Chairman Oran Smith brought the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Smith moved to approve the October 1, 2015, Academic Affairs & Assessment Committee meeting minutes. Trip DuBard seconded, and the motion carried.

Faculty Senate Chair Brian Bunton feels that faculty governance is making great strides in improving the processes and structure that form a better experience not just for ourselves, but also for the students we care so much about. Faculty Senate is busy continuing the routine but vital work of adjusting academic programs and courses. The Senate has received a report from Student Government Association President Tyler Wyeth and an annual report from student-athletes. Work has begun with the administration on a new faculty compensation plan.
Appreciation was expressed to the Board of Trustees on behalf of both the staff and the faculty for the action taken in December to increase salaries.

Today, a motion will be presented making a slight adjustment to the post-tenure process. He views the change as an immediately necessary one, but it is on that signals that more needs to be done to refine the promotion and tenure process. The intent is to bring a broader and fairer promotion and tenure process by December Board meeting. He strongly supports the group of faculty members being brought to the Board for promotion and tenure today. They greatly enrich our students’ campus experience.

He is appreciative of the strong working relationship between the faculty and the administration, especially Provost Byington.

Provost and Executive Vice President Ralph Byington displayed a graph of Coastal’s 20 graduate and education specialist programs. Peer institutions have 51 programs, while aspirant institutions have 42. We have made good strides; still, there is room for growth for graduate offerings. It is common for a university our size to have two to three doctoral programs. We need a Ph.D. in Education.

President David DeCenzo reminded that our state law only allows Coastal to offer a doctorate in Marine Science and that required a change in the law. We had to change our mission statement to allow consideration to offer the program. The perception in Columbia is that doctorates are expensive and fears that there would be massive proliferations of colleges offering doctorates. He feels that this would not be the case. We are not filling a specific service within our region and need to offer service area doctorates for the needs of our constituents which are tied to our mission. It is a political issue.

Byington noted that doctorates and masters programs can be expensive, and we look to see what the return will be when one is proposed. Extensive research takes place to determine the need for any new program. DeCenzo emphasized that all programs are thoroughly vetted to make certain that it fits our mission statement and the society we serve.

Natasha Hanna stated that it is easier for an online university to come into the state and offer masters and doctoral programs than an in-state university.

Gene Spivey moved to approve a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies (Motion 16-10). Tripp DuBard seconded. The motion carried.

This program is unique because there are two tracks--professions and cultural studies. Dean Dan Ennis said few schools can offer studies for real time translators.

DuBard moved to approve Master of Education in Language, Literacy and Culture (Motion 16-11). Chuck Lewis seconded, and the motion carried.

Sam Frink moved to change the post-tenure review process from Faculty Senate (Motion 16-12). DuBard seconded. The motion passed.
This minor change to the post-tenure review process was motivated because presently when an associate librarian is rated exceptional, they are required to wait for four years before they can go up to professor. This change allows declining an exceptional rating in order to be promoted in less than four years.

DuBard moved to approve the following promotion and/or tenure recommendations:
Twenty-one (21) recommendations for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure:
Richard Aidoo, Christina Anderson, Ogul Arslan, Susan Bergeron, Megan Cevasco, Adam Chamberlain, Kristal Curry, Ronald Green, Juli Harding, Kyle Holody, Kurt Hozak, Corey Lee, Stephanie Miller, Michael Murphy, Kate Oestreich, Anna Oldfield, Denise Paster, Tripthi Pillai, Jamia Richmond, Andrew Terranova, Dustin Thorn; six (6) recommendations for promotion to Professor: Deborah Breede, Erin Burge, Becky Childs, Thomas Hoffman, Bomi Kang, Paul Richardson; one (1) recommendation for promotion to Professor with tenure: Jill Trinka, and, one (1) recommendation for tenure: Wanda Dooley (Motion 16-13). Gene Spivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Spivey moved to bestow Emeritus Professor to Paul Peterson upon his retirement (Motion 16-14). DuBard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Byington stated that the S.C. Commission on Higher Education update included in their packet of information lists the current programs being reviewed.

As there was no further business, Spivey and Sam Frink seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chyrel Stalvey
Recorder