

1 https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWNI MTBjODAtMjNkNS00MjlkLWIyY2ItZmU3ZWYzNmIzMzRi%40t%3A%22b2a4b19-d135-420e-8bb2-b1cd238998cc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220bb698ef-7d87-46c5-9dd6-1e40607d2783%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d

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7 **THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FACULTY SENATE**

8 Wednesday, March 6, 2024

9 This session was held in person at the Russell House Theatre

10 PRESIDING CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN

11 CHAIR Wayne Outten called the meeting to order at 3:00pm EST.

12

13 **Called Meeting of the Faculty Senate**

14 CHAIR OUTTEN welcomed the audience to the Faculty Senate meeting.

15 **Approval of the February 2024 Faculty Senate meeting minutes:** Minutes were approved.

16 ***Provost's Report***

17 PROVOST ARNETT thanked Faculty Senate Chair Outten for the invitation to speak. Provost Arnett missed the February meeting; she was attending a required SEC Provost meeting.

19 The administration has received an amazing number of applications, submissions and nominations for the various teaching, research, and service awards. It was a very difficult decision process this year. The applications demonstrated amazing excellence throughout this campus. PROVOST ARNETT acknowledged that the decisions were difficult to make this year. The names have not been released yet; the winners really inspired us all. Thank you for all the work that you do as the faculty of this great university.

25 The president is at the SEC Athletic Championships for basketball, as such he is unable to attend this meeting. On his behalf, PROVOST ARNETT informed the Faculty Senate of a new important addition to the president's cabinet; Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer JOHN "BRICE" BIBLE JR. Dr. Bible was formerly at the University of Buffalo as CIO.

30 PROVOST ARNETT acknowledged that technology has been an issue of concern for many across campus. VICE PRESIDENT BIBLE will be addressing those issues. He has research experience and "boots on the ground" experience in IT to help us formulate a great IT infrastructure and vision for the campus. VP Bible met with the Deans Council and obtained good feedback from the deans. He started on March 1st.

35 PROVOST ARNETT is working to complete an internal office structure. DR. SAM TODD accepted the position of Vice Provost and Assistant vice President for Global Affairs. He will be in that role for two years as interim. USC is committed to raising its global profile. The goal is to enhance and balance global student exchanges and strengthen USC's partnerships with Global Carolina and campus faculty.

40 Regarding biweekly check-ins, some faculty have reported back to PROVOST ARNETT that the
41 information is not trickling down. A brief overview of the past two months are as follows:

- 42 • January 29th: The discussion was about the educational program assessment. This is a
43 critical part of USC's accreditation process. The Head of Accreditation is DR. LA
44 TRICE RATCLIFF-SMALL.
- 45 • February 12th: Advising updates were provided by CLAIRE ROBINSON. Claire directs
46 Academic Advising.
- 47 • February 26th: DR. MARY ANN FITZPATRICK reported on a new guideline that looks
48 at "bullying faculty". This is more comprehensive. What to do if you are targeted on
49 social media. The reference is available on the provost's website.

50 Other topics addressed include CircleIn. In two weeks, the topic will be "how to deal with angry
51 parents". Minutes of the meetings are available on the following website
52 [https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/news_events/provost_check_in_meeting](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/news_events/provost_check_in_meeting_s/index.php)
53 [s/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/news_events/provost_check_in_meeting_s/index.php)

54 Each meeting is 15 minutes long. They start at 8:15am. We get done by 8:30am. The meetings
55 are designed to provide critical information in a succinct way; we want to build community. The
56 goal is to communicate what's going on with the provost's office; we're all on the same team.

57 PROVOST ARNETT discussed CircleIn. CircleIn was addressed at an earlier Faculty Senate
58 meeting. It is an NSF sponsored tool. Working with this company, the provost's office is trying to
59 increase the graduation rate (i.e., students get out in four years). By doing so, 1) students won't
60 incur more debt, and 2) they won't lose their access to scholarships after four years.

61 One of the challenges is courses that have a high D, F, or withdrawal rate. This app allows:

- 62 • students to create study groups,
- 63 • share flash cards,
- 64 • ask anonymous questions, and
- 65 • ask non anonymous questions on their homework.

66 The advantage from a faculty perspective is it lets faculty be able to see what are the questions
67 that are coming up, how do I need to adapt my teaching in the next week to address the questions
68 that seem to be percolating to the top?

69 CircleIn app was used over the past year in calculus and accounting. The pass rate went up by
70 8%. We're hoping and looking forward to trying to implement the app in more courses where we
71 have higher DFW rates. This year we added organic chemistry.

72 VICE PROVOST LAURA LOMICKA ANDERSON is conducting an analysis of the results.
73 Before the university expands the use of the app, Dr. Anderson will confirm that the use
74 improves students' outcomes in a statically significant manner.

75 PROVOST ARNETT mentioned that the four-year advising model is working well. This ties into
76 the goal of improving USC's four-year graduation rate. So as of spring 2024, USC has
77 implemented a 4-year advising structure for 72% of our students. Advisor turnover has greatly

78 reduced over the last four years. The advisor in this model is still embedded in the colleges. This
79 brings a great advantage to our students for two reasons:

- 80 • Students get to know their advisors and stay with them for four years. They build a
81 relationship. It's not just about advising a freshman and then shipping them off to a
82 college and then advising them in the college, you get continuity (i.e., the advisor gets to
83 know the student).
- 84 • The advisor can provide career advice. It's much more rewarding to see a student grow
85 over those four years and leave the university and go on to their career.

