Chairman Oran Smith brought the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Sam Swad moved to approve the October 20, 2011 Academic & Student Affairs Committee minutes. Dr. Larry Biddle seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Keshav Jogannathan, Faculty Senate Chair, did not have a report for this meeting, but will have agenda items at the next meeting.

Dr. Michael Ruse and Ms. Charmaine Tomczyk presented a PowerPoint presentation about the “QEP Experience at CCU.” The program is to help students as they enter Coastal Carolina University to connect what they learn in the classroom and carry it with them the rest of their lives. QEP will be phased in over the next four years beginning with freshmen entering next fall. Attendance will be tracked to make sure of attendance. SACs is expecting a five-year report on the accomplishments of our QEP.

Six representatives of SACS will be on campus on March 6-8. Paperwork is in order for this review. From the hundreds of areas reviewed, only nine required a response.
Dr. Smith wanted to know what SACS would be reviewing. Dr. Sheehan stated they are focusing on assessment of goals, revision and additions of courses, class size, retention and failure. They will also be reviewing Federal expectations. Before their onsite visit, a great deal of time has been spent preparing the QEP. He feels that we are a better university for having gone through this process.

Coastal Today has been completely revamped and is more educational. Marketing was congratulated on a job well done. The link will be shown to the SACS visitors.

After spring break SEMS, the retention consultants, will be on campus. Our retention has dropped to 63% and our goal is 83%. The national norm is 70%. We expect to improve when additional resources—buildings and beds—become available. Out-of-state retention has lowered the last couple of years. The consultants will be focusing on tuition and availability of financial aid. Interestingly, we have a higher retention rate of African American students than most colleges.

The dean’s search had a robust pool of candidates and three have been invited to campus. We will proceed next week to make an offer if the search team and the campus community supports a candidate.

Dean Hart shared the following update on university housing burglaries; Fall 2010 there were 82 burglaries and of those 78 had doors unlocked; Fall 2011 there were 67 and 61 had unlocked doors. The Administration continues to work with students to report unauthorized guests in rooms and remind them to lock their doors. Heavier locks are being installed on doors and replacements will be phased in. Public Safety continues to successfully investigate reported burglaries. Dr. DeCenzo noted that students often leave their door unlocked for friends to come in and visit.

Plans are underway to establish new traditions and help freshmen feel connected during welcome week next fall. Activities will start at the new recreation/convocation center and then continue with a parade to Prince lawn.

Mr. Gene Spivey moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Upon reconvening it was noted that no action was taken.

Mr. Sam Swad made a motion to recommend to the full Board of Trustees the following: promotion to Associate Professor with tenure - Monica Bell, Jennifer Boyle, Erin Burge, Dennis Earl, Preston McKeever-Floyd, Julinna Oxley, Tonya Propst, and Cynthia Port; tenure to Carol Megehee; and promotion to Professor - Dennis Edwards, Arne Flaten, Kay Keels, Michael Latta, and Pamela Martin. Dr. Larry Biddle seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Will Turner moved to award faculty the following at their retirement: Stephen J. Sheel - Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Susan J. Slavik - Emeritus Professor. Dr. Swad seconded and the motion passed.
Academic & Student Affairs Committee
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Dr. Smith made a motion to endorse Provost Sheehan’s and Dr. DeCenzo’s decisions to award Dr. Varavut Limpasuvin the Kearns Palmetto Professorship and to Christopher Hill the Spivey Palmetto Professorship to be effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Turner seconded and the motion passed.

As time was short, Dr. Sheehan stated that a report on the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education to retitle some courses will be presented at the meeting in May.

As there was no further business, Mr. Frink moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey for
Larry L. Biddle
Secretary/Treasurer