Resolution that Invited Guests and Committee Representatives Formally Addressing the Faculty Senate Provide Text of Comments One Week Prior to Faculty Senate Meeting

WHEREAS: Public Colleges and Universities in the United States are facing complex challenges, including [but not limited to]: lower levels of State support, rapidly changing technologies for delivering course content on-line, and increased State and Federal oversight aimed at increasing accountability and controlling costs; and

WHEREAS: The College of Charleston is facing changes on a number of different frontiers, including expanded distance education offerings, merging/increasing collaborations with the Medical University of South Carolina, acquiring the Charleston School of Law and pursuing other initiatives in which the faculty should be actively involved; and

WHEREAS: The Faculty Senate is not currently a proactive body that is starting and/or facilitating discussions around the most pressing issues we face; and

WHEREAS: The current Faculty Senate agenda is largely taken up by reports from invited guests and/or faculty committee representatives, leaving little time for proactive Senate action on important issues; and

WHEREAS: When a speech or report is delivered to the Faculty Senate, there is often little discussion and few questions because Senators have not had time to “digest” the materials and contemplate meaningful questions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Faculty Senate needs to reduce the amount of time during Faculty Senate meetings that is devoted to speeches and reports from invited guests and/or faculty committee representatives. And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The content of speeches and/or remarks to be delivered to the Faculty Senate by invited guests and/or faculty committee representatives be submitted to the Secretary of the Faculty Senate one week prior to the scheduled Senate meeting so that the text can be posted/distributed to and read by Senators prior to the Senate meeting. And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Invited guests and/or faculty committee representatives delivering speeches or reports to the Faculty Senate will typically be limited to 2-4 minutes of floor time followed by the opportunity to answer questions. The Speaker will have the authority/discretion to extend this time limit as appropriate.

Rationale: If approved, the Senate would be clearing space in its agenda to 1) proactively engage in discussion around issues of central importance to the College, faculty, staff and students and 2) Senators will be better prepared to offer comments.
and questions to invited guests and faculty committee representatives because Senators will have had already read the speaker’s remarks beforehand.