
ABSENT: Austin Hitt, Greg London, Kevin Godwin, Bill King, Sallie Clarkson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were corrected to show John Hutchens was present at the September meeting. A motion was made by John Navin, seconded by John Mortimer to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:
Evans reported that Administrative Action – AA 25 had been returned from the Administration with a stipulation. AA-25 now reads:

Faculty Welfare and Development Committee, in consultation with the Office of Academic Affairs, submitted the following motion for consideration. The section located in the Faculty Manual, Section IV.B, pg 14, is to be revised as per the text below:

“The faculty will be consulted on any election or appointment to the Office of President, Provost, and other administrative positions reporting directly to the President or the Provost. Through an appropriate committee, the faculty will then communicate its views to the President and the Board of Trustees.”

STIPULATION: Add “In the event that faculty participation in a full search committee is not possible, the President will inform the Chair of Faculty Senate, who in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee, will arrange an appropriate time for the Senate or full faculty to meet with the President.”

Evans reported the ad hoc Committee on Faculty Academic Oversight will:

a. examine the existing relationship between the Core Curriculum Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee
b. review the recent history of both committees with an eye toward identifying gaps between their charges and their actual activities

c. suggest changes in the faculty governance structures now in place to review, revise and develop the curriculum at Coastal Carolina University

d. review and revise the mechanisms for systematic approval of changes and exceptions to current academic programs and policies.

This committee is made up of the sitting chair of the Faculty Senate, the sitting chairs (2) and immediate past chairs (2) of the Core Curriculum Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee. This ad hoc committee is charged to deliver a report by the November 2005 Faculty Senate meeting.

Membership: Maria Bachman, Micheline Brown, Teresa Burns, Dan Ennis (Chair), and Dave Evans.

Evans reported the other ad hoc committee is called the Committee for General Petition Reform.

The charge of this committee is to review/revise current CCU policies and procedures concerning the general petitions process in order to ensure that it is student friendly and serving their needs. Special attention should be given to the proposed grade forgiveness policy put forth by the administration as a means to increase student retention as well as alleviate the excessive use of the general petition for grade changes. Initial recommendations should be made to both the Academic Affairs and Student Retention and Assessment Committees no later than their January 2006 meeting, with the expectation these will be presented to the Faculty Senate no later than the March 2006 meeting. Membership will be two members of Academic Affairs, and two members of Student Retention and Assessment. Evans said he is still looking for a Chair.

Evans reported that the Council of Senate Faculty Chairs met two weeks ago. The impetus for the meeting was to discuss the actions of the Council of Presidents for revamping the performance funding formula to be submitted to the General Assembly and Governor. The Senate Faculty Chairs decided to reinvigorate their role in this process. In particular one goal, that was more for the comprehensive four-year institutions, was really missing the point of our role in the state process. It was decided to submit an alternate goal to the Council of Presidents and explore ways of finding common ground. The other thing that spun out of this meeting was a rather heated discussion about our current Governor’s plan to hold back tuition increases while cutting appropriations and yet expecting the quality of education to increase. The Council is to draft a “white paper” to present to the General Assembly and the Governor expressing our serious concerns. When these documents are drafted, Evans said he will share it with the Senate.

PROVOST AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Provost Barr explained the stipulation attached to Administrative Action AA-25 saying he believed what the members of the Faculty Welfare and Development as well as Faculty Senate expected the Administration to do is accomplished by the stipulation without out the need for all the titles.
Barr, referring to the resolution on the agenda from the University Student Retention and Assessment Committee, said he was very impressed with some of the items that were in this document. Many of the recommendations addressed student retention, and he is encouraged by that. During the summer he received the report regarding retention for the last couple of years, and the Fall 2002 cohort retention for first time freshman was 72.5, in 2003 69.6, and in 2004 63.9 which we would hope would be going in the opposite direction, as opposed to decreasing.

Provost Barr said he was surprised to learn that we lost from 2004 – 2005, 29% of the seniors. These were students in good standing that did not graduate. Barr said it appears that just walking across the stage is sufficient for graduation; you do not actually have to conclude your requirements, in order to get a degree.

Barr said we have established six working groups, as shown on the handout, to look at Student-Centered Priorities to Enhance the Collegiate Experience. Basically the groups were formed to generate ideas. Much of the efforts are focused on recommendations made by the Student Retention and Assessment Committee. These groups are not intended to be exclusive; they are not intended to answer all the questions, but to provide a little better overall look, drawn from all sections of the University, of what might be some of the issues, what might be some of the reservations. Based upon this work, these ideas, the next step would be to bring the recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of the Faculty Senate. Barr asked Evans to see if the right standing committees are represented. Barr said he was not sure if Group 1 would be under Academic Affairs or another committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Report:

Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA
Linda Vereen, Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA, presented her annual report to the Senate. Vereen reported on the grade point average in Spring 2005 for both women’s teams and men’s teams. The teams-overall (not incl. Cheerleaders) for the SEM GPA was 2.943, with the CUM GPA being 2.940, compared to Degree-Seeking Students-Overall SEM GPA being 2.821 and the CUM GPA being 2.851. Vereen pointed out many of the accomplishments of our athletes, and was also pleased that the Sun News had kept the public informed about our athlete’s accomplishments.

