Faculty Senate, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 5:00 PM
Wells Fargo Auditorium (Beatty Center 115)

Votes taken by the Faculty Senate appear in red.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM.

2. The October 1, 2019 Minutes were approved by acclamation.

[3. Announcements and Information were included in the Speaker’s Report.]

4. Reports
   
   a. Speaker of the Faculty Simon Lewis began his report by paying tribute to Dr. Mike Auerbach, former Dean of the School of Science and Math, who passed away on October 10. Contributions to a memorial scholarship can be made at https://give.cofc.edu/Auerbach.

   Speaker Lewis updated the Senate on the following matters:
   The number of mumps cases on campus has reached 18, with a maximum of 7 individuals infected at any one time (as of 11/5). State law allows students to petition not to provide proof of vaccination. Instructors should know that if they have not been contacted by the College, then no students in their classes are known to be infected.

   Searches are underway for the next Provost and Deans of HSS and SSM. Please consider nominating qualified candidates for these positions.

   The controversy surrounding the search and hiring of the University of South Carolina President has prompted responses from a number of Faculty Speakers across the state, prompting more communication among faculty leaders and the potential for more formal organization across South Carolina faculty organizations.

   The AAUP designated the previous week “Equity Week” to highlight inequities resulting from over-reliance on adjunct positions. Prof. Julia Eichelberger was recognized as AAUP Champion Professor for her work on the creation of C of C’s Adjunct Oversight Committee and a list of best practices for adjunct employment at SC institutions. Speaker Lewis expressed hope that the Strategic Plan will address issues concerning conditions of adjunct employment and the College’s reliance on adjunct labor.

   He concluded by noting that despite current budget tightening, the vibe on campus following the inauguration of Dr. Hsu is upbeat.
b. President Andrew Hsu discussed his priorities of student success and enrollment management. Regarding the former, he noted the work of the retention steering committee and the adoption of a software system to help gauge and manage student success.

Regarding enrollment management, he described a new multi-year partnership with EAB, a company that specializes in recruitment and guarantees a 10% increase in enrollment. That contract begins in December. Meanwhile, the enrollment management team has already streamlined the application process, signed on with the “common app,” and increased the number of recruitment visits to high schools. We are already seeing results, and President Hsu is cautiously optimistic regarding next academic year’s enrollments. Non-SC-resident applications are up 17%, and in-state applications are up 60%. The goal is to have 2300 students in the next entering class, with increased diversity, a stronger student profile, and a lower admission rate.

President Hsu then walked through information on a series of slides outlining the strategic planning process and summarizing survey results. Among the themes that came up repeatedly in our recent information gathering: in regard to academics, the desire to maintain our liberal arts identity, to be best in our class (Masters-Level Regional University), to expand graduate programs, and to update the curriculum. In terms of student success, respondents expressed a desire to create a more inclusive, supportive community. Workplace priorities included diversity, compensation, and benefits. Financial stability and transparency (in budgeting and other decision-making) were also clear priorities of faculty and staff. [Note: More information can be found on the Strategic Plan site: http://www.cofc.edu/strategicplan/index.php. Complete information from all surveys will be made available (on My Charleston) in December.]

Prof. Jon Hakkila (Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Guest) asked if the EAB management system could be used for graduate students. CIO Mark Staples and AVP Lynne Ford replied, saying that the system is designed primarily for undergraduates but that they would look into it.

Senator Richard Nunan (Philosophy) asked for information about the state’s response to the proposed PhD in Mathematics with Computation. Interim Provost Fran Welch replied that proposal ran into some political difficulties in Columbia and that there was not much more specific information she could share at this time.

5. New Business

a. Curriculum Committee (Andrew Przeworski, Chair)
Please note: All College of Charleston faculty may view curricular proposals in Curriculog. PDF copies of individual proposals are available to non-faculty guests upon request (peepless@cofc.edu).

1) AFST:

New course: AFST 205 “Gender in Africa”
Course name change: AFST 101
Minor change: Add AFST 205 and POLI 267 to electives in AFST minor
https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:100/form

These proposals were approved by voice vote.

2) ENTR/MGMT:

New courses: ENTR 344 "Entrepreneurship Internship", MGMT 344 "Management Internship”
Deactivate courses: ENTR 444, MGMT 444
Major changes: add ENTR 344 to electives in BADM and BADM-ENTR, add MGMT 344 to electives in BADM and BADM-LCSR
Minor changes: add ENTR 344 to electives in BADM minor and ENTR minor, add MGMT 344 to electives in BADM minor and LCSR minor
https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:103/form

These proposals were approved by voice vote.

3) FINC:

New courses: FINC 316 "Advanced Financial Statement Analysis", FINC 362 "Global Investment Industry"
Major changes: add required courses to BADM-FINC, add FINC 316 to electives in BADM-FINC and FINC, add FINC 362 to electives in FINC
Minor changes: add required courses to FINC minor, add FINC 316 to electives in FINC minor

These proposals were approved by voice vote.

4) GEOI:

New minor: create a new minor in Geoinformatics
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1793/form
Senator Irina Gigova (HSS) asked if there were prerequisites for the required Geology courses; she was concerned about the availability of the minor to a broad range of students. Prof. Przeworski and Prof. Tim Callahan (Chair of Geology) replied that there are prerequisites for GEOL 402: GEOL 103+Lab and any of the general education mathematics courses (101, 104, 111, or 120).

Sen. Nunan asked for clarification regarding new lines associated with the proposal, noting that it refers to possibly adding new lines to meet student demand. He wanted more information about the cost of creating the minor. Prof. Tim Callahan (Chair of Geology) replied that he was not requesting any new lines to support the minor at this time.

