Faculty Senate, Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 5:00 PM
Via Zoom

Voting results are in red.

Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

2. The December 8, 2020, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. Announcements and Information

   Speaker of the Faculty Simon Lewis welcomed new senators and the new faculty secretariat, Zainab Hussein. In response to a question, he said that the Senate will probably have to wait until fall to ratify votes taken via zoom polls.

4. Reports

   a. Speaker of the Faculty Simon Lewis reminded everyone of the danger we face as the number of COVID-19 cases and positivity rates spike. He implored everyone not only to be personally vigilant but also to call out people you see on campus who are not complying with protocols.

   Regarding the “health of the body politic,” Speaker Lewis cited a recent AAUP statement, posted by our chapter AAUP President Lisa Covert, denouncing the attack on the U. S. Capitol. He suggested that the College could make a public statement that no one who aided the insurrection on January 6 is welcome at our university.

   Finally, noting that diversity, equity, and inclusion are high on our priority list in the strategic plan, Speaker Lewis promoted the Diversity EDU program. Our goal is to have 100% of faculty complete the course by the end of the semester.

   b. Provost Suzanne Austin reported that grades overall were higher in the Fall 2020 semester than they had been for three previous semesters, a good sign for our adjustment to teaching through the pandemic.

   She reminded faculty that students are allowed to designate one course “PS/NS” after grades have been posted -- this semester only. This policy is separate from the permanent “Pass/No Pass” designations. (See the Registrar web page for further explanation.)

   Provost Austin addressed faculty concerns about in-person teaching at the start of the semester: faculty may teach online for two weeks without requesting accommodation; her office is monitoring the situation and may decide to extend that two-week period.
Otherwise, if faculty want to move a hybrid class to synchronous-online mode, they should request an accommodation.

Some faculty members have expressed concern that they might be penalized for choosing to teach online during the pandemic. That is emphatically not the case, she said.

Regarding vaccines, the College is on a preferred-partners list with MUSC for vaccinations, and when we have more information, we will share it with faculty and staff.

Provost Austin has asked the deans to read the AAUP survey on the effects of the pandemic for faculty and to start a conversation and review process. She wants schools and departments to create maximum flexibility for the next few cycles of tenure and promotion review. Part of what we have to talk about, she said, is how we rebalance or reweight the mix of research-scholarly-creative activity, teaching, and service. She acknowledged the adverse effects the pandemic has had on research and scholarly activity, and the substantial increase in teaching effort. She asserted that this is a pivotal moment in higher education.

She congratulated Edward Hart as the new Dean of the School of the Arts, and she reported that the Graduate School Dean search committee is proceeding with nominations and applications.

Provost Austin concluded by recognizing colleagues who retired last year and lamented the fact that we were not able to celebrate their careers in person. Their names are posted on the College Today site; she encouraged faculty to reach out and thank them for their many years of service and dedication to the College.

c. VP of University Marketing & Enrollment Planning Amy Takayama-Perez reported that the current entering class is the largest we’ve had in a spring semester. There is some decline in new transfers, as expected. CFO John Loonan reported to senior leadership that we have come in at budget, which is good news, but we need to hold on to the enrollment that we have.

Fall 2021 is looking good, she said. We’ve had over 45,000 views of a surprise zoom-party Early Decision video. Applications are up by 30% from last fall, reflecting an increase of 7% among South Carolina residents and 49 % among non-residents. The Common App is helping considerably, as we are breaking records on applications. We are up 9% on deposits, though it is early in cycle; we are down by about 2% on transfer applications.

We went test-optional this year, as did most colleges. About 50% of applicants overall are applying without standardized test scores; the figure for students of color is 55%. She believes going test-optional should help us with applications.
Our admissions events are all virtual for now. Suzette Stille will be working with representatives in your departments on calling lists for accepted students; this outreach really makes a difference.

Her office is engaged in long-term planning, specifically a five-year strategic plan for enrollment. She said that we are asking what the student body of the future will look like, and with that in mind, we are considering changes to our financial aid model, placing more emphasis on need-based aid. We hope that kind of change will help us enroll more students of color.

Overall, the news on enrollment is good, and she thanked the faculty for their help with recruitment and retention of students.

5. New Business

a. Curriculum Committee (Nenad Radakovic, Chair)

1. ASTR: Minor change:

https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2841/form

Approved by online vote.

2. GEOL: Program change:

https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:175/form

Approved by online vote.

3. HONS: Program and course change:

https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:176/form

Approved by online vote.

4. ARTS: Program change:

https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2776/form

Approved by online vote.

5. TEDU: Course changes:
https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2873/form

Approved by online vote.

6. INFM: Program change:

https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2808/form

Approved by online vote.

b. General Education Committee (Richard Lavrich, Chair)

1. German Studies Batch 1

   GRMN 424 (Removal)
   GRMN 460 (Removal)
   GRST 223 (Humanities)
   GRST 122 (Humanities)
   LTGR 250 (Removal)
   LTGR 270 (Removal)

   https://cofc.curriculog.com/agenda:165/form

   Approved by online vote.

2. German Studies Batch 2

   GRST 271 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 221 (Humanities)


   Approved by online vote.

3. German Studies Batch 3

   GRST 122 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 200 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 231 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 200 (Humanities)
   GRST 221 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 222 (Humanities)
   GRST 222 (Foreign Language Alternative)
   GRST 231 (Humanities)
GRST 270 (Humanities)
GRST 270 (Foreign Language Alternative)
GRST 271 (Humanities)
GRST 371 (Humanities)
GRST 371 (Foreign Language Alternative)


Approved by online vote.

4. JWST 201 (Humanities) https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:2638/form

Approved by online vote.

c. Speaker Lewis asked to suspend the rules in order to add a motion to approve the membership of the ad hoc Committee on Teaching Effectiveness and Mentoring. There was no objection to the suspension of the rules.

The committee proposed by the Committee on Nominations and Elections consists of the following faculty members:

Chris Warnick (English)
Chris Korey (Biology)
Marcello Forconi (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Kris de Welde (WGS)
Joey van Arnhem (Library)
Gretchen McLaine (Theatre and Dance)
Brian Bossak (Health and Human Performance)
Brigit Ferguson (Art History)
Vince Benigni (Communication)
Lynne Ford – ex-officio

The membership of the committee was approved by online vote.

6. Constituents’ General Concerns

Senator Scott Harris (School of Sciences and Mathematics) asked if the College has established an internal list for the order in which faculty and staff will get the vaccine. Provost Austin replied that she had not heard any conversation about order of priority within the College. She added that we want everyone who wants a vaccine to get vaccinated as early as possible.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.