

## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The first regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston for the academic year 2002-2003 convened at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Hugh Wilder presiding. Fifty-two senators attended.

The Speaker welcomed the faculty and announced that he had appointed Trisha Folds-Bennett (At-Large) as this year's Parliamentarian. He thanked Ms. Folds-Bennett for her willingness to serve. The Minutes of the last meeting of the 2001-2002 academic year were approved. Displaying these minutes electronically was Debbie Vaughn (Library), whom the Speaker also thanked for having volunteered to maintain the Senate website and to provide technical support during Senate meetings. The Speaker asked for nominations for Speaker *pro tem*, and Glen Lesses (Philosophy) nominated Bev Diamond (Mathematics). The Senate elected Ms. Diamond by acclamation.

The Speaker also welcomed to the meeting Glenn Brown, president-elect of the College of Charleston Alumni Association, and SGA representatives Alicia Scherini (SGA President) and Michael Leitman (SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs). Mr. Wilder thanked Ms. Scherini for her speech at Convocation and added that he looked forward to SGA representation on faculty committees.

### Reports

Gary McCombs

The Speaker recognized Mr. McCombs, Senior Vice President for Business Affairs, who addressed the Senate regarding the 2002-2003 College Budget. Mr. McCombs told us this year's budget was "the easiest and the most difficult" he had worked on since 1993: easy b/c the Fourth Century initiative identified clear institutional goals, but difficult because the College was appropriated some 2.7 million dollars less in state funds than it had received the previous year. The 2002-2003 budget has increased by some \$13 million, and these increases (together with the offset of reduced state appropriations) will be paid for by increased student fees.

What will this new money pay for? Mr. McCombs explained that some of the money will go to the goals of the Fourth-Century Initiative, which include 50 new staff lines, 50 new faculty lines, and increased money for research and development items such as sabbatical funding and student-faculty research. Not all of these hires will be made this year, but will be phased in over several years; there are 32 staff lines and 49 faculty lines still to be filled.

Another cost of the Fourth-Century Initiative is increased money allocated to financial aid for students who qualify. Mr. McCombs explained that the goal was to "hold students harmless" for the increased tuition, so that the amount a student would actually pay would not increase if that student had qualified for financial aid; the new allocations

would make up the difference. The College also provided a rebate on its newly increased fees for the first year, to ease students and their families through the transition. Some senators asked why the College bothered with a fee increase, then a rebate. Why not just begin with a smaller increase, one senator asked. Mr. McCombs explained that the rebate gives the college greater flexibility in future tuition and fee increases. He added that President Higdon has done a good job explaining the tuition increase to parents.

The total cost of the Fourth-Century Initiative will be up to 7.5 million per year. The College plans to issue bonds to fund new construction costs for buildings for Fine Arts and Business, among other things. Mr. McCombs reported that a Fourth-Century Initiative goal was to reduce the size of the student body by 75 per year, but that this year we actually have 100 more students than we did last year. Associate Provost Susan Morrison pointed out that these numbers reflected increased retention of returning students; we admitted fewer new students, but retained more than in previous years.

The College has not yet given any faculty raises this year, but Mr. McCombs said that increases may be forthcoming once administrators have a clearer picture of our financial condition (determined by the number of students we actually have) for this semester. Mr. McCombs solicited comment on the new parking and shuttle system from the Aquarium, and two senators admitted to using the shuttle and to being reasonably satisfied with its timeliness. Mr. McCombs says the College hopes to find vans to use rather than the yellow school busses it is currently using. He concluded his visit by inviting faculty to visit him in Randolph Hall if they have further questions.

### The Speaker

Mr. Wilder thanked all the parties who were involved in our first Convocation, an event the Speaker thought had turned out very well. Many faculty, administrators, staff, and students put forth much effort in planning and executing the event. Mr. Wilder was pleased by the presentation delivered by Kathleen Jamieson and by the strong attendance: almost all the seats allocated for students were occupied. Convocation has three components: the summer reading (books were mailed to all entering students), the ceremony itself, and the discussion of the book in classes and in two campus forums this semester. The planners of this Convocation are now evaluating their efforts, so anyone who has comments, or who would like to suggest speakers for next year's Convocation, should direct them to Hugh Wilder or Susan Morrison.

Commencement is another ceremony currently under review. The President has decided that this December's Commencement will take place at the North Charleston Coliseum. The May ceremony is still under discussion, but the main options being considered are to streamline the current ceremony or to hold two separate ceremonies on a Saturday, with faculty and students only attending the one to which their School had been assigned. There would be two different speakers, and considerably more room in the Cistern for graduates and their families. The Speaker told the Senate that Bill Lindstrom is currently meeting with student focus groups on this subject and will be making a recommendation soon. Bishop Hunt asked if any thought had been given to eliminating December

graduation ceremonies, and the Speaker answered that for this year, that ceremony would remain. The December ceremony does reduce the number of students who march in May.

