

October 2, 2001

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The second 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, October 2, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Hugh Wilder presiding. Forty-eight senators attended. The Minutes of the previous meeting (September 4) were approved, with one correction suggested by Mr. Wilder: the last sentence of the third paragraph on p. 2 should end with the words, “benefits for adjuncts, and support for sabbatical leaves” [eliminating the reference to sabbaticals for “professional administrators”].

Reports

The Provost

Andy Abrams spoke briefly on two issues: the academic “culture” of the College, and prospects for the budget. He announced that President Higdon, as part of an ongoing effort to improve the academic climate of the campus, has decided to begin fall semesters with a Convocation, to be held immediately before classes start. All new students will be invited, and the ceremony will feature a major outside speaker, and the faculty in academic regalia. Mr. Higdon had asked the Speaker to work together with interested faculty on the details of this event; the administration would of course provide the funding. Mr. Abrams also reported that no less than *forty-seven* new faculty lines would be requested for next year, together with a substantial number of additional “support” lines. Because it appeared highly doubtful, at least at the moment, that the College would receive additional money from the State of South Carolina next year, this would probably mean that a significant increase in tuition would be needed to fund the requested lines.

The Vice-President for Enrollment Management

William Lindstrom reported that in most categories, enrollment is up slightly compared with last year. The total headcount has gone up by 3%, from 11,203 in 2000, to 11,540 this fall. The FTE figure has increased by 2.2%, from 9566.5 to 9783.3. Graduate enrollment is up 4.7% (headcount) and 10.7% (FTE). The average SAT score of entering freshmen has increased from 1159 to 1163, while the number of new freshmen has gone down very slightly, from 1858 to 1843, or about 0.8%. The goal of adding 300 Black students has been met, with 342 new students being enrolled, raising the percentage of Black students on campus to 9%.

As for next year: “marching orders” have already been received from President Higdon. First, there is to be absolutely *no* increase in total undergraduate enrollment. (Some increase in the size of graduate programs, however, is desirable, especially since graduate classes meet after 4:00 p.m. or in the North area, and the students do not, for the most part, affect the local neighborhoods, or the housing or parking situations.) Second, we should aim at a further increase in the SAT scores of our entering students. Third, we must continue to build on the momentum

established this year in increasing diversity in the student body, in particular by increasing the percentage of African American students.

It may become steadily more difficult, Mr. Lindstrom said, to raise our SAT scores, which are already well above the figures for most other institutions in our state. In fact, we are now competing for the most able students with Clemson, Chapel Hill, and the University of Georgia. These are all classified as research institutions, and thus able to pay much higher salaries to obtain the desirable faculty that able students are seeking out. To succeed here will require extra effort from the academic departments themselves in emphasizing our academic strengths and the desirability of our programs.

[Note: The complete enrollment statistics shown by Mr. Lindstrom on the overhead projector are attached to the Secretary's copy of the Minutes.]

The Speaker

Mr. Wilder reported that the President Higdon would like to see a Convocation Committee established as soon as possible, with substantial faculty input. The quickest way to do this, the Speaker said, would be to by-pass the usual senate procedure of directing the Committee on Nominations and Elections to produce a slate of nominees. Instead, we should ask the President simply to appoint an *ad hoc* committee, drawing informally on the advice of the faculty about its membership. After a short discussion, this seemed acceptable, and the Speaker said he would see to it.

Mr. Wilder then brought up several matters of concern, including the widely-hailed cancellation of the managed travel contract. This, he said, had come about partly because the faculty had clearly voiced their objections – and it was nice to know that our voices were being heard! He understood that Marie Fitzwilliam and the Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics was looking at the general academic climate of the campus, and in particular, into the question of the many crammed and unsightly bulletin boards scattered around the campus; they were receiving help from Jeri Cabot in the Office of Student Affairs.

He mentioned some of the safety concerns at the Bell Building, including emergency access and the signs near elevators and in the stairwells. All the safety codes relating to the capacity of the building had in fact been met, but some signs would be replace, and better door-handles put in. The asbestos problem, he thought, had been taken care of during a previous renovation of the building some years ago, and it should be safe in this regard. Better access to the building for students with handicaps was being worked on by Bobbi Lindstrom, with help from Richard Krantz at the Office of Public Safety. Someone mentioned that the signs at the main entrances to the Bell Building were not very satisfactory either, and Mr. Wilder said he would pass this on.

