

MINUTES OF THE FALL 2004 FACULTY MEETING

The Faculty met Monday, 13 September, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium. Speaker Bob Mignone called the meeting to order and secured approval of the minutes of the Spring Faculty meeting.

Reports

The President

Mr. Mignone first recognized President Lee Higdon, who welcomed faculty at the beginning of the new semester. Mr. Higdon thanked all faculty who attended convocation, a very important event that helps the College “set the right tone for our new students.” He also noted that he and the Provost had already met with the Speaker over the summer, and that they looked forward to a good working relationship this year.

“This is the start of my fourth year in Charleston,” the President said, and he offered a few remarks on the College’s accomplishments during this period. He observed that, financially, “this has been one of the most difficult periods” for all state governments, and especially for South Carolina. Even “in the boom years of the 90’s,” South Carolina did not fund higher education as much as other states did, but during the leaner times that followed, we suffered severe cuts to this already-austere level of funding. We were 49th out of 50th in the severity of cuts to higher-education funding, the President said. But at the College of Charleston, “we not only have survived, we have thrived.” The President called the Fourth-Century Initiative “an energizing vision” for our academic future, and noted that we also have developed a facilities master plan for the first time, and that a technology master plan is forthcoming. A number of academic buildings are breaking ground or are being constructed, final plans for other buildings are being completed, and we are also budgeting for significant renovation and maintenance of our attractive, historic, but old buildings on campus. He noted that there is better funding now in place for sabbaticals and research funding. Enrollments have now stabilized if not gone down, and we have increased faculty by more than 12 percent. Few public institutions can reduce enrollment and add faculty, the President noted.

Mr. Higdon listed other achievements the College can be proud of: we have received more commendations of excellence for our academic programs than any other state institution in SC, and we have the best students of any state institution, as measured by GPA and SATs. The President also noted that we are developing several new programs in partnership with other institutions. He said he was “very proud of our undergraduate research initiatives” and of “the record we have established, of students working closely with faculty,” which has won us awards. Retention is up, the President stated, with more graduates in last year’s class than ever before. More national stories are being written about the College, “so we are really getting the world out,” the President continued. “If you believe the Princeton Review. . . . we have happy students,” he reported. The College has been “in the top echelon of student satisfaction in two of past 3 years. Few public

institutions of our size do that.” There is good work being done on the fundraising side, as well, Mr. Higdon continued. Annual giving is up, and major gifts are being endowed. We need this sort of money for the long term, so that we will be in a position to meet unforeseen needs, he explained. The President also noted that the College is in the process of addressing some issues that are important to faculty. The process of addressing faculty compensation was begun last year; the President commended the committee and its chair, Lynne Ford. [At this point the faculty applauded vigorously.] He also thanked the Deans and the Provost for their work on this issue.

“It’s been a good three years,” the President said, “but we have some unfinished business.” He spoke of the need to continue to diversify our community, which is necessary if we are to become “a more preeminent institution.” Although we have made important progress, we have more work to do in this area, the President asserted. “In my opinion, diversity enhances learning, prepares students for an increasingly complex world, and is the mark of a truly great university.” He noted that the Diversity Committee has been hard at work, making recommendations for ways to further this goal, “and I am hopeful that we will make considerable progress.” Another ongoing project, the President said, was the reaffirmation of “our values as a community. What do we hold dear? We want to continue that discussion,” he said. Staff as well as faculty will continue to explore our core values and, especially, to identify things that “are really counter to our core values.” He said he looked forward to working with the new standing committee (to be elected at today’s meeting) on Compensation, so that this work could continue, and he noted that he and the Provost had just received the study prepared by the Workload Committee (chaired by Darryl Philips). “This is the next order of business for us,” he said. He and the Provost are also working on enhancing our retention, and he believed they are already making substantial progress. “We must not only attract strong students as we are doing now,” he said, but we must also keep more of them here. He said he was interested as well in student internships. Each School will have a coordinator to work with students on setting these up, so that they will not become an undue burden on faculty and so that more students can have this very valuable experience.

As for the future, Mr. Higdon said, “We are not going to stand still.” He said he was very interested in “further distinguishing our programs” and making clearer the distinctiveness of the College of Charleston. Stressing that this is a job for faculty, the President said he did want to share in this discussion. On this and any other matters, the President said, “my door is always open.”

