

## REMARKS

### GENERAL FACULTY MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2013 BROOKS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, THEATRE

**Kelly Smith, Faculty Senate President** – “First, I’d like to congratulate all of today’s award winners on their recognition. But more importantly, on behalf of the entire Clemson faculty, I’d like to thank each of you for the many years of service to Clemson that these awards honor.

There is someone else here today who has done truly exceptional service to Clemson, and that’s our departing President, Jim Barker. When he first took office and announced Clemson would achieve top 20 standing, I heard a lot of skeptical comments in the halls (partly because I can hear myself talk). But I and many other doubters have been amazed at how successful we have been in achieving national prominence under his leadership. And he accomplished this while maintaining a steadfast commitment to shared governance on campus, which is now a key element of the Clemson community. Jim, you will be missed. But the administration’s loss is the faculty’s gain, so it’s not all bad.

So, we have come a long way, but I am here to tell you that you ain’t seen nothing yet. I guarantee that, five years from now, Clemson will be a fundamentally different place in critical ways. The only problem is that we don’t know what those changes will look like. Such uncertainty creates opportunity and excitement as well as danger and anxiety. But rest assured that your faculty senate will be there every step of the way, making sure the voice of the faculty is always heard, no matter how annoying or inconvenient it can sometimes be.

Our new president, who I have taken to calling “New Jim” will be here to usher in the spring semester and I have high hopes that he will be every bit as effective as our previous Jim was (note that I take care to avoid “old Jim”). Now I know that faculty were very frustrated with the way the presidential search was conducted. Believe me when I say that I fully share your concerns. However, there are two things I would like to say about this. First, as someone who was at the table, I can honestly say that the Board does truly care about faculty input, even if they sometimes have a funny way of showing it. Second, to borrow a policy from previous Jim, I think we should all adopt a “no whining” policy. This search, however flawed in conception, looks to have been quite successful. It is thus in all of our interests to concentrate on helping our new president lead Clemson effectively. That being said, know that I will be working closely with the Board of Trustees to try to devise a search process for future presidential hires which is more inclusive of faculty.

And change just keeps coming: early in the Spring, we will begin the search for a permanent provost. New Jim assures me that this process will be very open and that, (quote) no candidate will be hired if they do not have the support of the faculty (end quote). You should all begin thinking about faculty who would be good people to involve in this search.

Other initiatives your senate is involved in include reorganization of the University structure to include the new school of education (and perhaps other changes), developing a strategic plan for the long term role of online education, and trying to prioritize and motivate improvements in our amazing new computer system, which of late has replaced parking as the most popular topic of complaint on campus.

So let me end by inviting any and all feedback you care to offer, on these issues or whatever is on your mind. You can direct that to my personal email ([kcs@clemson.edu](mailto:kcs@clemson.edu)) or to the faculty senate email ([facsen@clemson.edu](mailto:facsen@clemson.edu)) and we will make sure it gets a hearing.

Happy Holidays”