Academic Planning Committee Meeting with Brian McGee, Provost
March 27, 2018

A. McGee wanted to talk to the committee about the formation of the next strategic plan. He strongly believes that the committee should have a stake in its formation. He suggested that the committee work with himself and Steve Osbourne on “planning to plan”.

B. The Provost then updated the committee on the BPS and BGS degrees, noting that the BPS has its own general education curriculum, and that the College will explore this and other general education curricular issues next year.

C. McGee also noted that some members of the faculty have asked why our institution doesn’t offer PhD programs. He asked us to think about why we offer graduate education here: is it for the community, or to serve a need? He noted that the MAT in Special Education has suspended their admissions for the next year because of low enrollments. The Provost also noted that we have a lot of costly graduate education programs here at the College.

D. The Board of Trustees wants the school to remain serving the traditional student population, but most of them also believe that we should offer graduate education in service to the community.

E. There was a question from the committee about trends in enrollment numbers for the college, and a concern expressed about the academic profile of some of our admitted students. The Provost noted that we aim to become more selective over time. He also noted that a significant number of our out-of-state students will pay “full sticker price” for their CofC education.

F. The Provost also discussed a potential partnership between the College and the Citadel to offer engineering programs. Students would matriculate to CofC and earn simultaneous degrees at both institutions. While it is possible to keep exploring this issue next year, the Citadel’s new President does not seem to be as committed to the idea as our Provost. McGee also suggested that Academic Planning should have a representative on an exploratory committee to look at the possibilities with engineering (maybe other relationships).

G. There was also discussion about cost-benefit analyses that was recently conducted. This data shows that our institution has programs that are cost-effective.