Presentation to the Faculty

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Arts and Sciences
Candidate for Dean
University of South Alabama

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Thanks to the College, Committee, and Faculty
Plan

1. Arts and Sciences
2. Dean’s Role
3. My Career
4. Research, Teaching, and Service
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Disclaimer and Thanks

- I am not competing with Andrzej Wierzbicki.
- My career at USA thus far has been very rewarding.
- Thanks to President Moulton, VPAA Johnson, Joe Busta, students, the members of the committee, and you for this consideration.
- Written presentations differ from live presentations.

Go to Academic Affairs, read the documents stored there to get a more full picture of both candidates.
Arts and Sciences

- Liberal arts and sciences form the core set of values for any school.
- Thus our College is the soul of the institution.
- We teach students how to learn.
- Faculty are our most important resource.
More specifically, we teach students how to assimilate facts and synthesize knowledge, and we develop them to recognize the values in the sciences and humanities so that they are prepared to be life long learners.
Faculty who are engaged in fundamental research, who are impassioned teachers, and who recognize the strength and humanity of our students are best equipped to help us develop our most important product: well-educated graduates.
Students

• Students are not customers.
• Nor are they our most important asset.
• The institution is judged by the quality of our graduates.
• The College’s role is central in student development.
• We are ultimately responsible for the quality of our students because we ignite their interests in academic subjects.
Our Service Role

• Medical Arts
  • Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Humanities

• Business
  • Math, Stats, Sociology, Psychology, Foreign Languages, Art, History

• Engineering and Computer Science
  • Math and Science, Art, Humanities

• Education
  • Qualified teachers have content knowledge.
Dean’s Role

• The Dean
  • leads by example
  • does not dictate
  • depends on the faculty to develop directions and innovations
  • listens

• The Dean’s office
  • has as its primary purpose to serve the needs of the faculty and students.
  • is the principal advocate for the ideals of a liberal arts education.
  • promotes the quality and depth of teaching and research within the college.
Dean’s Role

• The Dean
  • is the principal advocate for the faculty,
  • addresses the needs of faculty,
  • promotes fundamental research and quality teaching,
  • allocates (and competes for) resources for productive faculty,
  • and communicates to the faculty other institutional priorities.
Development

- Lecture series
- Expand graduate programs
- Reassigned time
- Promote inter-collegial and intra-collegial discussions
My Career

• B.S. Summa Cum Laude, ΦBK, ΦΚΦ University of Georgia, 1978
• Ph.D. Mathematics, Yale University, 1982
• Post-doctoral experience University of Texas, Austin, Lake Forest College, Wayne State University
• Assistant Prof. USA 1989
• Dept. Chair since Jan. 2003
• Author or coauthor of 4 books
• Author or coauthor on over 55 research articles
Accomplishments as Chair

• Experimented with hybrid courses in the pre-calculus sequences
• Recruited 12 new faculty in a department of size 27
• 6 faculty in Math/Stat hold NSF grants
• 8 faculty in Math/Stat were awarded VPIP money (via ARRA) in Fall 2009
• Faculty publish in high level research journals
Accomplishments as Chair

- Faculty citations per author are at or above those of our peers at UA and AU.
- Enrollments have grown from below 2400 per semester to roughly 3000 this fall.
- For 10 years we have hosted the highly successful Mobile Math Circle an outreach program to interested high school students.
- Increased the number of students graduating with a math/stat major or double major.
Research, Teaching, and Service

- Why engage in research?
- How to be effective teachers?
- What are our service roles?
Why Research?

- Fun
- Self-promotion
- Enhances our ability to teach
Effective Teaching

- breadth and depth of knowledge
- good measurements
- compassion for students
- communication skills
- encourage written work on the part of the student
- develop esprit de corps among members of the class
Teaching and Research

- mutually supportive activities
- “Think deeply of simple things.” (motto of the Ross Mathematics program.)
- There are good Xs who are not good Ys
- breadth and depth of knowledge
Service

- How can the college be better?
- Are you willing to work towards such goals?
- Can you work towards your goals and respect others who have competing goals?
- How are your goals focused on the common cause of promoting education and research?
- How can the Dean’s office help you?
- When the water rises, we all fill the sandbags.
Technology

1. Stone age teacher
2. How have computers and the internet affected research?
3. How can they affect teaching?
   - e-mail (good and bad)
   - Wikipedia — FUBU
   - open access books and journals
   - blogs
   - course blogs (?)
   - library
Summary

“Consciousness evolves though human effort to which both the arts and sciences contribute.”
The university adds value to the experience of an engaged learner. Also, it can motivate the unengaged to become so. It does so with the efforts of dedicated faculty. I am asking the faculty to let me become your servant so that you can better serve the goals of the arts and sciences: to promote the evolution of consciousness and of course conscientiousness. Thank you.