Faculty Advisory Committee to the President  
Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Meeting with the President  
Location: President’s Conference Room, Randolph Hall  
Time: 2:00PM - 2:55PM

FACP Members in attendance: Emily Beck, Louise Doire, Denis Keyes, Brenton LeMesurier, William Veal, Idee Winfield

Agenda item: How do you envision the connection between faculty compensation, program quality and student enrollment? Are faculty prioritized in budget management decisions? It has been suggested that the connection between faculty compensation, program quality and student enrollment should be an institutional priority. What options have been considered and how can the faculty help?

President: These are all intertwined. 
In response to a question at the table about what’s driving the budget the President stated that student enrollment does. He stated that an endowed chair announcement would be coming soon. What attracts donor base? Not facilities but rather the perception of a sense of purpose. Student enrollment is affected by their perception of the brand. Unless we pull students in, we don’t have the money for raises. Additionally, we have endured “hits” from the state, i.e., the VA policy and retirement, and mandated costs with no additional revenue.

Question from the table: Will BOT be open to tuition increase?

President: Trying to figure out where the members stand. Tuition raises often go into “annualizing the reserve.” The “next big fix” here is the maintenance program. When we make a repair, we make it through a lens of sustainability. Good news on the temporary employee front: many with ten years’ service have been offered permanent positions.

Agenda item: Related to that, enrollment is down (particularly out of state students) all over the country, so what is the likelihood that the College will have to raise tuition once again? This year, we had 270 students who were already accepted, but who eventually chose not to attend the College. Has there been any follow up to find out why this happened? What are your plans for future enrollment management? Might the faculty be helpful in this? For instance, in SOEHHHP, we have been calling future students who have previously expressed an interest in teaching.

President: Abatement can help the brand. The college is in different markets; “we’re in the recruitment game.” Everyone needs to be involved in recruitment. Visitors carrying gold bags are prospective students- talk to them. Strategies for recruitment are being evaluated.

Question from the table: President McConnell, what is the perspective in the future and type of students?
President: It is imperative that we grow. Two things: more students and higher quality students. It’s all intertwined. Statistic: Freshmen who go to summer school come back as sophomore. This includes online courses. Strategies are being thought out to take advantage of this. Scholarship students should be encouraged to take more challenging courses. Students are taking lower level courses to hold onto their scholarships. There needs to be a change in the scholarship program.

The President asked us for our ideas for recruiting students.

**Question from the table:** Have the 270 students been forthcoming about why they chose not to come to CofC?

President: We are working on that…the Bridge program is helpful. We must move into scholarship and financial aid analysis. How do we combine things that have a business “flare” to them that are also liberal arts, in effort to attract students? Experiential learning attracts students/parents. Faculty course approval process needs to be streamlined—operations need to be streamlined. Online summer courses and the Graduate school help with attracting tuition.

**Question from the table:** Can summer courses count towards a prof’s workload? The President would like that idea sent to him in writing.

**Question from the table:** Online courses. Must be interactive. Teaching online classes manageable and allows for interactive teaching and is consistent with our values.

**Question from the table:** Summer school sometimes affects annual salary for faculty. These were acknowledged by the President.

**Agenda item:** Thank you for the information regarding the “flagging.” May we inquire what plans are in place? Has the College been in touch with mayor, police?

The President began by speaking of the rumored KKK appearance on campus: When there is a security risk they work with SLED. When SLED advises low-key, “we go low-key.” About the “flagging”: this is maybe eight people. President McConnell refuses to mention names or give them attention. President McConnell advised students at a recent gathering to ignore the flagging, don’t show up, make it a day of service. Safety of campus is #1 and all steps will be taken to protect it. The President has been in touch with local police and campus police. City of Charleston has offered law enforcement personnel if necessary.

**Agenda item:** Faculty using the express bus service are wondering if the College might build some kind of covered bench area for waiting in bad weather (as MUSC did for their faculty).

President: A student recently asked him about the same thing and he has asked about the feasibility of covered bus stops.

Meeting adjourned.