April 23, 2001

THE FACULTY MINUTES

The second regular meeting of the Faculty of The College of Charleston for the academic year 2000-2001 convened at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 23 in Room 228 of the Lightsey Conference Center, Speaker of the Faculty Trisha Folds-Bennett presiding. The Minutes of the previous meeting (September 11, 2000) were approved as circulated.

Speaker’s Report

The Speaker began by recalling the old saying that time flies when you are having fun. In contrast, the year just passed had seemed long, and it had not, by any stretch of the imagination, been “fun.” With regard to such important matters as General Education, evaluation forms, long-range planning, and so on, and on: “Are we there yet?” No, but perhaps we are on our way. Something has happened: in the midst of great change and growth, we now have more chances to interact with faculty outside our individual academic departments. She was, she said, continually impressed by the sheer energy of the faculty as a whole, and of the senate in particular. As she stepped down from the job of Speaker, she wished to thank many individuals for their help, especially Bob Mignone, the Parliamentarian, George Pothering, and Andy Abrams and Conrad Festa – in fact, the whole staff of the Office of Academic Affairs. She must also give special thanks to Deanna Caveny and Hugh Wilder, who had contributed so much to the work of the Presidential Search Committee. She concluded by quoting Eudora Welty, who referred to an ancient proverb, to the effect that those who lose dreaming are lost. She hoped we would never lose that capacity.

About the Presidential search: the original pool of about 200 applicants had now been narrowed to a list of semi-finalists. Confidentiality was still extremely important, and the most that could be said is that mid-June was now the target date for having a small number of finalists visit the campus. Hugh Wilder said that Mr. Joel Smith, the head of the Board of Trustees, had originally divided the process of selecting the next president into three phases: search, screen, and select. The job of the Presidential Search Committee, therefore, would be over in a few weeks’ time, at the end of the conclusion of the second, or screening, stage. He asked if there were any questions that he or the Speaker could answer.

One senator asked how many finalists there were? It would not be advisable to reveal this yet. What criteria were being used? Mr. Wilder pointed to the list of about fifteen desirable characteristics that had been circulated earlier in the search. At the very least, a successful candidate should have the experience, and the qualities of leadership, that would earn the respect of an academic community. But, he added, it is desirable to have a broad rather than a narrow range of specific criteria in mind. Herb Silverman asked if being “tenurable” at the College was one of these criteria? The answer: not necessarily.

New Business
Robert Mignone, speaking for the Committee on Nominations and Elections, moved the election of Standing Committees of the Faculty for the next academic year, in accordance with the circulated slate. Committees for which there had been no further nominations were declared elected. Two committees, however, required a run-off election, and the results, reported later in the meeting, were as follows (the additional nomination for the Academic Standards Committee was unsuccessful, and so there was no change from the circulated slate):

**Academic Standards Committee**

- Asleson, Gary Chemistry & Biochemistry Professor
- Bakanic, Von Sociology Associate Professor
- Boyle, Deborah Philosophy Assistant Professor
- Liu, Guoli Political Science Associate Professor
- Packer, Lindsay Mathematics Associate Professor
- Bjerken, Zeff Religious Studies Assistant Professor
- Swickert, Rhonda Psychology Assistant Professor

**Faculty Research and Development Committee**

- Barfield, William PEHD Associate Professor
- Ward, Patricia English Associate Professor
- Grantham, Todd Philosophy Associate Professor
- Jones, Linda Physics Assistant Professor
- Calini, Annalisa Mathematics Associate Professor
- Nenno, Nancy German Assistant Professor
- Ayme-Southgate, Agnes Biology Assistant Professor
- Seaman, Sheila Library Professor
- Toris, Carol Psychology Associate Professor

The original slate is attached to the Secretary’s copy of the Minutes, and was contained in an e-mail to the faculty from Mr. Mignone, dated April 16, 2001; an updated version may be found in a second email sent on May 23.

The new Committee on Nominations and Elections was then nominated from the floor and elected:

- Smiley, James Biology Professor
- Fitzharris, Linda Elementary Education Associate Professor
- Bodek, Richard History Associate Professor
- Bowers, Terry English Associate Professor
- Mignone, Robert Mathematics Professor
- Berg, Karen Hispanic Studies Senior Instructor
- Gentry, David Psychology Professor
The Provost formally moved the awarding of degrees at Commencement to candidates certified by the Registrar’s Office as having completed all requirements. This passed, on a voice vote.

Mr. Abrams presented a commemorative plaque to Trisha Folds-Bennett, in celebration of her three years of service as Speaker of the Faculty, and then proceeded to announce the annual Distinguished Faculty awards, asking each person in turn to come on stage to be honored:

**Distinguished Teacher-Scholar:** William V. Moore (Political Science)

**Distinguished Service Award:** Marion T. Doig III (Chemistry/Biochemistry)

**Distinguished Advising Awards:**
- David W. Maves (Music)
- William V. Moore (Political Science)
- Dinesh G. Sarvate (Mathematics)

**Distinguished Research Award:** Barbara Duval (Studio Art)

**Distinguished Teaching Award**
- Caroline C. Hunt (English)

Three faculty were named **Distinguished Professors:**

- Charles E. Matthews: Elementary & Early Childhood Education
- Herb Silverman: Mathematics
- J. Fred Watts: Physics & Astronomy

Mr. Abrams also announced that President Sanders had appointed seven retiring faculty to the rank of **Emeritus:**

- Frances H. Courson: Educational Foundations & Specializations
- Rebecca B. Herring: Accounting & Legal Studies
- Paul W. Holmes: Psychology
- Paul E. Jursa: Economics & Finance
- William R. Kubinec: Physics & Astronomy
- Martha W. Runey: Biology
The Secretary was asked to read into the record a formal **RESOLUTION OF THANKS:**

The Faculty of the College of Charleston wish to thank Trisha Folds-Bennett for her distinguished service as Speaker of The Faculty for the past three years. We commend her notable fairness and even-handed impartiality in dealing with controversial issues, her ability to heal potential divisions among us, and her wisdom, energy, and good humor in a time of important institutional change. Not least, we thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Presidential Search Committee – a labor that will surely bear fruit for many years to come.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned *sine die* at about 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt,
Faculty Secretary