



President's Report to the Faculty Senate – October 2, 2013

A. Announcements

1. Appointed as Faculty Senate representatives to the Technology Advisory Committee established by CIO Molina: Senators Jeffrey Dickens (Chair of the Faculty Senate Technology Committee), Rebecca Hedreen, Jan Jones, Peter Madonia and Amal Abd-el Raouf.
2. Appointed as FS representative to the University Library Committee: Senator Ronald Tamura.
3. Appointed as FS representative to the Search Committee for a Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies: Senator Rebecca Hedreen (Buley Library Distance Learning Coord.).
4. Confirmed as FS Technology Committee liaison to UCF: Senator Joel Dodson.

B. Meeting with Provost Kennedy

Strategic planning.

- Composition of Steering committee (27 members, including **7 faculty members***), including:
 1. Provost
 2. Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration (or designee)
 3. Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee)
 4. Vice President for Institutional Advancement (or designee)
 5. Chief Information Officer (or designee)
 6. Assoc. VP for Human Resources and Labor Relations/President's Chief of Staff (or designee)
 7. Director of Diversity and Equity (or designee)
 8. Dean, School of Arts and Sciences (or designee)
 9. Dean, School of Business (or designee)
 10. Dean, School of Education (or designee)
 11. Dean, School of Health and Human Services /School of Graduate Studies (or designee)
 12. AVP for Academic Student Services (or designee)
 13. AVP for Facilities Operations (or designee)
 14. Director, Office of Management Information and Research (or designee)
 15. Representative, Administrative Faculty Senate
 16. At-large member, Administrative Faculty
 17. Undergraduate student
 18. Graduate student
 19. Alumnus/a
 20. Community member
 21. *R. Forbus, Project Manager
 22. *Faculty Senate Representative 1
 23. *Faculty Senate Representative 2
 24. *Research and Scholarship Advisory Committee (RSAC) Representative
 25. *University Strategic Planning Review Committee (USPaRC) Representative
 26. *At-large faculty member 1 (appointed by the President)
 27. *At-large faculty member 2 (appointed by the President)

- The process for strategic planning will be:
 - working groups report recommendations to Strategic Planning Steering Committee;
 - SPSC composes draft plan based on its review of recommendations from working groups (completed by end of SP 14);
 - during FA 14 draft plan is presented to all constituent groups on campus, reviewed and refined.
- Process is getting underway: First SPSC meeting will be held on Friday, October 4.
- I recommended presenting the final report to the FS for vote of affirmation.

Faculty Academic Planning Committee (FASP) and University Strategic Planning Review Committee (USPaRC). My recommendation to use FASP to head the academic portion of strategic planning led to a discussion of the purpose of FASP and USPaRC. The Provost asked for clarification of the roles of FASP and USPaRC.

Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants.

- The Provost noted that the \$85,000 provided by the University for FCARGs would have to cover fringe associated with grants (\$17,000 for fringe; reduces \$2,500 grants from 34 to 27).
- Fringe is levied on stipends/salaries to faculty members at a rate of around 20%.
- (Fringe on stipends/salaries to graduate assistants and student workers is very minimal.)
- (Fringe is not levied on materials and supplies funded by FCARGs.)
- Because of comments made by faculty members, the Provost asked the FS to consider the impact of using the allocation to fund some small grants and 1-3 larger grants each year.

Faculty Travel.

- Multiple trips may be funded up to \$1,000 per member.
- Will exhaust Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund (which does not roll over) first to spare the Contractual Travel Fund (CBA 12.10.1) (which does roll over).
- In February will assess fund balances to see if funding is available above \$1,000 per person.
- Summer travel is eligible for funding:
 - Travel occurring before July 1 counts towards member's FY 14 \$1,000 allocation.
 - Travel occurring after June 30 counts towards member's FY 15 allocation (amount TBD).

Grade Appeal document. Provost Kennedy has reviewed the last proposal and the Dean's recommendations, and will speak with the Deans further about their recommendations. She wishes to meet with the Academic Policy Committee and Deans to talk about differences, points of agreement and ways to move forward. Recent cases have created a sense of urgency to improve the policy. The Provost and I agreed that students should be able to go through an appeal process reasonably quickly to allow them to make plans for the upcoming term.

Support for grant activity. I reiterated my long-standing position that the Sponsored Programs and Research Office needs additional staff, stating that in an environment where research and publication are being emphasized it seems like a contradiction not to provide resources needed to enable success.