86 SENATOR ABBAS TAVAKOLI (Nursing) inquired about the changes in terms of admission for
87 undergraduate students. Is there any data regarding the acceptance of the top 8% automatically in
88 comparison to last year?

89 PROVOST ARNETT reminded the Faculty Senate there are two separate programs. The first
90 program is for the top 10% in SC. USC is now accepting students from any high school in the
91 state of South Carolina who are in the top 10% of their class. These students must have
92 completed all the necessary requirements that are required for attending the University of South
93 Carolina. The second program is called USC Commitment. This program is for those top 10% of
94 students from the state of South Carolina, the President is adding the last dollar after all their
95 other scholarship programs to make tuition and fees free for those students.

96 USC saw a large increase in the number of applications overall. PROVOST ARNETT thinks
97 USC is processing about 55,000 applications give or take 1,000. This compares to between
98 40,000 and 47,000 last year. It is unknown if the increase is due to the two programs. DR.
99 SCOTT VERZYL in the Office of Enrollment Management will be examining this issue once the
100 acceptance rates are completed. USC hopes to see an increase in students living in rural areas.

101 MARK MINETT (English) asked if the provost's office keeps any records of the amount of time
102 in which students engage in paid work outside of the classroom. Senator Minett stated that he
103 receives information that students are spending more time working to help pay for college.

104 PROVOST ARNETT stated that information regarding students who work is only collected on
105 international students employed by USC.

106 SENATOR JOSH COOPER (Mathematics) inquired about the control group for the CircleIn.

107 PROVOST ARNETT stated that USC intended to randomize the sections; those using the app vs.
108 those not using the app. Unfortunately, there was not enough to do a real randomization. So, we
109 had a natural experiment. The results showed that probably half of the sections where there was
110 very low utilization. This statistical increase is by comparing students who had low utilization to
111 students who had moderate to high utilization of the app.

112

113 PROVOST ARNETT stated that she would like to get all instructors in math and accounting to
114 use this app because an 8% increase is a huge benefit to our students.

115

Reports of Faculty Committees

116 **Committee on Courses and Curricula**

117 CO-CHAIR OF C&C SHARON GUMINA (ITEC) presented 9 proposals for consideration:

College and/or Schools	Number of Proposals
Arts & Sciences	1
HRSM	2
Engineering & Computing	2
Information & Communications	1
School of Music	1
Darla Moore School of Business	1

118

119 *All proposals passed.*

120 **Steering Committee and Faculty Advisory Committee**

121 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR WAYNE OUTTEN stated that on behalf of the Steering Committee
122 and FAC, the two entities would like to change the wording in the Faculty Manual such that
123 Faculty Senate will meet from September to May. As a result:

- 124 • A meeting will be added in January, it won't, it won't be the first Wednesday in January.
- 125 • A meeting will be added in May.
- 126 • The June meeting will be eliminated.
- 127 • There will not be a meeting in August for the full Senate.
- 128 • There will be an orientation and training session for new senators and August the August
129 meeting time will stay the same as it is this year.

130 This would require faculty manual changes so would not go into effect until next academic year.

131 The June meeting has always been problematic. It has very low attendance, and often hard to get
132 a quorum for business. It's somewhat onerous to ask faculty who are on a 9-month appointment
133 to show up for a meeting in June when appointments end May 15th. That is the reason behind the
134 desired change. Nothing in this language prohibits the Senate from a special called meeting. If
135 we need to meet in June for some reason.

136 A full discussion and vote on this issue will be held at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

137 **Old Business**

138 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that the nomination window for Faculty Elect of
139 the Senate is open. The person nominated will assume chair elect position August 2024. The
140 person becomes Faculty Senate Chair August 2025. A ballot will be provided along with a short
141 biography of each candidate. Two persons currently are on the ballot:

- 142 • DR. LIAM HEIN, College of Nursing
- 143 • DR. SUSAN BON, College of Education

144 The vote on this slate will occur at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

145 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that there is still one vacancy to fill for the
146 budget committee. This person is needed for the remainder of the spring semester. Dr. Matt
147 Brown has been nominated to fill this position.

148 *New Business*

149 The slate of nominees for university-wide committees is available. Thanks to all who
150 volunteered for service activities. The process for filling the committee is dictated by the Faculty
151 Manual. A committee interest survey was sent to all faculty members during the late winter/early
152 spring. Faculty members rank their interest for serving on the various standing committees. The
153 Steering Committee meets and processes the responses.

154 Recommendations for nominees based on 1) faculty interest, 2) needs of the committee, 3)
155 committee needs in terms of rank, and 4) subject matter experts as a committee. The Standing
156 Committee identifies the slate of nominees. The Steering Committee reviews the selection with
157 current chairs of the standing committees to make sure the slate fits the committee's needs.

158 FACULTY SENATE CHAIR OUTTEN stated that there are two minor changes to this current
159 ballot: 1) DR. REBECCA STERN (English) has withdrawn her name, and 2) DR. ROBERT
160 MULLEN is replacing DR. MICHAEL STILTNER on Faculty Appellate Panel.

161 If there is a contested election for a committee that will require Faculty Senate to then submit
162 ballots to the faculty, and they will vote on that contested position. If we have a slate that is not
163 contested (i.e., the number of nominees equals the number of vacancies) then at the adjournment
164 of today's meeting, that slate will be approved, and those people will be approved for serving on
165 the designated committees.

166 FAC CHAIR BILL SUDDUTH nominated SENATOR MARK MINETT (English) for the vacant
167 position (previously held by DR. REBECCA STERN). SENATOR MINETT agreed to be on the
168 slate.

169 All committees have a full slate.

170 **Good of the order:** none

171 The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

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