Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting, 14 January 2013

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, 14 January 2013 at 5 P.M. in Wells Fargo Auditorium (Beatty Center 115).

1. Call to Order: 5:09 PM

2. 3 December 2013 meeting minutes were approved as posted.

3. Reports

   A. The Speaker

      The Speaker reminded the Senate that the online faculty survey regarding faculty perceptions related to the mission and future direction of the College will close on January 15 and asked Senators to please encourage colleagues who have not taken the survey to do so, adding to the over 320 responses to date.

      The Speaker also reminded the Senate that nominations for Speaker of the Faculty and for Faculty Secretary are due by Friday, Jan. 17. Nominations are to be submitted to Calvin Blackwell, Chair – Nominations and Elections. The Speaker invited interested faculty to self-nominate or to nominate interested colleagues. She also reminded the Senate that she is in her third year and will not be up for election.

      The January Board of Trustees meetings will take place on Thursday, Jan. 30 and Friday, Jan. 31. The Speaker noted that the meetings are open and interested faculty can attend, but they should email Clara Hodges in Academic Affairs in advance so sufficient seating can be available.

      In October the Board approved a policy making the College campus a tobacco-free campus effective July 1, 2014. The Speaker reported that the College will be offering smoking cessation programs for interested faculty and staff, probably beginning toward the end of February.

      The Speaker stated that many of us have read the news stories over the past month or so regarding the search for the next President of the College and speculation about candidates. In light of the many stories that have been published, the Speaker added, she invited Greg Padgett, Chair of the Board of Trustees and chair of the search committee, to come to the Senate meeting and comment on the search process and respond to questions.

      After Mr. Padgett spoke and took questions, the Speaker asked if there were any questions for her regarding her report. There were none.

   B. Greg Padgett, Chair – Board of Trustees

      Mr. Padgett thanked for their service to the College of Charleston the Senate and also thanked Speaker Cherry, Dean Fran Welch, and Professor Pamela Riggs-Gelasco for their knowledgable service on the Presidential search committee.
At the outset, he noted that he would likely be repeating some of what he said at the 5 November 2013 meeting of the Senate (see minutes, 3. B.).

The College of Charleston Foundation provided support for hiring a search firm, AGB Search, to assist in finding qualified candidates. The Board, in their most recent meeting to date, approved a resolution thanking AGB Search. The original consult, Dr. Robert Lawless, stepped down to a less-intensive role in the search due to health issues. Dr. Jamie Ferrare, Principal of AGB Search, will be leading their search efforts.

Dr. Lawless met with over 250 people. There were 41 separate meetings at the beginning of November of various campus constituencies and shareholders, who provided their feedback. Following this, the search committee met with Dr. Lawless, who shared the accumulated feedback. With that feedback in mind, an ad was developed and submitted for publication in print and online in venues, including the Chronicle of Higher Education, and it has been posted since the end of November. Online publications in which the ad appeared included Inside Higher Education, Diverse Job Search, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, American Conference of Academic Deans, and Women in Higher Education.

Candidate applications, Mr. Padgett said, are due today (January 14) for full consideration by the committee, which meets on Friday, January 17. Applications that come in over the next few days will still be included in the process, however. A second search committee meeting will occur before the end of the month to begin narrowing down candidates in order to begin interviews in February.

The search committee has been asked to give the Board a list of no more than five candidates by February 10. The Board will decide who among this list to bring to campus later in the month. Only the names of the finalists, Mr. Padgett stressed, will be released to the public, with the Board of Trustees deciding on the finalists. The final candidate decided on by the Board will not be announced until a contract is signed.

Mr. Padgett stated that he wants to be clear that, despite media reports on the Presidential search, nothing has changed in the process since he came to the November Senate meeting. The process, he said, remains the same, as he has pointed out to media outlets and in returning phone calls regarding the search. The board, he asserted, is committed to the integrity of the process: a national search with full consideration of all applicants. The outcome of the search, he stressed, has not been foreordained. The board will strive to hire the best person for the job, no matter who that person may be.

Mr. Padgett said that the Board hopes to announce the name of the next President in March, possibly April. Search committee members, he stated, have signed confidentiality agreements in order to ensure the best candidate pool possible. The Presidential search web page will continue to be updated as the search progresses.

Finally, Mr. Padgett offered to take questions, stipulating that he would be happy to answer questions about the search but not about individual candidates.
Questions

Phil Jos, Senator – HSS, inquired if the first order of business for the search committee will be to determine if the pool is adequate.