After a period of relative dormancy, The South Carolina Council of Chairs will again spring into action this year. Jack Parson and Robert Mignone, who had represented the College in the past, would accompany Mr. Wilder and Trisha Folds-Bennett to this year's meeting.

Discussion was continuing on the new grading system, with several questions still unanswered. What was its scope? Do the changes apply to undergraduates only, or will they involve the graduate grading system, too? It was fairly clear, Mr. Wilder said, that the changes endorsed by the senate were intended to apply just to the undergraduate curriculum, since the graduate programs had their own, different grading scheme already. Beverly Diamond suggested, however, that we should send the new policy to the Graduate Council and see if they want to think about this question.. In addition, there were still concerns about the “fairness” issue, connected with the new grade-point equivalencies. A number of questions obviously remained about implementation. Gary Asleson, chair of the Academic Standards Committee, had recently had a productive meeting with members of the administration, and would be surveying other schools who had changed grading policies to see what their experience had been.

It now looked as though gradual implementation was probably not the best way to go about such a change, and if this is the case, what date should be set for an all-at-once implementation? August, 2006 had been mentioned. The fairness issue, Mr. Wilder said, is clearly related to the problem of implementation, and senators should think about this over the next few weeks. Susan Kattwinkel asked where the full text of the recommendation passed by the senate could be found, and the answer was, in the Minutes of the March, 2001 meeting. Caroline Hunt asked if an earlier date for full implementation had been considered? The answer was, yes; it could be accomplished in two or three years. The new grading system could be in place by August, 2004. Tom Kunkle added that he still thought there were problems with the “numbers” being proposed, and he wondered whether faculty would really be free not to use the new system, if they had objections; he doubted, in fact, that this would be possible.

Finally, Mr. Wilder said that he had received two weighty documents, one a detailed report on Fall 2001 Admissions, and the other an Interim Report on the September 2001 NCAA Division I Athletics Certification. These could be examined at leisure in the Faculty Secretariat in Maybank Hall, if any senator should so desire.

New Business

Doug Friedman introduced a series of motions on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, which they had approved at a meeting on August 23. These were voted on as a single item, and passed without change, as follows:

1. F01-02 Hispanic Studies Department - Change in requirements and New Curriculum
2. F01-03 SPAN 324 Spanish Civilization and Culture - Delete
3. F01-04 SPAN 325 Spanish American Civilization and Culture - Delete
4. F01-05 SPAN 312 Spanish as a Heritage Language **New Course**
5. F01-06 SPAN 322 Civilization and Culture of Spain I - **New Course**
6. F01-07 SPAN 323 Civilization and Culture of Spain II - **New Course**
7. F01-08a SPAN 326 Latin American Civilization and Culture I - **New Course**
8. F01-08 SPAN 327 Latin American Civilization and Culture II - **New Course**
9. F01-09 SPAN 344 Advanced Grammar and Lexicon - **New Course**

10. F01-10 SPAN 443 Morphology and Syntax - **New Course**
11. F01-11 SPAN 448 Spanish Sociolinguistic - **New Course**
12. F01-12 SPAN 453 Don Quixote de la Mancha - **New Course**
13. F01-13 SPAN 457 Early Colonial Spanish -American Texts - **New Course**
14. F01-14 SPAN 458 Contemporary Hispanic-Caribbean Theater - **New Course**
15. F01-15 SPAN 474 Contemporary Spanish Theater - **New Course**

Susan Kattwinkel asked if the reading the upper level Spanish courses was in Spanish, and the answer was, yes.

Reid Wiseman then introduced a motion to establish a recycling committee, as formulated by Jim Bastian, Acting Chair of the ad hoc Recycling Committee. The motion was seconded, and Mr. Bastian gave a brief history of recycling at the College:

C of C became interested in recycling in 1991, at which time a recycling coordinator was hired. However, this program was not adequately supported and the director left to start a program at MUSC. No one was hired to fill this position on our campus. Vestiges of that early effort are still in place to a small degree, and include campus recycling of paper and aluminum. No other materials are currently being recycled on campus.

