

Minutes of the Faculty Senate April 2003

The eighth regular meeting of the 2002-2003 Faculty Senate convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in Room 116 of the Education Center (ECTR). Fifty-one Senators attended.

Speaker Hugh Wilder called the meeting to order. The minutes for the March meeting were approved after Bob Mignone requested that a correction be inserted.

Reports

The Speaker

Mr. Wilder began by noting that this was the last Senate meeting in this academic year. Accordingly, he thanked those who have assisted him in running the meetings: Deb Vaughn, who has managed the Senate website, reduced the paper the Senate has had to use for its meetings, and cheerfully served as the projectionist at every Senate meeting. (Ms. Vaughn was at this moment projecting an agenda the Secretary had provided her, one whose date, 1 April, was correct but which contained several questionable items.¹ The Speaker ignored this agenda and followed the one previously published.) The Speaker also thanked Trisha Folds-Bennett for serving as Parliamentarian, Julia Eichelberger for serving as Faculty Secretary, and Ms. Bertie Mack of the Faculty Secretariat for her cheerful and efficient service, which this year including learning to convert documents into suitable format for the Senate website. He also thanked all faculty for re-electing him as Speaker, and said he was looking forward to continuing the privilege of serving for the following year.

The Speaker urged faculty to attend the upcoming Commencement ceremonies, noting that our presence at these events will be important to our students and their families, as will the post-commencement receptions that each department will host. Turning to the fall, Mr. Wilder encouraged faculty to study and consider using the Convocation book *Mapping Human History*, which will be mailed to all incoming students this summer. The author, Steve Olson, will speak at Convocation on the 25th of August.

¹ Questionable items in this April 1 document were as follows:

3. Reports

Office of Media and Technology:

Report on Faculty Senate Reality TV Project

4. New Business

Graduate Committee

Proposals for New Graduate Courses:

AMST 501 – Pranks in American Culture

ENGL 501 – The Poetics of Faculty Minutes

POLS 501 – Quibbling in Faculty Governance, 1990-2000

Committee on Nominations and Elections

Ad Hoc Committee on Ad Hoc Committee Proliferation

Senator Mark Lazzaro

Motion to endorse proposal from student organization “Axis of Evil”

Mr. Wilder reminded faculty that all campus-wide committee terms begin 15 August. It is the responsibility of the outgoing committee to complete any outstanding work during the summer. The outgoing committee chair is also responsible for convening the new committee to elect its new officers.

Faculty Educational Technology Committee

The Speaker then recognized Brenton LeMesurier, who presented the following “draft in progress” to the Senate for information. He explained that a version of this document will be presented to the Senate next year for its approval. It will also be subject to approval by the College’s legal counsel.

Procedures for Investigative Contact by Law Enforcement Involving Information Technology

- Faculty and Staff

The College of Charleston embraces the concept of academic freedom and the value of the free exchange of ideas, whether expressed through electronic or non-electronic communications. Members of the College community have the same rights of privacy as other citizens and surrender none of those rights by becoming South Carolina state employees, or members of the academic community.

1. It is the policy of the College of Charleston to require a properly executed subpoena, search warrant or other court order for all computer, electronic information, or network-related information requests by law enforcement agencies.
2. A person contacted by a representative from a law enforcement organization that is conducting an investigation of an alleged violation involving computing and networking resources must immediately inform the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (953-5527) and the College Legal Counsel (953-5502). The Vice President for Academic Affairs will then contact the appropriate department chair, or director for assistance in gathering the requested information.
3. If you are the first point of contact with an investigative agent who is delivering a subpoena, search warrant, or other court order, ask the agent for permission to contact the College Counsel to assist you with reviewing the paperwork. Contact the College Counsel immediately for assistance. If an agent with a search warrant or court order refuses to wait before executing the instructions detailed therein, contact the College Counsel, but do not inhibit the progress of investigation.

New Business

Nomination of a slate for 2003-04 Committee on Nominations & Elections

The Speaker announced that nominations for next year’s committee remained open until April 11th. Nominations should be sent to the Speaker.

Election of Standing Senate Committees and Bookstore Advisory Council

David Gentry, chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, proceeded with Senate committee elections. The following committees were elected by acclamation. Mr. Gentry also moved that the slate for a new administrative committee, the Bookstore Advisory Council, be elected by acclamation.

Academic Planning Committee (seven faculty, at least four senators):

Cozart, Angela (EDFS)
Donato, Henry (Chemistry, SEN)
Friedman, Douglas (Political Science)
Kattwinkel, Susan (Theatre, SEN)
Morrison, Shawn (French, SEN)
Olejniczak, Bill (History)
Ward, Trish (English, SEN)

Budget Committee (seven faculty, at least four senators):

Beam, Charles (Chemistry, SEN)
Cossa, Frank (Art History)
Elshazly, Talaat (Accounting)
Martinez-Gibson, Elizabeth (Hispanic Studies, SEN)
McCandless, Peter (History, SEN)
Perlmutter, Martin (Philosophy/Religious Studies)
Seaman, Sheila (Library, SEN)

Committee on By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual (three faculty, at least two senators):

Grantham, Todd (Philosophy, SEN)
Hunt, Bishop (English, SEN)
Sarvate, Dinesh (Mathematics)

Bookstore Advisory Council (two faculty)

Aziz, Abdul (Management)
Mann, David (Political Science)

Approval of Recommendations for Ad Hoc committees

Mr. Gentry then conducted an election for the Ad Hoc Committee slates that the President had requested, since there were more nominees than there were slots on each committee. (These nominees had been previously circulated.) Paper ballots were distributed, and at the end of the meeting Mr. Gentry was able to report that the following names had been chosen by the Senate.