Mr. Padgett replied in the affirmative, noting that the upcoming meeting will be the first in which the committee has a pool of applicants to discuss.

Jos followed up by asking if the committee is satisfied with the number of applications.

Mr. Padgett again replied in the affirmative.

Tony LeClerc, Senator – Computer Science, asked for a clarification on what Mr. Padgett said about applications that arrive after the deadline. If the “full-consideration” date has passed, will there eventually be a “no-consideration” date?

Mr. Padgett replied that the 14th of January was a date set prior to the committee setting their first meeting for consideration of the full application pool. As the committee meets in three days, he stated, applications for full consideration will need to arrive very soon. If applicants need to add an item to complete their applications, for instance, he said, they would need to do so in the morning.

Irina Gigova, Senator – HSS, thanked Mr. Padgett for alleviating concerns that the search might be compromised, and then asked if it is possible for the Board to share the size of the applicant pool.

Mr. Padgett replied that once the application process is closed, the Board should be able to provide that number.

There were were no more questions.

C. The Provost (Powerpoint Slides)

John White, the Provost reported, has been appointed as Dean of the Library and has officially started. Currently, he is meeting with Addlestone staff, Deans, and others on campus. He will be invited to present a report to the Provost in late February, with some attention to the planned library renovations.

On the LCWA Dean search, the Provost reported that 40 completed applications are in, and the committee, headed by HSS Dean Hale, began a review began on January 8. The pool features candidates with diverse prior experiences. Finalists will be on campus in March or early April.

The Honors College students displaced due water damage and subsequent discovery of asbestos in their residence hall are now returning to campus. The Honors student residents will be moving into Berry Residence Hall in the fall. Renovations will take place in the summer for the first two floors of Berry to accommodate instructional and academic needs. The renovation team is meeting on January 15.

CofC – MUSC Merger talks continue. It is fair to say, the Provost asserted, that the “legislative delegation ... responding to their perceived need, reinforced by the Chamber of Commerce,” may propose legislation in the coming year to merge the
College and MUSC. However, he stated, those in the know think there is a very slim possibility of such legislation getting out of the State House of Representatives. The Chair of MUSC’s Board of Trustees is not in favor of a merger. The Provost encouraged Senators to peruse the white paper posted on the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce’s website (a separate white paper from that developed by the coordinated committee with representation from both MUSC and the College). The site also states that among its key agenda items is to support legislation for the creation of a comprehensive research university in Charleston through the merger of MUSC and the College.

The Provost reiterated that the chances of legislation passing are slim, but that we should remain vigilant.

Figures for those up for tenure and promotion, by school are as follows: LCWA (5), EHHP (1), SSM (9), HSS (10), SBUS (5), and SOTA (1). By level, the figures are: promotion to Senior Instructor (1), review of Senior Instructor (4), tenure and promotion to Associate Professor (17), and promotion to Professor (9).

There were no questions.

D. Faculty Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics: Proposed FAM Class Attendance Language Change

The Speaker noted that the language proposed is for a section of the Faculty Administration Manual over which the faculty does not have direct control. Thus, the proposal is brought to the Senate not for a vote but for information, discussion, and to generate feedback.

Andrea DeMaria, Chair of the committee, introduced the proposed language, indicating that the committee researched the need for a language change before moving forward and wrote a draft and distributed it for comment by faculty as part of the process leading to the proposal. The committee feels that the suggested language better protects faculty and offers clearer guidance when they have students who are absent for college-related activities.

Questions/Comments

Phil Jos, Senator – HSS, noted that faculty he has talked to about the proposal find it a very reasonable change.

Paul Young, Senator – Mathematics, pointed out that new language, in the first sentence of the third paragraph, changes the current “Instructors determine...” to “Instructors ascertain...” He asked if the language difference means anything in particular, whether “ascertain” means anything different than “determine.” What is the reason for the word change?

DeMaria responded that there is not any specific change intended in the word choice. Jordan Ragusa (Political Science), a committee member in the audience agreed that the change was inadvertent and that there is nothing intended by it. Kristen Gentile (Classics), another member of the committee, indicated that it was a “wordsmithing” change.
There were no further questions/comments.

4. Old Business
   None.

5. New Business
   None.

6. Constituents’ Concerns
   None.

7. Adjournment: 5:46 PM

   Respectfully submitted,

   J. Michael Duvall
   Faculty Secretary