Dear Faculty,

As you approach the beginning of a new fiscal year, I hope you will strongly consider election to the Faculty Senate, whether you have just arrived to MUSC or are a long-term, tenured faculty member. Our elections will be held in late summer, with terms beginning in October.

Those who have represented you this year have done a fine job in my assessment, but we always need new Senators to invigorate the overall body. As you consider running for election, I also urge you to think carefully about the ways you think MUSC could best be improved. Write these ways down as a list, and bring this list with you after you are elected to the Senate.

If you’re not elected, send your list to your colleagues who are. Because it’s possible for any group to grow short-sighted, our elections are an opportunity for you to shift the direction and re-invigorate our conversations. In the Senate as elsewhere, issues and goals need champions. The best things that come out of the Senate’s labors begin something like this: “MUSC ought to…”

Since the current Senate took office in October, I hope the views that you hold about MUSC and its directions have been properly accounted for, discussed, and represented within the various ways the Senate has been working. This year, among other causes, we have been active in saying “MUSC ought to…”

- improve communications about potential changes to compensation,
- air concerns about and promote dialogue on the University’s online education initiatives,
- commit to the University’s strategic planning for diversity,
- develop revisions to the Faculty Handbook that will make it more user friendly and accurate,
- open discussions about ways to improve faculty retention and morale,
- stand up for academic freedom in state institutions, and
- educate others about the over-hasty attempt at an institutional merger with the College of Charleston.

Your vocal participation in all these efforts has been needed…and that need persists.
All of us work in many ways and over long hours to improve our various parts of MUSC and make what impact we can in education, research, and clinical care. Given the variety of controversies which surface in any given year, it's worth remembering that the controversial is noteworthy and grabs the spotlight because it stands opposed to our core, more lasting, and higher motivations.

As always, please contact me if you have questions about the Senate or believe a cause to be worthy of increased attention.

Tom

Tom G. Smith, PhD
Professor and Faculty Senate President

If you are interested in submitting an article for consideration in an upcoming edition of the newsletter, please complete the online submission form on the Faculty website at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/faculty_senate/. Please submit forms to flemid@musc.edu.

Name________________________________________________________________________________
College_____________________________________________________________________________
Department___________________________________________________________________________
Position______________________________________________________________________________
Title _________________________________________________________________________________

Abstract/contribution (500 words or less)

There is no conflict of interest with publication of this information and the Faculty Senate Communication Committee has permission to publish the attached information.

Electronic signature________________________________________________Date_________________

The Following Town Halls were sponsored by the MUSC Faculty Senate and the MUSC Online Advisory Council in April.

2. April 24, 2014 “Online Education-The Faculty Perspective”

To view the recorded sessions visit the Faculty Senate website at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/faculty_senate/.
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**MUSC Faculty Senate Resolution on H. 4632 MUSC/College of Charleston Merger Legislation**

Before embarking on the costly and complex process of merging these long established and widely respected South Carolina institutions, all relevant constituencies must first have the opportunity to consider the merits or otherwise of a merger. The Faculty Senate of the Medical University of South Carolina therefore opposes the current legislation before the South Carolina General Assembly (H.4632) that would merge MUSC with the College of Charleston.

**Bill H.4632** was introduced in the SC House of Representatives on February 6, 2014 that proposed a merger of MUSC with the College of Charleston. The bill is likely to not be voted upon this year (the legislative session ends in June).

**MUSC academic freedom resolution (adopted March 11, 2014)**

The MUSC Faculty Senate unequivocally defends the vital concept of academic freedom. This freedom and the occasional controversies it can cause are fundamental to the pursuit of truth and knowledge in all disciplines. Further, securing and perpetuating this freedom is a key obligation and commitment of accrediting bodies, governing boards, institutions, faculties, students, and the general public. Recent legislative efforts to reduce the funding of two state institutions of higher education for curricular decisions are a threat to academic freedom at all academic institutions. We urge elected officials not to restrict, through funding legislation or otherwise, free academic inquiry.

The SC Senate proposed cuts to the College of Charleston and University of South Carolina due to a Freshman summer reading program that included books that discussed homosexuality. On Wednesday, 4/30/2014 the Senate budget writers voted to restore the $70,000 in state money to College of Charleston and University of South Carolina. However, Sen. Mike Fair (R-Greenville) sponsored an amendment that will restore the House’s cut and this amendment will be voted on again.

