

1 **THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FACULTY SENATE**

2
3 Wednesday, September 7, 2022

4 This session was held at in person at the UofSC Law School Building

5 PRESIDING Chair Audrey Korsgaard

6 CHAIR AUDREY KORSGAARD called the meeting to order at 3:00pm EST.

7 **Called Meeting of the Faculty Senate**

8
9 CHAIR KORSGAARD welcomed the members to the Faculty Senate.

10 **Corrections to the minutes:** SENATOR VALTORTA provided corrections to the minutes. The
11 corrections were made to June 2022 minutes. The corrected minutes were approved as written.

12 ELECTION TO THE CHAIR-ELECT

13 During the spring 2022, Faculty Senate had difficulty in filling many positions including the
14 Chair-Elect position. There now is a candidate for the chair-elect position. DR. WAYNE
15 OUTTEN, from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Arts and
16 Sciences addressed the Senate. He is honored that Chair Korsgaard asked him to run for this
17 position. Dr. Outten will be voted (i.e., elected) during the October Faculty Senate meeting.

18 INVITED GUEST

19 President of the Graduate Student Council, MR. MAXWELL AKONDE, brought greetings from
20 the Executive Board and the Graduate Student Association (hereafter referred to as The
21 Association). The Association is incredibly thankful for the Faculty Senate’s past support. In the
22 past, Faculty Senate supported full health insurance coverage for graduate students. This issue
23 (i.e., where to get money for medical attention) was a big headache for graduate students. It took
24 a resolution from Faculty Senate to help graduate students in this endeavor. Faculty Senate also
25 helped graduate students in their efforts for increased hourly wages.

26 MR. AKONDE’S main mission today was to inform Faculty Senate of The Association’s
27 mentorship program. During 2021-2022, The Association developed and rolled out a mentorship
28 program specifically for female graduate students in professional programs. Thank you for all
29 who supported this effort last year. This initiative will continue during the 2022-2023 year. The
30 mentorship luncheon will expand this year to include a) black mentorships b) international
31 students, and c) LGBTQ students. Senators and faculty are encouraged to participate in these
32 efforts. Please consider being a mentor.

33 CHAIR KORSGAARD stated that she participated last year in the mentoring efforts for women
34 in professional graduate programs. One activity was a “lunch and learn”. Men were at the “lunch
35 and learn”. It was useful to be a participant even if you can’t be a mentor.

36 **REPORT OF THE OFFICERS**

37
38 PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS could not be at today’s meeting.

40 PROVOST ARNETT thanked the Faculty Senate for the invitation. She hopes to have the honor
41 of working another 10 years with the Faculty Senate. Provost Arnett is in her seventh week at
42 UofSC. Her priority is to listen. Her goal is to learn the a) the campus, b) the priorities of the
43 faculty, c) where the faculty want to invest, and d) where she, as Provost, can work to grow that
44 investment. Provost Arnett doesn't have a vision, but she does want to be purposeful about
45 learning about this community; what is special about this community. Discussions with faculty,
46 staff, and students are important so we can collectively create a vision that moves us forward.

47 PROVOST ARNETT and the President have begun conducting listening tours. The President
48 goes to the unit/college first. Provost Arnett goes in after. The purpose is to get to know the
49 individual unit. Provost Arnett is purposely meeting with 50 or fewer persons. These sessions are
50 designed to learn how we can form a vision together because all of us are smarter than any
51 one of us. Units already visited include Libraries, Pharmacy, HRSM, Social Work, Nursing, and
52 Information and Communications. Two additional college visits are still to be visited.

53 PROVOST ARNETT discovered something unique about UofSC. Faculty complain; that isn't
54 unique. Even with the complaints, faculty at UofSC love being at UofSC and their colleagues.
55 This is not true at every institution. Faculty should be proud of this fact.

56 Conversations at these meetings are very honest. PROVOST ARNETT is asking for
57 transparency. No administrators are present in the room. This is done so people can speak freely.
58 Visions of where UofSC need to go have been stated. Areas where help and support are required
59 have also been identified. Two additional college visits are still to be visited.

