

USC Speaks

What do you think of Dr. Palms' decision to consider running for Strom Thurmond's U.S. Senate seat?



"I don't really have a reaction. If that's what he wants to do, then it's his life."

RYAN O'TOOLE
First-year Engineering

"He's done a lot for this university. However, if he were to win a Senate seat, USC may get some clout in Washington."

DUKE TAYLOR
Fourth-year Journalism

"Since he has put us on track to enter the AAU, then he should stay until we are at least started in the AAU."

RACHEL ONLEY
Fourth-year Liberal Arts

"Honestly, I don't think he'll make it. He'll have to run against some strong candidates."

JAMIE MONOGAN
Second-year Liberal Arts

"He has done a lot for the university, and if he leaves, he'll be missed."

DEREK PACK
Third-year Engineering

PALMS

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that every seat could thrust you into the majority."

Another potential candidate, state Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, said she would not run for the seat. She made her decision after meeting with senators Tuesday.

"I became convinced that this was not a race I wanted to get into," she said.

Palms would bring the Democrats the star power and fund-raising capabilities they will need to defeat the likely GOP candidate, U.S. Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who earned recognition for his role as an impeachment manager during the Senate trial of former president Bill Clinton.

However, experts say there are downsides to a Palms nomination.

"People have this stereotypical view of academics, that they are out of touch with the real world," College of Charleston political science professor Bill Moore said.

Others say, despite the risk, Palms might

be the Democrats' best chance of capturing a seat that has remained in GOP hands for almost 50 years.

Grove City (Pa.) College professor Charles Dunn, formerly of Clemson University, said Democrats don't have "a ghost of a chance" of winning Thurmond's seat "unless they can come up with an unusual candidate who connects."

"This is a high-risk venture for the Democrats and John Palms. But it's worth the risk," Dunn said. "Democrats can't win it any other way."

Graham, the only GOP candidate to announce a bid for the Senate, has his party's blessing and will likely run unopposed.

The same isn't true for Palms. Darla Moore, named one of the 50 most-powerful women in business by *Fortune* magazine, was being heavily recruited by the Democrats but has said she won't run. However, several state Democrats are mulling a bid. Former U.S. Ambassador to Britain Phil Lader, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, Greenville businessman Hayne Hipp, state Sen. Tom Moore of Clearwater and Department of Public Safety Director Boykin Rose are among those who

have been mentioned as potential candidates.

Graham spokesman Kevin Bishop said Graham was concentrating on his bid for the GOP nomination and wouldn't comment on Palms' announcement.

The 65-year-old Palms was born in the Netherlands and is a naturalized American citizen. He has spent most of his life in the academic sector.

Palms' ties to South Carolina stretch back to his college days when he attended The Citadel in Charleston.

Before coming to USC, he held jobs at Emory and Georgia State University, where he was also president.

Palms has led USC through a series of turbulent events, including the aftermath of former President James Holdeman's resignation and the current budget crisis, which could slash the university's budget between 10 and 15 percent.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Write the university desk at gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

TRUSTEES

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ideas for our state and our future have challenged and inspired me."

The reaction among trustees was mixed.

"I personally hate to see him run for Senate," said Arthur Bahnmuller, who admitted he didn't want Palms to run for "selfish" reasons.

"I think John Palms has done a wonderful job as president of the university," Bahnmuller said.

However, Bahnmuller said that if Palms made a bid for the seat, Palms would have to leave USC.

"If he runs, he has to resign," Bahnmuller said.

Some trustees worried about the political ramifications of Palms' announcement, especially because the president will have to persuade a GOP-controlled General Assembly to spare USC from deep budget cuts.

"I believe that the timing is a little unfortunate coming as it does in the middle of the budget crisis," said trustee William Hubbard, whose term as chairman of the

board ended last fall.

"I've actually heard from legislators expressing their concern about it," Hubbard said.

Like Bahnmuller, Hubbard said he believed Palms would have to step down if he decided to pursue Thurmond's seat. He said Palms would likely need to do so soon after May 1 instead of waiting until January.

"I don't see how he could run a campaign and devote his full attention to the university," Hubbard said.

Hubbard also said a leave of absence might make it difficult for USC to maintain its momentum. He said it wouldn't be in the best interests of the university to have someone "keeping the chair warm."

Another trustee, Michael Mungo, said political damage has been done.

"Regardless of what he does now, he's been branded a Democrat, and that's going to hurt ... when you have a majority of Republicans in the State House," Mungo told *The State*.

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DROP DATE

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SG has said some classes don't meet before the drop date, but the committee said most classes meet before the deadline.

"The vast majority of the classes are scheduled to meet either two or three times during the first week of class," Reeves wrote. "Course syllabi and other course information are increasingly available online."

According to Reeves' letter, the drop-date proposal could cost the university money when USC is facing budget cuts. It might allow students to sign up for courses "with less intention of keeping them than before" the change.

"If so, University instructional capacity would be wasted, and other students blocked from adding courses that they really want and need could require more time at an additional expense to complete their program of study," Reeves wrote.

Hornick said she had checked with the university bursar, however, who assured that if the proposal didn't change the university's refund date, it wouldn't change USC's financial policy or standing.

In a written statement, Hornick criticized the committee's conclusions.

"Their first point was that 'virtually all' classes meet before the current drop period," Hornick wrote. "'Virtually all' does not include all and thus does not give every student a fair advantage."

"The fact is that while several syllabi are online, the majority of syllabi are not," Hornick wrote.

She mentioned the disparity between USC's five-day drop period and the average AAU period of more than 14 days.

"As this University strives to join the AAU, I am shocked that this committee would not be willing to take this simple step closer to other AAU institutions," Hornick wrote.

Eddy said the defeat of the proposal didn't color her memories of an otherwise successful term in office. She said she was optimistic that USC would eventually extend the drop date.

"It may not happen this year, it may not happen two years from now, but I think USC will see an extended drop date in the future," she said.

The university desk can be reached at gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

Panelists discuss record, legacy of George Wallace

BY MARUXA RELANO
THE GAMECOCK

The history department held a panel discussion about George Wallace with the makers of an award-winning documentary on the controversial politician Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell House Theater.

The film, *George Wallace: Setting the Woods on Fire*, was shown prior to the discussion.

Wallace, notorious for being a segregation advocate during the civil rights movement in Alabama, was a four-time governor of Alabama and ran for the U.S. presidency four times.

The panel was comprised of co-producer Dan Maccabe, co-director Paul Stekler and USC history professor Dan Carter. The documentary is partially based on Carter's book, *The Politics of Rage*.

In making the film, Maccabe and Stekler agreed they didn't want just to record the sequence of political

events the life of George Wallace precipitated, but also to show the real man behind the action. To do this, they interviewed everyone they could find who had something to do with Wallace, including his children.

During the discussion, an audience member asked whether *Setting the Woods on Fire* was too sympathetic towards Wallace.

Maccabe replied, "if this film leans in one direction, it is in being generous to George Wallace."

But Stekler said that in later years Wallace was elected governor with considerable help from African-American voters, who responded to his change of heart and believed in him.

He said that when Wallace died, many members of the African-American community came out "dressed in their Sunday best" to see his casket.

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