

January 23, 2001

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The fifth regular meeting of the Faculty Senate convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Trisha Folds-Bennett presiding. Forty-nine senators attended. The Minutes of the previous meeting (November 28) were approved as circulated, with one correction, to be made in this sentence on p. 3: “The Speaker concluded her report by noting that one of the nicest aspects of the AAUP conference had been that several of our own Trustees had attended.” In fact, these trustees were from other institutions, not The College of Charleston.

Reports

The Provost

Andy Abrams began by saying that the current budget crunch was a little like Hurricane Hugo. Even though it seems quite far away right now, it really is coming, and it’s going to hit. The last set of budget figures for the month of February will determine the final size of the cuts that will have to be made in accordance with the 15% across-the-board reduction mandated by the State. It’s not that South Carolina is in a recession; it’s that the State has been a victim of its own success. It has taken *surplus* dollars (unlike the College) and treated them as recurring budget items, not one-of-a-kind expenditures. There will still be a budget surplus this year, but it will be a good deal smaller than anticipated, and hence the budget crunch – rather like a huge “Ponzi” scheme, adding up to a shortfall of five hundred million dollars. Secondary education (K through grade 12) has been exempted from these cuts, and an attempt has been made to get higher education exempted, too, but it now appears this is unlikely. We *will* be facing cuts. The Legislature, however, is not necessarily in agreement with a 15% across-the-board reduction. But the danger is that this may provide them with an opportunity to wade in and eliminate programs they don’t like.

As far as the College is concerned, we may be able to get the cuts down to single digits. We will absolutely *not lay off any roster faculty*. Trident Tech *may*, as a recent newspaper interview suggested, but *we won’t*. People come first at The College of Charleston. “I don’t care,” Mr. Abrams insisted, “*what* USC, for example, is doing – *we* have got where we are because of people, who come first at this institution, and we will continue to do what we do best.” Every indication now is that the “crunch” will turn into a budget adjustment – not a budget disaster – and the State will be healthy again next year. The President has accepted this, and so have the Board of Trustees. We are not going to axe personnel and programs. To allow this to happen on account of a one-year blip caused by fiscal anomalies in Columbia would make no sense. There *may* be some limited growth in class size, but that is not our intention if we can help it. Some of our revenue shortfall can be made up by accepting more students from out of state – out of state applications are up 13% – since they bring in more tuition dollars, and we can increase our revenues by small general increases in tuition as well. And there may be other ways

of increasing revenues, such as upping the enrollment at the North Area campus. But our basic commitment to undergraduate liberal arts education will not change. Raising money by going in for “Distance Education” is not the answer, either. What we *can* do, is defer some projects for the time being, as another way of holding down expenditures now (*not* the Library, which is fully funded). The academic side of our house now receives, and will continue to receive, more than its share of funds available to the institution as a whole. Judge Sanders has even said he will forego his sabbatical to save money! We are also looking at ways to cut travel expenses, particularly Administrative travel.

When the smoke clears, the College should be in at least as good a position at the end of the next academic year as it will be at the end of this. We are *not* going to lose faculty, either through attrition or because we become less attractive to able teachers and scholars. What the President *will* do, is to allow the Division of Academic Affairs, for the first time, to carry forward money left over at the end of this fiscal year into the next, rather than having it revert to the state at the end of the budget year; other divisions of the College will not be allowed to do so. The good part is that monies that have been “lost” that way in the past, won’t be this time around. The basic fact is that there has been sound and conservative fiscal management at The College of Charleston for many years, and this is going to pay off in the present crunch. The College, he concluded quietly, will be fine.

David Hall asked if it will be hard to replace faculty who are on leave. The answer: we will be replacing some through adjuncts. Originally, the President put in place a hiring freeze – but replacement hires will, in general, be permitted, and will be handled at the department level. Existing “lines” will definitely remain.

The Provost received an enthusiastic round of applause for his report.