Vereen said that the athletes are aware when their professors are attending their games and how important it is to them. She encouraged faculty to support our athletes whenever possible.

Core Curriculum Committee
AY 2004-2005 Final Report
Submitted by Teresa Burns, Chair, AY 04/05
The Core Curriculum Committee met six times during AY 04/05. The committee reviewed and acted on twenty student petitions to the Core Curriculum Committee for exceptions to the Core. The petitions are on file in the Provost’s office.
In addition, the Committee approved the following changes to Core Curriculum:

- The Math Core Curriculum requirements change from a course sequence to two courses was approved.
- Math 135 was approved for addition to the Math core course options.
- History 111 and 112 were approved for addition to the History core course options.
- Honors 101 was approved for addition to the Humanities core course options.
- Logic 110 and 321 was approved for addition to the Math core course options.

Copies of each of the proposals are on file with the Faculty Senate minutes.

Additional discussion focused on issues concerning both student petitions and changes to the core. Currently, both the Academic Affairs Committee and the Core Curriculum Committee spend the majority of their time focused on petitions and changes; that neither committee attends to the academic curriculum oversight with which they are charged. An ad hoc committee is being formed by the Faculty Senate Chair David Evans to address this concern.

Please direct any questions to Teresa Burns, ext. 2225, tburns@coastal.edu.

PENDING BUSINESS:

The Student Retention and Assessment Committee was represented by Nils Rauhut. Evans said the Provost’s report on administrative initiatives presented earlier in this meeting appeared to address a lot of the items in the University Student Retention and Assessment Committee report. Evans said he had been in consultation with the Sharon Gilman, Chair of that committee; however, he was not privy to the final deliberations.

Rauhut reported that the retention issue is an issue not only at Coastal Carolina but at a large number of universities. Rauhut mentioned that research indicates that student on-campus employment is good for retention. Also, it is important to identify certain problems that are early warning indicators, such as taking attendance in class. Rauhut said other research indicates that we should look at academic factors as well as social factors as we work on student retention.

The complete recommendation follows:

The University Student Retention and Assessment Committee recommends the following resolutions for consideration by the faculty senate. The Committee will monitor progress on each of these throughout the 2005-2006 academic year.

I. The Faculty Senate asks the Office of the Provost to implement the following recommendations for the 2005-2006 academic year:
   A. Enforce CCU’s attendance policy as written in the current catalog
B. Advise faculty to make use of the “Helping Students Succeed” program as an early warning system for poor attendance
C. Provide the resources necessary to make the Freshman Success Seminar program mandatory for all freshmen and new transfer students
D. Increase faculty involvement in the Freshman Success Seminar Program and co-curricular activities by providing appropriate incentives
E. Administer an academic advisor evaluation form to students (perhaps along with the student course evaluation forms)
F. Increase awareness of retention issues among faculty

II. The Faculty Senate asks the Office of the President to implement the following recommendations for the 2005-2006 academic year:
A. Hire a coordinator of campus-wide student retention programs
   1. develop goals/benchmarks for student retention and graduation
   2. develop a structure/mechanism for reviewing/implementing/coordinating recommendations directed at freshmen
B. Provide information, professional development programs, and appropriate incentives for faculty and staff who engage in freshmen support efforts
C. Revise student employment practices to increase availability of on-campus jobs for new students

III. The Faculty Senate asks the Office of the Provost, along with the Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lynn Willett, to develop a freshman support/advising center for the following purposes:
A. Provide resources to coordinate academic support services for new students and provide academic advising for all first year freshmen
B. Explore a freshman year college concept that connects academic advising, special interest housing/learning communities, co-enrollment, the Big Read, success seminars, etc.
C. Ensure that all students have a complete academic plan

Evans said nearly every item in I & III also fall under the global initiatives that the Provost is planning.

A motion was made by Philip Schneider, seconded by Andy Hendrick, to change the wording in items I and II from implement to consider and in item III change the wording from develop to consider developing. Evans said the Senate is underscoring the Committee saying these are issues we think you should consider in your role as administrators. The motion did not pass.

The recommendation as written did not pass.

NEW BUSINESS: None
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Special Agent Shannon Argestsinger with the Drug Enforcement Office in Columbia addressed the community regarding the methamphetamine problem in the state. It was free and open to the community.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: John Navin asked how to give academic credit for students who are mentoring. Evans advised that the request should start in Academic Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Steve Sheel
Faculty Senate Secretary

Janet Straub
Faculty Senate Recorder