Minutes of the Spring 2004 Meeting of the Faculty of the College of Charleston

The Faculty met on Monday, 19 April, at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium. Speaker Hugh Wilder called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Fall 2003 meeting were approved, and the Speaker immediately recognized President Higdon.

**Reports: President Higdon**

“Are you glad it’s April?” the President asked the faculty. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication during the academic year. “It’s been a year of great progress despite a few bumps along the way,” he said, and that progress “is because of you.” Mr. Higdon thanked Hugh Wilder for his work as Speaker, noting that he had first met the Speaker during the Presidential search process three years ago. Since then, the Speaker has been someone the President could consult regularly; he has “an institutional view” and has been willing to give Mr. Higdon “the straight answer, not the answer I wanted to hear.” Mr. Higdon thanked the Speaker, and the faculty applauded. This is the Provost’s first year, the President noted, and he expressed appreciation for her work as well, noting that “this institution benefits from having her here.”

The President addressed the faculty on the state of the College. “There has probably never been a more difficult and challenging time for the institution of higher education,” he noted. Appropriations have been cut nationwide, but only one other state’s cuts to higher education have been of a greater percentage than the cuts made in South Carolina. Meanwhile, our costs increase as the demand for quality rises, especially with regard to technology and financial aid. “That being said, I think our institution has done well,” Mr. Higdon continued. The Fourth-Century Initiative is being implemented, the Master Plan has been completed, and we will soon have a Technology Plan. All the aspects of the Fourth-Century Initiative are having a positive impact on campus (more details will be reported at the upcoming Board meeting). We are “on task in virtually every area,” he said.

We do have more work to do towards the goal of diversifying ourselves, the President noted. He said he looks forward to working with the Diversity Committee, since this goal is “critically important.” Also critical is improving student quality. “We may be in a position to have the highest yield of admission acceptances ever,” which has both good and bad points. Additional lines are being filled as part of the Fourth-Century Initiative, but Mr. Higdon is concerned that not all departments’ searches have been successful this year. “Elise [Jorgens] and I want to do all we can” to help departments recruit new faculty, he said. He noted that the Compensation Study issued in January contains a mechanism for addressing any salaries that need to be raised. This “merit-based process” is “complicated” and “is taking longer than we first thought. But it is moving forward.” Other committees on workload and class size are about to conclude their work, Mr. Higdon said. “You should have filled out a survey about what needs repair” in department offices, he told the faculty. The Provost has announced that a Space Committee will be formed, and this will help them to address both current space needs and those that will occur as the College builds new facilities but must relocate faculty and
staff in temporary quarters during construction. “Ultimately there will be 50-60% more space,” he said, and in the interim, they hope to minimize disruption. Mr. Higsdon also said he wants to study the issue of maintenance, as well as other needs that the Master Plan has identified: traffic, parking, beautification. “We’re looking to allocate significant resources in this area,” he said.

Overall, the President said, he is “very optimistic” about our future. “We need programs that support excellence, support our students, and sharpen the distinctiveness of our institution.” The Schools are already working in various ways to emphasize our distinctiveness. The Board, at its next retreat, will be exploring the topic “What Does Excellence Cost?” Mr. Higdon said the Board needs to understand what resources are necessary for us to execute our plans. The issue of student retention also “needs our collective focus,” he noted. The institution needs to let faculty know how they can help in this regard. Compared to other institutions, we are performing well, “but we need to do better.” To this end, the President and the Provost will bring in some ideas and best practices for improving retention, a goal which can produce financial as well as academic benefits, he said. The President concluded by reminding faculty that he hoped to see as many of them as possible at both the graduate and undergraduate Commencements.

**Faculty Retirements and Awards**
The President recognized the following retiring faculty. Each was also thanked by his Dean or department chair and presented with a commemorative plaque.

Charles Matthews (Education)
Earl Rickerson (Chair, Division of Languages)
Gordon Jones (former Dean, School of Sciences & Math)
Jeffrey Johnson (English)
John Michel (Studio Arts).

Next, the President joined with the Provost to present the 2003-2004 Distinguished Faculty Awards.

**Distinguished Advising Award**
Charles E. Biernbaum, Biology
Ann Stein, Sociology

**Distinguished Service Award**
Sylvia Gamboa, English

**Distinguished Research Award**
Jack DiTullio, Biology

**Distinguished Teaching Award**
Martin Jones, Mathematics

**Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award**
Franklin Ashley, Theatre

**Speaker’s Report**
Hugh Wilder joined the faculty in congratulating the winners of these awards. He then noted that this was his last time to preside at a Faculty meeting, and thanked Deb Vaughn
for serving as webmaster and projectionist at meetings (both tasks she continues to do as a volunteer). He also thanked the Faculty Secretary, Julia Eichelberger, for taking minutes and helping him to plan Faculty and Senate meetings, and thanked George Pothering for his service as Parliamentarian on these occasions. And, the Speaker told the faculty, he was grateful for the support and input they had given him during his service. He seconded the President’s invitation to the Commencements in May, and urged faculty also to attend Convocation on the 23rd of August (the day before Fall classes begin). Charles Johnson, Professor of English at the University of Washington, will address the convening faculty and the entering freshmen, who will all have received (and, we hope, read) a copy of his award-winning novel *Middle Passage*.

