COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
AY 2012/2013
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 3, 2012
Wall Building, Room 309
4:30 PM

Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim. The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.


ABSENT: none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the September 5, 2012 minutes were moved by Brian Bunton and seconded by Wes Fondren. Motion passed (40 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstain).

CONSENT AGENDA: none.

PRESIDENT, PROVOST AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dyer:

- Dr. Dyer gave an update on President DeCenzo’s recent hospitalization in Chicago where he had emergency surgery. President DeCenzo was discharged on Sunday and has arranged for a flight tomorrow to return to South Carolina. He will remain off campus while he recuperates.

- The President asked for Dr. Dyer to remind everyone of the retention efforts that are in progress and to continue to do what they can to change those numbers.

Provost Sheehan:

- Midterm grading will begin next week on Monday and the Absence Reporting screen will be available for communicating that information.

- There won’t be much of an early predictor from looking at Spring for retention. The retention rate from Fall to Spring has really never slipped; it is the Fall to subsequent Fall retention rate.
Although we are up 1.9 percent in enrollment, we are down in student credit hour production. We are not pushing any panic buttons, but part of our ability to move forward is by our efforts to turn around retention. We thank the faculty for taking on that effort with all of the 100 and 200 level courses.

- The fencing that surrounded the Edward Singleton building has recently been taken down. The Provost thanked all who were inconvenienced while trying to move around campus in that area during the construction.

- The presence of salespersons interested in buying instructors books has been noticed around the campus. The Provost stated that although instructors are able to sell their books, they need to please be aware of these salespeople on campus. They have been found walking in and out of unoccupied offices looking at books on the bookshelves. Please recognize that this is illegal trespassing and feel free to call Public Safety. This is really not a good practice and it is something that causes great problems with faculty who request complementary copies and then those copies turn up for resale. The preferred alternative to selling is to give it to a student.

- The Provost announced that he would be going to Columbia tomorrow to defend the mission change allowing a doctoral program in marine science to CHE. And, on October 11, he would be back in Columbia defending the program summary proposal for the doctoral program in marine science. He will keep everyone informed and is optimistic that everything is in order.

**Provost Sheehan opened the floor for questions:**

Q: A senator asked that the graduation application deadlines be clearly stated for the students to avoid confusion because the university deadline is the end process when applications should be in the Dean’s office. The process begins with students meeting with their advisors and that date should be at least two weeks prior to the university deadline.

A: Dr. Sheehan answered that he and Dr. Beard have been developing the correspondence for this and that a notice can be sent to students tomorrow reminding them that the **deadline is the end of the process** and that the beginning of the process starts with submission of the application to their advisors. The email will stress the importance that if the applications are not received in the Dean’s office by the deadline, the graduation application late fee will incur. The hope is that the small $25 late application charge will encourage students to start the process early.

Q: Is there a plan on how the space will be used for the large classrooms when the New Academic Building opens since the policy against combined sections will be going into effect?

A: Psychology and Sociology introduction courses have historically been large and they will be located in that building. We will be waiting to see what requests will come from the departments. That building has not been put online yet as we do not want to schedule classes for Spring and end up having a two week delay in getting into the building. I will postpone my answer until we get further along in terms of the requests for that space.

Dr. Dyer said that he believes the policy the senator is speaking about only applies to those high failure courses for retention at this point. It is not an across the board blanket. The goal is to reduce the class sizes to more reasonable numbers to see if it will affect retention for those courses.
The Provost ended by expressing how impressed he is with the Mathematics Department. The early results for MATH 129L are positive. He observed one of the classes for 30 to 45 minutes and found students working at the self-paced program with lots of faculty guidance available. At this point, there have only been about twenty students who have withdrawn from the course. About 70 percent of the students in the MATH 129L are at the level that they should be in the seventh or eighth week. This was a suggestion that came from the Mathematics Department, and if anyone has suggestions on how to improve the curriculum or in some way connect with students better than we are currently doing, we are open to any or all suggestions.

The Provost added that we are expecting 300 to 400 people to be eligible for summer graduation. He asked the faculty to please begin to decide on which ceremony (Spring or Summer) that they would like to attend.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Keshav Jagannathan, Chair, presented the Executive Committee Report.