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The Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee inclusive of MUSC-University, MUHA and MUSC-Physicians hosted an inaugural retreat on Wednesday, April 15, 2014. The purpose of this committee is to create an academic healthcare community where every member is respected and valued by leveraging differences in ways that allow people to understand and be understood, and work together productively to change what’s possible. The Faculty Senate nominated senators to each of the 5 working groups. Those nominees include:

1. **Recruitment and Pipeline Development:** Cheryl P. Lynch, COM-CS, Vanessa Diaz, COM-CS, Ira Willner, COM-CS
2. **Education and Training:** Keri Holmes-Maybank, COM-CS, Dennis Watson, COM-CS, Cristina López, CON and COM-CS
3. **Metrics and Outcomes:** Dave Morrisette, CHP, Craig Velozo, CHP
4. **Engagement and Inclusion:** Catherine O. Durham, CON, Kristi Helke, COM-BS
5. **Communications/Community Outreach:** Monique Hill, DLSI, Lee Marie Tormos, COM-CS

To learn more about the diversity and inclusion initiatives at MUSC, visit “The CORNER” video at [http://academicdepartments.musc.employees/corner/4-16-14-diversity.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.employees/corner/4-16-14-diversity.htm), or [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/catalyst/archives/2014/3-21letter.htm](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/catalyst/archives/2014/3-21letter.htm).
The Faculty Senate congratulates our colleague David Cole, M.D., MUSC President-designate, current President of MUSC-P, and current Chair of the Department of Surgery. The Board of Trustees offered him the presidency during a special meeting on April 17.

The Faculty Senate is pleased that Dr. Cole readily accepted our invitation to discuss the institution’s future at our May meeting. We look forward to a productive and frank dialogue in May, followed in the coming years by a positive and highly productive collaboration with Dr. Cole that will invigorate our faculty and advance the institution.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 7:45 a.m. in Gazes Auditorium

**Calendar of Events**

May 1 through July 31, 2014

**Apple Tree Society**

New events added regularly. Please see the following calendar for coming events and additional details:

[http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/appletree/calendar](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/appletree/calendar)

**South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Institute**

SCTR Scientific Retreat on Pain Research

5/23/14 9:00 am – 3:00 pm BEB Auditorium

New events added regularly. Please see the following website for coming events and additional details:[https://sctr.musc.edu](https://sctr.musc.edu)

**Tools for Mentors & Mentees Workshop Series**

Negotiation Skills

5/21/14 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm Location TBD

New events scheduled intermittently. Please see the following website for coming events and additional details: [https://sctr.musc.edu/index.php/education/tools-for-mentees-and-mentors](https://sctr.musc.edu/index.php/education/tools-for-mentees-and-mentors)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

Promotion and Tenure Workshop sponsored by the MUSC Faculty Senate Thursday, October 23, 2014 Noon-1 p.m. Bioengineering Building Room 110.
College of Medicine - Basic Science Electoral Unit
The College of Medicine's ARROWS (advancement, recruitment and retention of women in science) Program, funded by an NSF ADVANCE grant, has established two new programs for women scientists - the External Grant Review Program and the Short-Term Teleconferencing Program. More information can be found at http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/arrowinitiative/arrows/index.htm.

College of Graduate Studies Electoral Unit
Organized Ernest E. Just Symposium held Feb 28, 2014 with 350 undergraduate and faculty registrants primarily from historically underrepresented minority institutions for the purpose of showcasing programs in all MUSC colleges.

College of Dental Medicine Electoral Unit
Give Kids a Smile Day, held on Friday, February 28, 2014 at the JBECDM, helped 75 children in need and provided over $30,000 in treatment. Approximately 100 volunteer dentists, students, hygienists and staff participated.

College of Health Professions Electoral Unit
- Health Professions- Health Care Management, 29th
- Health Professions- Nursing Anesthesia, 26th
- Health Professions- Occupational Therapy, 21st
- Health Professions- Physical Therapy, 51st
- Health Professions- Physician Assistant, 25th

College of Nursing Electoral Unit
Beginning in the fall, the College of Nursing will launch their new online Accelerated/3 Year PhD program.

College of Pharmacy Electoral Unit
Assistant Professor Nicole Bohm was named the Developing Teacher for MUSC and Assistant Professor Kristy Brittain was named Educator-Lecturer for MUSC. Both will receive their awards at Faculty Convocation in August. A total of 48 South Carolina College of Pharmacy graduating students matched with residency programs, a record number for the College. This also puts the College above the national average of students successfully seeking residency for the fifth straight year.

Department of Library Sciences and Informatics Electoral Unit
In January 2014, the Department of Library Science & Informatics welcomed Shannon Jones, MLS, M.Ed. to the department as the Assistant Director for Program Development and Resource Integration. Shannon comes to us from Virginia Commonwealth University’s Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences where she served as the Associate Director for Research and Education. Shannon is looking forward to working with faculty and students to ensure that they have positive experiences navigating the library’s resources whether virtually or at the library.