Minutes of the Faculty Senate

The Senate met Tuesday, November 4, 2003 in ECTR 116 at 5:00 p.m. Sixty-four Senators attended. Speaker Hugh Wilder called the meeting to order and began by noting several corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. The October minutes were then approved as corrected.

Reports

The Speaker

Mr. Wilder informed the Senate that he had attended the October Board of Trustees meeting, where the Master Planners presented their final draft to the Board. This report, which has also been released to the public, is a comprehensive, long-range plan for the physical facilities of the College, including some items that would be implemented ten or more years later. The Speaker added that at the Board meeting, the President gave a report which included two items of special interest to faculty. The President reported that the plans to decrease enrollment, as part of the Fourth-Century Initiative, continue, and that he is now particularly interested in being able to predict and manage enrollment more precisely, by being able to project acceptance and retention rates more accurately. The President wishes to keep statistics on in-state versus out-of-state students, and to grow the College’s applicant pool. He also is concerned about students’ own retention of their scholarships, since this affects the College’s retention of these students. Second, the President reported that given the current budget shortfalls in the state, there is no funding yet in place for the new Science Center; thus he is interested in studying the feasibility of a phased approach to funding. Through such an approach, the College could construct portions of the Center in stages, as money became available, rather than waiting until the whole amount was accumulated.

The Speaker also told Senators that he had received a letter from Pamela Isacco Niesslein regarding Freshman Seminar (FRSR 101). This course was discussed at the September Senate meeting, and in response to the issues raised at this meeting, Ms. Niesslein had written a letter to the Speaker and sent copies to the chair of the Academic Planning Committee and the Provost. This letter will be placed on the Senate website, Mr. Wilder told the Senate; it addresses the questions of who teaches FRSR 101, how those teachers are trained and supervised, and what the content of the course includes.

The Speaker also announced that the following weekend (November 7-9) was both Family Weekend and Alumni Fall Festival. All events are open to faculty, he noted. Mr. Wilder also announced the receptions the President was hosting in November for students, organized by class. All events (which will also be announced by email) will be at 4 p.m. in Alumni Hall, and faculty are invited. Another upcoming event, the Speaker noted for Senators’ information, will be a day of student service performed on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in January. Lauren Collier, coordinator of Service Learning, is organizing this event, and Mr. Wilder encouraged faculty to contact her if we know of any possible one-day service projects that students could undertake for this event.

Next, the Speaker addressed a few housekeeping issues. He reminded Senators and
departments that Senators were elected to serve out a fixed term. If someone who has been elected must resign (due to sabbatical, schedule conflicts, etc.), a new Senator must be elected to serve the remainder of that term. There are no provisions in the by-laws for proxy, temporary, or substitute Senators; the Speaker reminded everyone that they could not vote unless they were the elected Senator from their department or from the faculty at-large. He also reminded everyone of rules for Senate discussion (in which all faculty have floor privileges). He thanked everyone for continuing the practice of identifying themselves and their department as they began speaking. Mr. Wilder also noted that in order to allow everyone to participate, he would be imposing a 5-minute time limit on any person’s comments, and would restrict each person to 2 chances to speak during a meeting, unless someone were asked a question and needed a chance to respond. Only Senators could cast votes, and these were normally done on a voice vote. Senators may call for a division of the house (show of hands), or for a secret ballot, and such requests require a motion and a second, and are amendable, but not debatable.

Old Business

Resolution on Diversity
The Speaker recognized Chris Hope (At-large), sponsor of a resolution that was being discussed in the October meeting. The resolution had been amended at the October meeting. Mr. Wilder reminded Senators that in October, the Senate voted to consider the two paragraphs of the resolution separately, so the discussion would focus on one paragraph at a time. Ms. Hope first announced that she was offering an amended version of the resolution she had presented in October. The resolution as the Senate amended it in October read as follows.