Given what we know about environmental issues, it is difficult to sustain a rationale against recycling as this campus has done for ten years. Over the past ten years the amounts of materials we recycle have actually been steadily declining, rather than increasing as most modern institutions would want. This decline began to be reversed when the recycling committee was formed a year ago to address this problem. Since then the recycling committee has taken some beginning steps to bring the campus more in line with more modern thinking about recycling, as a necessary means to reduce landfill space, slow global warming, and reduce our consumption of many materials. This campus - with over 15,000 people - generates huge amounts of waste, most of which we pay to have hauled off. The cost of hauling off this waste amounts to several hundred thousand dollars per year. The committee estimates that up to 60 % of this waste - and its corresponding haul off fees - could be eliminated if we were to become more environmentally responsible by having a professional recycling program on campus.

Given that our current campus thinking about recycling is woefully ineffective and out of date, this committee hopes to continue to work towards having a professional recycling program on campus, and thereby reduce our waste, better educate our students about responsible environmental interaction, and become a better neighbor in Charleston.

The first order of business for this committee is recycling. Naming the committee as a committee on environmental responsibility will allow the role of the committee to expand into other related areas such as campus sustainability, green building, responsible use of resources on campus, and a host of other environmental concerns that we are currently faced with.

After a brief discussion, the motion was passed, with one amendment suggested by Faye Steuer, as follows:

To establish as a permanent standing committee, the "Committee on Recycling and Environmental Responsibility" which will be designated as a college committee, at the level of the President's Committee on Diversity and Multicultural Issues, as found on page 25, section II, H - 1, the Faculty Administration Manual.

Purpose:

To foster awareness of campus environmental issues.

To advocate for and encourage an effective and responsible recycling program.

To educate the campus community regarding environmental issues which directly impact our community.

To create a network wherein the campus community is kept abreast of campus policies on recycling.

To research current environmental trends and programs - especially with regard to recycling - from which our campus may benefit.

To assess plans, policies, and programs with regard to campus environmental and recycling issues and to make recommendations to appropriate college offices and officers.

Membership:

This is an advisory committee with members to be appointed by the President, after consultation with the Recycling Coordinator, the Director of the MES Program, and the Director of the Undergraduate Environmental Studies Minor. Members will include at least 1 student selected by SGA, 1 student selected by Alliance for Planet Earth, 1 graduate student, 2 staff

members, 5 faculty members [*as amended by Faye Steuer; the original motion called for four, not five, faculty*] and representatives from Residence Life, Physical Plant, and the campus food services.

[Secretary's note: this amendment was not reported correctly in the "Highlights" sent out the day after the meeting.]

Jeremy Browning then introduced a motion calling on the Trustees to give financial support to the "Worker's Rights Consortium." This was devised by two students, Matthew Brown and Anthony Panarese, and a third student, Kate Reuter, was also present to lend support. Considerable discussion ensued. A number of senators felt that not enough was known about the Worker's Rights Consortium for the senate to endorse the proposal. Tom Kunkle introduced a friendly amendment, which was eventually accepted, limiting financial support to "a trial period of one year." After further discussion, Frank Kinard called for a division of the house, and the amended motion passed by a vote of 32 to 4, on a show of hands. Here is the full text of the letter circulated to the senate:

Motion for October 2 meeting:

Dear Faculty Senate:

As members of the College of Charleston, we believe the administration should take a proactive stance of awareness pertaining to the conditions in which clothing, bearing our school's insignia, are made under. In order to facilitate this desire, we have proposed to the Board of Trustees at the College of Charleston to adopt the following policy: at a fee of \$1000.00 per year, (depending on the growth of the College) the College sign on **[amendment: for a trial period of one year]** to the Worker's Rights Consortium. The WRC is an independent watchdog organization that monitors the conditions of the factories in which our school apparel is made, and reports its findings to the institution.

We are asking for the support of the Faculty Senate on this matter both collectively and individually. As representatives of the College and its mission statement, it is imperative that we, the student body and faculty alike, strive to improve the rights of working people, by fighting to insure that they are treated as individuals and not commodities. In hopes of proving the legitimacy of the WRC we have, listed below, the website in which each member of the faculty, if so desired, can read and understand what exactly this organization represents.

Sincerely,

Matt Brown and Anthony Panarese

www.workersrights.org

This matter will be officially decided upon on the 15th of October.

Constituents' Concerns & Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt
Faculty Secretary