Mr. Wilder then offered some reflections on his three years as Speaker. His term began in Fall 2001 with open forums on parking, and is ending with another forum on the same subject. (“Bob, good luck,” he said to Mr. Mignone, the Speaker-elect.) These have also been the first three years of Lee Higdon’s presidency. “Lee was a bold appointment at the College, and the right one,” because he is making the future of the College brighter. It has also been a pleasure to work with Elise Jorgens during her first year as Provost, the Speaker continued. Less positive is the fact that “support for higher education has fallen to historic lows,” with many government officials seeing higher education not as a public good, but as an unwanted expense. “Our challenge is to convince the public that higher education, especially liberal arts education, is an investment rather than a drain on resources,” he said.

Within the institution, we face other challenges and opportunities. The campus is in the midst of a building and renovation boom that is “unprecedented since the 1970’s,” the Speaker noted, and the Master Plan calls for more construction in the future. The College and its new Diversity Council are seeking more ways to keep the student body diverse. We also must continue to improve the balance between permanent and visiting or adjunct faculty, he said, if we are to become as “engaged and engaging” as we hope to be. The Speaker asserted that the President had made “an unprecedented commitment” by endorsing the Compensation Study, which the faculty appreciates. Additional committee reports are forthcoming with plans for improvement in other areas: Academic Planning (regarding Freshman Seminars), Workload, Class Size, Communication Across the Curriculum, and Technology. “As always, there is a lot of good work going on, and yet to do, at the College,” the Speaker concluded. “Being Speaker has given me a new perspective on our common work” and the many people on campus who contribute to it. His job as Speaker of the Faculty is “the best one I’ve had.”

**Committee on Nominations and Elections**

David Gentry presented the slates for the 2004-2005 Faculty Committees. The following faculty were elected.
Academic Standards, Admissions and Financial Aid  
Borg, Barbara Sociology and Anthropology
Cortese, Michael Psychology
Cudahy, Diane Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education
Gomez, Michael Hispanic Studies
Krantzman, Kristin Chemistry and Biochemistry
McCauley, Renee Computer Science
Vaughn, Deborah Library

Advisory Committee on Tenure and Promotion
(Five tenured regular and five tenured alternates)
Baginski, Thomas Classics, German, and Italian Regular
Barfield, William Physical Education and Health Regular
Clary, Betsy Jane Economics and Finance Regular
Nusbaum, Robert Geology Regular
Winfield, Idee Sociology and Anthropology Regular
Diamond, Beverly Mathematics Alternate
Jos, Philip Political Science Alternate
Lindner, Bernhard Physics and Astronomy Alternate
Mazzone, Marian Art History Alternate
Turner, Greg Management and Marketing Alternate

Committee on Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness  
Boucher, Christophe History
Callicott, Burton Library
Colomina-Garrigos, Maria Hispanic Studies
de Buron, Isaure Biology
Finefrock, Michael History
Futrell, Michelle Physical Education and Health
Litvin, Stephen Management and Marketing
Sadler, Mary English
Turner, Laura Theatre

Committee on Nominations and Elections
(Seven, at least three years at the College of Charleston)
Caveny, Deanna Mathematics
Doig, Marion Chemistry and Biochemistry
Farrell, Susan English
Heldrich, Rick Chemistry and Biochemistry
Morris, Frank Classics, German, and Italian
Nunan, Richard Philosophy and Religious Studies
Phillips, Michael Library
Curriculum Committee  (Nine)
Ayme-Southgate, Agnes  Biology
Bielsky, Katherine  Library
Boyle, Deborah  Philosophy and Religious Studies
Dobson, John  Physical Education and Health
Garton, Tessa  Art History
McCandless, Amy  History
Morrison, Susan  Biology
Powell, Sara  Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Yost, Jeffrey  Accounting and Legal Studies

Educational Technology Committee
(Seven, no more than two from one department)
Fowler, Robert  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education
Kinard, W. Frank  Chemistry and Biochemistry
Lyndrup, Allen  Theatre
Moore, Christine  Computer Science
Profit, Steven  Library
Seaman, Myra  English
Styles, Alan  Accounting and Legal Studies

Faculty Advisory Committee to the President  (Eleven)
Curtis, Claire  Political Science
Daniels, Roger  Accounting and Legal Studies
Fitzharris, Linda  Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Francis, Conseula  English
Hart, Edward  Music
Keyes, Denis  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education
Quinn, Moore  Sociology
Shields, Sandra  Mathematics
Weyers, Joseph  Hispanic Studies
Wiseman, D. Reid  Biology
Zeiner, Noelle  Classics, German, and Italian