A Resolution Concerning Diversity And The Hiring of the College’s New Senior Vice President for Student Affairs

Whereas, The College of Charleston is committed to developing a learning environment that celebrates the potential of all the members of the college community as that potential relates to the institution’s mission to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and community service; and,

Whereas, The College of Charleston has embarked on the "The Fourth Century Initiative: A Quest for Excellence," which seeks to make the school "a nationally preeminent public liberal arts and sciences university";

Whereas, Diversity is a requisite hallmark of any public institution concerned with modeling responsible hiring practices that reflect excellence and equity; and,

Whereas, The student body of the College of Charleston reflects a rich mix of multicultural, multiracial and multiethnic groups;

Whereas, The College of Charleston has used diversity as a tool to break the gender barrier in the past few years, by hiring and promoting women to key positions; and
Whereas, There are no minority members of the Board of Trustees, nor at the Senior Vice President level, nor among the Deans of the Schools;

Whereas, The aforementioned bodies are making key decisions for a multi-racial, multiethnic and multicultural student body, and

Whereas, Expanding educational opportunities for minorities in higher education sets a good example for students and publicly demonstrates the College’s commitment to a diverse workforce; therefore be it

Resolved, The College of Charleston Faculty Senate strongly urges the President and the search committee for the Senior Vice President of Student Affairs to take all necessary steps to make the applicant pool as diverse as possible, actively recruiting historically underrepresented populations and, be it further

Resolved, That the College of Charleston Faculty Senate encourages the President and the Board of Trustees to use this opportunity to make an appointment that best serves the interests of a diverse student body in order to help foster a sense of equality and balance at the Senior Vice President level; we believe this action will ultimately be in the best interests of our students and of the College.

Dave Marshall, Department of Communication
Resolution sponsored by At-large Senator Chris Hope

The new version of the resolution that Ms. Hope was now presenting read as follows.

College of Charleston Faculty Senate
A Resolution Concerning Diversity: Recruiting and Hiring

Whereas, The College of Charleston is committed to developing a learning environment that celebrates the potential of all the members of the college community as that potential relates to the institution’s mission to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and community service; and,

Whereas, The College of Charleston has embarked on the "The Fourth Century Initiative: A Quest for Excellence," which seeks to make the school "a nationally preeminent public liberal arts and sciences university."

Whereas, Diversity is a requisite hallmark of any public institution concerned with modeling responsible hiring practices that reflect excellence and equity; and,

Whereas, The student body of the College of Charleston reflects a rich mix of multicultural, multiracial and multiethnic groups,

Whereas, The College of Charleston has used diversity as a tool to break the gender barrier in the past few years, by hiring and promoting women to key positions,
Whereas, The College has adopted in its strategic plan the goals of increased diversity for its students, faculty, and staff,

Whereas, Expanding educational opportunities for minorities in higher education, sets a good example for students and publicly demonstrates the College’s commitment to a diverse workforce, therefore be it

Resolved, The College of Charleston Faculty Senate strongly urges the President and all institutional search committees to take all necessary steps to make the applicant pool as diverse as possible, actively recruiting historically underrepresented populations and, be it further

Resolved, That the College of Charleston Faculty Senate encourages the President and the Board of Trustees to make appointments that best serve the interests of a diverse institution.

After presenting the new version of the resolution, Ms. Hope then recognized Dave Marshall, the author of the resolution, and Mr. Marshall thanked her for her support of his effort. He noted that he was also appreciative of support from the President’s office, where he had discussed his resolution in detail. He said he wished to amend this resolution in order to take the focus off the hiring for a particular position, and refocus it on the College’s mission as a whole. This resolution reflects the College’s strategic plan and the core values the institution should have, Mr. Marshall said. “We as a faculty need to say publicly that we support the President” in his efforts to create a more diverse institution. Mr. Marshall added that he hoped the faculty could help dispel the myth that a minority hire might be less than excellent; this is “something we haven’t publicly done,” he said. Finally, he added, it is good for our students to see diverse people in these important positions at the College.