Long-Range Planning Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc on Communications across the Curriculum (seven faculty):

Gamboa, Sylvia (English)
Heeney, Todd (Communications)
Martin, Betsy (Chemistry)

McCarty, Bonnie (EDFS)
McNerny, Todd (Theatre)
Packer, Lindsay (Mathematics)
Rudd, Howard (Management)

Ad Hoc Committee on Class Size (seven faculty):

Caveny, Deanna (Mathematics)
Doig, Marion (Chemistry)
Jones, Linda (Physics)
Lewis, Andrew (PEHD)
Nenno, Nancy (Classics)
Perlmutter, Martin (Philosophy/Religious Studies)
Carlson, Larry (English)

Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Workload (seven faculty):

Kelly, Joe (English)
McBroom, Deanna (Music)
Mignone, Robert (Mathematics)
Miller, Deborah (PEHD)
Olejniczak, Bill (History)
Phillips, Darryl (Classics)
Strand, Allan (Biology)

Ad Hoc Committee on IT Assessment (seven faculty):

Fowler, Robert (EDFS)
Hunt, Caroline (English)
Mann, David (Political Science)
Marcell, Michael (Psychology)
Moore, Christine (Computer Science)
Phillips, Michael (Library)
Runyon, Cass (Geology)

Graduate Committee

Maureen Hays presented the following proposals on behalf of the committee. All were approved.

Proposals for New Graduate Courses:

LALE 602 - Advanced Language Teaching Methodology

LALE 603 - Second Language Acquisition

LALE 690 - Special Topics in Language Education

FREN 602 - Modern Approaches to French Literature & Textual Analysis

Proposal to Change a Graduate Program:

MS in Mathematics

Proposals to Change Graduate Courses:

MATH 603 - Abstract Algebra I

MATH 611 - Real Analysis I

MATH 615 - Complex Analysis

Next, Senator Mark Lazarro presented the following proposal from the student organization “Alliance for Planet Earth.”

A request to the Faculty Senate by members of the student organization, The Alliance for Planet Earth (APE), to declare by resolution to hold in abeyance the removal of a deodar cedar tree from the Sottile House grounds and the formation of an ad hoc committee appointed by President Higdon whose members will serve as our campus verderers.

The pending removal of a deodar cedar tree, planted on the Sottile House grounds over 100 years ago, has prompted APE to circulate copies of a petition against the removal of this tree. Nearly 850 students, faculty and staff have signed the petition thus far.

This venerable tree has weathered ice storms, droughts, and hurricanes and has been delightfully festooned with Christmas lights for years. It is an outstanding, unique member of our campus arboretum, and its history is intertwined with the history of the College of Charleston.

As members of APE, we would like to gain the support of the Faculty Senate by resolution to hold in abeyance the removal of this tree and for President Higdon to appoint an ad hoc committee comprised of three faculty members, a student representative, and the Supervisor of Grounds to serve as our campus verderers who would determine tree removals and plantings on campus.

Molly Gentle
Biology Major
Alliance for Planet Earth

Mr. Lazarro moved that Senators endorse this proposal, and asked that Senators split their vote into two parts, first voting on the removal of the tree, then on the formation of an Ad Hoc committee. He introduced the author of the proposal, Molly Gentle, who told the Senate that this proposal had 1134 signatures as well as the support of the SGA, the Biology Club, and other campus organizations. In response to faculty questions, Ms. Gentle said that administrators had believed the Sottile tree should be replaced with one they believed to be more attractive, since they believed it looked unhealthy. One Senator noted that he understood that no one is planning to do anything to the tree anymore, and he thought the resolution was therefore unnecessary. Mr. Lazarro pointed out that the Sottile tree was “saved” after the Alliance for Planet Earth had gathered many signatures supporting its preservation. If this resolution were passed, then future decisions about trees would be made in a more responsible and informed manner. The head groundskeeper was not consulted about the Sottile tree during the original planning for its removal, he noted. Phil Dustan (Biology) added that the groundskeepers were in favor of having more input on such decisions. Ms. Gentle noted that the City of Charleston now requires that the College maintain a certain number of trees that are greater than 8 inches in breast height diameter, but that the City does not require any particular tree to be protected. The Sottile tree is 23 inches in breast height diameter, she noted. Mr. Lazzaro

added that with new construction scheduled on campus in the next few years, the College would be making decisions on more trees besides the Sottile tree. The Senate then voted on Mr. Lazarro's two motions in support of the Alliance for Planet Earth's proposal. The motion to support the protection of the Sottile tree passed unanimously on a voice vote. The second motion, to support the formation of a committee to decide the fate of campus trees, also passed.

Constituents' Concerns

Bob Mignone asked if there was any progress on the Provost search. Bev Diamond, speaking for the search committee, replied that candidates would be visiting the campus during exam week. Bishop Hunt, noting this was the end of the Senate year, thanked the Speaker for his work. The Senate twiddled its collective thumbs while waiting for David Gentry and the Committee on Nominations to report the election results, which he did at 5:52. Hearing the results, the Senate adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger
Faculty Secretary