Faculty Senate, Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 5:00 PM
Via Zoom

Voting items appear in red.

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

2. The March 2, 2021, minutes were approved.

3. Announcements and Information from Speaker of the Faculty Simon Lewis:

   The deadline for completing the Great Colleges to Work For survey is April 9; the deadline for faculty award nominations is April 12; and the deadline for Fall book orders is April 15. The Board of Trustees is meeting at Stono Preserve April 8-9; meetings are public except during executive session.

   Speaker Lewis informed the Senate that changes approved at the Senate meeting on April 7, 2020, to the BS/AB in Physical Education, Teacher Education Concentration, then endorsed by the CHE's Advisory Committee on Academic Programs on June 9, 2020, were not approved by the SC Department of Education. Provost Austin has authorized the suspension of the aforementioned program changes with the understanding that another proposal will be forthcoming in AY 2021-22 from our Teacher Education Program and the School of Health and Human Performance.

   Speaker Lewis thanked everyone who volunteered for 2021-22 committee service and acknowledged senators whose terms are ending with this meeting: Todd Grantham, Irina Gigova, Adem Ali, Gretchen McLaine, Steve Litvin, Brian Bossak, Brian Lanahan, Annette Watson, Mike Ruscio, John Huddlestun, Sarah Hatteberg, Jen Gerrish, Irina Erman, Carmen Grace, Andy Shedlock, Brandon Lewter, and Fran Scudese. He recognized Scott Peeples upon completion of his third and final year as Secretary of the Faculty.

4. Reports

   a. Speaker Lewis said that his report to the Board of Trustees would focus on three themes: how we as a college have managed to survive the past year; how, amidst the crisis, we have managed to look forward; and our Strategic Plan’s focus on academic distinction. He elaborated on these themes, emphasizing the broad and deep effort across campus to function under very difficult conditions and acknowledging the efforts of instructional faculty as well as staff colleagues in IT, health services, building and equipment maintenance, and others. He stressed the fact that many faculty initiatives this year --- including ad hoc committees on teaching effectiveness, mentoring and advising; on race, equity, and inclusion; and on curbing gun violence --- are explicitly aligned with strategic plan and core values generally. Meanwhile, we have maintained an impressive
array of co- and extra-curricular activities and events. Faculty research has been strong this past year, and we continue to attract large and impressive applicant pools for faculty positions.

b. Provost Suzanne Austin thanked faculty for their work over the “incredible” past year and said that we have shown great resilience during this time. She announced that Professor Kameelah Martin will step into her new role as Dean of the Graduate School on June 1. She congratulated everyone who earned tenure, promotion, sabbatical leave, successful third-year review and post-tenure review this year.

Provost Austin said she has been working with the ad hoc committee on teaching effectiveness, mentoring, and advising to address the effects of the pandemic on the review process; they’re preparing a memo. One accommodation will be to include language about the pandemic’s effects when we solicit reviews from faculty outside the College. She affirmed that our faculty will receive credit for conference presentations, exhibitions, and performances that were accepted but had to be cancelled due to COVID. She stressed the importance of making travel and research funds available to junior faculty in the wake of the pandemic year.

Provost Austin expressed concern about some academic departments’ overly rigid interpretations of what counts as research toward promotion and tenure, specifically publications in rank that grow out of dissertation research. She is working toward providing specific guidance and codifying how to regard such publications for tenure and promotion in the FAM or other relevant documents.

She will soon be appointing a search committee for a faculty director of the planned Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, which she hopes will be up and running in the fall.

