South Carolina State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Tuesday, September 2, 2014  
Room #121A Turner Hall  
MINUTES

Senators Present: Dr. Enoch Beraho, Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Dr. Thomas Dempster, Dr. Janice Hawes, Dr. Jean Michele Jean-Michel, Prof. Carlana Kohn-Davis, Dr. Samuel Littlejohn, Dr. Bonita Manson, Prof. Sam McDonald, Dr. Linda McIntyre, Dr. Abdul Miah, Dr. Crystal Nixon, Dr. Bobbie Perdue, Dr. Daniel Smith, Dr. Nikunja Swain, Dr. William Whitaker, Dr. Larry Watson, Dr. Reginald Williams

Call to Order:  
Faculty Senate (FS) President Cassidy called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M.

Adoption of the Agenda:  
Senator Williams made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended; McIntyre seconded. Vote: unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes:  
Senator Fields made the motion to approve the minutes as printed; Senator Williams seconded. Vote: unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report:  
Senator Nixon’s treasurer’s report showed cash on hand in the amount of $2198.83 as of May 6, 2014. Senator Williams made the motion to accept the report as information; Senator Fields seconded. Vote: unanimously approved.

Report of Committees:  
Executive Committee—Senator Watson reported on the following:

- Board of Trustee (BoT) meetings—urged faculty to attend in order to receive important information regarding the University.
- BoT approval of the following:
  - Overtime compensation—corporate policy
  - Non-faculty employee grievance policy
  - Progressive discipline policy—itemized list of disciplinary occurrence(s) and progressive plan of action
  - Reduction in Force (RIF) policy—sent back to subcommittee for further study
- Blue Ribbon Committee update—recommendation that South Carolina State University be given $12 million loan.
- FS Vice-President vacancy—as there is no precedent and the bylaws do not address the vacancy of an executive committee position in the middle of a term, the Executive Committee recommended Dr. Linda McIntyre to serve as VP until the next election. Senator Watson made the motion to approve the recommendation; Senator Smith seconded. Vote: unanimously approved.
- The Parliamentarian and Editor positions are now currently vacant. FS President Cassidy made the motion to appoint Senator Dempster as Editor; Senator McIntyre seconded. Vote: unanimously approved. The Parliamentarian vacancy will be addressed at the next meeting.
Membership Advisory Committee—Report received as information. FS President Cassidy will send a letter to faculty asking for At-Large Senate nominations to fill these positions.

Elections Committee—No report at this time.

Educational Policies Council—No report at this time. For information—Fall 2014 meetings are scheduled for 09/25, 10/23, and 11/20 at 3:30 PM in the Domna Administration Building’s conference room.

Planning and Projects Committee—No report at this time.

Educational Facilities Committee—No report at this time.

Graduate Studies Council—No report at this time.

Welfare Committee—Due to time constraints, will report at next meeting.

President’s Report—FS President Cassidy reported on several University-related issues. The report and subsequent discussion included the following topics:
- 7-day furlough—approved by the BoT; the State Budget and Control Board must also approve.
- Dr. F. Evans, Interim Provost, did a good job outlining the challenges we currently and will face at the University.
- As the Faculty Senate, we need to:
  - Update the FS Constitution
  - Host the next Faculty Leadership Luncheon—breakout sessions to discuss the University’s vision and mission
  - Ensure Tenure and Promotion (T&P) guidelines are “correct” when the BoT approves the Faculty Handbook (FH)
  - Work with Enrollment Management to recruit students
  - Continue to revise policies in the Faculty Handbook—needs to be an ongoing process
  - Plan a called Faculty Meeting to discuss student recruitment, the General Education Curriculum (GEC), and filling interim administrative positions
- MFA’s eligibility for tenure but not promotion to full professor—policy needs to be revised in the FH.
  - Senator Perdue suggested other MA’s, specifically those with clinical degrees, should also qualify for tenure. She furthered that all faculty are “dedicated to the University’s mission and should be considered in the same vein.”
- University’s need for a policy on faculty/student relationships.
- President Elzey’s $50,000 bonus for satisfactory rating by the BoT—will go toward an annuity, not to him directly.
  - Senator Perdue—on the record—President Elzey did a satisfactory job.
  - Senator McIntyre—on the record—President Elzey had not done what he is supposed to do with regard to solvency.
- Establishing meaningful guidelines for program evaluation
- Addressing salary inequities
- Academic freedom—collegiality should be respected and maintained
- Working with President Elzey and Dr. F. Evans to ensure:
  - Quality academic leadership
  - Effective communication between faculty and administration
Senator Fields reported on the SACS accreditation process

- Team consists of: Fields (co-chair), F. Evans, Bellamy, Openshaw, Hughes, Teal (co-chair), Foster, Burgess, Lewis, Watson, Byrd, J. Myers, Abraham, Luke
- University’s “last time to get it right.”
- Non-compliance issues must be resolved while continuously maintaining compliance
  - University employees serving in key positions who were released will have a negative impact on compliance.
- Focus needs to be on most important University issues
- SACS will investigate any newspaper reports
  - President Elzey advised to attend department and/or college meetings to avoid the press
- Faculty needs to come together as a body “to move an agenda”
- GEC will be monitored again—we must work on how we assess

Senator Perdue made the motion to call a meeting of the faculty as a deliberative working day to identify critical issues to work on for accrediting and standard operating issues; Senator Watson seconded. Vote: unanimously approved. Senators Smith, Perdue, Hawes, and the Executive Committee will meet to plan the meeting.

**Announcements**—Ellen Zischoltz provided information on current and upcoming museum collections which will focus on social justice.
September 17—African Exhibit will be taken down
October 31—James Brown Exhibit—his influence on fashion, politics and health

**Adjournment**—The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.