

AGENDA

Date: August 10th, 2021

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

Teams: [Digital Meeting Materials](#)

FREE SPEECH: "Observations on the Pandemic and Shared Governance at Clemson University.", Dr. Danny Weathers

ATTACHED

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Faculty Senate Meeting Tuesday, July 13th, 2021

APPROVED

2. SPECIAL ORDERS

3. REPORT

- a. Robert H. Jones, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Provost Jones gave a report commending those on their hard work throughout the summer and pandemic and fielded questions in regard to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and protocols.

b. Standing Committees

1. Finance and Infrastructure Committee; Chair Andrew Brown
No Report
2. Policy Committee; Chair Lauren Duffy
PCR 202104 **APPROVED BY MAJORITY;** Attached
PCR 202105 **APPROVED BY MAJORITY;** Attached
3. Research and Scholarship Committee; Chair Brian Powell
No Report.
4. Scholastic Policies Committee; Chair Lindsay Shuller-Nickles
No Report.
5. Welfare Committee; Chair Andrew Pyle
No Report.
6. Clemson Experimental Forest Committee; Chair Betty Baldwin

c. University Committees/Commissions

1. Committee on Committees; Chair Mary Beth Kurz
No Report.

2. Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees; Brian Powell
No Report.

3. President's Report

ATTACHED

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. NEW BUSINESS

1. Grievance Board Vacancy: Juan Carlos Melgar

APPROVED by majority

2. Special Election: Faculty Senate Secretary

i Dave Blakesley

ii **Hugo Sanabria**

TELLERS REPORT	
VOTES CAST	21
VOTES CAST FOR SENATOR SANABRIA	20
VOTES CAST FOR SENATOR BLAKESLEY	1

3. Joint Senate Resolution 202101 Clemson University COVID-19 Response for
Fall 2021 Semester

Senator Pyle moved

Senator Duffy seconded

TELLERS REPORT	
VOTES CAST	25
VOTES IN FAVOR	23
VOTES OPPOSED	2

Vernon Yea

Melgar Yea

Strickland: Nay

Blakesley: Yea

Laurence: Yea

Li-Bleuel: Yea

Baldwin: Yea

Duffy: Yea

Kemper: Yea

Pyle: Yea

Turner: Yea

Ohara: Yea

Scheinbaum: Nay

Sridharan: Yea

Shuller-Nickles: Yea

Lao: Yea

Gao: Not Present

Mefford: Yea

Powell: Yea

Ravichandran: Yea

Wang: Yea

Brown: Yea

Poznanovikj: Yea

Sanabria: Yea

Sears: Yea

Whitehead: Yea

ADJOURN

Krista Oldham

Krista Oldham (Sep 8, 2021 08:12 CDT)

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Pronouns: She, her, hers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Convention of the Delegates Meeting: Thursday, August 12, 2021, 3:00pm
2. Faculty Senate Advisory Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 2:30 p.m.
3. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 2:30 p.m.
4. Faculty Senate Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Standing Agenda Item 202104: Global Engagement Committee

The Policy Committee has considered this matter under the charge of general university policy review and faculty participation in university governance and submits this report for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

Background

A request was submitted in November 2020 by Gloria Freeman, Executive Assistant in the Office of the Associate Provost for Global Engagement, to the Committee on Committees to add three non-voting members to the Council on Global Engagement: a staff member appointed by the Dean of Students; the Senior Director for Global Engagement and the Director of English Language Program. The chair of the Committee on Committees forwarded the request to the Faculty Senate for consideration.

Discussion and Findings

The Policy Committee discussed the current scope and membership of the Council on Global Engagement (Ch IX, G2):

G. Council on Global Engagement

1. Responsibilities

- a. Coordinates information and recommends to the Associate Provost for Global Engagement policies and plans for:
 - i. Global engagement programming (such as study abroad, as well as internship, co-op, and service learning opportunities);
 - ii. International Student and Scholar Services;
 - iii. Other activities and opportunities related to the comprehensive internationalization of the campus.
- b. The elected faculty members on the committee serve as the curriculum committee for International Studies (IS) and are thereby authorized to develop and review proposals for IS courses and curricula, and submit them to either the University's Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Committee (as appropriate) for approval.
- c. Subcommittees are chartered by the Council as needed; each of these subcommittees will have at least one member selected from the voting membership of the Council.

