

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Koger Center for the Arts

PRESIDEING: President Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

PRESIDENT CASLEN called the meeting to order, welcomed faculty and called for a motion to approve or correct the minutes of the September 2, 2020 General Faculty Meeting. It was so move and seconded and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Report of President

President Caslen stated that Dr. Diana Mitchell will speak about Carolina Online on behalf of the Provost's Office after his remarks. Questions will be taken after they both speak. Caslen reviewed the protocol for asking questions.

Caslen began his remarks by commenting that it has been an interesting and tough year but one of resilience and commitment. We would not be where we are now without the faculty's incredible support. He will discuss: COVID-19 and expectations for the fall, the budget and legislative budget cycle, Title IX, and signs of progress.

Caslen provided an update on COVID-19. This semester we introduced mandatory testing. As of last Friday, we had administered over 112,350 tests with the percent positive rate of 1.39. The State's positive rate is 6 to 7% and the nation's is even higher. Out of the 112,350 tests, 1,559 were positive; 1,360 were students and 199 were faculty and staff. Interestingly, of the 1559 positives, 39 are repeat positives. Antibodies last four to nine months. This makes the case for how important the vaccine is going to be for our community. Legislation has been introduced to make the vaccine not mandatory in any public institution in the state of South Carolina. We will find out in the next couple of weeks if that passes or not. He is not sure that the vaccine needs to be mandatory. If we can get 80% of our community vaccinated, according to epidemiologists, we will enter a herd immunity where there are not many hosts that are left for the virus. The 80% starts to get us towards normal. We think our faculty are already about 80% vaccinated. Students may be around 20%. We do not know accurately how many are vaccinated because we do not know how many vaccines have been administered off campus. If you received the vaccination off campus please update you record online to provide a better picture of the vaccination rate. There are a number of strategies that we are looking at going into the fall semester. If vaccinations are not mandatory, we will continue with mandatory testing of those who are not vaccinated or unable to show they are vaccinated. Mandatory testing has been the key in low percent positives and great success throughout this semester. Wastewater monitoring has been critical to the whole strategy by looking at sewage coming out of residence halls. As soon as the virus is found, testing is done and they are able to isolate and treat. This

has made a significant difference. Caslen thanked the faculty for their part in testing and vaccination, dealing with the virus, and keeping classrooms safe.

Caslen addressed the expectations for fall. We want to go to face-to-face classrooms again, with “normality” defined as what the classrooms looked like before the virus. He is not sure if that is going to be the new normal, but that is what we are looking at right now. We know how to make the classrooms safe. We also understand and model what we think the virus will do as we proceed through the summer going into the fall. We must have flexibility to react to the virus and make sure that we have the proper risk mitigating procedures in the classroom and elsewhere on campus in place. In addition to mandatory testing and vaccinations, we will look at maintaining face masks and social distancing depending on how the virus is acting at that time. As the vaccination issue becomes more politicized and more people become nervous about getting it, we will continue to encourage student vaccination. The new student body president is putting together a campaign to encourage student vaccination. He would like to get the Johnson and Johnson single dose to the students before they take off for the summer. We have a small window to vaccinate as many students as we can. Another challenge will be the new freshman class. We have realized the safest way to deal with the pandemic is to be diligent and to not become complacent. We must carry that over into next year.

Caslen spoke about the budget. The Board of Trustees approved a budget in June 2020 that required a recurring reduction of 10 percent for administrative units and 5 percent for academic units. The recurring reductions totaled more than \$45 million of university reserves, and administrative carryforwards were also reduced on a one-time basis by nearly \$54 million. Most units used strategies that included travel freezes, hiring freezes, and changes in staffing levels to address budget cuts. The reductions have not been easy and the effects will probably be a challenge for some time. The good news is that although the fall and spring term tuition actuals were less than last year they were still better than anticipated. This resulted in an additional revenue of approximately \$49 million across the two semesters. The funds were released back to the academic units per the new budget model. This additional funding will provide better-than-expected flexibility for colleges as we emerge from the pandemic and will allow deans additional flexibility as they adjust to the new normal of the post pandemic world.