Dean Lindstrom

William Lindstrom discussed current enrollment at the College, noting that the FTE count has gone down slightly, from 9606 last year, to 9570. Applications, however, appear to be going up, though these numbers are obviously a “moving target.” As of January 7, the number of applicants for admission to the College appears to be going up steadily, when measured against figures obtained at the same time in previous years, rising from 4485 in 1999, to 4888 in 2000-2001, to 5587 for next fall. The Office of Enrollment Management has been given its marching orders, with three specific targets for the fall of 2001. First, there should be no growth in the size of the student body. Second, we should work for a continuing improvement in the quality of our students. With applications on the rise, we are now in a position to be more selective; the result is that test scores are going up steadily as well. Third, the President and the Trustees have called for a substantial increase in minority admissions, with the goal of attracting at least 200 more students in this category for the fall of 2001. All in all, the enrollment picture is encouraging, to say the least. One especially bright spot is that the retention rate for provisional students is now virtually the same as that for students regularly admitted. This is a significant achievement.

The Speaker

Trisha Folds-Bennett then reported on the activities of the Presidential Search Committee, whose membership is as follows:

Mr. Joel E. Smith: Chair of the Committee, and of the Board of Trustees
 Dr. John Clark: Board of Trustees
 Mr. Timothy Dangerfield: Board of Trustees
 Mrs. Marie Land: Board of Trustees
 Mr. F. Creighton McMaster: Board of Trustees
 Mr. Lawrence O. Thompson: Board of Trustees
 Dr. Deanna Caveny: Faculty
 Dr. Trisha Folds-Bennett: Faculty
 Dr. Hugh Wilder: Faculty
 Mr. Frederick Daniels: Administration
 Dr. Conrad Festa: Administration
 Dr. James B. Edwards: Alumnus
 Ms. Kelly Lindsay: Student
 Mr. Theodore S. Stern: Member At Large

The Search Committee, she said, had met twice, and had agreed on the requirements for the position. The published job description had been very carefully devised:

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of the College of Charleston invites nominations and applications for the position of president. The search is prompted by the resignation of Alexander M. Sanders, Jr., who will leave office on October 1, 2001, after a highly successful eight-year term as president.

Founded in 1770 as the first municipal college in America, the College has been part of the higher education system of South Carolina since 1970. Fifty undergraduate programs are offered to 9,800 undergraduates from 50 states and 72 countries. The College has a long history of, and commitment to, a strong liberal arts and sciences tradition with an emphasis on undergraduate teaching. Students have the opportunity to participate in study abroad programs around the world, and the College maintains campuses in Spain and France. Graduate education includes offerings in 16 fields to approximately 2,000 students. Additional information about the College is available at www.cofc.edu .

A successful capital campaign has recently been completed. The College is

engaged in a major building program which will provide students and faculty with state-of-the-art facilities for its library and for its programs in the fine arts, sciences, and business.

The College is seeking an individual of integrity and enthusiasm to lead its effort to become a nationally preeminent public liberal arts and sciences institution. The individual selected must be able to articulate effectively this vision and, through fiscal and administrative skills, translate this vision into action. He or she will have accomplishments that earn the respect of the academic community and significant leadership experience. The President of the College must be an advocate who can work successfully within complex educational, political, and social environments.

The Presidential Search Committee will begin reviewing nominations and applications immediately and will continue until the position is filled. To insure full consideration, materials should be received no later than March 1, 2001. Confidentiality will be maintained until finalists have been named and references will not be contacted until the applicant is notified. The candidate's materials, including a cover letter and the names and telephone numbers of three references, should be sent to Mr. Fred Daniels, Senior Vice President for Executive Administration, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424.

The College of Charleston is an equal opportunity employer.

Hugh Wilder then spoke about the process itself, and the schedule for applications and interviews. He thought the search committee was representative of the various "constituencies" of the College, and well-balanced. Moreover, the entire membership seemed committed to a genuinely open, fair, and *national* search. Accordingly, letters have been sent out to many college presidents around the country soliciting nominations. The Chair, Mr. Joel Smith, had repeatedly emphasized the need for openness and fairness in the selection process. The first meeting had been largely spent in working out a time-table, and the second with looking at some actual nominations. March 1 has been set as a deadline for applications for the position. The Search Committee hoped to have a list of ten to fifteen semi-finalists by the middle of that month, with three to five finalists being asked to the campus for interviews in early May. A major concern now is to widen the pool of applicants, and the faculty could help by nominating worthy candidates. There would be a chance for finalists to visit the campus, though this may be awkward if it occurs during the exam period or after the end of the semester. But for now, Mr. Wilder said, he had genuine confidence in the selection process.

