

Minutes for the Meeting of the Committee of Nine – October 28, 2020
Submitted by Stacie Davenport

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Faculty Senate, chaired the meeting. The meeting began at 1:00pm.

Members Present:

Prof. Mark Cooper
Prof. Derek Black
Prof. Gloria Boutte
Prof. Tena Crews
Dr. Heather Heckman
Prof. Marco Valtorta
Prof. Thomas Vogt
Prof. Patrick Wright

Non-voting members present:

Prof. Alexander Beecroft
Prof. Shirley Staples Carter
Prof. Susan Cutter
Prof. Carol Harrison
Prof. Scott Weiss

The following were also present:

Mark Bieger
Tayloe Harding
Dennis Pruitt
Joe Sobieralski

EAB:

David Attis

Professor Cooper opened the meeting.

Professor Cooper announced that the release of the initial report from EAB is expected October 30 or 31 and thanked everyone for their feedback.

The minutes from the October 21st meeting were approved and will be placed on the Faculty Senate webpage found here:

https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/committees/committee_of_9/index.php

Following the approval of the minutes Professor Cooper then turned the meeting over to David Attis.

Mr. Attis presented on Reorganization and Optimization for long term and short-term opportunities. Questions discussed included: If mergers occur, what disciplines could be more effective together? Under what conditions would cost savings be substantial?

A period of discussion and questions and answers followed.

Over the course of the discussion, factors mentioned included:

- Consideration that mergers should factor in alignment between disciplines in addition to cost savings
- Recognizing that reduced staff may save money but could add workload to the Faculty.
- Appreciated that logistics related to any mergers (colleges or departments) would need to be carefully addressed
- Opportunities to seek out information related to previous school/departmental mergers to understand long term positives and negatives (example used was the current College of Information and Communications which was reported to be largely positive.)

Additional discussion included opportunities related to doctoral degree program efficiency. Concepts included:

- Doctoral programs require large subsidies, tenured faculty, etc.
- Not all colleges have research capacity to justify.
- Some Doctoral programs are funded by the Federal Government.
- Interaction with AAU Eligibility

Professor Cooper further discussed the report from EAB. Report should be considered progress report with initial, but not final, recommendations. The committee would like to give Deans and Department Heads more time for review. In the next meeting, we will outline a work plan to develop quickly Committee of 9 recommendations to be included with the final report.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned just after 2:00pm