The fiscal year 2022 budget has passed through the House and Senate Finance Committees, and they recently published their recommendations. In the House version for Columbia campus, the major item was \$25 million for the School of Medicine relocation. In the Senate version, the \$25 million was increased to \$35 million, which was the amount we requested. The Senate also included \$5.8 million for tuition mitigation, a 2 percent pay increase for employees, and \$18 million for deferred maintenance. The House and Senate will have to sort their differences. We are very pleased with the Senate version and will continue to work towards a positive resolution. The budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the June 25, 2021 meeting and will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

Caslen addressed the Title IX review. Many saw his March 14 letter announcing immediate steps that the university has taken to address issues of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and interpersonal violence on campus. The letter outlined 5 steps of action:

- (1) The Title IX Interpersonal Violence Workgroup was already established to focus on 5 areas: training and education to establish prevention, how reporting occurs and how people respond to a report both on and off campus, Title IX investigations, adjudication, advocacy and support of victims/survivors and alleged assailants as they go through the legal process. The intent of the group is to meet every month and go over every case and look at the 5 areas to make sure that they are integrated and it is a collective effort to support victims.
- (2) Established an independent and separate Title IX coordinator for the University. There is a currently a search underway to fill this position.
- (3) Establish, charge, and implement a sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence comprehensive review, now known as the Title IX Task Force. Dr. Kirsten Kennedy and Dr. Audrey Korsgaard are heading up the Task Force. They are doing phenomenal work, and he could not be more pleased with where they are now. They were given a 45 day timeline to review everything.
- (4) Establish a case review committee for EOP and Title IX.
- (5) Review the appeals process for EOP investigations.

In addition, the chairman of the Board of Trustees directed the audit and compliance office to do an audit of the four cases that were in the news to make sure that existing policies and procedures were followed. He is pleased with the progress being made. To support the work of the task force, a nationally recognized firm, Cozen and O'Connor, has been engaged to assist in the comprehensive review effort. The March 14 letter contained a link to an anonymous survey that Cozen and O'Conner is conducting, and Caslen encouraged people to respond. He anticipates a final report from the Task Force in mid-May. It will serve as an interim report for the university. He will keep the entire community informed throughout the process. As these incidences recognize faculty accountability, we started looking at our policies and procedures with respect to faculty and staff on civil behavior, bullying, and things like that. He is pleased that there two ongoing efforts, one on the faculty side with the Faculty Senate, and HR has put together a committee to look at staff uncivil behavior.

A lot of things were accomplished by the university during the pandemic. For example, in the middle of pandemic, we published our strategic plan, hosted a senior leadership meeting about values and culture to reflect on who we are and what we stand for, and university resources were recognized by national audiences that came to visit such as the College of Pharmacy's saliva testing and Public Health's wastewater testing and modeling. Caslen is very pleased with some of the partnerships that were established with HBCUs across the state, particularly with Benedict with the new partnering with Apple, with Claflin and the School of Journalism for graduate school credit, and the College of Engineering and Computing's partnership with South Carolina State. We have made a lot of progress with our Civil Rights Center. Tuition was frozen for two years. Enrollment applications for next year are up 21 percent. The economic impact on South Carolina from the university went from \$5.7 billion to \$6.2 billion annually. We have received the highest credit rating. In addition, we have a \$3.8 million partnership with Savannah River National Laboratory, working with South Carolina Cyber Institute to inventory cyber needs and partnering with Fort Gordon. We have hired two new chancellors throughout the system, four new cabinet members, and started Carolina Online. We have the most diverse cabinet in

the history of the university. Carolina Online has a couple of hot potential markets. In addition to the contract with Major League Soccer, South Carolina has 400,000 college students who did not get their degree; the resident model does not work for them. 30,000 of them have reverted to an online program, all of which are out of state. There are also 120,000 military that are very interested as they transition from the military to the civilian world.

