

MINUTES OF COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate met Tuesday, January 20, 2004, in ECTR 116. Speaker Hugh Wilder called the meeting to order and invited corrections to the minutes of the December 2003 meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Reports

Mr. Wilder informed the Senate that Daniel Dukes, Sr. V. P. for Governmental Affairs, was unable to make his report to the Senate. Mr. Dukes, who works with South Carolina legislators on the College's behalf, had been called away to Columbia today. The Speaker added that later in the semester, there would actually be more to report from Columbia, and that Mr. Dukes had said that he looked forward to updating the Senate on these matters. He plans to address the Senate in February.

Committee on Communication Across the Curriculum

Mr. Wilder then recognized Sylvia Gamboa, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communication Across the Curriculum. Ms. Gamboa told the Senate that this committee had been constituted as part of the Strategic Plan, and that the committee's charge was to study the teaching of communication skills (writing, speaking, and visual and electronic communication) across campus, and to make recommendations for improving students' instruction in this area. The committee had also been charged to report its findings by the end of 2003.

Ms. Gamboa noted that the committee did not yet have a recommendation, but that it had produced a lengthy report on the general topic of communication across the curriculum and on the ways departments across campus are teaching communication skills. (Senators received a portion of this report in their packets.) The committee surveyed department chairs to see what was already being done, Ms. Gamboa said, and their surveys revealed that a great deal is already being done to teach these communication skills within departments. She noted College publications such as *Chrestomathy*, which publishes undergraduate research, and the *Miscellany*, which publishes creative work, as two examples. The CAC committee also brought in experts, such as Art Young (whose CAC program at Clemson won an award), to advise the committee on programs it might recommend. Mr. Young's first piece of advice to the committee was "Reward the faculty," Ms. Gamboa reported, and the committee expects that anything it recommends will include rewards and incentives for faculty. Money will be given to promote CAC, and the committee has surveyed department chairs to find out what they want in the way of support. Some departments, for example, have asked for more assistance in improving students' oral communication skills. The committee will have input on the First Year Experience that the Committee on Academic Planning is developing, and this semester it will finalize its own proposal. Their wish is to support faculty, Ms. Gamboa said, and not to place heavier burdens on them through their proposal. The committee's full report will soon be posted on the College web page, Ms. Gamboa said. The College is already doing much good work that promotes students' communication skills, and this Committee wants to be sure the President and the Provost know about it.

The Speaker

Mr. Wilder first clarified for the date of the April Senate meeting; it has been changed since the beginning of the year, and the correct date (13 April) is now posted on the Senate website. He then informed the Senate that the SC Council of Chairs, an organization that has not been active in the past couple of years, is now being revived in the face of so many challenges to higher

education in the state. Tomorrow will be the first meeting of the year, he said, and all meetings are open; anyone interested in attending should let him know. He also alerted Senators to an upcoming "State of the Student Body" address that Nicholas Glover, the SGA president, will be giving on 27 January at 5:30. Mr. Glover has told the Speaker that faculty are most welcome to attend.

The Speaker discussed the Master Plan for the College's physical facilities. The consulting firm of Ayers Saint Gross has been working on this for quite some time, and will be presenting their final draft of the plan on the 21st and 22nd of the month from 3:15-4:30. Mr. Wilder recommended these presentations, saying that the plans are "visionary" and long-term. He also reported that the Provost plans to create a new Space Planning and Allocation Committee, whose purpose would be to publicize the availability of space on campus and create a standard form for applying for available space (such as vacated offices.) These forms will be available online. And, speaking of electronic forms, the Speaker noted that a task force will be established to consolidate all sorts of institutional forms and to allow for online filing of these forms wherever possible.

