GREETINGS FROM THE SPEAKER

Simon Lewis, Speaker of the Faculty

Campus is relatively quiet right now, but it’ll be a humdinger of a Fall semester with a new administration celebrating the 250th anniversary of the College’s establishment at the same time as we come up with a strategic plan suitable to guide us into our next quarter millennium. During the Spring 2019 semester, former Speaker Liz Jurisich served on a review team that considered proposals for a strategic planning firm. The firm has since been hired and President Hsu will share the details of the process soon. As the engine of the College, it is essential that faculty play a key part in the planning process. Faculty and administration should also recognize their mutual responsibility: faculty to engage fully and openly, bearing the interests of the whole institution in mind, and administration to commit to pay full attention to faculty concerns. The next nine months are going to be critical in shaping the College’s next 250 years.

Turn the page to check out the Faculty Senate’s welcome to the new president and interim provost, and to see a few summer updates. View the recent and extensive article on President Hsu by The College Today here: https://today.cofc.edu/2019/07/02/cofc-president-andrew-hsu/
Welcome to President Andrew Hsu and Interim Provost Frances Welch

On behalf of the Faculty of the College of Charleston, the Faculty Senate would like to formally welcome Dr. Andrew Hsu as the 23rd president of the College. Dr. Hsu has already held multiple fact-finding sessions with the Board, senior leadership, faculty, student leaders, alumni, parents, etc. We look forward to working with a president who maintains a visible presence and a listening ear.

Dr. Hsu will be presiding over a College in transition with Dean Fran Welch of the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance stepping into the position of Interim Provost, a new Chief Financial Officer to be appointed, and interim deans in the schools of Education, Health, and Human Performance, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Mathematics, and the Graduate School. We encourage all Faculty to rise to the challenge of providing stability in the immediate term and shaping direction for the future. In thinking about that future, the North Dakota Quarterly recently published an open-access issue devoted to how to respond to an “age of austerity.” Speaker Lewis particularly recommends the essay by Gjellstad and Zerr, which can be found here: https://ndquarterly.org/Volume85/

"The Speaker Listens"

Join Speaker Lewis for coffee and chats:

Location: The Faculty House (20 Glebe)

Time: 8:15 - 9:30 A.M. on Thursdays, and 8:00 - 9:00 A.M. on Fridays


Board of Trustees: Budget Meeting Notes

Simon Lewis, Speaker

Things moved fast on the budget front during May – and not, unfortunately, in a positive direction. At the end of classes, the Budget Committee was anticipating fairly good news about the College’s 2019-20 finances. By mid-May, though, while out of state new freshmen enrollments were expected to beat projections, a lower-than-expected in-state enrollment rate depressed our expected revenue, meaning that we were looking at a ½ million dollar shortfall. Then the state insisted on minimal, preferably zero, tuition-cost increases and in the space of three weeks we were looking at a shortfall of some $1.4 million. Coping with some significant cuts will be tricky but manageable. I am pleased to say interim Chief Financial Officer Paul Patrick kept the Budget Committee apprised of what was going on, and I fully anticipate the Budget Committee will be at the table in discussions of how to handle the cuts in the short term and how to manage our resources in the future.

See the BOT’s Budget and Finance Committee meeting minutes for May 23rd here: http://trustees.cofc.edu/documents/minutes/may-23-2019.pdf

Rising Out of Hatred

The 2019-20 The College Reads! book is now being delivered out to campus. Keep an eye on your department or program’s mailbox for your copy! Author Eli Saslow will be on campus this Fall semester for campus and community events. For more information on the book, its reading guide, or the author, please visit http://collegereads.cofc.edu.

Questions? Contact the Office of the Academic Experience.

Let Us Know: Upcoming Major Events

Simon Lewis, Speaker

I have long been concerned that we do not do a great job of promoting the extraordinary range of special events that the College hosts. I expect to work with the Division of Marketing and Communication to see how we can improve our calendaring system, and in the meantime invite you to forward me details of major events that you intend to host in the fall. In general I hope that 2019-20 will see enhanced communication across campus. Please feel free to use Yammer and/or e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at facultysenate@cofc.edu for display consideration in this newsletter.