We started off the pandemic recognizing 4 principles: (1) maintain the health, welfare, and safety of all of our constituents on campus, (2) knowing that we are an urban community, limit the impact of the virus into the community itself, (3) ensure that our academic, research, athletic and student success remains excellent regardless of modality, and (4) ensure that the institution itself remains strong throughout. We also realized that the strategic landscape is consistently changing and it is important to keep eyes on the strategic horizon to see where opportunities present themselves in the middle of a crisis. The university has been able to do that and we have put ourselves in a position of strength as we look towards the next 5 to 10 years.

Report of Provost - Given by Senior Associate Provost Diana Hill Mitchell

Provost Tate was unable to attend the meeting but asked Dr. Mitchell to focus on Carolina Online. Faculty award winners were announced earlier today and are listed on the Provost's website. The Provost extends his congratulations to each of them.

Carolina Online was formally launched on April 14th and can be found at carolinaonline.sc.edu. Prior to Carolina Online, there were online degree completion programs at Palmetto College which have done very well. Carolina Online will go further by bringing in more bachelors programs. There are a lot of competitors, and the most successful are fairly well consolidated. We have done our best to make sure that we are competitive in the marketplace by doing a couple of things. First, we have a system-wide approach. We have 33 unique bachelors programs and over 40 programs. That puts us in the top set of institutions with only Arizona State University offering more programs. We have also come out of the gate with a strong partner, Major League Soccer. Their brand is extremely strong particularly in the demographic that we are interested in, younger, multicultural, and seeking learning and looking for advanced career opportunities. The World Cup will be in North America in 2026 and the partnership extends through 2026. Part of the partnership includes rights to use their brand in our marketing and this will extend to our comprehensive universities. Currently, the Carolina Online website is focused on Columbia, but we will also be deploying similar websites for Aiken, Upstate, and Beaufort. We had a kickoff meeting with the system on April 22nd. While her office will be the online program manager (OPM), they are not charging a rate like academic partnerships. They are here to service each institution to help deliver the best programs in a seamless way. There will be one application and one rate for in-state tuition and one for out-of-state tuition. The rate does undercut the market, but still puts us in a very strong position. Faculty governance continues to reign supreme. They will have centralized functions wherever possible but will lean on the comprehensive partners to help. There are functional working groups and work streams for admissions, registrar, bursar, financial aid, advising, etc. comprised of people from Columbia and the comprehensive universities. Carolina Online has been open 2 weeks and they already have 17 applicants with minimal advertising and marketing. They expect to have a full marketing

campaign ready to go this summer. Carolina Online will be advertised on the LED board at national televised Major League Soccer games each week.

Caslen invited questions.

PROFESSOR FRANK THORNE, MATHEMATICS thanked President Caslen for his leadership and for managing a very effective response to COVID so far. He is encouraged by efforts to get everyone vaccinated. He hopes that there will be a vaccine requirement. Would the university consider having vaccine required dorms and allowing university club to require vaccines for their members?

PRESIDENT CASLEN responded if a law is passed that we are unable to mandate vaccinations, we will obey the law. Any organization affiliated with the public institution would have to also. If the second group wants to make vaccines a requirement among themselves and the entire group is in agreement, he would not have a problem with that but he would consult with legal to make sure that would be acceptable. If one person in the group elects to disagree then he has that right. They will wait and see how the proviso flushes out and will take each one of these situations case by case.

PROFESSOR MARK MINETT, ENGLISH relays a question from his colleague, Professor Rebecca Stern. You mentioned that money that had been frozen centrally has been returned to the colleges. Is that true for all colleges? It seems like College of Arts and Sciences funds are being held up.

PRESIDENT CASLEN responded that the question should be asked of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

PROFESSOR MINETT asked if UofSC requires vaccines in the fall for everyone on campus, how would teaching be different than if we do not require it? For instance, if we require vaccines, can we have non-socially distanced mask-less classes?

