

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on 26 September 2017

The Faculty Senate met for a regular meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 5 PM in Robert Scott Small 235. This meeting was rescheduled from September 12 due to Hurricane Irma.

1. **Call to order**, 5:04 PM
2. The [11 & 18 April 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as posted.](#)
3. **Announcements and information**

Speaker Liz Jurisich reminded those in attendance of the roll sheet and the rules of speaking, and announced that following the meeting, all are invited to a reception celebrating shared governance, sponsored by the Provost and the Speaker.

4. Reports

a. **Speaker of the Faculty Liz Jurisich** made a brief report and is looking forward to a productive year. She mentioned that the Senate website is being updated.

b. Provost Brian McGee

Provost McGee thanked the campus community for the safe closure and safe return to campus due to Hurricane Irma.

He spoke of campus safety in regards to organizations who intend to parade or gather near or on campus. He reminded everyone that groups have a right to voice their ideas, even though we may not agree with them.

In the case of violent proponents of secession, the campus administration and public safety are committed to protecting the safety of the campus community.

In a related topic, Provost McGee spoke of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students. Since 2008, as a South Carolina public university, the College has been required to determine that each student is lawfully present in the United States as a condition of receiving educational services. The Provost affirmed that the College will obey the law, but hope and advocate for DACA students. The legal review of this complex issue is ongoing.

Provost McGee spoke of the revised academic calendar due to Hurricane Irma. He stated that they will keep looking for better ways to make up days, but right now, there is little option. The Provost spoke of the resources needed to make a learning environment by opening buildings and turning on power and asked that if make up days are scheduled, please try to use them, in order to avoid wasting resources.

The Provost reiterated we will use Saturdays and Sundays equally, mindful of different religious views.

Provost McGee reminded the body of changes in personnel. Paul Patrick is now Executive Vice President of Business Affairs. They are seeking to recruit a Vice President to focus on Physical Plant issues. They are preparing to launch a national search for the Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs in the next month, and a decision will be made soon on the search for a Graduate Dean.

The Provost spoke of changing enrollment patterns in higher education as reported in the trade press. There is a declining traditional undergraduate population. Traditional-age students are often first generation students, middle class purchasing power has not kept pace with increasing college costs. Universities nation-wide are trying to find ways to improve their enrollment and recruitment strategies. At the College of Charleston, the Provost reports that the enrollment numbers are fractionally down for full and part time graduate students. They are more significantly down for the undergraduate population. He mentioned that our Senior class is our largest class of undergraduates. In order to meet the same number next year, we will have to create a new enrollment scheme. Changes in strategies for financial aid, recruitment, and retention are necessary. Declining numbers has consequences for budget and staffing across the institution. The Provost plans to work on these issues with the Budget Committee and with the Senate and any other Senate committees that are charged to work on these issues.

Provost McGee said the updated Faculty Administration Manual is published on the website.

Provost McGee refuted a statement made by United States Attorney General on universities' insufficient commitment to free speech. He offered the statement:

In consideration of our teaching and research commitments, I believe the College of Charleston will defend academic freedom, even when faculty and staff and students make what many would consider serious errors in judgment. On my part, if any member of our community maintains that other interests override free speech or the interests of academic freedom and public debate, I, for one, will call such ideas what they are: illiberal, unwise, and unworthy of a great university. Of course, in our work with students, we will vigorously safeguard their physical safety, but we will recognize that adults in democratic societies must expect to encounter hateful speech and cannot avoid ideas, however unpleasant, with which they do not agree. And that commitment to free speech is particularly useful at times when those ideas come from those in positions of authority, who need to be called out in their own way.

The Provost concluded by noting that the faculty dialog on the institution's identity will prove constructive.

The Provost accepted questions.

Tom Kunkle, Senator (at-large SSM) asked if there were any plans to increase the number of storm makeup days on the calendar next year? Kunkle offered the idea to perhaps increase the reading days to three.

The Provost said there are many challenges to this, including demands on physical plant as well as on faculty and students. It will be studied.

Jon Hakkila (Guest) asked about the real possibilities of the flagging event threatened for October 28?

Provost McGee affirmed that the chances this will happen are real.

Bill Manaris, Senator (Computer Science) asked about the possibilities of taking Labor Day off in order to be consistent with other schools and to address the issues of faculty and staff who have children out of school on Labor Day.

The Provost explained that there is not a way to easily do this.

Betsy Baker, Senator (English) asked for more specific information about the enrollment figures.

The Provost gave unofficial, round numbers from memory as 10,000 as the final undergraduate number for Fall 2017. He said the normative goal is 10,500 students and being off by a few hundred students has real consequences.

Irina Gigova, Senator (at-large, HSS) asked about the acceptance rate at the College.

The Provost replied that the acceptance rate for this fall's class will be lower than the previous class. He said he has not seen final figures. Several reforms were made to the Fall 2018 recruiting cycle. Between the implementation of an early decision cycle for early applications and some other modifications, their goal is to improve both quality of students they attract and retain and to improve the quantity of students. Jimmie Foster and Provost McGee will be happy to discuss with the Academic Standards Committee, if desired.

Robert Westerfelhaus, Senator (at-large, HSS) asked about the ratio of instate and out of state students, how that is trending, and what are the economic issues related to that?

The Provost mentioned a progression of accepting out of state students in the high 700s, then increasing to the 1,000s as recently as the 2011-12 academic year. Even though this was helpful for quality indicators and the budget, financial aid packages were not robust enough to compete with financial aid packages from competitors.

He stated that the current numbers of out of state students are in the 800s. The recruitment position is strong, but students are being lost relatively late to competitors' aggressive admission discounting. The financial consequence is millions of dollars.