Faculty Grievance Committee
(Five: three tenured, two not tenured; and four alternates: two tenured, two not tenured)
Ellis, Edith  Physical Education and Health  Regular; Non-tenured
Fitzwilliam, Marie  English  Regular; Non-tenured
Lamb, Chris  Communications  Regular; Tenured
Liu, Gouli  Political Science  Regular; Tenured
Van Sickle, Meta  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education  Regular; Tenured
Della Lana, Stephen  Classics, German, and Italian  Alternate; Non-tenured
Heldrich, Rick  Chemistry and Biochemistry  Alternate; Tenured
Katuna, Mike  Geology  Alternate; Tenured
Smail, Karen  Physical Education and Health  Alternate; Non-tenured
Faculty Hearing Committee  (Five tenured, at least two full professors; and six tenured alternates, at least two full professors)
Hettinger, Edwin  Philosophy and Religious Studies  Regular; Professor
Miller, Deborah  Physical Education and Health  Regular; Professor
Sarvate, Dinesh  Mathematics  Regular; Professor
Tennyson, Mack  Accounting and Legal Studies  Regular; Professor
Tsai, Jung-fang  History  Regular; Professor
Bartel, Virginia  Elementary and Early Childhood Education  Alternate
Ford, Lynne  Political Science  Alternate
Fowler, Robert  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Ed.  Alternate; Professor
Hittner, James  Psychology  Alternate
Peacock, Clifton  Studio Art  Alternate; Professor
Silverman, Herb  Mathematics  Alternate; Professor

Faculty Research and Development  (Nine)
Attafi, Abdellatif  French
Crotts, John  Management and Marketing
Davis, Carol Ann  English
Jones, Martin  Mathematics
McDaniel, June  Philosophy
Newhard, James  Classics, German, and Italian
Perkins, Bob  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education
Regnier, Marc  Music
Wyatt, Justin  Chemistry and Biochemistry

Faculty Welfare Committee  (Eight)
Berg, Karen  Hispanic Studies
Danaher, Bill  Sociology and Anthropology
Deavor, James  Chemistry and Biochemistry
Frankel, Sara  Studio Art
Hough, Sheridan  Philosophy and Religious Studies
Jaume, Steven  Geology
Lacroix, Celeste  Communications
Ross, Lisa  Psychology

Graduate Education, Continuing Education and Special Programs  (Five, at least one graduate faculty)
Martin, Elizabeth  Chemistry and Biochemistry
Owens, Sarah  Hispanic Studies
Runyon, Cassandra  Geology  Graduate
Russell, Robert  Art History
Voorneveld, R. Burke Chip  Foundations, Secondary, and Special Ed.  Graduate
Honor Board (Five)
Agrest, Sofia Mathematics
Birrer, Doryjane English
Brooks, Michelle Chemistry and Biochemistry
Huddlestun, John Philosophy and Religious Studies
Korey, Christopher Biology

Honors Program Committee (Five, three teaching in Honors Program)
Ashley, Franklin Theatre
Bjerken, Zeff Philosophy and Religious Studies
Kelly, Joe English Honors
Overby, Jason Chemistry and Biochemistry Honors
Poole, Scott History Honors

Library (Seven)
Balinsky, Susan Physical Education and Health
Blose, Julia Management and Marketing
Breedlove, William Sociology and Anthropology
Ivey, Thomas Mathematics
Skinner, Michael Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education
Williams, Dennis English
Wragg, Jeff Physics and Astronomy

Post-Tenure Review Committee (Five tenured; and five tenured alternates)
Asleson, Gary Chemistry and Biochemistry Regular
Muldrow, Ralph Art History Regular
Norton, Robert Mathematics Regular
Pharr, Walter Computer Science Regular
Phillips, Michael Library Regular
Gentry, David Psychology Alternate
Grantham, Todd Philosophy Alternate
Johnson, Diane Art History Alternate
Moreira, Luci Hispanic Studies Alternate
Thom, Katherine Mathematics Alternate

Recycling and Environmental Responsibility (Five)
Carroll, Tom Physical Education and Health
Chico-Wyatt, Irene Hispanic Studies
Rodriguez, Silvia Hispanic Studies
Stackel, Martha Library
Wasielewski, Noah Physical Education and Health
Approval of Degree Candidates

Bob Mignone moved that the faculty approve the previously-circulated list of degree candidates, and Charles Kinard seconded this motion, which then passed.

For the Good of the Order

The Faculty Secretary read the following statement into the record.

A RESOLUTION OF THANKS
The Faculty of the College of Charleston wish to thank Hugh Wilder for his distinguished service for the past three years. As Speaker of the Faculty, Hugh Wilder has worked so efficiently, so unobtrusively, and with so many different people that no one could detail the countless unremembered acts of service he has performed: advising faculty members about how to bring a motion to the Senate, encouraging committee chairs to tackle difficult projects, presenting faculty concerns to administrators. He has conducted all Senate and Faculty meetings with good cheer and with an even hand. During his term of service, the College has added a new president, a new provost, a new tradition of Fall Convocation, and an ambitious new mission in its Fourth-Century Initiative. Hugh Wilder has been a force for good in each of these new developments at the College of Charleston, and we are indeed grateful for his selfless service.

The faculty gave Mr. Wilder a standing ovation. The Provost then presented him with a commemorative plaque.

With no other announcements, Mr. Wilder asked Bob Mignone, the Speaker-elect, to close the meeting. The faculty then adjourned until the Fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger
Faculty Secretary