

September 5, 2000

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The first regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston for the academic year 2000-2001 convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Trisha Folds-Bennett presiding. Fifty-two senators attended. The Minutes of the previous meeting (first session, April 4, 2000; second session, April 18) were approved as circulated.

Reports

The Speaker

The Speaker welcomed the senate for the start of the new academic year, and announced that she would not give a formal report but proceed immediately to the rest of the agenda.

New Business

The Speaker began by reappointing George Pothering as Parliamentarian, and then called for the election of the Speaker of the Faculty *pro tempore*. Hugh Wilder was nominated and elected.

Mr. Wilder then introduced a **Resolution** which, he explained, had three main purposes: first, to thank President Sanders for being genuinely responsive to the concerns of the faculty in the important matter of appointing a new Provost; second, to congratulate Andy Abrams, who would succeed Dr. Festa at the end of the fall semester; and third, to express the faculty's hope that a full national search would be undertaken to fill this position at the conclusion of Mr. Abrams' two year term. The College, Mr. Wilder said, is now in the happy position of being able to attract a very strong applicant pool for such an appointment, and he thought that going on record now about the desirability of a national search would provide an important message for whoever succeeded Judge Sanders as the next President of the College.

Beverly Diamond, in response to a suggestion made by one of her constituents, proposed as a friendly amendment changing "expecting" to "encouraging" in the last sentence; this was accepted by Mr. Wilder. Anthony Leclerc then moved to divide the resolution into three separate paragraphs; this passed, on a voice vote. Dr. Festa commented, with an evident sense of relief, that the change in wording was an excellent idea, and made the resolution much more acceptable. The senate, he said, should be very wary of moving into an area of clearly *Administrative* "prerogative." We certainly would not want to jeopardize good relations with the next President by appearing to give instructions on how senior appointments are to be made.

David Mann thought the resolution was “bizarre” because it appeared to be giving away power on the one hand, and then trying to snatch it back some years down the road. Richard Nunan said that ratifying this resolution might very well raise some hackles, but the faculty have a positive *duty* to express their opinions, on matters of central concern to the College, in an *advisory* capacity. He then called for a secret ballot, which was approved unanimously. In the event, the Resolution passed, as amended, by a written vote of 37 to 14, with one abstention:

The members of the Faculty Senate hereby express our appreciation for President Alex Sanders' recent termination of the search for Provost and for his appointment of Andy Abrams as Provost for a two-year term. We appreciate the President's willingness to reconsider his plans for the search and [thank him] for his attentiveness to faculty concerns about the process.

We congratulate Mr. Abrams on his appointment as Provost and look forward to working with him in that capacity during this interim period. We also appreciate President Sanders' statement that his appointment of Mr. Abrams to a two-year term does not imply any limitation on the new President to have a Provost of his or her own choosing.

While understanding that the President is responsible for appointing the Provost, we wish to be on record now, as members of the Faculty Senate, as favoring and [~~expecting~~ *deleted*; *added* encouraging] the next President to initiate a full national search, with substantial faculty involvement, to fill the position of Provost at the completion of Mr. Abrams' term.

(At the conclusion of the discussion, and while the ballots were being counted, William Moore asked the Provost why, just out of curiosity, he had decided to step down at midyear? Dr. Festa said that his regime had been *so* free of controversy, that he thought he should generate some.)

The Speaker then spoke of the search for the next President of the College, and of how faculty members should be chosen to serve on the search committee (though it was not yet clear, she said, how many faculty representatives would be on it, or when it would start meeting). The Committee on Nominations and Elections would nominate, and the senate would elect, these representatives. We might have to have a Special Called Meeting for this purpose, and to discuss the whole issue. Hugh Wilder said that he had been very impressed last year with Mr. Joel

Smith's address to the faculty, as head of the Board of Trustees, about "strategic planning." Why not invite him to meet with us now? Mr. Wilder was, however, very concerned with the problem of timing, and he hoped that the search committee would not be set up or start work before the senate could make some of its concerns known. This would be an argument for inviting him to a special meeting, rather than waiting until the regular meeting in October. The Secretary commented that the regular October 3 meeting would probably be in plenty of time; there was no need, he thought, to hold a special meeting before then.

Mr. Wilder then proposed the following motion, which passed on a voice vote:

That the Speaker of the Faculty shall request a meeting of the Faculty Senate with Mr. Joel Smith, and any other members of the Board of Trustees who might wish to attend, to discuss the Presidential search. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide Mr. Smith and other Board members, if they consider it appropriate, with an opportunity to review plans for the search with faculty Senators, and to give Senators an opportunity to discuss concerns such as faculty representation on the search committee with members of the Board. The Speaker will consult with Mr. Smith about the timing of the Board's plans for establishing a Presidential search committee, and then invite him and other Board members to attend either a special called meeting of the Faculty Senate or the regular meeting on October 3.

Constituents' Concerns & Adjournment

Phil Dustan asked why the College never seems to get Labor Day off, even though it is a recognized national holiday. Partly, it was suggested, this is because of instituting a "fall break" in the academic calendar, in parallel with the spring semester. William Moore commented that his memory at the College went back twenty-eight years, well before there had been any fall break, and Labor Day had never been a holiday at the College of Charleston. His best guess was that this had originally had to do with "anti-union" politics.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt
Faculty Secretary

2000-2001 Senate Meetings :
September 5, October 3, October 31, November 28;
January 16, February 13, March 13, April 3 (sec. session, April 17)
Faculty Meetings: September 11, 2000; April 23, 2001