ANNUAL REPORT FAC

The Faculty Advisory Committee met 9/8/14, 10/13/14, 11/17/14, 12/8/14, 1/29/15, 2/9/15, 3/16/15 and 4/20/15

At the first meeting two members were elected co-chairs: Harold Friedman and Chris Robinson. It was decided that the committee would tackle several subjects and this report will address each topic.

1) Information Technology. There were several members who felt that there was insufficient faculty input into University Technology Services and there were many campus wide problems. Dr Duncan Buell was asked to provide input on recommendations and committee members Subra Bulusu and Marco Valtorta were extremely informative about the problems. The UTS Strategic plan was reviewed by the committee and Bill Hogue attended a committee meeting to give us his input. As a result of the discussions, the FAC recommended to the Faculty Senate that an Ad Hoc committee be constituted for the purpose of reviewing the information services, resources and infrastructure at USC. The committee was to be composed of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and non-voting representation from UTS and the Office of the Vice President for Research. This committee was then formed and had several meetings. At about the same time the joint venture with IBM was announced. The ad hoc committee recommended to FAC that a standing committee be formed to interact with UTS. Wording for the formation of the standing committee was then proposed and submitted to the Faculty Senate. Faculty voting on the issue of change to the Faculty Manual will take place before the end of the academic year. It was recommended that IBM have an ex officio member on the committee as well. At the last meeting the committee voted on a suggested change to the faculty manual for the Faculty Steering committee as follows:

   The committee shall serve as a nominating committee and as a planning body that studies issues confronting the university and recommends action to be taken by existing faculty committees, the faculty, and administration. The committee is composed of the nine chairs of the following committees: Admissions, Athletics Advisory, Curricula and Courses, Faculty Advisory, Faculty Budget, Faculty Welfare, Scholastic Standards and Petitions, Information Technology, University Committee on Promotion and Tenure, and one faculty member appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Provost and Parliamentarian shall serve as ex officio members.

2) Faculty Committee Term Limits. As the current Faculty Manual limits terms of service on committees to 3 years with an intervening time off of a given committee and whereas there are insufficient tenure track faculty members willing to serve, FAC decided to propose eliminating the restriction of terms of service from the faculty manual. This proposal was discussed at Faculty Senate and the change will be voted on by the general faculty

3) Grade Change issues across college campuses and USC college campus interactions. The Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions was considering a change in the way grading was done at USC. However, this would necessitate broad agreement across the Palmetto Colleges and all campuses and faculty of the University system. With this fact in mind, Scholastic Standards and Petitions moved to empower the FAC to establish a formal procedure for communication between faculty senates in the USC system and to develop a comprehensive list of policy and procedural changes impacted by an eventual grade change

and to bring to the Faculty Senate in the Spring of 2015 a report on those actions. Peter Binev presented the issues to the FAC at one of our early meetings. We all agreed to have the President of the Faculty Senate (Jim Knapp) reach out to the other Faculty Senate presidents to see if we could coordinate our efforts along these lines. Thus far he has contacted appropriate people in the Palmetto Colleges, but not yet the other four year colleges. In the meantime, a new position has been created in the President's office: the Vice President for System Planning. Jim Knapp and the next Faculty Senate Chair will continue to work on this project- but there are considerable hurdles.\

4) Rights of Non-Tenure Track Faculty. This was an ongoing issue for many years and includes such things as standardizing Promotion criteria and mechanisms, grievances, membership on faculty committees, job security etc. The FAC decided to try to take on the issue of promotion, while Faculty Welfare was considering other aspects. A compilation of criteria for non-tenure track faculty promotion from all the schools on the Columbia campus was made and these were reviewed by the FAC committee. In the meantime Faculty Welfare put together a survey of the non-tenure track faculty rating the importance of various issues. The results of the survey were shared with FAC at the March meeting. In the meantime a proposal for formalizing promotion criteria and procedures was drafted by FAC. This document has undergone several iterations and is still being discussed. Both FAC and Faculty Welfare are planning joint meetings to further discuss efforts in this arena. At the final meeting the committee voted to have the Faculty Welfare committee recommend an ad hoc committee of tenured and non-tenured track faculty to review the data of the survey along with the promotion issue proposal by FAC and make recommendations to be reviewed by the administration and the Faculty senate and the general faculty.