60 One short-term goal that is being started Monday September 12, 2022, is a "stand-up" meeting.
61 Communication is difficult. PROVOST ARNETT is trying to create vertical integration of
62 information so everyone can hear priorities from the provost's office. The meetings will be short,
63 quick, and with one agenda item. The first week's agenda item will go out by Friday morning.
64 The first agenda is about colleges being able to take over UofSC's webpage for the day (e.g., talk
65 about who they are, bragging rights). LARRY THOMAS, head of communications, will come in
66 and explain why that is important. The invitation to this meeting includes deans, associate deans,
67 assistant deans, and directors. If members of the Senate want to be part of this, great. The end of
68 the meeting will always end with a "shout out" regarding a college that is doing something great.

69 ABE DANAHER, in communications, is collecting stories and helping to get the stories out.

70 PROVOST ARNETT is also involved in her own on-boarding process. She is interested in
71 Faculty Senators' thoughts and interests. Provost Arnett has begun working with the Faculty
72 Welfare Committee. She is passionate about building faculty resilience and well-being. She
73 wants to create something innovative. UofSC is known for great programming (e.g., First-Year
74 Experience). Why can't we have a First-Year Experience for faculty that relates to best in class?

75 PROVOST ARNETT stated that she learned from being a chair and a dean that everyone has a
76 unique way of bringing purpose and joy. We need to build programs that support that (i.e.,
77 purpose and joy). We are in Higher Education for a reason. We are here for a love for generating

78 knowledge, sharing knowledge, and teaching our students. It is Provost Arnett's hope that in this
79 post-Covid world we can find that joy and purpose again; enjoy coming to work again.

80 The President had an event this past weekend for students called Imagine Carolina. A consulting
81 group led this initiative. The purpose was to hear from students (e.g., what is going great, what
82 can be improved, what is the climate). The provost would like to do the same for faculty. The
83 details are being finalized. It will be called Imagine Carolina for Faculty and will be launched in
84 January or February 2023.

85 Brief updates regarding the dean searches:

- 86 • HRSM dean search is in process. The timeline for the search is being developed.
- 87 • Darla Moore School of Business dean search is underway. The search is being chaired by
88 DR. HAJ-HARIRI HOSSIN and DR. TONY TORRES-MCGEE. The website has been
89 updated.
- 90 • Education dean search has resulted in four finalists.
- 91 • The Graduate School dean search will be launched soon. In the meantime, VICE
92 PROVOST CHERYL ADDY is the interim Graduate School dean.
- 93 • University Libraries dean search has been concluded. DAVE BANUSH, the current dean
94 of Tulane University, has accepted the offer. He has been at Tulane seven years as a
95 sitting dean.

96 A best practice being used in a search for a dean is every search will be co-chaired by a nominee
97 from the Council of Academic Diversity Officers. This is to build representation of candidates
98 who are from diverse groups.

99 DR. JENNIFER EBERHARDT was on campus September 6th for the first year reading
100 experience. The book students read was called "Biased". This is a very thoughtful and research-
101 based book on how implicit bias originates and what we can do address biases. Dr. Eberhardt
102 also met in small groups with faculty. VICE PROVOST SANDRA KELLY and SARAH
103 HOGAN and VICE PRESIDENT JULIAN WILLIAMS in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
104 made this effort happen.

105 There is great news in terms of U.S. News and World Report rankings.

- 106 • The International Business program retained its #1 ranking for the 24th year.
- 107 • UofSC ranked #1 for its First-Year Experience, much of it due to the UNIV 101
108 program.
- 109 • Living Learning Experiences are ranked #6 in the nation's public universities.
- 110 • Undergraduate business program moved up to #26 among public universities.
- 111 • Nursing program increased to #37.
- 112 • Computer science increased to #56.
- 113 • Inclusion for the best colleges for veterans, best value school, and social ability
114 categories.
- 115 • Ranked #1 for veterans.

116 The above demonstrates UofSC’s commitment to excellence.

117 Nominations for MLK’s Social Justice Awards are available. Nominations may be for a
118 UofSC student, faculty, or staff who embodies the ideals of racial equity, inclusivity, and
119 social justice and community service by DR. REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING.
120 Nominations are due October 14th.

121 SENATOR MARCO VALTORTA thanked the provost for meeting with the Faculty
122 Welfare Committee. This is a very good sign. At the General Faculty meeting, there was a
123 question regarding access to the Blatt PEC. This is an issue that has been brought up
124 several times. Senator Valtorta reminded PROVOST ARNETT the importance of having
125 the Blatt PEC available to all faculty. His understanding is the hours of the Blatt Center
126 have been severely curtailed. This is on top of the issue of faculty being required to pay for
127 access to Blatt PEC.