Mr. Wilder then invited discussion of the first paragraph of the resolution. Tom Kunkle (At-large) said, “I love it. I call the question.” Mr. Kunkle’s motion was seconded and passed, and then the faculty voted on the first resolution, which also passed. Next, Ms. Hope introduced the second paragraph, noting the wording that had been broadened from a focus on the Senior Vice President search, and now applied to the institution as a whole. Mr. Wilder asked if there were any objections to the Senate considering this modified paragraph; there were none. Discussion followed. Frank Kinard (At-large) wondered if anyone could give him an example of an appointment that did not serve the best interests of the institution. Frank Morris (Classics) said that earlier this fall, there were students here at the College whose interests were not represented or served by the administration when the LGBT minor was discussed and rejected before being formally proposed. Marion Doig (At-large) said he thought the resolution was pointless but did no harm. Alex Kasman (Mathematics) objected to some of the language in the new resolution, which he thought too vague. Tom Kunkle called the question. This motion was seconded and passed, and then the second paragraph of the resolution was passed on a voice vote.

Next the Senate considered the preamble to Mr. Marshall’s resolution. Chris Hope noted
that there were also modifications to these “Whereas” paragraphs, removing one paragraph that had been in the original and changing the wording in others. Glen Lesses (Philosophy) asked why the Senate was debating the preamble after the resolutions had been approved, and the Parliamentarian, George Pothering, explained that this was procedurally correct, since there was no point in tinkering with preambles for resolutions that were not passed. Regarding the preamble itself, Mr. Marshall noted that he had wanted to change the title of the resolution so that it would not refer to a specific search, and that he had also included a reference to the College’s Strategic Plan. Darryl Phillips (Classics, German, and Japanese) said he was sorry to see the removal of the “Whereas” paragraph that noted that the College had no members of minorities on the Board of Trustees or in senior administrative positions. He asked why that language had been removed. Mr. Marshall replied that he had originally wanted to address a time-sensitive hire, but that now he wanted to present the issue more broadly, in hopes that it would be supported over a longer period of time. Elise Jorgens, Provost, spoke in favor of Mr. Marshall’s resolution, noting that its current wording reflected the commitment of the College. The President had asked her to tell the Faculty that he supports this resolution.

Alex Kasman asked to remove the prefix “multi” from the words in the fourth paragraph. Ms. Hope accepted this as a friendly amendment, as well as Rich Bodek (History)’s suggestion to remove a comma from the seventh paragraph. Frank Kinard then commented that people who had “been on this campus for awhile” know that “we’ve been doing this [seeking diversity in hiring] for a long time.” Andrew Sobiesuo (At-large) said he had been at the College for 13 years and he had seen some very positive changes, thanks to the Administration’s commitment to diversity. The resolution doesn’t deny this, he said, but it’s important that the faculty go on record in endorsement of this effort. Larry Krasnoff (Philosophy) said he thought the paragraph stating that the College was a “rich mix” of ethnic and cultural groups was a little more optimistic than accurate, and he asked for a Senator to amend this with the adverb “increasingly.” Bev Diamond (Mathematics) made this suggestion, which the sponsor accepted as friendly. The Senate then voted to accept the preamble, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The full text of the resolution, in its final form, follows.

College of Charleston Faculty Senate
A Resolution Concerning Diversity: Recruiting and Hiring

Whereas. The College of Charleston is committed to developing a learning environment that celebrates the potential of all the members of the college community as that potential relates to the institution’s mission to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and community service; and,

Whereas. The College of Charleston has embarked on the "The Fourth Century Initiative: A Quest for Excellence," which seeks to make the school "a nationally preeminent public liberal arts and sciences university."