- d. The Council on Global Engagement shall meet at least twice per academic year.
2. Membership
- a. One regular faculty member elected from each college and Library elected by the faculty accorded voting rights in each college and Library shall serve staggered two-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms;
 - b. One undergraduate student nominated by the Undergraduate Student Senate President and appointed by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies serve a renewable one-year term;
 - c. One graduate student nominated by the President of the Graduate Student Government and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School serves a renewable one-year term;
 - d. One faculty or staff representative appointed by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies serves a renewable one-year term;
 - e. A faculty or staff representative appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School serves a renewable one-year term;
 - f. A staff representative appointed by the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management serves a renewable one-year term.
 - g. Non-voting members
 - i. The Director of Clemson Abroad;
 - ii. The Director of the Office of International Services;
 - iii. One staff member appointed by the Dean of Students.

After feedback from the Associate Provost for Global Engagement, the Policy Committee recommends this change to Ch IX, G2g instead:

Non-voting members **shall be appointed by the Associate Provost for Global Engagement for renewable one-year terms**

- ~~i. The Director of Clemson Abroad;~~
- ~~ii. The Director of the Office of International Services;~~
- ~~iii. One staff member appointed by the Dean of Students.~~

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Faculty Senate Policy Committee recommends that Ch IX, G2g be amended to provide more flexibility for the addition of non-voting members.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Standing Agenda Item 202105: Summer Reading Advisory Committee

The Policy Committee has considered this matter under the charge of general university policy review and faculty participation in university governance and submits this report for consideration by the Faculty Senate.

Background

A request was submitted in March 2021 by Dr. John D. Griffin, Senior Associate Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Studies, to consider removing the Summer Reading Advisory Committee from the *Faculty Manual*. Specifically, the request was articulated as follows:

The Freshman Summer Reading Program has been discontinued and therefore, the Summer Reading Advisory Committee is no longer needed. Therefore, I respectfully request and recommend that the Summer Reading Advisory Committee be removed from the Faculty Manual.

Discussion and Findings

The Policy Committee discussed the authorizing body for the Freshman Summer Reading Program and concluded that it is not the Faculty Senate. The Summer Reading Advisory Committee was documented in the *Faculty Manual* consistent with the practice that standing committees related to faculty prerogatives of peer evaluation (appointment, tenure and promotion), curriculum, and admissions be documented in the *Faculty Manual*.

The Freshman Summer Reading Program has been discontinued. Therefore, the Policy Committee agreed that the removal of the Summer Reading Advisory Committee from the *Faculty Manual* is appropriate.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Discussion was closed with a motion to create a report of the committee's position with recommendations to:

1. Propose a resolution to delete *Faculty Manual* Chapter IX§H6.
2. Pass with immediate inclusion into the *Faculty Manual*.

The motion passed with majority in favor.

Good afternoon.

I will keep my comments brief and begin by thanking our committees and their respective chair for the hard work they have already put in. I look forward to hearing the findings and recommendations that you are developing. Please note that time can move fast, so please continue your efforts in earnest.

I realize that we are still operating in times of uncertainty, with much to be determined for what takes place in the fall. Please note, that the Senate has been engaged in these discussions and will continue to provide our feedback and guidance as plans are made.

Finally, I want to encourage all faculty to reach out to their lead senators. The Senate Advisory committee is an extremely valuable resource to better understand the issues that are effecting our faculty throughout the University.

With that, I conclude my report.



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

JOINT SENATE RESOLUTION 202101

Senate Consideration: August 10, 2021

Topic: “Clemson University COVID-19 Delta Response for the fall 2021 semester”

Whereas, Clemson University makes provisions for faculty and staff participation in planning, policymaking, and decision-making with regard to academic matters; and

Whereas, the University also provides for such participation in matters of welfare and general university concern; and

Whereas, the Clemson University Administration recently announced “Fall 2021 Operations Overview and Health Guidelines” in the August 4, 2021 OURClemson message to the University community, that provided information regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies including vaccinations, testing, mask and face covering, and physical distancing; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) current guidance indicates that “getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Unvaccinated people should get vaccinated and continue masking until they are fully vaccinated. With the Delta variant, this is more urgent than ever”; and

Whereas, the CDC recommends that institutions of higher education where not everyone is fully vaccinated implement “a robust, frequent SARS-CoV-2 screening testing program with high participation from the unvaccinated campus population” along with prevention strategies that reduce community spread including: offering and promoting vaccination, consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing, contact tracing, testing, and maintaining healthy operations and environments; and

Whereas, the CDC currently reports that 96% of the counties in South Carolina and 72.5% of counties nationwide have a “high” level of community transmission; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) reports the Upstate’s (Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, and Greenville Counties) two-week cumulative incident rate of COVID-19 is 300 cases per 100,000 people and rising with 94 deaths over the past 30 days; and