Senator Irina Erman (German and Russian Studies) asked for further explanation regarding the “overly rigid interpretations” of policy on dissertation-related research, and whether the new guidance on that issue would be a temporary COVID-related measure or something more permanent. Provost Austin replied that it is not just pandemic-related. She has heard that departments count work growing from dissertations in various ways, in some cases discouraging untenured faculty from publishing dissertation-related work. While not advocating the publication of unrevised dissertations, she believes that Assistant Professors revising and expanding dissertation work for publication is widely accepted and encouraged at other institutions. Senator Erman expressed enthusiasm for this initiative.

c. Registrar Mary Bergstrom reported on the PS/NS Option for Spring 2021. She boiled it down to three things faculty need to know. 1) Dates: Grades are due May 3, and students can use the PS/NS option on May 4-5. 2) Link to FAQ’s:
5. New Business

a. Provost Austin: Approval of degree candidates for Spring 2021 Commencement. The candidates were approved by acclamation.

b. Committee on Nominations and Elections (RoxAnn Stalvey, Chair): Professor Stalvey provided an overview of the nomination process and gave some advice to pass along to colleagues regarding committee requests. Presentation

She conducted elections for the two Senate committees that received additional nominations to the N&E slates: Academic Planning and By-Laws/FAM. The results of those votes were as follows: For Academic Planning, Kathleen DeHaan, Daniel Greenberg, David Hansen, Bob Mignone, Nenad Radakovic, Amy Rogers, and Thomas Spade were elected; for By-Laws/FAM, Wendy Cory, Merissa Ferrara, and Josette Pelzer were elected.

Committee Slate (updated April 20)

c. Curriculum Committee (Nenad Radakovic, Chair):

The committee proposals were considered as one motion, which passed by online vote, 46 yes, 0 no.

1) ARTH is updating a course description and proposing alternatives to their Capstone course: https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:220/form

2) CLAS is adding a course to their AB program and expanding the capstone opportunities for AB majors: https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:222/form

3) DANC has created seven new courses and these were approved at the last Senate meeting. Now they are adding these courses and some existing courses to their minor, major, and concentration:

   Part 1: https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:212/form (only items 8-10 on this agenda need to be reviewed)

   Part 2: https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3157/form

4) ENSS is adding courses to the minor: https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3171/form
5) MEDH is adding courses to their minor:  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3101/form

6) THTR is adding courses to the minor:  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3189/form

d. Committee on Graduate Education (Sandy Slater, Chair)

The committee proposals were considered as one motion, which passed by online vote, 45 yes, 0 no.

1) Business Administration, MBA  
Program change: new emphasis – Business Analytics, add courses; rename existing emphasis.  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2991/form

2) Community Planning, Policy, and Design, MA  
ARTH 535: course title and description change  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3186/form

ARTH 565: course title and description change  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3187/form

3) Data Science and Analytics, MS  
Program change: reduce degree hours from 36 to 30, change from summer to fall start, remove required courses, add electives.  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3060/form

4) Performing Arts, MAT  
Program change: reduce degree hours from 45 to 42, remove required course, add courses to core course options.  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3167/form

5) Teaching, Learning, and Advocacy, MED  
Diverse Learners Concentration: add courses.  
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3191/form

e. Committee on General Education (Richard Lavrich, Chair)

The committee proposals were considered as one motion, which passed by online vote, 46 yes, 0 no.
1) Courses Proposed for Humanities Credit:

ENGL 241 https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:223/form
HISP 250 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2888/form
HISP 251 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2889/form
HISP 252 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2890/form
HIST 228 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3148/form
HIST 229 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3105/form
HIST 248 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3109/form
HIST 249 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3111/form
HIST 255 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3113/form
HIST 257 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3107/form
HIST 302 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3144/form
HIST 335 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3141/form
LTRS 170 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3053/form
THTR 175 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3154/form
THTR 177 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3156/form
WGST 228 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3149/form
WGST 229 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3139/form

Courses Proposed for Social Science Credit:

ANTH 111 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3094/form

SOCY 107 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3095/form

f. Senator Brumby McLeod (School of Business): Resolution condemning the Governor’s Executive Order requiring state employees to return to work in person