128 PROVOST ARNETT plans to check into the cost of operating Blatt PEC. She will try to at
129 least get the due “at cost”. This subject has not been investigated yet, but she will
130 investigate because she recognizes the importance of the issue.

131 SENATOR TAVAKOLI stated his recognition of Provost Arnett’s emphasis on wellness.
132 Faculty can obtain counselling from outside sources. Senator Tavakoli stated that it would
133 be more convenient if faculty could obtain counseling from Wellness Center [sic]. Student
134 Health Center]. Another issue is that the Health Center [sic] still does not accept our Blue
135 Cross Health insurance. Some of the tests are accepted, some of the tests are not accepted.
136 This is confusing to the faculty and staff when they go for their free blood work.

137 PROVOST ARNETT concluded by saying she looks forward to working with the various
138 colleges. Please reach out to Provost Arnett and ABE DANAHER (the provost’s
139 communications director).

140 **REPORTS FROM FACULTY COMMITTEES**

141 **Committee on Curricula & Courses**

142 DR. WILLIAM HAUK, Chair of the Committee on Curricula & Courses (hereafter The
143 Committee) stated that The Committee had its first meeting on August 17th. A total of 45
144 proposals are presented from eight units. They are as follows:
145

Unit	N
College of Arts & Sciences	13
College of Business	1
College of Education	4
College of Engineering & Computing	18
College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management	5
College of Information & Communication	2
School of Pharmacy	1
School of Public Health	1

146

147 SENATOR VALTORTA thanked The Committee, the Provost's Office, and everyone who
148 helped Senators get access to the new APPS system (e.g., CIM). It is useful to see the details of
149 the courses. A few items of detail:

- 150 • There are two courses where the comments indicate a hold has been placed for approval
151 (i.e., RELG 552 and EMCH 551). Looking at the full entry in APPS, it appears both
152 courses are in concentrations for other departments. These are courses to remove from
153 other departments. Senator Valtorta asked if these courses have been taken off the table.

154 DR. HAUK responded to Senator Valtorta's query. The new system flagged RELG 552 as an
155 elective for the Computer Science program. When The Committee examined RELG 552, the
156 course was a broad range of liberal arts courses. The decision was made that there was no need
157 for a letter of concurrence to remove this course. This was because there was a broad range of
158 electives available.

159 Regarding EMCH 551, The Committee decided that the course proposal didn't need to be placed
160 on hold because the course is in the same unit. A letter of concurrence is not necessary.

161 SENATOR VALTORTA agreed with the Committee's decision concerning EMCH 551 and
162 RELG 552. He also noted that the proposed BS in Middle School Education does not allow
163 Computer Science courses to be taken as an option to fulfill the Mathematics or Science
164 specialization requirements.

165 SENATOR YENKEY asked for clarity, and in the sake of transparency, regarding the number of
166 courses being approved for change of modality. Senator Yenkey thinks of the 45 proposals under
167 consideration, only three are under consideration for change of modality. For change of
168 modality, does it always go through The Committee?

169 DR. HAUK stated that if a course has not previously been approved for distributed learning,
170 there does need to be a submission through the CIM system which includes Curricula & Courses
171 and the Provost's Office.

172 An oral vote was conducted. The proposals passed.

173 CHAIR KORSGAARD reminded Senators that UofSC does have a new system (i.e., APPS is
174 now called CIM). It is important to use all lower case. Faculty Senators can see the system.

175

176 **Secretary's Report**

177 SENATOR BICKLE is ill. CHAIR KORSGAARD provided the report. There are still some
178 vacancies.

179 Vacancies are as follows:

- 180 • Bookstore: MONICA COLON AGUIRRE stepped up and volunteered
- 181 • Curricula & Courses was expanded by four: DAVID SIMMONS, BRIAN HABING, and
182 ANDREW CORLEY stepped up and volunteered. One member is still needed.

183 • Faculty Senate IT: JOSE VIDAL stepped up and volunteered.

184 An oral vote was conducted. Nominees were voted and approved

185 **Chair's Report**

186 CHAIR KORSGAARD discussed the modality of Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate dictates that
187 we meet in person. If Faculty Senate wishes to meet in a different format, Faculty Senate needs
188 to vote and make a manual change. The goal is to monitor how Faculty Senate is experiencing
189 meeting in person. In November we will revisit the issue.