PRESIDENT CASLEN replied non-socially distanced mask-less classes is where we want to be. We will obviously listen to what the CDC and DHEC are telling us to have a safe environment. Right now CDC has moved social distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet with a mask which is the before-pandemic distance of desks in the classroom. If we believe we have herd immunity and the virus is not an issue within our population, we can go mask-less and without social distancing. He would love to be there, but his guess looking at the modeling going into fall, we will be close but will still wear a mask inside public buildings. We will put the appropriate risk mitigation measures in place based on how we understand the risk, to maintain a safe environment.

PROFESSOR SUSAN BON stated there have been only anonymous online questions on the chat, and a name must be given to pose a question.

PROFESSOR RAMY HARIK, ENGINEERING stated that he was surprised by the statement that faculty governance is still supreme on Carolina Online. As chair of the Instructional

Development Committee (InDev), which is in charge of online education, he has not heard of Carolina Online except through announcements. How is faculty integrated in this? Is it through the Senate? Is it through a parallel route? Can you tell us a little bit about that?

SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROVOST MITCHELL responded that they talked to each of the schools and asked if they were interested in participating in Carolina Online. The schools spoke with their faculty and the faculty members made a decision about whether to participate or not. There are questions about whether students on campus can take classes that are Carolina Online and vice versa and be in the same classroom. This will be a department and faculty issue. Faculty governance is supreme means that faculty will make the decision to take programs online and what they look like once they are online.

PROFESSOR HARIK thinks Carolina Online is a really cool thing and is needed to push us to the next stage. It would be great to transfer the knowledge on IT structure of online classrooms to the general USC population. Also the charge of InDev will be changed, but he thins it would be good to have discussions with the Committee on Curricula and Courses that would go through the Faculty Senate.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROVOST MITCHELL responded positively.

PROFESSOR BON stated that there is an online question for President Caslen from Professor Amit Almor. Is there any intention to reopen the gyms to faculty and staff in the near future?

PRESIDENT CASLEN responded that Strom is open 7 days a week. It opens at 6:00 a.m. He thinks there is a fee associated with attendance. Blatt is not open in the morning. It is only open to classes in the afternoon, but he believes it is open to everyone in the evening.

PROFESSOR BON stated that there is an online question from Professor Hayes Hampton. How will the Palmetto College campuses faculty be involved in the degree programs we have taught in, particularly Bachelor of Liberal Studies and Bachelor of Organizational Leadership?

PRESIDENT CASLEN responded that they want to make sure there is a successful transition with Palmetto College and Carolina Online. Palmetto College has responsibility for oversight of the 4 two-year regional schools that are associate degree producing schools, Palmetto Pathway of 50 to 100 students hoping to attend USC, 2 online programs previously mentioned, and they recruit from the associate program into bachelor degree programs online. Palmetto College does not have a bachelor degree authority so the bachelor degrees under the 2 online programs are under the University of South Carolina Columbia. Right now there are a total of 19 degree completion online programs, 2 at Palmetto College, 1 in Columbia, and the other 16 belong to UofSC Upstate, Aiken, and Beaufort. As we build up the Carolina Online, a system-wide program, it will include all online degree completion programs.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROVOST MITCHELL also responded that faculty members who have been participating in instruction at Palmetto College will continue to participate going forward. Faculty and students will be allowed to participate in other opportunities offered by Carolina Online, such as speaker series.

PROFESSOR BON stated that there is an online question from Professor Denise McGill. What is in place for faculty and staff wellness in the wake of the pandemic? It makes sense that there will be lasting impact on physical health, extreme stress, and family welfare. How will faculty and staff wellness be addressed?

PRESIDENT CASLEN shares her feelings. We all need a break. We are all sensitive to the wellness of the not only of the faculty and staff, but also the wellness, safety, and health of our students. We focus on the students with the health programs, and those services are available to the faculty. As we transition into summer, he recommends that everyone slow down, spend time with family, take advantage of vacation time, and take time to recoup.

PROFESSOR BON stated that there is an online question from Professor Amanda Fairchild. As the university continues to investigate and respond to the recent Title IX concerns brought forth in several lawsuits, will issues relating student offenders and faculty victims also be addressed?

