
Absent: Domenico Ruggerio, Karen Hauschild

Call to Order – 10:05 am

Approval of Minutes
Minutes were approved.

Sub-Committee Reports (Domenico Ruggerio)
Staff Liaison
Sarah Franciscus reported in Domenico’s absence there was nothing new to report.

Communication and Concerns (Teena Ham)
Teena reported the committee intends to send out nomination email for Staff Awards in two weeks. The date of the Staff Awards event will be June 14.

The Committee hopes to continue plans to spotlight an employee.

Membership (Shannon McKenzie)
Shannon reported that 46 staff employees had voted, and encouraged SAC members to remind their areas to vote by the deadline on March 17th.

President McConnell’s Updates
State news:
- There’s an opportunity for a bond bill for higher education for $415-515 million. It won’t increase state’s budget. Could help with Simmons overhaul, Silcox, and other existing projects, with off-line projects like Learning Technology Center. It has not been decided what types of projects will get funding: existing, off-line, or new. For these funds, it’s not who will get them, but more a matter of what types of projects they will vote to fund.
- The state’s first of its kind of Bridge Program will begin in Fall 2017. We are partnering with Trident Technical College to offer a bridge to their students. Only in-state students will qualify. It puts us in company with high ranking schools, such as Clemson, who waive some qualifications (test scores) to give more students opportunities.
- In recurring budget discussions, the retirement plan restructure looks as if the state will pick up 1% and send us an unfunded bill for $900,000. Looking ahead, not sure how we will cover increases in future.

College news:
- In combining Student Admissions with Alumni Engagement, the President hopes to increase scholarships and meetings with donors, and enhancing programming. Additionally, Anne Pryor is heading up the 250th Anniversary of the College Events.
-All 10 year temporary employees have been converted to full-time and the College is working to convert 5 years and higher temporary employees.
-Three alumni speak at graduation and share their stories. They will share what they gained at CofC and what they learned along the way.

Old Business
- The president was asked about the availability of staff development funds. He will look into.
- Sarah reported that Minutes of SAC’s meetings are being sent to all staff members.

New Business:
Questions/Comments from SAC staff
- Absence Memo requests are so high, the Student Health Services can barely keep up. The requests have created a delay in seeing students.
- Following President McConnell’s comment on Customer Service, Shannon McKenzie noted the high number of interactions with Parents in Undergraduate Student Services. She researched other universities and found a number that had a Parent Support Office, specifically designated to Parent assistance.
- There is a concern about rodents in some of the dorm halls. Nearby residents feeding cats was suggested as one possible reason. The President feels the problem is related to foods left in dorm halls and noted that the problem had existed for decades. He will address issue with the College. Open food in dormitories after students vacate and is also a problem. Any concerns should be placed with the Physical Plant.
- There was a question related to discussions with City officials regarding traffic issues and whether more discussion on flex schedules has occurred. The President stated that he thought there were currently some staff already on flexible schedules. He said with the change in City leadership, he hasn’t heard much more about discussions around this at present.
- Downtown traffic issues, particularly intersection at St. Philip and Calhoun, is problematic. Drivers are disobeying the turn rules and not coming to complete stop in addition to going over speed limit and other issues. There was a suggestion to talk to the City and to our Safety office about the problem.
- A question was asked about status of cost of living and merit increases. The President answered that he is unsure if cost of living increases due to the retirement restructuring. He stated he will be discussing merit increases with the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55
Recorded by Cheryl Wingert