190 CHAIR KORSGAARD introduced SAMANTHA CLARK, the new administrative coordinator
191 for Faculty Senate. One challenge is the lack of a central meeting location on Wednesday
192 afternoon. It is difficult to get to a meeting location. Currently the only other option is the
193 Russell House theatre. This location would be very tight.

194 By request of PRESIDENT AMIRIDIS, *The President's Executive Council* will be formed. This
195 will be an advisory and communication mechanism that is outside formal meeting settings. The
196 idea is that a group of Senators or Senate leadership (i.e., from standing committees) would meet
197 regularly with President Amiridis to discuss issues that are important to faculty. He will share
198 thoughts and ideas that important to him as well to faculty. The meetings would be halfway
199 between Faculty Senate meetings. The meetings would be purely advisory, and communication
200 based. The idea is to have one representative from each academic unit and a few officers from
201 Faculty Senate. The Steering Committee is trying to generate a list. Senators are also encouraged
202 to think about who would be good for this Council. The election should be by each caucus. This
203 is not a general election. Attributes encouraged on the Council include a) diversity in discipline,
204 b) demographic diversity, and c) diversity in tenure track and professional track faculty.
205 Identify people who are leaders, who will always show up prepared, communicate in an equal
206 manner, and someone who understands the university.

207 CHAIR KORSGAARD will send out reminders regarding the election of *The President's*
208 *Executive Council* and encourage Senators to obtain names.

209 The Provost and President invited us to some of the leadership to observe Imagine Carolina.
210 BILL HAUK, JOHN GERDES, and CHAIR KORSGAARD observed the process. The general
211 purpose was to cover four themes: 1) academic experience, 2) campus experience, 3) campus
212 climate, and 4) post graduate career preparation. Before the group broke into focus groups, a
213 general meeting was conducted. Word cloud was used with an app. It was interesting to see some
214 of the big issues that were coming out of the discussion. The top-of-mind issue was parking.
215 Other themes included diversity, mental health issues, facilities, and Wi-Fi. It was surprising that
216 in the word cloud there was little discussion of the classroom experience. The leadership (i.e.,
217 Bill Hauk, John Gerdes, and Chair Korsgaard) were not in the focus groups. Note takers are
218 compiling the information from the focus groups. Chair Korsgaard is happy that a similar
219 experience will be conducted with the faculty.

220 PARLIAMENTARIAN BILL SUDDUTH gave a brief description of how we (i.e., Faculty
221 Senate) gave face-to-face meetings. A primer will be posted on the Faculty Senate page. Sign up
222 pages will be outside the room to make signing in for the meeting easier.

223 SENATOR TAVAKOLI asked about the COVID situation. Some people continue to get ill. Is it
224 possible to continue having hybrid Faculty Senate meetings for those who are ill? By doing so,
225 we could have additional participation in Faculty Senate meetings.

226 CHAIR KORSGAARD stated that the point is taken. At this moment we “can’t flip that switch”.
227 With illness or other excused absences, we need to make a policy mechanism.

228 **Old business:** none

229 **New business:**

230 SENATOR TAVAKOLI brought to the attention of Faculty Senate that faculty and students are
231 dependent upon UTS [sic] (now referred to DoIT). Senator Tavakoli stated that he has had a
232 student complain about negative customer service from this unit, particularly after 5:00pm EST.
233 Senator Tavakoli stated that his prior interaction with UTS has been wonderful and quick
234 response. However, when you call outside (perhaps meaning outside the regular business hours),
235 the service is not as good. This is particularly challenging when the course is online.

236 CHAIR KORSGAARD agreed that when Blackboard goes down for several hours, this can be
237 very frustrating for student. There is a standing IT Committee. This committee conducts an
238 annual survey to faculty. Senator Tavakoli was encouraged to reach out to the Chair of the IT
239 Committee.

240 **Good of the order:**

241 PARLIAMENTARIAN BILL SUDDUTH reminded Senators to please sign in. Next month the
242 sign in sheets will be at the front door. Senators are encouraged to sit up front.
243

244 SENATOR ANDREW YINGST (Palmetto Senator) moved to request the Executive Committee
245 be charged with drafting a motion amending the manual to require hybrid or fully online
246 meetings to be the norm so the regional campuses can share in legitimate participation. We have
247 been able to participate for the past few years and it feels bad to be pushed back out.

248 CHAIR KORSGAARD reiterated her statement that this issue will be reviewed and if
249 modifications in the modality need to be made it will be introduced in the November meeting.

250 The meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm EST