To: Faculty
From: Susan Farrell, Faculty Secretary
About: November 29 Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate met on Tuesday, November 29 for about an hour and twenty minutes. Here are the highlights (full minutes to follow later):

**Highlights**

--Speaker Bob Mignone reminded faculty that the new plus/minus grading system will go into effect in fall of 2006. In the faculty newsletter for this fall, Mr. Mignone will discuss how he plans to use the new grading system, and he hopes that all faculty members will begin to consider how they will calibrate grades in the new system as well. Next, Mr. Mignone announced that he would like to put together an informal executive council consisting of the Speaker of the Faculty, the Speaker Pro-Tem, the Faculty Secretary, and the Senate Parliamentarian, to facilitate better communication between the faculty and the administration. Mr. Mignone also asked faculty members to look for a forthcoming e-mail from him about the January MLK Challenge, and he reminded faculty of the meeting to be held with the President and the Provost this Friday, December 2 at 9:30 am in Addlestone Library 227 to discuss college identity.

--Susan Kattwinkel, reporting on behalf of the Ad-hoc Committee on First Year Education, announced that the committee has been working on the logistics of the first-year seminar proposal approved in spirit by the Senate last year. In the spring, the committee will work with the Ad-hoc Committee on General Education to answer remaining questions about the course.

--Phil Paradise, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association, reported that the Student Senate had just passed a resolution designed to ease implementation of the new plus/minus grading system. After some discussion, Hugh Wilder (At-Large, Philosophy) moved that the Senate refer the entire SGA resolution to the Academic Standards Committee for their consideration and action where appropriate. The Committee will report back to the Senate at its February 28 meeting. The motion passed.

--After some discussion and the addition of a friendly amendment, the motion brought by the Faculty Welfare Committee concerning the Labor Day Holiday passed.

--All motions put forth by the Curriculum Committee passed.

--All motions put forth by the Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education, and Special Programs passed.

--After some tweaking of language through the addition of four friendly amendments, the Faculty Leave Policy put forth by the Faculty Welfare Committee passed.
--A motion brought by Claire Curtis, asking that the Faculty Senate convene a campus-wide conversation on the identity of the College of Charleston as a liberal arts and sciences institution, passed after brief discussion.

--During the Constituents' Concerns portion of the meeting, George Hopkins (History) expressed concern that members of the College custodial staff "had been called to a meeting in which they were informed that the College was looking into contracting out their work and that some of them might be fired." Mr. Hopkins wondered whether a plan to privatize our custodial employees, many of whom are African American and have worked here for many years, exists, and if it does, whether this violates our core value of community. There was no response to the question.

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