

**South Carolina State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
Room #121A Turner Hall**

MINUTES

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order with a quorum by President M. Evelyn Fields at 3:40PM.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Senator Brown moved to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Senator Mustafa. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Mustafa moved to adopt the minutes with the following correction: item #11 on page 3 should state *South Carolina State's poor financial reporting* (insert the word poor). The motion was seconded by Senator Hamilton. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Senator Spann reported a balance on hand of \$1,765.91. She also stated that there is/are outstanding expense(s) that needs to be paid. The report was accepted as information.

Report of Committees:

Executive Committee: – No report at this time.

Election Committee: – No report at this time.

Membership Advisory Committee: No report at this time.

Planning & Projects Committee: No report at this time.

Educational Policies Council: No report at this time.

Educational Facilities Committee: No report at this time.

Graduate Council: No report at this time.

Welfare Committee: Senator Cassidy stated that they had not met but they have been working. He also asked if anyone had not received the link to the faculty survey in their email. Everyone was asked to check their junk/spam mail and to let Senator Cassidy know if they did not receive it. He encouraged everyone to please complete the survey. The senate had approved a cost of \$75.00 for one month to support the online survey. The committee moved to extend the online survey time frame from one month to three months at a cost of \$99.00 (additional \$24.00).

Questions:

Senator Miah stated that he didn't receive any questions on the survey on the restructuring. Senator Cassidy responded that this year the survey did not cover the restructuring. Senator Varnum also stated that there is a section at the end of the survey for additional comments. The motion carried.

Research Advisory & Human Council: No report at this time.

Ad Hoc Committees

- *By-Laws Committee:* President Fields stated that Senator Manson had sent her a copy of the by-laws with the changes that the senate had approved. The by-laws need to be sent to the full faculty for their approval. Since the faculty will need time to respond we will probably have to table this until the beginning of the next academic year.

President's Report:

- President Fields stated that the presidential search committee met for the last time on yesterday. Three (3) finalist names were sent up to the Board of Trustees. The board will begin to deliberate on next week.
- This week we have all these activities scheduled for our Commencement speaker, the President of Zanzibar, President Amani Abeid Karume. There are states' breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners all over the state. We are getting a lot of exposure and a lot of publicity. There are so many of the press and others interested in getting into one of the planned events that we have run out of invitations and press passes.
- The faculty handbook committee will have an all day meeting from 9:00am to whenever on May 15th. All the input has been taken into consideration and hopefully a first draft will be completed. The chairs and the deans have had an opportunity through the chairs' and deans' forums.
- President Fields stated that she wanted to remind the senators that the senate works within a constituency and as senators we represent the faculty within our departments. Therefore we should always check with our faculty and vote accordingly. This body operates no differently than at any other university. This is a representative body and we need to have someone come from AAUP next academic year to speak to the faculty and explain our role of faculty governance. When the senate votes it votes on behalf of the faculty. The president only votes in case of a tie.

Old Business:

Interim President McIntyre:

The senate voted to send a letter asking the Board of Trustees to consider Interim President McIntyre for the position of President of SCSU. The letter has been sent to the board and President Fields stated that she feels the board will take our position under consideration. President McIntyre's name did not appear on the final list because he was not a candidate for the position. Our letter did nothing to usurp the process. We have every right to voice our opinion as a body. The search committee's job is now completed.

Senator Rampone asked when the final decision will be made. President Fields responded that the board has said that a decision will be made by July 1, 2008. The board's decision may include one of two things:

1. make an appointment of one of the three (3) candidates or
2. reopen the search

Senator Brown stated that technically the board could make an announcement by next week. President Fields responded that she felt that the board would need to hold a number of meetings before that would happen.

Senator Varnum asked will any of the individuals be brought back to the campus to meet with the faculty or any other group. President Fields responded that she was sure that the board would bring the individual back to campus but only to meet with the board.

Salary Inequity:

Senator Miah stated that usually we do not get salary raises each year. The state may give only a 1% increase and he feels that it is just not enough. He suggested that the university should give at least a 5% raise no matter what the state gives. President Fields responded that the university's budget will take a three million dollar cut this year.

Senator Hodges asked will the tuition increase make up for the three million dollar cut. President Fields responded that she couldn't really answer the question but she felt that the 6% increase in tuition and fees would not make the entire three million dollars.

Senator Brown asked what about the overload stipend increase and the adjunct pay increase that we requested and when will we find out the results. President Fields responded that we will know what the administration will propose by the board retreat in June because that item will have to go in the budget.

Senator Brown stated that she wanted to go on record as being opposed to an across the board 5% raise for everyone because she felt that some people was not doing a good job and did not deserve to be rewarded for doing nothing.

Senator Brantley asked what happened to the salary inequity reported from last year and what is being done about it. President Fields responded that she has asked the administration to revisit the inequity in salaries from last year and see what can be done to bring persons up to their peers (same rank and same or similar disciplines).

The board has approved \$600,000 above the 1% from the state for faculty salaries. Senator Miah asked is that for faculty salary increases. President Fields responded no, because that money is to be used for salary inequities (at the university and among peers outside the university).

After much discussion of faculty salaries and raises Senator Miah moved to request a 5% annual salary increase for faculty. The motion did not get a second therefore the motion did not carry,

Faculty Survey:

Senator Maultsby asked when we will receive the results of the faculty survey. President Fields responded that the faculty survey results will be included in the senate's annual report to the president.

New Business:

University Committees:

President Fields stated that she needs to make recommendations for university committees by the end of the academic year so that the list of committees will be available at the beginning of the next academic year. She asked senators to make recommendations of committees that he/she or the faculty from their departments would like to serve on. President Fields stated that this is important because tenure track faculty need to serve on university committees because points are given toward tenure and also for faculty evaluations by your chairs.

Senator Ihekweazu recommended that the senators from the Educational Policies Council come back and present us a summary of all new programs, courses, etc. that were presented in Ed Policies. Senator Spann stated that is the process that we follow. She stated that she presents from Educational Policies Council to the senate a summary of what was passed but the chair announced at the last meeting that because of the time that process was not followed.

Senator Doucette asked that we cut back on the amount of paper used for the sake of our trees and would persons presenting please email us the information. President Fields responded that she has asked that we be email the information when available.

Adjournment

Senator Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Senator Mia. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia T. Davis

Cynthia T. Davis,
Recording Secretary