Student Opinion Survey (SOS). Bonnie Farley-Lucas, Director of the Office of Faculty Development, has expressed an interest in working with the FS to develop an online model; we

may wish to seek her collaboration with our APC. A critical point for consideration is the low response rate experienced by Southern's online courses, which use an electronic SOS.

Use of "Digital Measures" for P&T. (Clarification: NOT on-line submission)

- P&T files require a completed Candidate Information Form (CIF).
- Accuracy and completeness of information provided on the CIF is critical: it is the only document present in P&T meetings where formal decisions are made about candidates.
- A memo from the Provost's Office announced that a CIF now can be generated in Digital Measures from the Faculty Annual Activity Report (FAAR).
- This is not the same as an online tool for submitting a P&T file.
- The DM-generated CIF may not include all information entered into the FAAR (e.g., non-teaching load credit may not appear on the CIF).
- The DM-generated CIF is a *Word* document that can be saved and modified.
- To avoid misunderstandings about the nature and limitations of the form, P&T Committee Chair David Pettigrew and I will send the faculty a clarifying statement.

Faculty Dining Room. The FDR is getting little use, averaging a couple of patrons daily. VPSA Tracy Tyree is heading up an exploration of other uses for the space.

C. Meeting of Enrollment Management Committee

- For FA 2013 enrollment figures filtered by gender, ethnicity, age, enrollment status and more, visit: <http://southernct.edu/offices/management/currentenrollment.html>.
- Highlights – FA 13 (at end of 3rd week of classes)
 - Total students (grad and undergrad): 10,804 (FA 12: 11,107, -2.8%)
 - This is the first time we are below 11,000 since 195
 - Total FTE (grad and undergrad): 8,833 (FA 12: 9,062, -2.5%)
 - FT undergraduates: 7,016 (FA 12: 7,289, -3.7%)
 - PT undergraduates: 1,241 (FA 12: 1,236, +0.04%)
 - Undergraduate FTE: 7,368 (FA 12: 7,629, -3.4%)
 - New undergraduate transfers: 764 (FA 12: 840, -9.0%)
 - Last year, higher 6-year graduation rates, combined with lower 1st- and 2nd-year retention created a "perfect storm," resulting in fewer remaining students.
 - FT graduates: 876 (FA 12: 845, +3.7%)
 - PT graduates: 1,671 (FA 12: 1,747, -4.4%)
 - Total graduate headcount: 2,547 (FA 12: 2592, -1.7%)
 - Graduate FTE: 1,465 (FA 12: 1,433, +2.2%)
- Sentiments were expressed that suggested some may feel that the faculty does not fully understand the seriousness of the budget crisis.

D. Budget and Planning Committee and USPaRC

- \$210 Million overall budget.
- Audit showing a modest end of year budget surplus of \$2 M.
- Unrestricted-fund balance of around \$21 M (reserve requirement: \$10 M).
- Having positions that went unfilled last two years is taking a toll on operations.

E. Other

Discussion of desired qualities of Faculty Senate representatives to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and selection of two representatives.

Status of Recent Faculty Senate Resolutions					
Number	Date	Resolution on...	For	Disposition	Comments (abbrev.)
S-13-05	5-1-13	Travel Funds 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	Not FS responsibility
S-13-06	5-1-13	AAUP Travel Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	Inconsistent with CBA
S-13-07	5-1-13	Faculty Creative Activity Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Noted	Further disc
S-13-08	5-1-13	The Incremental Increase of Faculty Creative Activity Grant Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	No room in budget for increase to this fund
S-13-09	5-1-13	The Restoration of Faculty Creative Activity Research Grant Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	The fund is supporting the grants
S-13-10	5-1-13	The Proposal to Reform the TA Process	Information	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain INFO vs APPROVAL • Inapprop: attempts to estab procedure for Off of Provost • FS encouraged to "suggest"
S-13-11	5-1-13	Create an Informational Bulletin to Improve TA Processing	Inform.	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain INFO vs APPROVAL • Inapprop: attempts to estab procedure for Off of Provost • FS encouraged to "suggest"
S-13-12	5-1-13	The Revised Faculty Senate Constitution	Approval	Noted	Comparative lang. requested
S-13-13	5-6-13	The University Strategic Plan and the Graduate Programs Prioritization Process	Approval	Disapproved	Delaying process unnecc.; not in best interest of University
S-13-12	5-29-13	The Revised Faculty Senate Constitution	Approval	Approved	☺

SCSU Faculty Senate themes:

Participating in *shared governance*. Enhancing support for *academic excellence*. Promoting *effective communication and consultation*. Honoring the commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty through a strengthened *sense of community*. Focusing on *academic impact* in all planning and policy decisions.