A. Administrative Actions numbered 01 and 02 were generated and approved without stipulations. For the complete listing, refer to the October 3, 2012 Order of Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: none.

OLD BUSINESS: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Please refer to the October 3, 2012 Order of Business for complete details on the following motions:

A. Graduate Council

1. Motion to approve CSCI 516 Linux System Administration as a new graduate course. Motion passed (44 in favor, 3 not in favor, 0 abstain).

B. Academic Affairs Committee

1. Motion to approve increasing the number of credit hours a student is allowed to take while on probation and for any student admitted or readmitted after serving suspension from a maximum of 13 credit hours to a maximum of 16 credit hours. Motion passed (35 in favor, 10 not in favor, 0 abstain).

2. Motion to approve changing the maximum number of credit hours that students can use for Grade Repeat Forgiveness from 13 to 16. After much discussion, the motion was defeated (16 in favor, 27 not in favor, 0 abstain).

The motion failed due to several concerns among the senators. Below are some of the issues that were discussed:
Against the motion:

- Students are retaking courses without having any financial repercussions and taking the same courses over and over. This makes the classes get fuller and makes it tougher on the instructors.
- The courses still remain on the students’ transcripts and graduate schools recalculate GPAs; therefore, it is only helping their CCU GPA.
- The assignment of an “Incomplete grade” should be used instead. The Registrar clarified that incomplete grades are given only for a portion of the work, not entire course loads.
- Strongly opposing increasing the credit hours because as it is now, students do not even try. They disappear from classes because they know they can just retake the courses.
- Instead of increasing the credit hours, advisors may want to help their students find other majors that will be more suitable to their abilities. Against increasing the number to fail courses despite the measures that instructors take to try and help students, and are ignored.

In favor of the motion:

- Not all students are trying to get into graduate programs. Some students are trying to improve their GPAs to stay in school and graduate.
- Some students have illnesses, deaths in their family, or a number of reasons why they may have low performances for one semester and need the option to repeat the courses for an entire semester.
- With the changes in the financial aid, it can make a big difference for some students to be able to write an entire semester off that may include more than 13 hours.

C. Calendar Committee

1. Motion to approve the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar.

   An amendment to add Saturday, August 8 (Summer Graduation) to the Summer II 2015 Academic Calendar was made by Michael Ruse and seconded by Patti Edwards. The amendment passed by a unanimous vote.

   **Motion with the amendment passed (30 in favor, 7 not in favor, 3 abstain).**

D. Keshav Jagannathan, Chair

   The Faculty Salary Inversion Study Final Report is located on the Faculty Senate website at http://www.coastal.edu/academics/facsenate/. It can be found under the “Quick Links” heading, titled “Miscellaneous Important Documents”. The document will provide a detailed explanation of the methods used to calculate the inversion amounts for all tenured/tenure track faculty and teaching lecturers. Letters will be sent to all individuals, even ones who will not be receiving the inversion. The increases to base pay will be effective September 15, 2012 and will be reflected in the October 15, 2012 payroll.

E. Contingent Faculty Coalition

   Chris Todd, Cindy Storer, Ellen Arnold, and Matthew Clark each addressed the senate with the possibility of adding seats to the Faculty Senate to represent their Associated Faculty. Their specific concern is with Teaching Associates and Lecturers. Data collected from the past three years have shown that Coastal has more associated faculty (290) than tenured/tenure track
faculty (260). The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analysis are in the process of compiling current data. An informal poll was taken to find out if there would be support from the senate. The poll results were 37 in favor, 1 not in favor, and 4 abstain.

Please contact the following with any questions and/or suggestions:

- Chris Todd, Lecturer/Studio Technician in Visual Arts, at ctodd@coastal.edu.
- Cindy Storer, Lecturer in Politics and Geography, at cstorer@coastal.edu.
- Ellen Arnold, Senior Lecturer in English, at sarnold@coastal.edu.
- Matthew Clark, Teaching Associate in Philosophy and Religious Studies, at mclark1@coastal.edu.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Streicher, Faculty Senate Recorder

Approved by Dodi Hodges, Secretary