The Speaker next reported on the current parking situation. From the 550 spaces available at the Aquarium parking garage, 193 faculty and staff and 335 students have purchased a pass, which includes access to the shuttle bus, a feature the Speaker described as “a work in progress.” Auxiliary Services plans to institute 3 categories of parking: “core” lots on campus, “mid” parking facilities not so close by, and “perimeter” lots such as the Aquarium garage. Starting next semester, “core” lots will go up in price, although the amount has not yet been set. Auxiliary Services will hold four town meetings for faculty and staff on September 18<sup>th</sup> (9, 11, and 4) and 19<sup>th</sup> (4:30) where pricing will be discussed. There is still an active Parking Advisory Committee, on which Hugh Wilder and Rob Dillon both serve, so faculty may communicate their parking concerns and suggestions to them. Frank Kinard (Chemistry) spoke against the tiered pricing and noted that faculty ought to be able to count on having a spot in a lot they have paid for, which isn’t always the case.

Mr. Wilder reported on the academic calendar, noting that after Thanksgiving this semester there will be only 1 day of class for MWF classes and none for TTh classes. He says that Bill Lindstrom has promised him to try not to let this recur in future years. Alex Kasman (Mathematics) asked if there was a chance for faculty to review and respond to a calendar before it had been set. The Speaker said he would request this. When asked why we need to finish the semester so early in December, the Speaker replied that he understood that Undergraduate Studies planned the calendar to accommodate our December commencement. Paul Marino (Biology) noted that when classes do not begin on a Monday, some sections of co-requisite labs, which meet only once a week, are immediately put off sync with the class they are supposed to complement.

The Speaker noted that the changes in the Post-Tenure Review Process that the Senate approved last year have been accepted by the Provost and the President. Now the Board of Trustees must decide whether to accept changes to the Faculty-Administration Manual. The Board meets in October, but the PTR process for this year has already begun. The proposed changes have been included in this year’s process, but identified as pending final approval by the Board.

The draft of the Long-Range Plan is still in progress, the Speaker reported. Last year 11 working groups sent reports to the steering committee, which is still attempting to incorporate these reports and the President’s ideas into a draft. The Speaker predicted it would be three months before a report emerges.

Finally, the Speaker turned to the process of sending and receiving information for Senate packets. The Speaker explained that, thanks to Debbie Vaughn’s efforts, the Senate website will become an archive of old Senate business. The minutes of all meetings since 1993 are in electronic format, thanks to the former Faculty Secretary, Bishop Hunt. (Mr. Hunt offered to make copies of old minutes on a CD-ROM for anyone who requests one.) These archives will shortly be made available through the website

([www.cofc.edu/~senate/](http://www.cofc.edu/~senate/)), along with a roster of Senators, committee memberships, and other useful information.

The Senate website will also be used to distribute Senate packets electronically. Since this is the new plan, it is more important than ever for materials to be submitted by email to the Secretary ([eichelberger@cofc.edu](mailto:eichelberger@cofc.edu)). The Speaker invited comments on his plan to eliminate paper packets and to project materials from the website during Senate meetings. He apologized for the dimness of the current projector in ECTR 116, but noted that it was no dimmer than the overhead projectors that had been used in the past. Some Senators expressed concern that it would be difficult to read a motion being debated if we could only look at one screen-page at a time. The Speaker said that the plan was to bring a few paper copies of the packets to the meetings, and possibly to provide laptops with Web access so Senators could study materials during a meeting. He also pointed out that Senators could print their own copies of packets. Mark Lazarro (Biology) said he thought electronic distribution of the minutes would be good for all faculty, since many faculty in his own departmental mailroom seem to discard their paper copies immediately. He thought all faculty should be aware of the Senate website and know that they have access to present and past Senate records. Another senator suggested that some faculty never read their email and would not like this new system. The Speaker told Senators he welcomes their suggestions and comments, because he wants to make this system work for everyone.

After reminding Senators of the coming full faculty meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00p.m., the Speaker asked for any constituents' concerns. Reid Wiseman noted that holding classes on Labor Day posed a hardship to faculty with children in school. Alex Kasman asked whether the change in the distribution requirements for Humanities courses, a policy passed by the Senate last year, was already in effect. The Speaker replied that this change was already printed in the new catalog and was being updated on Cougar Trail as well. Sue Turner (Hispanic Studies) reported that bulletin boards in the Bell Building were once again filled with advertisements by local bars rather than being restricted to announcements of campus activities, as had been the policy instated last year. The Speaker offered to look into this situation, and to ask about the presence of a traffic officer at Calhoun and Coming Street (Sheila Seaman, Library, reported seeing a student almost hit by a car there) and about the recurring need to discourage bicyclists from riding on pedestrian walkways on campus (Bishop Hunt offered a plea for "the halt and the slow" endangered by heedless cyclists).

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger, Faculty Secretary

**Remaining Fall 2002 Senate Meetings (Tuesdays at 5:00 in ECTR 116):  
October 1, November 5, December 3**