Patricia Williams Lessane, Senator (Library) asked about the number of African American students in the Freshman class of 2017.

Jimmie Foster and the Provost said that the number was about the same as last year, but they will report on that number more precisely in the October Provost report.

c. Richard Nunan, Chair of the Committee on By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual

Chair Nunan provided a report addressing what updates were made to the FAM, which included all the recommendations from the Bylaws and FAM Committee of 2016-17. These changes were approved by the 2016-17 Senate.

Other changes were made based on the recommendations of the Post Tenure Review (PTR) Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Hearing Procedures. Most changes suggested by the PTR committee were incorporated, with the exception of deferment requests, which the Bylaws Committee feels needs more discussion.

Changes suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee on Hearing Procedures were substantial, and few items were included in the updated FAM. The Bylaws Committee will bring some of the Ad Hoc Committee's suggestions back to the Senate for more discussion. Some of these issues are: the type of training suggested for members of both Hearing and Grievance committees; the empowerment of the Hearing Committee to rule on possible conflicts of interest; and the date constraints of the hearing process.

This information is provided in the report, appended at the end of these minutes.

The Change Log, FAM changes 2017-18 is linked on Academic Affairs website, http://facultysenate.cofc.edu/archives/2017-2018/sept-2017/Log_of_FAM_changes_2017-2018_Sept1.pdf

Nunan accepted questions.

Julia Eichelberger, Senator (at-large, HSS) asked about the new standing committee, the Adjunct Oversight Committee and when it would be formed.

Tom Kunkle, Senator (at-large, SSM) and Chair of Nominations and Elections, said they will work on it this fall and issue a call for members.

John Huddlestun, Guest, related his work on an investigative panel this past year. In reading the operating procedures, Huddlestun noticed that there was a discrepancy in the operating procedure for filing a grievance are very different from what is in the FAM. This is especially different for students filing a grievance concerning a faculty member. Huddlestun suggested adding language to the FAM to bring it in line with what is stated in the operating procedures.

Provost McGee stated that Huddleston is referring to college policy 9.1.10 (<http://policy.cofc.edu/policy.php>). He said there is a layer of due process protection not expressly called for in the FAM, and the suggestion to include it is well-taken.

Deanna Caveny-Noecker (Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs) took the discussion back to the makeup of committees. She reminded the body that the Adjunct Oversight Committee has only one elected member. The other five members are four regular faculty members named by Committees that have already been seated. One ex-officio member is designated by the Provost. There only needs to be an election of the adjunct faculty member.

Richard Nunan reminded members of the Senate to contact members of the Committee on By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual with any concerns.

5. Old Business. There was none.

6. New Business

a. **Election of Speaker Pro Tempore.** The Speaker called for nominations. Irina Gigova was nominated. The nominations were closed. Without objection, Irina Gigova was elected as Speaker Pro Tempore.

b. **Irina Gigova, Senator (at-large, HSS) introduced a Motion to Initiate Conversation about Institutional Identity and Vision.** That motion is amended at the end of the minutes.

Senator Gigova gave background on the motion. She said over the last few years, there have been discussions surrounding many possible changes, including a possible merger with MUSC, satellite campuses, growth of the student body, and the introduction of the possibility of PhD programs. All of these would change the institution as we know it today. Gigova explained the members of the ad hoc discussion group were former Speaker Todd McNerney, current Speaker Liz Jurisich, Lynne Ford, Alex Kasman, and Bob Mignone. She explained the purpose is to ask the Committee on Nominations and Elections to organize an ad hoc committee that represents the campus as a whole to work on this identity matter. She asked for the Senate's endorsement and envisioned the committee having a series of meetings including faculty and staff to discuss where we as an institution are currently and where we would like to be, and what we can do in the future. She said by the end of the academic year, a consensus could be reached about where we are as a body. She stated that decisions involving budget, curriculum, and initiatives should be informed by a common, shared vision.

Gigova accepted questions.

The Speaker called for a second to the motion. The motion was seconded.

Mark Del Mastro, Senator (Hispanic Studies) asked if there was any plan to include students? He stated that they have clear vision of the College's identity, and that vision extends beyond Charleston.

Gigova said they had not discussed it, but that alumni would also need to be included. She is not opposed to including students.

Speaker Jurisich called for a vote. The motion carried.

[for information purposes, provided is a link to [2006 College Identity Discussion](#)]

c. **Gayle Goudy, Co-Chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee** introduced one curriculum change- [Urban Studies concentration in Sustainable Urbanism](#) (pdf).

The change was approved.

7. Constituent's general concerns

Robert Frash, Senator (Hospitality and Tourism Management), brought up the active shooter at Virginia's on King. He said he was teaching when the incident happened and student cell phones went off, and students, seeing the announcement, read it as an active shooter on campus. No one was sure what to do beyond run, hide, fight. He asked if there was a plan and mentioned that the students said there is much clearer procedure outlined at the high school level than the college level.

Speaker Jurisich affirmed that we might need a refresher on any protocol, and the comment is timely.

Provost McGee commented that emergency procedures are posted in each classroom, and to let Academic Affairs know if the poster is missing. He stated that in high schools, there is a simpler security protocol. For a complex campus, it is hard to devise one solution. He said that campus administration will review procedures for improvement. They are learning from what other institutions do. Should the Senate desire, he will ask for a more thorough briefing.

8. Adjournment, 6:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jannette Finch,
Faculty Secretary

Appendix A: Report from Committee on By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual

Appendix B: Motion to Initiate Conversation about Institutional Identity and Vision