

Minutes for the Meeting of the Committee of Nine – October 14, 2020  
Submitted by Stacie Davenport

Mark Cooper, Chair of the Faculty Senate, chaired the meeting. The meeting began at 12:30am.

Members Present:

Prof. Mark Cooper  
Prof. Gloria Boutte  
Prof. Tena Crews  
Dr. Heather Heckman  
Prof. Coretta Jenerette  
Prof. Marco Valtorta  
Prof. Thomas Vogt

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:

Tayloe Harding  
Joe Sobieralski  
Mark Bieger

EAB:

David Attis

Professor Cooper opened the meeting.

The minutes from the October 5<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/faculty_senate/committees/committee_of_9/index.php)

Following the approval of the minutes, Professor Cooper reminded the Committee of 9 that two weeks are remaining before Mr. Attis will submit his report to Committee of Nine. The Committee must use its remaining time to gain the necessary confidence with the information that will be shared. Professor Cooper then turned the meeting over to David Attis.

Mr. Attis continued his discussion on staffing data and cost saving opportunities.

Much of the discussion focused on class sizes, appropriateness of comparisons to peer institutions, and possible ways to effectuate cost savings.

A period of discussion and questions and answers followed.

Over the course of the discussion, factors mentioned for consideration included:

- Validity of Comparison to other institutions
- Course loads and class size variation between the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Balancing savings and investments in the short and long term.

Additional discussion highlighted that the report submitted by Mr. Attis may be a topic at the Board of Trustees meeting in November. Knowing that, any report to the Trustees at that time will need to recognize that the Committee of Nine and the Gang of Six will almost certainly have remaining work to complete prior to final recommendations being conveyed to the President and the Board, including likely discussion with Deans, Chairs, and Directors. Dr. Cooper committed to working with leadership to ensure a process respectful of necessary input from campus stakeholders.

Mr. Attis asked everyone to please continue to consider the topics discussed during the meeting and email him with any comments or suggestions.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 and the discussion will be on Restructuring.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:38pm.