MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The second 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, October 1, in Room 116 of the Education Center, Speaker of the Faculty Hugh Wilder presiding. 47 Senators attended.

Reports

Hugh Wilder called the meeting to order. The minutes for the September Senate meeting were approved. Mr. Wilder then introduced Bill Lindstrom, Vice-President for Enrollment Management, whom the Speaker had invited to address the Senate on admissions policies and enrollment plans. Mr. Lindstrom reported on several changes that are taking place in our student body in response to President Higdon’s vision for the College. The average SAT score for entering freshmen, 1181, is up 20 points from last year’s average, and more than 100 points from the 1990 average of 1070.

Mr. Lindstrom pointed out that over the years the national average in SAT scores has remained slightly above 1000, and South Carolina’s average continues to be between 950 and 1000. The President would like next year’s entering class to average 1200 on the SAT. In all of South Carolina, there are between 1240 and 1250 students who make over 1200. “Our work is cut out for us,” Mr. Lindstrom said, to attract those high-scoring students in South Carolina. This year about 60% of applicants were accepted at the College, whereas last year about 68% were. The total pool of applicants is larger every year: last year there were 8635 applicants, while in 1990 there were 4342. Right now about 65% of our students are from South Carolina. The Admissions Office would like to keep the balance around 60% in-state, 40% out-of-state, in keeping with our mission and the wishes of the S. C. Legislature.

Mr. Lindstrom detailed the size of this year’s class compared to previous years. This Fall we enrolled 1824 regular freshmen and 179 provisional students. Last year there were 1836 freshmen and 138 provisional students. During the summer, as larger numbers of accepted freshmen informed the College that they had chosen this school, Admissions had to reduce the number of available transfer spots. 789 transfers enrolled in Fall 2001, but only 618 transfers were enrolled this semester. The total enrollment at the College this Fall is 7180, whereas last Fall the total enrollment was 6928. Mr. Lindstrom said that the figure of 7180 will drop once this semester’s “ghosts” (students still enrolled who have never attended) are identified and removed from the count. The total number of graduate students in Fall 2001 was 1709, and this semester that total is 1775. The President’s directive to Enrollment Management is to keep this year’s enrollment level with last year, and to drop by 75 next year. In four years, the College should have a drop of 300 students.

One Senator asked Mr. Lindstrom if the President’s goal for SAT scores would have the effect of reducing our minority population, and he replied that the Admissions Office would be seeking more and more ways to recruit minority applicants. Another Senator
wondered whether there were plans to increase graduate enrollment. Mr. Lindstrom and Mr. Wilder both said they had not been privy to any discussions of such plans.

The Speaker next welcomed Kristen Wing and Gloria Heyward from the College Bookstore, who presented information on textbook ordering and encouraged faculty to submit their book orders for Spring 2003 as soon as possible. Ms. Heyward stressed the importance of placing textbook orders by the deadlines. Orders may be placed via the bookstore’s website (use “efollett” as the initial password), through the old SIS interface, or through the paper copies we have already received. “I’m not choosy,” Ms. Heyward said, as long as she gets the order as early as possible. Ms. Wing explained that this advance ordering enables the bookstore to seek out used books and provide them to students at a lower cost. Also, if the bookstore knows a professor will be ordering a textbook in a future course, they will be able to pay students better prices in buybacks.

Ms. Wing noted that the bookstore’s goal was to have texts on the shelf one month before a semester starts; hence, faculty will be able to check on their orders easily. The bookstore guarantees that their prices will meet those of University Books. She also noted that the bookstore provides custom publishing (course-packets) at a lower price than the local copy shop competitors, and reminded faculty that bookstore profits are contributed to student scholarships. She invited Faculty to attend Faculty-Staff Appreciation Day on November 21st and 22nd, when they can receive larger discounts on all merchandise.

Terry Bowers asked if there were any plans to make the Bookstore more like a regular bookseller, with larger numbers of books that are of general interest and not just textbooks. Ms. Wing said that the Follett company was in the process of “profiling” the school and planning a complement of non-textbook titles. She said she welcomed Faculty suggestions on this subject or any other ways of improving the store. Trisha Folds-Bennett asked about the problem of students buying used texts and then not purchasing the supplements that sometimes come bundled with new textbooks, supplements that a professor might be relying on as a class text. Ms. Wing and Ms. Heyward suggested asking our publisher’s representative about purchasing the supplement separately, but they added that used texts frequently return to the store for resale in broken sets, and noted that students could still buy the used text, sans supplement, from another source besides the College Bookstore. Ms. Wing closed by inviting faculty to share any more ideas or suggestions with her or Ms. Heyward.

The Speaker

Mr. Wilder updated the Senate on a number of items. He reported that December graduation will be held December 15th at the North Charleston Coliseum. Despite the distance from campus, this ceremony will include the traditional faculty procession and therefore, the Speaker said, he hoped that many faculty would attend; many of our students graduate at this Commencement. In fact, we still count on December commencement to relieve the pressure on the overcrowded Spring ceremony. The Speaker announced that the President has chosen to stick with tradition for this Spring’s Commencement, which will be held May 10th for graduate programs and May 11th for
undergraduates. The location remains the same, but this year students will receive fewer tickets for guests (only 3 per student). The Speaker noted that faculty have always had access to one ticket each for bringing a guest to Spring Commencement. Mr. Wilder suggested that in November, he might ask the Senate to decide whether or not to discontinue this policy in view of the space limitations at the Cistern.

The speaker next discussed questions that had been raised regarding the academic calendar. He discussed the matter with Dean of Undergraduate Studies Sandy Powers and with Mike Gaines, who drafts the calendar, and they said they would welcome routine faculty review of the calendar. Mr. Wilder also reported that some of the constraints on the calendar date back to a Faculty decision in the past (perhaps in 1989) that each 3-hour course needed to include 2100 minutes of instruction. The Speaker suggested that the Faculty could consider reviewing this policy. In response to a Senator’s question of whether we were bound to 2100 minutes by any external standard, Sandy Powers said she was aware of none. There was also a discussion (inconclusive) of whether we ought to continue to have a Fall Break in our calendar.

Responding to further questions he had been asked, the Speaker noted that the Public Safety office has told him that their policy is to have a crossing guard at the intersection of Calhoun and St. Philip at peak hours, but the department is short-handed now, so there isn’t always an officer in place. Chief Cronin has also promised to step up enforcement of the ban of riding bikes on campus sidewalks. The Speaker then reminded faculty that anyone retiring on the TERI plan was, indeed, still obligated to fulfill all regular duties (serve on committees, write colleague letters, go through post-tenure review) as long as he or she is still working. On a separate matter, he also announced that the administration anticipates a budget cut from the state following November elections, but that the College is not expecting to have to cut its programs; instead, an “Expense Reduction Task Force,” consisting of faculty as well as administrators, is planning ways to slow down expenditures. Coincidentally, there will also be an ad hoc committee formed to look into faculty salaries, with the purpose of gathering data about salaries internally and at peer institutions. Finally, Mr. Wilder reported that future packets will contain the texts of motions in printed form. The “back-up documents,” which usually consist of extensive paperwork for Curriculum course proposals, will be placed on the Senate webpage.

With no constituents’ concerns, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger
Faculty Secretary

Remaining Fall 2002 Senate Meetings
Tuesdays at 5:00 o’clock in ECTR 116  November 5, December 3
Deadline for submitting items for Dec. 3rd agenda:  3 PM Thursday, 21 November