The Provost

Mr. Mignone thanked the President and recognized Provost Elise Jorgens. In her report, the Provost noted that she had undertaken several important projects in the past year, and that she would report to the faculty on three of them. In the first of these three, retention, the Provost expects to see important developments this year; a consulting firm has already been on campus offering “some very helpful advice we can implement immediately. . . . We actually have a good retention rate,” the Provost said, but we would like for it to reach the same high level of pre-eminent institutions. To that end, the

College will focus on students' academic experience, making sure that students feel that "the institution is serving their needs." The College will appoint an Associate Vice-President for the Academic Experience, and there may be other changes on the horizon.

The second major area the Provost is addressing is that of "institutional distinctiveness." She said that she and the President have discussed many times how best to put the College of Charleston "on the map." They agree that our academic programs ought to be our signature, and that our "fabulous programs. . . are not always known as we would like them to be known." Ms. Jorgens said she has been working with the Deans to develop ways to "make a coherent statement" with a package of programs that would raise our institutional profile. She plans to initiate a reform of our General Education curriculum. There will be no focus on a single department or a single School, but there will be an effort to create programs that span more than one department or school. No school should be left out of this endeavor, for "we need every one of you to make this a successful effort," the Provost said. She has also been analyzing "the strength of our location," the ways in which we take advantage of the unique educational opportunities that are present here. She spoke of the importance of "using the Charleston location as a laboratory" that will "prepare students to do work anywhere." She noted that she will be seeking more input from faculty, and that "I see this getting done this year."

The final area the Provost spoke about was "the Core Values." Last year, through focus groups and open forums, seven principles were identified as "the underpinning of our business here." First on that list is academic integrity. The Provost urged faculty to spend time discussing the subject in their classes. "Our students don't always know what academic integrity means and we don't talk about it enough," she said. She asked faculty to explain this in detail, clarifying what constitutes cheating or plagiarism. "Our students are too ignorant" about this, the Provost said. There will be a list of guidelines forthcoming from Academic Computing that will identify appropriate uses of the Internet, and other resources to support academic integrity will be made available soon. The Provost concluded by saying she was very happy to be at the College.

The Speaker

Speaker Bob Mignone then delivered his own report. He noted that he was honored to be back in this position, nine years since the first time he served as speaker. There have been many changes in that time, he noted. Despite the problems in our state economy, the College has new facilities and new programs. As faculty, our responsibility is to contribute to the College's degrees and to maintain their integrity; we are also responsible for adding to the knowledge in the scholarly community at large. Faculty governance is an important part of our job and it needs our involvement, Mr. Mignone said. "My father was a tailor and a labor organizer, and one of the things I have inherited from him is a passion for advocating for my peers." He said he looked forward to serving this year, and noted his "sincere admiration" for the work of the last Speaker, Hugh Wilder. "Hugh sets a high standard," said Mr. Mignone, and the faculty responded with a round of applause.

United Way

Mr. Mignone then recognized Skip Godow, who spoke briefly on behalf of the United Way. Mr. Godow told faculty that the United Way distributes money to community groups whose proposals meet the goals that have been set for the community; “they award the funding based on measurable outcomes.” Last year the College employees gave \$40,000 to the United Way. This year’s campaign will soon begin (in fact, Mr. Godow said, he is looking for a co-chair). Recent hurricanes and storms have made us aware of the need for the kind of aid the United Way gives in response to disasters. Mr. Godow encouraged faculty to contribute as they were able to the efforts of the United Way.

New Business

Committee on Nominations

Rick Heldrich and the rest of the Committee distributed paper ballots for members of a new Standing Committee on Faculty Compensation. The following faculty were elected:

Bev Diamond, Mathematics
Lynne Ford, Political Science
Tom Gilson, Library
Tom Kent, Management and Marketing
Glenn Lesses, Philosophy
Peter McCandless, History
Valerie Porcello, French

Introduction of New Faculty

Provost Elise Jorgens called on Deans to introduce the department chairs in their Schools; these chairs in turn introduced the new faculty in their departments.