PRESIDENT CASLEN stated that as the president of the university, there is zero tolerance for any sexual harassment, sexual assault, bullying type of activity that occurs on the campus whatsoever. To him, sexual assault ranges from simple unwanted touching to penetration. He also respects the judicial process and the legal process we have at the university that is defined by the policies and procedures. The Title IX Task Force is looking at the policies, regulations, and procedures to make sure they do the right thing the right way. As far as student offenders, they will go through the legal system just like any other offender. If they go through the legal system under Student Conduct under the Dean of Student Affairs, that process is well defined. This process will also be reviewed by the Title IX Task Force and the consultants. As far as victims and survivors, we want to provide as much advocacy as we can for as long as needed to recover and move on. We want to address this through (1) prevention through education, (2) having a reporting system both on and off campus, (3) an investigation that is done correctly according to the rule of law and holds people accountable, and (4) support systems in place for victims and survivors. It is important to have a culture and environment where people are respected regardless of gender, ethnicity.

Report of the Faculty Senate

PRESIDENT CASLEN recognized Chair of the Faculty Senate, Mark Cooper and reminded the assembly that according to the Faculty Manual, only those in the room are eligible to vote.

CHAIR COOPER stated he would bring the action items on this part of the agenda first and then deliver a brief report on the accomplishments of the Faculty Senate this year. Several changes to the Faculty Manual have been approved by the Senate this spring. He will bring them as a series of distinct motions. All have been circulated with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

First is a motion to revise the description of the Faculty Advisory Committee to formalize the role of that committee as it currently functions.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to more accurately define the role of the Faculty Advisory

Committee. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

CHAIR COOPER introduced a motion to revise slightly a change to the Faculty Manual already agreed to in substance by the faculty with respect to the Budget Committee. The main change was to expand the membership of that committee to facilitate embedding members in various newly defined committees concerned with budget governance. That was approved by the General Faculty last fall. The Board preferred a more restrictive language than we had proposed with respect to the committees on which faculty would serve. This did not change the intent or the effect but language is sufficiently different that we are asking for you to ratify the language preferred by the Board.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to revise the description of the Budget Committee. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. There was no discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

CHAIR COOPER brought another motion to revise the University of South Carolina Columbia Faculty Manual to refocus the mission of the Instructional Development Committee as recommended by the ad hoc committee on curriculum approval process improvements. Those recommendations were presented and discussed in a special Faculty Senate meeting in December. The change would also conform the description of the Committee on Curricula and Course to the style sheet. Again, this change comes with a strong endorsement from the Faculty Senate.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to refocus the mission of the Instructional Development Committee. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. He called for discussion.

PROFESSOR PETER BINEV, MATHEMATICS noted that the proper name of the Committee on Curricula and Courses (C&C) had been incorrectly given as "Curriculum and Courses" in the text of the proposed revision. He supported revising the charge of the Instructional Development Committee but questioned the wisdom of separating policy making from implementation in curricular matters. He proposed an amendment to delete "new courses and curricula; general education requirements" from the proposed (revised) description of the Instructional Development Committee in the sentence: "It will review and initiate as necessary, policies governing: the approval of new courses and curricula; general education requirements; co-curricular activities; as well as student evaluation and faculty assessment of instruction"; and to make a corresponding addition to the description of the Curricula and Courses committee by inserting after the third sentence, "It will review and initiate as necessary policies governing the approval of new courses and curricula and general education requirements."

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion, which was seconded, and called for discussion.

PROFESSOR HARIK spoke against the amendment, noting that this proposed language had been thoroughly vetted through the Senate and the proposed amendment should follow the same route. He recommended approving the circulated Faculty Manual change for the time being.

PROFESSOR BINEV emphasized that he did speak up at the Faculty Senate meeting, at which there was no vote. He has chaired both committees and thinks the separation of functions unworkable and ridiculous.

CHAIR COOPER reminded the assembly that there was open meeting in December when the changes were introduced and discussed, at which Professor Binev was heard, and then a regular Senate meeting in February with further discussion and an overwhelmingly positive vote. He pointed out that policies guiding curricular decisions by C&C are generated by a number of bodies.