Sen. Chris Starr asked where the program would be housed or administered. Prof. Callahan replied that it would be housed in Geology, at least for now.

Senators Elain Worzala (School of Business) and Andrew Shedlock (Biology) both advocated for the minor, citing student interest and the program’s interdisciplinarity.

Prof. Nunan stated that he has nothing against the minor itself but that it’s a bad idea to pass minors when there has been no serious effort to estimate the cost.

SSM Interim Dean Sebastian van Delden responded that there are no new costs associated with the minor because it is built on existing courses. He added that if it attracts a large number of new students, it might require more resources.

The minor was approved by voice vote.

b. Committee on Graduate Education (Sandra Slater, Chair)

English to Speakers of Other Languages I Graduate Certificate—ESO1: Increase credit hours from 12 to 15. https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:1842/form

This proposal was withdrawn from the agenda.

c. Committee on General Education (Susan Kattwinkel, Chair)

1) LPTO: Add four courses in Portugese and Brazillian Studies to General Education -- Humanities

These proposals passed by voice vote.

2) Motion to form an ad hoc committee to research and plan a diversity requirement as part of the required curriculum PDF

Prof. Kattwinkel explained that in 2012, a committee chaired by Prof. Joe Kelly had submitted recommendations. Associate Provost Conseula Francis was working with those proposals, but following her death, the proposal languished. The current proposal is to form a new ad hoc committee to take up the issue, perhaps updating the 2012 proposals.

Sen. Nunan asked if the committee would be given a charge to incorporate diversity into the curriculum in a particular way, or would they be able to propose any kind of curricular change. Prof. Kattwinkel replied that the General Education Committee did not want to narrow the possibilities; the proposal might not be within General Education.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

d. Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid (Deborah Boyle, Chair)

Slide Presentation Overview

1. Motion to Adopt a Transfer Credit Philosophy PDF

Sen. Starr observed that in some places the Philosophy was very broad, but in other places quite specific. He suggested deleting the “C or better” requirement from the philosophy for that reason. Registrar Mary Bergstrom said that she and the committee had considered the issue Sen. Starr raised, but that the “C-or-better” was included in the philosophy because it is non-negotiable for us.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

2. Motion to Award DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) Credit PDF
Prof. Boyle said that the intention of this proposal is to make the College more veteran-friendly; DANTES is similar in nature to the CLEP exam but it is typically taken by veterans.

Prof. Brian Lanahan (Teacher Education, Guest) asked if departments would evaluate the credits associated with this exam as they do for the CLEP exam. Registrar Bergstrom affirmed that departments would have the authority to determine course equivalencies, as they do for CLEP.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Motion to Increase the 2-Year Institution Transfer Credit Limit from 60 to 66 Credits [PDF]

Prof. Boyle said that the intention of this proposal is to make the College more transfer-friendly to students coming from 2-year institutions.

Senator Paul Young (SSM) asked if there was a particular reason for 66 to be the number of credit hours. Registrar Bergstrom replied that Associates Degree recipients come in with more hours than they used to. The Registrar’s Office would be glad to accept a higher number than 66 if the Senate wanted to raise it.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Motion to Amend the Senior Residency Policy and Petition Process (by which students request permission to complete coursework elsewhere) [PDF]

Prof. Boyle explained the current process and how the Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid evaluates requests for permission to complete coursework elsewhere. The main reason for the current policy limiting the number of credits students can earn at other institutions in their senior year is that the College does not want students completing their majors at other institutions; but she pointed out that most of the requests the committee receives are for general education courses rather than courses in the major. The task force decided on 12 hours (up from 7) as the maximum number of hours students can complete elsewhere (with their major department chair’s permission) because it is the equivalent of a semester’s coursework. Students would still be required to petition the Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid for permission to complete between 13 and 18 hours elsewhere during their senior year.

Sen. Starr asked where students typically go to complete credits during their senior year. Registrar Bergstrom replied that they most often go to accredited institutions in their hometowns. Prof. Boyle added that these students don’t typically complete
their degrees while they’re “at home.” And the committee does not consider requests when the justification is financial savings for the student.

Senator Bob Mignone (SSM) asked if it would matter if the students requesting permission were in fact taking courses in their major. Prof. Boyle replied that they would need their major department chair’s approval, so that would be up to the department chair.

Prof. Hakkila expressed concern about students taking required courses at other local institutions because they were easier. Prof. Boyle replied that the committee denies requests to take courses (during their senior year) at other local institutions when the same or equivalent course can be taken here.

Senator Steve Litvin (Hospitality and Tourism Management) asked how this proposed change jibes with our concerns about revenue, since we lose money when students take courses elsewhere. Sen. David Desplaces (School of Business) asked for clarification about the approval process.

AVP Lynne Ford clarified that students who submit these requests are not usually requesting to take courses to fulfill major requirements. She added that while we do want revenue, we also want student-friendly policies and consistency. She reiterated that department chairs retain control in allowing courses to transfer in.

Senator Andrew Shedlock (Biology) asked if distance education courses could help solve these kinds of problems. Prof. Boyle responded that the committee looks at other possible ways students can attain the credits they need when, for instance, they have to return home for family reasons. If a course that a student needs is available through C of C online, the committee does not approve taking it elsewhere.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

6. Constituents’ General Concerns

Senator Annette Watson (Political Science) asked that the senate or appropriate faculty committee consider the College’s policy on intellectual property. A current graduate student is currently involved in a controversy over the intellectual property rights of his thesis research.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:30.