timetable? If they have not yet passed this bill, then why are we are we passing this now? Is it to get into the bulletin?

CHAIR COOPER: To stay ahead of the legislation and to make it into the bulletin.

The main motion, to adopt the founding documents requirement, carries.

- c. Committee on Instructional Development, Professor Ramy Harik, Chair

COMMITTEE CHAIR HARIK: Two courses for approval from the College of Arts and Sciences. The committee has received 53 proposal, 24 have been approved to the next stage, 5 in revision, 12 currently in discussion, 11 to be treated, and 1 proposal returned.

The proposals passed.

- d. Intellectual Property Committee, Professor Eric Robinson, Chair

CHAIR ROBINSON: 5 years ago, the committee decided to revamp the Intellectual Property policy. In doing that, we found that we need a copyright policy. That passed in April of last year. Has been getting approvals at various levels, with all the edits it has become a totally different document. The provost will convene a committee to hash this all out. The primary issue is online teaching and who owns that material.

- e. Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Professor Hunter Gardner, Chair

COMMITTEE CHAIR GARDNER: mention meeting Oct. 29, to discuss dual degree/dual major proposal 4pm to discuss the proposal concerning double majors from different colleges.

- f. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professors Charley Adams and Liam Hein, Co-Chairs

COMMITTEE CHAIR ADAMS: Progress on resolution to rename buildings on campus. A subcommittee has been established and should have a report for November.

6. Report of Secretary SECRETARY PLATT:

Vote on two vacancies. Greg Neihhouse (Darla Moore School of Business) for the Budget Committee and Mary Horton (Universities Libraries) for the Tenure Review Board. Both are filling three-year terms and will require votes.

The motions carry and both are elected.

7. **Report of Chair:** CHAIR COOPER:

Shout out to the Southern Exposure music series Ten Thousand Birds concert on Saturday.

Teaching engagement—be an ambassador.

Midterm survey of students always a good idea—many find that these help final teaching evals. I'm sure many have other, even better ideas, CTE a resource, pass the word.

The Committee of 9 is still in “discovery” or learning mode. No proposals as yet. Apologies for delay in posting the minutes, resulted from an internal miscommunication, which we have corrected. The committee's work has 3 foci:

- 1) Staffing efficiency – are we making the best use of our tenure-line instructors? Overall student credit hour production per tenure-line faculty member looks lower than one might expect. We're trying to understand why that is—is something about that data, does it reflect reasonable faculty assignments, how even or uneven are faculty loads across colleges?
- 2) How would we approach recommendations to reorganize of colleges or programs? In the one meeting we've had on this so far, I think we've learned that major reorganization would be a complex and time-consuming undertaking, and that it would be difficult to achieve significant financial savings in this way. There might be other benefits such as reduced bureaucracy and enhancing the ability of programs to work more effectively together in research and instruction. The committee needs another session to understand how we might begin to assess the costs and benefits of any reorganization proposal.
- 3) Opportunities—are there areas in which we might profitably expand program offerings? We're looking forward to a market analysis form EAB, which has a great deal of relevant data.

We anticipate concluding our discovery phase by the end of the month, at which point we expect EAB to generate a report with some recommendations. The committee will develop its response for the gang of 6 and the president as swiftly as possible. It is very likely that EAB's recommendations will be process oriented. That is, we anticipate evidence-based suggestions about where there might be opportunities to reduce cost while preserving our academic mission and then a description of the steps through which we might pursue those opportunities. Those steps will almost certainly require additional input from stakeholders across campus.

Broad meeting Friday—Governance committee. Response to our memo as well as several others regarding presidential search—most asked for a member. Ours the only one with process recommendations. General Faculty manual changes.

Ad hoc unit level committee continues to work heroically. May get to a nearly final report next week.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

10. Good of the Order

11. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 3:00 pm