GREETINGS FROM THE SPEAKER

Simon Lewis, Speaker of the Faculty

It's been an eventful semester. While faculty, staff, and students all warmly welcomed Dr. Andrew Hsu to campus, Dorian and the mumps did their best to disrupt things. Still, we were lucky again to have escaped the full destructive force of a really violent hurricane, and images from the Bahamas probably ought to have reminded us just how vulnerable we are here in the Lowcountry. I suggested in my first Speaker's report at the September Senate meeting that as we work on drawing up a strategic plan, we might take our lead from the Sustainability QEP and figure out how to situate ourselves as the "College of Solutions" addressing the challenges of our physical, cultural, political, and economic environment as we strive toward the full human development of our students and all South Carolina's residents. There is certainly work to do.

The weather-gods shone more serenely on the official Inauguration of Dr. Hsu on October 25th. A large and appreciative crowd witnessed the formal investiture of the College's 23rd president -- including the unexpected gift of a 12-pack of Pabst Blue Ribbon from Mayor John Tecklenburg. To see the video of the entire ceremony, please click here.
Senate Committees Working on Thorny Topics

Following the loss of a week of classes as a result of Hurricane Dorian, Interim Provost Fran Welch charged the Academic Planning Committee with a wide-ranging review of our calendaring. The Committee has already delivered its findings in relation to the questions of December commencements and the so-called "Mother's Day mandate" for the timing of May commencements. Faculty preferences in relation to the former were muddier than the latter, but President Hsu has already accepted the Committee's recommendation to scrap the "Mother's Day Mandate" in favor of allowing Spring schedules to be determined by pedagogical needs (e.g., preparation time in the winter break). The Committee will continue its work this coming spring. Thank you to Professor Dan Greenberg and everyone on that committee for their work.

I am pleased to say that we've also got two new ad hoc committees constituted and running in response to November's senate meeting. Professor Chris Starr is chairing the ad hoc committee to review Intellectual Property policies, and Professors Morgan Koemer and Anthony Greene are co-chairing the committee looking into the possibility of some kind of curricular diversity requirement. Those two committees will report their findings to the Senate in March and April, respectively.

"The Speaker Listens"

Join Simon for coffee and conversation:

**Location:** The Faculty House (20 Glebe)
**Time:** 8:15 - 9:30 A.M. on Thursdays, and 8:00 - 9:00 A.M. on Fridays
**Fall 2019 Dates:** Jan 9, 10, 23 - 24, Feb 27 - 28, Mar 26 - 27

CofC at 250

History. Made. Here.

https://250.cofc.edu/

The commemoration celebrations for the College's 250th anniversary kicked off formally during Alumni Weekend on Saturday, November 23rd. Some highlights of the commemoration coming up include lighting of the Empire State Building (yes, really) on Tuesday, December 17th, and a Founders Medal ceremony at noon on Thursday, January 30th. Designated as a day of giving "CofC Day" on January 30th will see a number of celebratory events around campus, including the unveiling of a historic marker on George Street, and culminating in a Student Affairs sponsored gala on Friday, January 31st.

Seven sub-committees, covering everything from academic and scholarly programs to fundraising, marketing and merchandising have been busily working to make the commemoration memorable in its own right and to serve as a significant source of funds to ensure the College's success over the next quarter millennium. That the College's 250th anniversary coincides with the City of Charleston's 350th birthday has allowed the CLAW program to partner with the City on a blockbuster conference on Atlantic Port Cities that will close out the semester's programming May 14-16, 2020.

Strategic Planning and Senior Admin Searches

Spring semester will see activity that will shape the College's future in very significant ways. In addition to Phases 3 and 4 of the Strategic Planning process (drafting and finalizing the plan), hiring committees will be interviewing candidates for permanent leadership positions as Provost, and Chief Financial Officer, as well as Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science and Mathematics, and Dean of the Honors College. Come Fall 2020 we will see an almost completely transformed senior leadership team at the College of Charleston, steaming ahead with President Hsu's plans for "tradition and transformation."

Let Us Know: Upcoming Major Events

People seem to have appreciated the weekly events listings this semester. Thinking forward to next semester, therefore, please send me any events you already know the details of: date, time, place, title, etc. If you have a url I can link to, so much the better, but please don't send me lengthy descriptions. I am hoping to work with Katy Flynn, our new Faculty Secretariat (welcome, Katy!), to get some sort of web-version of the week's listing on the Faculty Senate web site so that it is possible to see at a glance what is on offer in any given week.