

February 12, 2002

## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The sixth regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston for the academic year 2001-2002 convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Hugh Wilder presiding. Forty senators attended. The Minutes of the previous meeting (January 22) were approved as circulated.

### Reports

#### The Vice-President for Enrollment Management

William Lindstrom presented a detailed report on the problems and prospects of student retention at the College, with statistics about our performance over the past decade. He divided the subject into several categories, including freshmen retention in general, African-American freshmen, transfer students, and four-, five-, and six-year graduation rates, and then added comparable statistics from other institutions such as Clemson, USC-Columbia, UGA-Athens, UNC-Chapel Hill, William & Mary, Duke, Notre Dame, UT-Knoxville, and Wake Forest. Several senators questioned the value of comparing our retention rates with those at large, "Category 1" research institutions. William Olejniczak asked for information about students placed on probation; about half of these do not return, Mr. Lindstrom said. While it seems that we are not doing too badly overall, there is clearly room for improvement, and President Higdon intends to make student retention a high priority. Accordingly, four "Action Retention Teams" have been formed to study various groups and make recommendations. One team is concerned with Freshmen (chaired by Mindy Miley) and others with Special Populations (Skip Godow), Transfer Students (Lynne Cherry), and Upperclassmen (Denny Ciganovic). Retention, Mr. Lindstrom concluded, is a *general* problem, affected by many different factors, that seem to vary with different student "populations."

#### The Speaker

The Speaker reported that the response to the President's "Fourth Century Initiative" has been overwhelmingly positive. He expects and will welcome comments and questions, and plans to address the Senate again at the April meeting. The key-note speaker for the first Convocation, set for August 19, will be Professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson, well-known author, political commentator, Dean of the Annenberg School of Communication, and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. All faculty will be invited, and all students entering the College for the first time. . Quite soon faculty will be asked for suggestions about possibly integrating her writings, or the topics raised in them, with courses aimed at entering students. This might provide a valuable follow-up to the Convocation in the days after the ceremony itself. Laura Hines asked if there would be a chance for graduate students to participate. Mr. Wilder said that this issue had not been formally raised yet, as far as he was

aware, but since the Convocation speaker would be on campus for three days there should be a good chance of interaction with graduate students.

### **New Business**

For the Graduate Education Committee, Renee Tursi moved the passage of a new graduate course, which was approved without change, on a voice vote:

**New Course:** EDFS 686, Special Topics in Education.

Doug Friedman introduced thirteen items of business from the Curriculum Committee, approved at their meeting of January 25, 2002. These were approved without change, including three new courses (PEHD 252, EDFS 425, PSYC 350). A Special Topics course on the Cuban Revolution (LACS/POLS 339) was presented for information.

#### Passed:

1. S02-01 PEHD 252 Outdoor Education - **New Course**
2. S02-02 EDFS - Program Changes summary
3. S02-03 EDFS - Changes in degree requirements
4. S02-04 EDFS 345 - course change
5. S02-05 EDFS 411 - course change
6. S02-06 EDFS 412 - course change
7. S02-07 EDFS 413 - course change
8. S02-08 EDFS 422 - course change
9. S02-09 EDFS 427 - course change
10. S02-10 EDFS 425 Teaching Reading and Language Arts to Students with Disabilities - **New Course**
11. S02-11 PSYC 350 Psychology of Gender - **New Course**
12. S02-12 POLS - Changes to the requirements for a minor in Political Science
13. S02-13 SPAN - Changes in the requirements for a minor in Hispanic Studies

#### For Information:

14. S02-14 LACS 300/POLS 339 ST: Cuban Revolution

15. An additional item, involving guidelines for Special Topics courses, which had been returned to committee at the previous meeting, passed unanimously in its revised form:

NEW GUIDELINES for the Use of Special Topics Courses:

Major and Minor Departments should utilize Special Topics courses with discretion. Before the third offering of a particular topic within a period of five years, it must be submitted as a new course for the approval of the Faculty Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate and, when approved, be published in the Bulletin under its own title and number. When Special Topics courses are interdepartmental in character or subject, formal consultation with “interested”

Departments is expected. *[Secretary's note: The foregoing language is derived, in slightly modified form, from the Minutes of the Faculty Senate, November 29, 1994, p. 2. The additional guidelines follow in bold.]* **The Registrar's Office will monitor the frequency of Special Topics courses. Special Topics courses having been taught two times within four years will be reported by the Registrar as such to Department chairs. Special Topics courses offered three times within five years will be reported by the Registrar to Department chairs and the Speaker of the Faculty Senate.**

In the brief discussion, Scott Peeples asked if there would be another level of enforcement, after the departmental Chairs and the Speaker of the Faculty. Frank Kinard suggested that we need another category of "Not-So-Special Topics Courses." Robert Mignone wanted to know if this policy had been approved by the Administration; the answer was no, because it was only a guideline approved by the Senate, but not part of the Manual or Bulletin.

### **Constituents' Concerns**

Mary Beth Heston asked if even small curricular changes, like a change in the prerequisites for a course, had to be formally approved by the Faculty Curriculum Committee and then the Senate, and the answer was yes.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned shortly after six o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt  
Faculty Secretary

**Spring 2002 Senate Meetings**  
**(Tuesdays at 5:00 o'clock in ECTR 116):**  
**January 22, February 12, March 12, April 2 (cont. April 16 if needed)**

**Spring Faculty Meeting:**  
**(Monday at 5:00 o'clock in Physicians' Memorial Auditorium)**  
**April 22, 2002**