PROFESSOR MARIANNE BICKLE, HRSM spoke against the amendment. She co-chaired the ad hoc committee responsible for studying how curricular approvals could be made more efficient, and shared governance more effective, and feels strongly that the changes originally proposed would have this effect.

PROFESSOR BINEV stated that he respected the work of the committee but felt that C&C should have a say in developing the policies it was expected to implement.

PROFESSOR KAREN EDWARDS, HRSM pointed out that the original language does not restrict C&C from making policy recommendations when it charges InDev with that responsibility. Coordination of the committee activities through the Steering Committee would still occur. She opposed the amendment.

PRESIDENT CASLEN, hearing no further discussion, restated the amendment and called for a vote, which did not pass. He then restated the main motion and called for further discussion. There was none, and the motion passed.

CHAIR COOPER brought a motion to revise the Faculty Manual to clarify the mission and composition of the Faculty Welfare committee, conforming Faculty Manual Language to current practice.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to clarify the mission and composition of the Faculty Welfare committee. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. He called for discussion. There was none, and the motion passed.

CHAIR COOPER brought a motion to revise University of South Carolina Columbia Faculty Manual. The change would result in a series of changes to the section on Terms of Employment: clarification for summer compensation; clarification about outside professional activity and COI reporting; expanding the current section on research faculty to include professional-track faculty; adding a section on Benefits and Privileges (overview of content of

current Section 4); delete entire Section 4 Benefits and Privileges (current page 65-67) from the manual--most detail is based on state benefits and contractual agreements that cannot be changed by faculty governance. The content is therefore moved to an appendix for administrative updates as needed.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to refresh the section on Terms of Employment. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. He called for discussion. There was none and the motion passed.

CHAIR COOPER brought a motion to conform the Faculty Manual to changes on the Board of Trustees, which has in its reorganization eliminated two committees specifically named in our manual.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to update the manual to reflect the current organization of Board of Trustees committees. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. Discussion. He called for discussion. There was none, and the motion passed.

CHAIR COOPER brought a motion to revise the University of South Carolina Columbia Faculty Manual to provide for the election of Columbia campus representatives to the System Faculty Leadership Council, a body being formed to coordinate the faculty voice from campuses in the USC System. Additional details would be set out in the Faculty Senate By-laws. Those are provided for information. The System Faculty Leadership Council would derive its powers from the campus Senates—allowing them to act in concert or providing a forum to work through disagreements. No new powers are transferred to it.

PRESIDENT CASLEN restated the motion to revise the Faculty Manual as indicated in materials attached to the agenda to allow Columbia representation to the System Faculty Leadership Council. As a motion from the Faculty Senate this needs no second. He called for discussion. He commented that developing governance structure for the system is high priority and that this System Faculty Leadership Council would play a critical role. He supports the change. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed.

CHAIR COOPER gives a report on Faculty Senate activities of the past year. This past academic year 312 faculty members have been involved in shared governance work organized through the Faculty Senate. Thank you all.

Curricula and Courses presented 367 actions to the Senate, including a new requirement to accommodate the REACH Act, which requires teaching of founding documents. Senate vigorously debated this before agreeing to the strategy worked out with our legislative affairs team to shape the legislation in way advantageous to our faculty and students. He anticipates the Governor will soon sign the legislation.

InDev presented 230 actions to the Senate, including consideration of how we should determine when “emergency authorization” for exemption of approval due to COVID will end. The Senate agreed that Steering would make that determination.

Admissions presented well considered and responsible proposals for test optional admissions; standards related to Carolina Online admissions; and standards for admitting adult learners with Military experience.

Standards and Petitions has been working hard on proposals to clarify dual majors and dual degrees, we expect a proposal soon. They also cleaned up bulletin language with respect to the applications process and classification of students and fielded several proposals regarding grading from the Student Government

Welfare and Standards and Petitions together worked hard on COVID-related guidance. This was an unprecedented effort in which the Senate took the lead in collaborating with Student Affairs, CTE, and the FPGs. We will continue to work on this for summer and fall.