School of the Arts

Art History

Ward, James L., Visiting Asst. Professor, M.L.A 1992 University of Georgia

Studio Art

Hammond, Kara S., Asst. Professor, M. F. A. 1990 Tyler School of Art

School of Business Administration

Pitts, Robert E., Dean & Tenured Professor, Ph.D. 1977 University of South Carolina

Accounting and Legal Studies

DeLaurell, Roxane M., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2000 University of Texas at Dallas

Management and Marketing

Mouri, Nacef Asst. Professor, Ph.D. Expected 2004 U. of Central FLA

Gonzalez, Marvin E., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1996 Purdue University

Grossman, Bonnie, Instructor, M.S. 1973 Indiana University

O'Donnell, Thomas E., Instructor, M.A. 1980 Norwich University

School of Education

Early Childhood Development Center

Kuhn, Mollie, Visiting Master Teacher, M.Ed. 2004 U. of Charleston

Elementary and Early Childhood Education

Goldstein, Nancy L. Asst. Professor (spring), Ph.D. Expected 2004 Arizona State U.
Larson, Cheryl M., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 University of South Carolina
Papineau, Roberta N., Visiting Asst. Professor, Ed.D. 2003 University of South Carolina
Allday, Richard Allan, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2004 Auburn University

Foundations, Secondary and Special Education

Westfall, Barry, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ed.D. 1975 Southern Illinois University
Yoshida-Davey, Mieko, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ed.D. 2004 University of West Florida

School of Humanities and Social Science**Classics, Italian, and German**

DeLuca, Giovanna Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2002 City University of New York
MacInnes, Deborah, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1995 Duke University

Communication

McGee, Brian R., Chair/Tenured Assoc. Prof, Ph.D. 1996 Ohio State University
Nyandwi, Alexis, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 Washington State University
Schmierbach, Michael, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2004 U. of Wisconsin- Madison
Strauman, Elena C., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2001 University of South Florida

English

Baker, Elizabeth Bramlett, Instructor, M.A. 1986 University of South Carolina
Bruns, John E., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2002 University of Southern California
Kucera, Paul Q., Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 Michigan State University
Powell, John Mark, Visiting Asst. Professor, M.F.A. 2001 University of South Carolina
Scott, Sarah K., Instructor, Ph.D. 2003 University of Arkansas
Thomas, Catherine E., Asst. Professor (spring), Ph.D. Expected 2004 Penn State U.

Hispanic Studies

Diaz, Guadalupe, Visiting Instructor, M.A. 2003 University of Charleston
Porter, Virginia H., Visiting Instructor, M.A.T. 2002 UNC-Chapel Hill
Roberson, Jason D., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. Expected 2004 Penn State U.
Zambrano, Marjorie J., Asst. Professor, Ph.D.; Expected Spring 2004 U. of Pittsburgh

Historic Preservation

McStotts, Jennifer C., Asst. Professor, J.D. 2004 University of Georgia

History

Diamond, Jeffrey M., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2002 University of London
Gigova, Irina, Asst. Professor, Ph.D.; 2004 University of Illinois

Philosophy

Baker, Jennifer A., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 University of Arizona
Kelly, Christopher M., Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 University of Colorado

Political Science

Archie-Hudson, Marguerite, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1988 U. of California, Los Angeles
Currinder, Marian L., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2001 University of Florida
Mills, Lindeke S., Visiting Instructor, J.D. 1984 Georgetown University

Psychology

Limon, Estevan Ruiz, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2004 City University of New York
Nelson, James B., Asst. Professor. Ph.D, 1997 University of Vermont
White, Katherine K., Asst. Professor (spring), Ph.D. 2002 University of Florida
Winter, Linda Kight, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D.; 2004 University of Georgia

Religious Studies

Siegler, Elijah, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 U. of California, Santa Barbara
Thomas, Eric L., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. Expected 2004 Princeton University

School of Science and Mathematics**Biology**

Bernardo, Joseph, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1991 Duke University
Murren, Courtney J., Asst. Professor (spring), Ph.D. 1999 University of Connecticut
Pritchard, Seth G., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1998 Auburn University
Sotka, Erik E., Asst. Professor (spring), Ph.D. 2001 U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Chemistry

Straumanis, Andrei Russell, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1998 Stanford University

Computer Science

Boetje, Gerard, Asst. Professor, M.S. Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Geology

Doyle, Briget C., Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2003 University of Missouri

Permenter, Jason L., Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. Expected 2005 University of Cambridge

Mathematics

Lafortune, Stephane, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2000 University de Montreal

Physics

Deneault, Ethan, Visiting Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 2004 Clemson University

Kuthirummal, Narayanan, Asst. Professor, Ph.D. 1992 Banaras Hindu University

All new faculty were welcomed with applause.

With no further business or concerns offered, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger

Faculty Secretary