Highlights from Tuesday's Faculty Senate regular meeting (2/10/15)

The Speaker called the Senate to order at 5:06 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - none.

REPORTS

Speaker McNerney

- commended Faculty Secretariat Pearson Hoak for her work in updating the Faculty Senate web pages, called attention to the conference room booking link on the Faculty Standing Committees page, and asked Senators to forward any suggestions they have for the web pages.
- thanked the President and Interim Provost for the open budget process, and recognized and thanked by name all the members of the Faculty Budget Committee for their significant time and effort in the budget process. Applause followed.
- reported on the January Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, which featured the approval of the MFA in Creative Writing, adjustments to the budget due to a decrease in out of state students, approval of a 3% increase in the room fees for students beginning next year (0% increase in board), updates on building projects, and upcoming CoC recognition events in Columbia (the legislature to recognize the baseball team on 2/12 for their recent achievement and on 2/25, College of Charleston Day at the State House).
- noted that a planned meeting of CofC faculty, local business representatives, and the Chamber of Commerce on 1/26/15 was postponed and should be rescheduled in the next week or two.
- reported that a “Collaborative Council” has been planned by President McConnell and MUSC President Cole in order to have targeted conversations about collaborations between CoC and MUSC.
- noted that he presented to the BOT resolutions approved by the Faculty Senate since the October BOT meeting and gave them an update on the fall faculty/BOT shadowing program.
- reported that he encouraged the BOT to invite faculty to participate in the BOT’s public meetings, and encouraged Senators to attend these meetings and to share their voice on issues before the Board.

Interim Provost McGee (Presentation slides PDF)

- said of the bomb threat earlier in the day that, on the whole, emergency plans worked very well: people were moved away from the threatened area and buildings were cleared quickly.
- reported that there will be a full after-action review of the events and response to see what lessons can be learned, especially from the erroneous message that a bomb had been found, the fault of software that had not been maintained.
- asked for the faculty’s sympathy and support for their students who may not have been able to attend class or were delayed due to the situation.
- took several questions about the bomb threat and our response to it.
- reported that roster faculty surveys for evaluating line Deans (excluding LCWA) have been completed with a 48% response rate and noted he will meet soon with the Faculty Welfare Committee, who have proposed FAM language changes on Dean evaluations.
- gave budget figures, information on a proposed budget increase for Academic Affairs, and budget priorities (see page 4 of presentation slides).
- listed particular initiatives now before faculty and Senate committees: Deans List criteria, graduate faculty membership, titles for adjunct faculty, and Distinguished Professor and honorary ranks.
- discussed foreign language alternative courses for students with disabilities that preclude their ability to take foreign language courses, the list of which courses has not been closely managed and expressly reviewed by faculty. The General Education Committee and AVP Lynne Ford, he said, have cleaned up the current list, removing many courses no longer offered, and a final version of the list may be brought to the Senate for approval in March as an interim strategy, while we consider a means to meet our students’ needs in this area that is also assessable for SACS accreditation purposes.
- complimented the efforts of those involved in both the newly proposed changes in the Math/Logic requirement for general education and the revision of the Hispanic Studies Program, both of which were on the Senate agenda for the evening.
- took questions.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

The General Education Committee presented two proposals, both of which were approved:
The Faculty Curriculum Committee presented proposals for course prerequisite changes; changes of existing courses, with accompanying program changes; and new course proposals, with accompanying program changes. All of these were approved (see below the signature line for a complete list).

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Detailed minutes will be available on 2/24.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Duvall
Faculty Secretary