Whereas. Diversity is a requisite hallmark of any public institution concerned with modeling responsible hiring practices that reflect excellence and equity; and,
Whereas, The student body of the College of Charleston reflects an increasingly rich mix of cultural, racial and ethnic groups,

Whereas, The College of Charleston has used diversity as a tool to break the gender barrier in the past few years, by hiring and promoting women to key positions,

Whereas, The College has adopted in its strategic plan the goals of increased diversity for its students, faculty, and staff,

Whereas, Expanding educational opportunities for minorities in higher education sets a good example for students and publicly demonstrates the College’s commitment to a diverse workforce, therefore be it

Resolved, The College of Charleston Faculty Senate strongly urges the President and all institutional search committees to take all necessary steps to make the applicant pool as diverse as possible, actively recruiting historically underrepresented populations and, be it further

Resolved, That the College of Charleston Faculty Senate encourages the President and the Board of Trustees to make appointments that best serve the interests of a diverse institution.

New Business

Sarah Owen, for the Committee on Graduate Education, presented the following proposals.

1. EVSS 638 - Introduction to Hydrogeology (New course)
2. Option of a new African American concentration in the M.A. English program (proposal to change a graduate program.)
3. ENGL 570 - Topics in African American Literary Genres (New Course)
4. ENGL 571 - Topics in African American Literary Periods (New Course)
5. ENGL 572 - Topics in Major African American Writers (New Course)
6. ENGL 573 - Special Topics in African American Literature (New Course)
7. ENGL 702 - Internship

Rohn England (Mathematics) asked why the proposal for EVSS 638 included a proposal to cross-list the course with an undergraduate 400-level course, when that 400-level course did not yet exist. Discussion confirmed that the course had not yet been approved by the Curriculum Committee, so the Senate agreed to vote only on the course itself, not on the accompanying proposal to cross-list it. EVSS 638 was then approved. Discussion turned to the new African American concentration in the M.A. in English program. Bev Diamond asked if the optional course in another discipline had to be at the graduate level. Joe Kelly, director of the M.A. program, said that it did. Bill Moore (Political Science) asked if this would also have to be approved by the Citadel faculty, since this M.A. comes from both institutions, and Mr. Kelly confirmed that it would. This proposal
Norris Preyer, chair of the Curriculum Committee, offered the following proposals. Following some clarification of the reason for the name changes for courses in the Criminal Justice minor, all these proposals passed.

1. F03-06 JPNS 343 Advanced Japanese Conversation and Composition – New Course Proposal
2. F03-07 Minor in Creative Writing – Proposal to Change Degree Requirements
3. F03-08 ENGL 402 Advanced Workshop in Poetry Writing – New Course Proposal
4. F03-09 ENGL 403 Advanced Workshop in Fiction Writing – New Course Proposal
5. F03-10 Interdisciplinary Minor in Criminal Justice – Proposal to Change Requirements
6. F03-11 CRLS 300 Special Topics in Crime, Law, and Society – New Course Proposal
7. F03-12 CRLS 400 Internship – New Course Proposal
8. F03-13 LIBR 101 Introduction to Bibliography and Research Methods – Proposal to Delete a Course

Mr. Preyer also presented the Senate with a topic that had come from Lauren Collier, Service Learning Coordinator, Office of Student Affairs. This office would like a way to designate existing courses that contain a service-learning component, so that when students register for them on Cougar Trail, they will be aware of this aspect of the course. Hugh Wilder recognized Ms. Collier, who explained that a number of faculty had told her that since courses with a service-learning component require different things of students than a traditional course, students need to be aware of this requirement when they register for the class. She asked the Senate whether it would be permissible for the Registrar to go ahead and make this designation (perhaps through an SL attached to the course number), or whether such a designation would need to be requested by a faculty committee. Frank Kinard wondered if there were any guidelines on what sort of work was permissible for a student to do in such a course. Glen Lesses said, “I’d like to reflect on this and see whether I have any objections to it.” He moved to table discussion of this topic until the next meeting. The motion passed. Bev Diamond then asked if Ms. Collier might provide the Senate with examples of service-learning courses, since some faculty are unfamiliar with the concept.

The Speaker called for constituent concerns. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to adjourn, which was passed at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Eichelberger
Faculty Secretary