From: Jannette Finch, Faculty Secretary
To: Faculty and Staff

These are the highlights from the Faculty Senate regular meeting held on 16 January 2018 at 5 PM in Wells Fargo Auditorium (Beatty Center 115). Full minutes to follow.

**Speaker Liz Jurisich** called the Senate to order at 5:04 PM and adjourned at 5:59 PM.

**Reports**

**Speaker of the Faculty Elizabeth Jurisich** gave a brief report and referenced an email sent out by Nominations and Elections Chair Tom Kunkle calling for nominations for the 2018-2019 Senate. Needed are nominations for Faculty Secretary and At-Large Senators. The Faculty Speaker has agreed to nomination for a second year.


Nominations will remain open until 11:59 pm, Jan. 23, 2018.

**Speaker Jurisich** plans to attend the January Board of Trustees meeting with information for the Board about surveys concerning faculty satisfaction with administration, work completed by former Speaker of the Faculty, Todd McNerney.

The Speaker reminded chairs and secretaries of Senate Committees to check the updated Senate committee webpages. Committees are invited to contact Megan Gould for help in linking to reports, or updating with meeting times.

**Provost Brian McGee** offered a welcome back to the semester.

Provost McGee referred to the national news and strongly stated that the College of Charleston continues to support students, faculty, and staff regardless of the country of their origin. He said we are a diverse and inclusive community as demonstrated in documents consistently created and approved by Board of Trustees, administration, students, faculty, and staff. The Provost extended thanks to all who help make CofC a diverse and inclusive community, regardless of country of origin or immigration status.

The Provost gave a reminder that if government agencies are threatened with federal shutdown, some Schools and departments may have to make contingency plans.

The Provost thanked Physical Plant and others who worked to make campus safe after the local snowfall and icy conditions known as "Snowmageddon." He asked that any lessons learned or suggestions be passed to your Dean or Chair.

The Provost gave updates on the following:
• The Task Force on Advising and Mentoring, chaired by Lynne Ford. Requests for people to serve will appear this month.
• The Task Force on Transfer Credit and Credit Hours, chaired by Joe Kelly, will be formed this semester.
• The Search for Dean of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. Faculty and a student representative eligible to serve on that committee have been contacted and have attended an organizational meeting with Dean Welch, Chair of that committee.
• The Graduate Dean search will be conducted this semester.
• The Sestercentennial, or 250 year anniversary of the College. The Provost gave the scope as 15-18 months of celebration, including academic events and programs planned by faculty. There will be opportunities to engage the process from any disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective.
• Distance Education at the College. The College has moved to a model of inviting faculty to go through distance education training. Over 250 faculty have gone through the training, designed and delivered by Teaching, Learning, and Technology group. The Provost said that the College has a successful distance education program, essential to summer school revenues. Provost McGee said that for many students, taking at least one summer distance class is correlated with timely degree completion. The Provost said that CofC will continue to be a face to face institution, valuing personal engagement in the classroom, but asked faculty to recognize that we might be more intentional to develop the most popular or commonly requested courses online as well. Members of Academic Council have discussed this and will take it to the Planning Committee to explore how to move forward in the next phase of distance education.
• Program cost study. The Provost said that for the last several months, work has been done to replicate a study done in 2010-11 on instructional costs of offering academic programs. This work will have consequences and implications for managing resources. Data will be compiled and made available via various venues.
• Faculty exit interviews. The College will make a process to gather more rigorous data in consultation with Academic Council.

The Provost appreciated the report by the Adjunct Welfare committee, appearing in today's agenda.

**Todd LeVasseur, Director, Quality Enhancement Plan**, gave an Update on the QEP: “Sustainability Literacy as a Bridge to Addressing 21st Century Problems.”

Todd thanked Dr. Divya Bhati and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning for leading the successful SACSCOC accreditation. LeVasseur mentioned that in the first year, the QEP community has offered over 10 sustainability-focused and related courses, given out over 10 Sustainability Literacy Institute mini-grants to students, faculty, and staff, funded 3 research projects, have over 15 student ambassadors, and formed a robust event structure. They are collecting data for the next assessment cycle. In year two, the theme will be social justice.

Next month, watch for an email from LeVasseur calling for mini-grants related to the social justice theme.
LeVasseur mentioned that they hope to work out of new physical space soon.

He said they will roll out faculty training on systems thinking and creative problem solving, led by Steve Jaumé.

Please contact Todd LeVasseur with any questions and concerns and visit the website, http://sustain.cofc.edu/index.php.

**Julia Eichelberger, Chair, Adjunct Oversight Committee** reported that the Committee was formed in the past year. Meeting times and the charge of the committee are on the website: http://facultysenate.cofc.edu/committees/adjunct-oversight/index.php.

Eichelberger summed up the Committee’s charge as a clearinghouse for concerns and questions regarding adjunct affairs. The Committee is devising ways to collect and make available numbers related to adjuncts, in order to see trends over time.

The Committee's first activity was to provide a list of recommended best practices for chairs or program directors to create a supportive and collegial atmosphere for adjunct faculty members (http://facultysenate.cofc.edu/committees/adjunct-oversight/documents/SuggestedPracticesForChairsProgramDirectorsRegardingAdjunctFaculty.pdf).

Anyone with questions is invited to email Julia Eichelberger.

There was no **Old Business**.

There was no **New Business**.

**Constituent's General Concerns**

**Tom Kunkle**, Senator (at-large, SSM) and Chair of Nominations and Elections, reminded faculty about open elections and stated that everyone’s vote counts.

**Irina Gigova**, Senator (at-large, HSS) gave an update on the work of the Committee on Institutional Identity. She said that the committee has extended survey invitations through multiple channels. The survey opened December 11, 2017 and closed January 12, 2018. There were 440 participants. 170 expressed interest in the next round of discussions, which Gigova hopes will take place in February. Gigova said that there are twenty types of questions and concerns, but the main topics expressed include:

- diversity and inclusion,
- retention and competitive recruitment of faculty and staff,
- support for research,
- the balance between teaching and research in the mission of the College,
- gender inequality in pay,
- rising cost of student tuition,
• the tuition-driven budget model.