Senator McLeod invited Professor Kelly Shaver (Guest) to speak in favor of the motion. Professor Shaver provided the following statement (submitted in advance): I have three things to say in favor of this resolution. First, governors are granted emergency powers for
the purpose of protecting the residents of their states. I ask you to imagine the public outcry and ridicule that would follow a Governor’s emergency declaration ordering all state employees to travel immediately to Charleston to be here for the Category 5 hurricane about to come ashore on Folly Beach. EO 2021-12 is just that irresponsible. Second, regardless of whether schools are open, it is shockingly callous to order parents back to work whether they have childcare in place or not. Third, it is difficult to imagine a workplace more toxic than one that forces people to their desks by threat of a fine of $100 or thirty days in jail or both. For all of these reasons I urge the Senate to follow one of the six elements of the South Carolina Republican Creed, namely, “I will never cower before any master, save my God.” Do not cower. Vote to condemn the Governor’s illegitimate Executive Order. Professor Shaver added that the resolution was endorsed by his department, Management and Marketing.

Ana Gilpatrick (Guest), representing the Staff Advisory Committee to the President, said that her committee endorses the motion.

Professor Lisa Covert (Guest), representing the C of C chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said that the state AAUP had made a similar statement, which the C of C chapter endorsed.

Senator Hector Qirko (HSS) moved that the word “protest” replace the word “condemnation” in the document’s title and “protests” replace “condemns” in the last sentence of the document. Senator Renée McCauley seconded the motion. Sen. Qirko explained that he supports the resolution but believes “protest” is a more appropriate term, in part because it suggests further action rather than finality. Senator Todd Grantham spoke in favor of the amendment, echoing Senator Qirko’s rationale. Professor Shaver (Guest) spoke against the amendment, saying that he chose the word “condemnation” intentionally.

The motion to replace “condemnation” with “protest” (and “condemns” with “protests”) passed by online vote, 33 yes, 10 no, 4 abstain.

Returning to the main motion, Senator Paul Sanchez suggested several non-substantive corrections, which Speaker Lewis said would be adopted.

Ana Gilpatrick (Guest) expressed the staff’s full support for the amended motion.

Amended Resolution

The motion passed by online vote, 41 yes, 3 no, 2 abstain.

g. Committee on Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid (Prof. Meta Van Sickle, Chair): Motion to endorse changes to XXF policy Presentation
Professor Van Sickle provided an overview of the changes (see presentation above).

The motion passed by online vote, 39 yes, 1 no, 4 abstain.

h. Committee on the By-Laws and the Faculty/Administration Manual (Merissa Ferrara, Chair): Motion to endorse a revision to the FAM’s procedures for the Faculty Hearing Committee

Senator John Huddlestun (Religious Studies), a former member of the Hearing Committee, said that this language puts more of the onus on the grievant. He added that the FAM is vague regarding what kind of supporting materials a grievant should submit and when. He said that he supports this motion but would like to see more clarification in the FAM.

Professor Larry Krasnoff (Guest, Member of the By-Laws/FAM Committee) said that at the stage of the process where this language applies, the grievant does not need to supply evidence but simply needs to establish that, if evidence were to demonstrate that their claim is true, it would constitute a violation. The bar isn’t raised for the grievant, he said; the language clarifies what is required for a case to proceed.

Prof. Krasnoff reminded the Senate that its vote is advisory; the Provost controls the administrative portion of the FAM. He said that the language establishes a minimal standard to ensure that grievants do not spend time and effort assembling a case that has no chance of success. He added that this language describes the way the committee already tends to operate in practice.

The motion passed by online vote, 40 yes, 2 no, 4 abstain.

6. Constituents’ General Concerns

Senator Moshe Rhodes (SSM) reported that in September 2020, he heard an advertisement for the College of Charleston on a talk radio program that featured misinformation about COVID-19. Being concerned about the association of the College with such misinformation, he brought the issue to Speaker Lewis, who conveyed the concern to the Office of University Marketing. Sen. Rhodes said that he heard the same ad on a similar program in February 2021. Speaker Lewis, noting that the concern was now on record, said that he would pursue it.

Speaker Lewis suggested using the April 13 time slot, scheduled in the event that this meeting was not completed tonight, for a Strategic Plan forum with President Hsu and Provost Austin. They have expressed interest in holding such a forum. There was no objection, so Speaker Lewis said that he would set it up for 5:00 PM on April 13.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.