Faculty Advisory Committee to the President  
Thursday, September 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3-4pm, 2010

MINUTES

Members Present: President George Benson, M. Scott Harris, Edward Hart, Melissa Hughes (Chair), Morgan Koerner (Secretary), Larry Krasnoff, Celeste Lacroix, Bob Mignone, Clifton Peacock, Susan Rozzi, Heather Tierney

Also in attendance: Brian McGee, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to the President

Agenda Items:

1. From the President

\textit{Facilities Updates}

- The College has finally broken ground on the first phase of construction at Dixie Plantation. A trail with signage is under construction and it will be finished sometime this fall.
- The first phase also include renovating John Henry Dick’s studio as a museum and rebuilding the barn as a multi-purpose room. This phase is supported by federal stimulus money for shovel ready projects.
- Later phases will possibly include creating energy-efficient research stations, housing, and a conference center on the property for students, faculty, and guests.
- The Committee noted that when the administration announces these developments, it will be important to highlight that many of these ideas for Dixie plantation had been suggested by different faculty committees in the past.
- Renovations to Randolph Hall should be finished sometime this fall.
- The College has signed a long-term lease with the athletic fields on James Island and the quality of the fields and facilities will be improved.

\textit{Quality and Efficiency Program}

- As a condition of the tuition increase, the Board of Trustees has asked the College to review the quality and efficiency of all divisions.
- The President described this program as a minimally invasive process by which each division chooses a specific set of areas and then conducts a review of those areas.
- The President emphasized that the focus of the quality and efficiency program reviews will be on improvement.
- In the future, the College may create a cycle of such Quality and Efficiency reviews through which each division conducts a self-study every few years or so.
2. Consequences of the Tuition Increase
   - The President highlighted that there have been minimal complaints from students and parents about this summer’s tuition increase.
   - The resulting scholarship money is divided between need based, merit based, and graduate student scholarships. For the first time in the history of the College, there are (a few) full scholarships for students.
   - The Committee and the President discussed the issue of attracting out-of-state students to the College. The Committee noted that there is an argument to be made about serving South Carolina by attracting out-of-state students. The suggestion was made to gather data on the number of out-of-state students who stay in the state of South Carolina after graduation from the College of Charleston.
   - The President noted that the current debates around tuition raises in South Carolina are a positive development insofar as there is now an emerging debate about higher education in the state. He noted that as this debate continues, it will be important to mobilize leaders from the business community to argue for the importance of higher education.

3. Communication/Coordination with Non-academic divisions at the College
   - The Committee addressed concerns about a perceived disconnect between the academic and non-academic divisions at the college (IT, Legal Affairs, and Marketing and Communication). Specifically, the Committee expressed concerns that divisions with non-academic functions do not always consider the academic and educational goals of faculty when they make decisions.
   - The following example was discussed: Legal Affairs has yet to create a liability waiver for students who want to countries for which the State Department has issued a travel warning, but for some students, travel to such countries (such as Israel or Kenya) would be crucial for their education.
   - The President noted that there are three academics present when the different division heads meet (he, the provost, and the Chief of Staff Brian McGee).
   - The President indicated that faculty should approach Brian McGee with academic issues if there are ever communication or coordination problems that cannot be easily resolved.

4. Uneven Physical Plant Services
   - The Committee highlighted a perceived discrepancy between the quality of cleaning services from the physical plant and the work done by private cleaning services in newer buildings.
   - The Committee pointed specifically to the Silcox building as a place where the physical plant cleaning staff and services appear to have declined after newer buildings received subcontracted cleaning services.
   - The Chief of Staff reported that the head of the physical plant had stated that the cleaning service resources allocated to the Silcox building are the
same as previously, but that he would like to hear about any issues regarding quality as well as suggestions for improvement.

The next FAC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 29th, at 2pm.

Morgan Koerner
FAC Secretary
2010/11