Deanna Caveny agreed, and said that much thought and effort had been put into asking college presidents around the country for nominations. The main problem is the timetable, which requires that a candidate be chosen in time to take over from President Sanders in the fall. Mr. Smith and the Board of Trustees are also working on the salary that can be offered. They hope to be able to go to the top of the available salary range, rather than working from the middle, which

is what the State seems to expect. In conclusion, she hoped that faculty would e-mail her with questions for the candidates, and send in names of nominees – and also stay around a little longer than usual in May, after the conclusion of the academic year, to meet the finalists.

During a brief discussion, David Gentry asked whether the schedule would really allow enough time for a new president to take up the office in October. Trisha Folds-Bennett replied that Ted Stern had been a great help here. Mr. Stern said that in his experience six months was a good “lead-time” to expect between the end of the applications process and the beginning of an actual appointment., and this is provided for with the March 1 application deadline. One senator asked who had applied so far, and the answer was that this had to remain strictly confidential until the finalists were announced. The timing was not, in fact, ideal, but the Board had been very sympathetic to the idea of candidates visiting the campus at a time when at least some faculty were likely to be at hand. Originally, the finalists were to have come in July, not May.

New Business

Lynn Cherry then introduced a series of motions on behalf of the Curriculum Committee:

COMM 221 -- Intercultural Communication - New Course (3 hrs.)
 COMM 222 -- Small Group Communication - New Course (3)
 COMM 320 -- Advanced Interpersonal Comm. - New Course (3)
 PHYS 110 -- Conceptual Physics - New Course Proposal (3) *[see correction below]*
 HTMT 353 -- Hospitality Sales & Negotiation - New Course (3)

Minor in Hospitality and Tourism -- New Program

POLS 333 -- Politics of Contemporary Brazil - New Course (3)
 SOCY 350 -- Sociology of Music - New Course (3)
 SOCY 345 -- Social Policy - New Course (3)

PHYS -- Change in the B.S. degree
 PHYS -- Change in the B.A. degree

PHYS 101 -- Change in Course Title and Description
 PHYS 102 -- Change in Course Title and Description
 PHYS 105 -- Change in Course Description
 PHYS 201 -- Change in Course Title and Description
 PHYS 202 -- Change in Course Title and Description
 PHYS 298 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 301 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 306 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 308 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 320 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 330 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 370 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 390 -- Change in Course Prerequisites

PHYS 403 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 409 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 419 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 420 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 456 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 457 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 458 -- Change in Course Prerequisites
 PHYS 499 -- Change in Course Prerequisites

[For Information Only -- Special Topics Courses:

CHEM 583 -- ST: Introduction to Modeling in Chemistry
 POLS 359 -- ST: Liberal Political Theory
 POLS 359 -- ST: Law in Film, Literature, and Legal Theory
 GEOL 290 -- ST: Subsurface Mapping Techniques
 PHYS 412 -- ST: Gamma-Ray Bursts]

These courses passed, without change.. *[Secretary's note: after the meeting, a typographical error was pointed out in the second sentence of the Catalogue Description of PHYS 110 (Conceptual Physics), which should be corrected as follows: "The course uses a carefully structured questioning pattern and investigative laboratory activities that help [not "helps"] students develop new explanations and mental models." This correction has been made in the copy sent to the Registrar.]*

Rohn England, for the Committee on Graduate Education, introduced two motions, which were approved with no changes:

Accounting and Legal Studies: Change in Degree Requirements

Hispanic Studies–Bilingual Legal Interpreting Program – New Course:
 INTR 511 Spanish in the United States (3hrs.)

William Moore then introduced a motion in two parts, originating with the Student Government Association, about the use of cell-phones on campus and in the library. After a good deal of discussion, Caroline Hunt moved to divide the question; this was approved by a vote of 34 to 14, on a show of hands. The first motion was then amended and passed:

“That it be required that all audible cell phones and pagers be turned off, with the exception of emergency workers and EMT, upon entering classrooms on campus.”

The second motion, about using such devices inside the library, proved impossible to clarify after forty-five minutes of discussion, and was remanded to the Library Committee.

Constituents' Concerns & Adjournment

The problem of computer viruses, and the idea of making faculty evaluations available to students, each received brief mention. The Faculty Welfare Committee was working on the latter with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned shortly before 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt
Faculty Secretary

2000-2001 Senate Meetings :
September 5, October 3, October 31, November 28;
January 23, February 13, March 13, April 3 (second part, April 17)
Faculty Meetings: September 11, 2000; April 23, 2001