Mr. Wilder told Senators that at the January Board of Trustees meeting, the Faculty Compensation Committee had presented its report, is "a very significant step." Mr. Wilder thanked Lynne Ford for her work as chair of this committee. The report does not require the Board's approval, he explained; it was presented for information only. The President will now begin to implement its recommendations with funds he has already begun to accumulate. Joe Benich (Management/Marketing) asked if this report would be available to faculty, and was told it was already available on Cougar Trail. The Speaker also reported that the College of Charleston Foundation had employed Ayers Saint Gross to assess Dixie Plantation, a property that was donated a few years ago. The consultants were extremely impressed with the potential of this property, the Speaker said, and they offered many suggestions for educational uses of Dixie Plantation, many of them very low in cost. For example, it is a valuable archaeological site. As a waterfront property, it has much potential for marine biology classes. The firm believes it can be a "tremendous resource," Mr. Wilder said.

Campus construction projects continue apace. The new library will be substantially completed by March, the Speaker reported, and officials expect midsummer occupancy and a formal opening ceremony in October. The new Multi-Cultural Center is now open. And College Lodge, a dorm that some had considered a problem property, has now had its destruction postponed for the next three to four years, Mr. Wilder said. Apparently, students like it and asked that it be allowed to survive yet awhile. Many parts of the Stern Student Center, on the other hand, will be closed for renovations from this summer until January 2005, and the Lightsey Center will also be closed for renovations during a similar period. And during this summer, the area between Maybank and the present library, known as "Cougar Mall," will be significantly renovated.

The Board's Finance Committee is discussing tuition/fee increases for 2004-2005. This increase will not be as great as recent price hikes, but there may be a "high single-digit" increase. This committee is also studying the costs and benefits of higher out-of-state tuition. In addition to bringing the College these higher fees, out-of-state students make a significant academic and cultural contribution to the student body, and the Board wants to avoid setting their fees so high that they discourage the best out-of-state students from attending. George Pothering (At Large) asked the speaker if he foresaw budget cuts for the coming year. Mr. Wilder said he would rather not address this, because he does not know enough details.

New Business

Curriculum Committee

Norris Preyer, chair, proposed the following on behalf of the Committee.

POLS 383 Judicial Process—Proposal to Change a Course

HIST 241 Special Topics: History of the Holocaust—Information Only

HIST 210 Special Topics: The Historian's Craft—Information Only

CLAS 104 Introduction to Classical Archaeology—New Course Proposal

B.A. Major, A. B. Major, and Minor in Classics

—Proposal to Change Degree Requirements

The Senate voted to approve all these proposals.

Committee on Nominations and Elections

David Gentry, Chair, conducted an election of a College representative to the SC Council of Chairs. The nominee, Bob Mignone, was elected by acclamation.

Constituents' Concerns

Alex Kasman (Mathematics) raised a concern about Saturday examinations. He pointed out that some students who have children find this to be a hardship since schools and child care are not open on Saturdays, and parking can be difficult on the weekends. Couldn't we add an extra day to the exam period and avoid scheduling exams on Saturday, he wondered. Mr. Wilder said he was fairly certain that the constraints of the calendar would not allow us to extend the exam period, but he would ask about it.

The Speaker also told the Senate that the Secretary had received an anonymous list of agenda suggestions for this meeting. The faculty member suggested that the Senate do more for adjuncts by seeking better pay and more permanent teaching positions. Also suggested were tuition remission for children of College employees, and parking that was closer than the Aquarium. Mr. Wilder said he would forward all these to the appropriate committees (Faculty Welfare, Parking Advisory Committee), and he added that he hoped that any faculty member, whether adjunct or permanent, would feel free to attend Senate meetings to voice concerns directly. He urged Senators to let adjuncts in their departments know that their Senators represent them, and that all faculty are welcome to speak at Senate meetings.

With no further business, the Senate adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger
Faculty Secretary

Spring Semester Faculty Senate Schedule:

First Tuesdays • 5:00pm • 116 Education Center

Feb. 10 (agenda deadline Jan. 29)

March 16 (agenda deadline March 4)

April 13 (continued April 20 if necessary; agenda deadline April 1)

Spring Faculty Meeting (5:00 PM, Physicians Auditorium)
April 19 (agenda deadline April 7)