Whereas, the SCDHEC reports almost 78% utilization of hospital inpatient beds for reporting hospitals with roughly 54% over the past month identified as Delta variant; and

1 **Whereas**, the SCDHEC recommends “all South Carolinians, including those who are fully
2 vaccinated, wear their masks when indoors and in public settings in areas with substantial
3 and high transmission.”; it is therefore

4 **Resolved**, that the Faculty and Staff Senates stand by the administration in its efforts to
5 protect the faculty, staff, students, and community from the effects of a pandemic that
6 could threaten the long-term health of not only the people in and around Clemson
7 University, but also the institution itself; and it is

8 **Resolved**; that the Faculty and Staff Senates of Clemson University, are in support of the
9 Clemson University plan to implement a robust, frequent COVID-19 screening and testing
10 program along with additional prevention strategies that reduce community spread,
11 including encouraging vaccination and physical distancing; and it is

12 **Resolved**, Clemson University is a high seminary of learning, where decisions should be
13 made based on the best available science; and it is

14 **Resolved**, that the Faculty and Staff Senates of Clemson University urge the administration
15 to have everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a facemask in all institution
16 facilities for as long as it is recommended by the CDC and SCDHEC.

Hi. I'm Danny Weathers, a professor in the Marketing Department. I had the honor of presiding over what I believe was the last in-person Senate meeting in early 2020. With Senate again meeting in person, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some observations, for whatever they're worth, on the state of shared governance at Clemson in light of COVID. From a shared governance standpoint, what do Canisius College, Keuka College, Medaille College, Illinois Wesleyan, Marian University, the University of Akron, Wittenberg University, and Clemson University have in common? Ponder that for a couple of minutes.

I had the opportunity to understand and begin to address the challenges COVID created for shared governance, then I was able to sit back and enjoy the show as John and many of you did the heavy lifting. So my observations come with the caveat that you insiders may see things differently. As we began to realize the impact of COVID, there were two major concerns from a shared governance perspective. First, would Senate be able to continue functioning? Before I began my term as Senate President, I read an article on Faculty Senates dissolving for various reasons at universities around the country. I had never considered this possibility, and, mostly in jest, I set as a goal not to allow Senate to dissolve on my watch. I networked with Senate leaders at schools around the state. (Thompson, if you haven't already done so, this is a good resource.) In email exchanges, I learned that Senates at other schools either did not have the technology to meet remotely, or their Senate rules did not allow for remote meetings or voting. In essence, these Senates dissolved at a time when the faculty voice was critical. Whether through good fortune or foresight or probably some of both, we had the technology and rules to keep Senate functioning, with only the Senate transition delayed by a month.

Second, with the large number of complex decisions that needed to be made quickly, would administration engage with faculty through Senate and other bodies and, relatedly, would administration abide by the Faculty Manual and other established policies? To the credit of our administrators, the answer to both these questions was "yes." Although a shared governance model was often not the most efficient way to make decisions, administrators recognized the value of engaging faculty and following established policies and procedures. While the decisions that were made were perhaps not always what faculty, as a whole, may

have wanted, we had a seat at the table and administrators who listened to our collective voice.

If ever there was a stress-test for shared governance, the past 18 months was it. As I see it, we passed the test. While I can't quantify our score, I go back to my initial question. From a shared governance standpoint, Clemson has nothing in common with the schools I mentioned, which is good, as they were all investigated by the AAUP and profiled in Inside Higher Ed as schools that experienced a significant erosion of shared governance due to COVID. You can look up the details online. I also call your attention to a large scale survey conducted by the AAUP on COVID's effects on shared governance. You can find the results online and decide for yourself how we stack up. In my view, the answer is "quite favorably."

Why did we pass the stress test? For one, we have a strong Faculty Senate office staff that keeps us organized. This is important. We also have administrators who are willing to engage with faculty. And we have these first two things because we have Senators and delegates who take their roles seriously. Without this, there's no reason for administrators to listen or to have a strong Senate office.

I want to leave you with this. There are many other ways you could be spending your time – research, teaching, family, and there's some great programming on Netflix. You're not getting paid, and you're likely not getting adequate credit for the time you devote to Senate. So the question becomes, "Does it matter?" The past 18 months, to me, has demonstrated that the answer to that question is a resounding "yes, it does matter." It matters because you make it matter, through doing a great job. For that, I want to thank you and encourage you to keep up the great work. I wish everyone a good year, and thank you for listening.






20210810 FS Minutes Oldham

Final Audit Report

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