FAC worked though Faculty Manual Changes, Bylaws changes, 8 ACAF policies many of which had to do with updating nomenclature for “professional track” faculty, and the resolution on Strom renaming.

Intellectual Property, and particularly its chair Eric Robinson, accomplished the major task of revising ACAF 1.35, the copyright policy, which should be posted for public comment soon.

Budget committee had a rebuilding year, but members actively represented the faculty on the Support Unit Allocation Committee, in President’s and Povost’s blueprint meetings, and on ACFAB, the new advisory committee to the President.

Bookstores, particularly its chair Amber Cook, did heroic work with purchasing to try to improve service provided by Barnes and Noble as they work through software changes.

And many others on many committees have done wonderful work.

We’ve had a number of ad hoc committees.

A committee on curriculum approval process improvements worked through a LEAN process to improve efficiencies along with a new software implementation. Some changes have already been implemented others are on the way. Hopefully faculty will recognize improvements beginning in the fall.

Unit level governance committee produced a lengthy report. Colleges that don’t have bylaws should be working on them, and I think most are.

Committee of 9 was charged by President Caslen in the summer to identify cost saving and revenue generation opportunities. It worked with an external consult to do so. The committee’s recommendations with a few modifications were embraced by the “Gang of 6,” the President,

and Board. The focus is on new revenue rather than cuts. Growth in online looks like out best bet to survive the looming demographic cliff.

Ad hoc committee on social and racial justice, which came out of resolution to rename the Strom, has been meeting with the Presidential Commission on and reported to Senate earlier this month.

New ad hoc committees have been charged on professional conduct, freedom of expression, and environmental sustainability, the later resulting from the resolution calling for fossil fuel divestment.

The Senate passed resolutions on Renaming the Storm, Divesting from the Fossil Fuels Industry, and Funding Graduate Student Health Insurance. It debated a resolution on Freedom of Expression and referred it to committee.

The Senate office welcomed a new admin, Betsy Meade who is doing a phenomenal job. With her, we are working to streamline procedures, including a new database to track senators and committee members. Expect more improvements in coming year.

Finally, we elected a new chair-elect: Audrey Korsgaard, with whom Cooper has enjoyed working so far.

Cooper anticipated that the June Senate would be his last meeting, he expects the Board chair and Vice-chair to join the Senate. There should be an update from Athletics, a report from InDev about whether we should begin a process to review the Carolina Core, and other delights.

PRESIDENT CASLEN invited questions.

PROFESSOR MARCO VALTORTA, COMPUTER SCENCE AND ENGINEERING thanked Cooper for his support of faculty governance as chair.

PRESIDENT CASLEN echoed the sentiment.

Report of the AAUP Chapter

PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN ANDERSON, CHAPTER PRESIDENT noted that the focus this past year has been on building relationships at the university, around the state, and with the national AAUP. To that end, the chapter invited special guests including Provost Tate; Angela Wright, an organizer of the new Staff Senate; Audrey Korsgaard; Andrea Henderson, co-chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee; and Thad Westbrook, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees. He praised the approach of collaboration in the shared interest. The AAUP hosted a successful symposium on the future of the post-COVID university, with Scott Jaschik from *Inside Higher Ed* as the keynote speaker and presentations by 7 faculty members from 7 departments. The event was organized by chapter secretary Greg Forter and promoted by professor Kelly Davis. It provides a model for future events facilitated by the chapter. He was invited to serve on the SACSCOC response team. Vice-President Carol Harrison spoke to new faculty and served on the Committee of 9; treasurer

Shaun Owens led a drive that raised \$11,000 for the Gamecock Pantry, Sabra Custer, at large officer, was elected to state-wide office. It's been a fruitful year despite challenges. He congratulated newly elected chapter officers, with terms beginning May 15: president Carol Harrison, History; vice-president Mark Minett, English; secretary Kelly Davis, Journalism; and treasurer Sabra Custer, Nursing.

New Business/Good of the Order

There was no new business and no items for the good of the order.

PRESIENT CASLEN thanked the assembly for their attendance and participation.

The meeting adjourned.