The faculty met on Monday, September 5, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium. Speaker Bob Mignone called the meeting to order, and the minutes from the Spring, 2005 meeting of the faculty were approved.

**Reports**

**The President**

Mr. Mignone first recognized College President Lee Higdon, who welcomed faculty members back and thanked them for investing in a productive summer. Mr. Higdon also thanked the speaker for the good job he does representing the faculty’s views and Provost Elise Jorgens for leadership on several important issues over the past year.

Mr. Higdon noted that he was starting his fifth year at the College, and that, in that time, significant progress has been made in our move toward pre-eminence as a public liberal arts and sciences university. Yet, he observed that the end of the year is the time to discuss accomplishments. In this address, he explained that he would focus on updates and priorities.

Mr. Higdon proceeded to update faculty members on several significant items. He noted that this year’s entering class is the best class—at least on paper—that we’ve ever enrolled at the College. He explained that we’re beginning to look at enrollment information more analytically than we’ve done in the past. The numbers show that we’re winning the competition for good students against some of the best schools in the state and country, and that we’re drawing students from places we never have in the past. He related that he has received numerous comments about the quality of students we’re attracting, both from faculty and staff. In addition, Mr. Higdon explained that he’s continuing to work on campus facility issues. The College’s appearance and the quality of our facilities are important to how we present ourselves, though with 130 buildings, facilities work is constantly ongoing. Finally, the President announced that last year was the best fundraising year in the College’s history. Even more, the quarter from July 1, 2005 (which hasn’t ended yet) has already been the single best fundraising quarter in our history. He noted that, as state support for the College decreases, private support has become increasingly important and necessary for our survival. He expects that our reliance on private support will increase even more in the future.

The President then went on to discuss priorities he plans to focus on in the upcoming year. The first priority he mentioned was diversifying our community. He pointed out that we’ve made progress in faculty recruitment. He noted the hiring of a new Associate Vice President for Diversity, and thanked the search committee, Virginia Friedman, and the College Diversity Council for making this hire possible. Mr. Higdon next discussed faculty compensation issues, pointing out that he is pleased with the progress made in this area. He met with the faculty compensation committee last year and will again this year,
as he continues to focus on salary issues. The priority this year will be to look at compensation associated with rank promotion and tenure decisions. Mr. Higdon did warn that he is not making any promises because consistency is important. He will have to have confidence that any new program in this area is sustainable before making changes. Another priority this year will be faculty workload. Mr. Higdon noted that he has read the report submitted by the workload committee and that the Provost will report to the faculty on workload issues soon. Finally, the President discussed program distinctiveness as a priority. He noted that the College has evolved significantly over the last thirty years. He explained that he believes we need to have a community conversation regarding our identity as an institution, and that it is time to broaden that discussion among faculty members.

Mr. Higdon concluded his report by wishing faculty members a productive and exciting year.

**The Speaker**

Speaker of the Faculty Bob Mignone welcomed both new and returning faculty to the fall 2005 meeting. Saying he would keep his report very short, Mr. Mignone began by asking faculty to be extra-sensitive to students and colleagues with homes or family in the areas struck by Hurricane Katrina. He then moved on to announce that the committee reviewing the College’s General Education requirements has been hard at work. The committee, he reported, is in consensus that a wider range of faculty need to be included in the General Education discussion at this point. He noted that forums will be held in October to open up the process of General Education reform to the faculty at large. Dates and times will be announced soon.

**Strategic Technology Plan Update**

The speaker then recognized Chris Starr, Chair of the College’s Information Technology Council, who updated the faculty on the implementation of the College’s Strategic Technology Plan. Mr. Starr reported that the Council has come up with a list of strategic technology goals as well as ranked and prioritized technology projects. He announced that seven new IT projects are currently underway on campus:

-- an anti-spam service (which drew loud applause from the audience!)
-- a campus data repository
-- a master resource and event calendar
-- an upgrade to the parking process, called Powerpark Flex Migration
-- a print management process to control excessive printing in the Addlestone Library
-- a student e-mail update to help improve performance of this system
-- a web content management system, designed to automate web updates

Mr. Starr also noted several ongoing IT projects, including:

-- improving Cougar card services
--transferring college forms to electronic format and re-engineering business processes
--developing and implementing the Swamp Fox system to replace SIS

In addition, Mr. Starr noted the introduction of two new college services. The “Ask CofC” service provides real-time answers to a huge variety of questions that may be typed in to any web page where the “Ask CofC” box appears. This service is expected to save a great deal of time, since individual administrators and departments will no longer have to handle a huge volume of repetitive e-mail. The “Ask Clyde” service is a self-reporting online form for students to submit requests for help with personal or situational problems that affect their college experience.

Finally, Mr. Starr announced that the IT Council is hoping to work on several other projects in the future, including an electronic box office system, future Faculty Technology Institutes, and Internet 2, a faster alternative to the current internet. The next call for proposals for the IT Council to consider will occur in December of 2005.

New Business

FAST System

Mr. Mignone next recognized Professor Brian McGee of the Communication Department who introduced the College’s new FAST system. The intent of this program is to increase retention by matching students with needed services. The acronym stands for “Faculty Assisting Students in Trouble,” and the system is designed to be a very quick, easy way for faculty members to identify students having some kind of trouble without needing to know the names of the different campus services that provide aid to such students.

Mr. McGee briefly demonstrated how the FAST system works. Accessed through Cougar Trail, the system leads faculty members through a series of prompt boxes that take under two minutes to fill out. After Mr. McGee’s report, Professor Mark Lazzaro asked what happens when a faculty member reports a student using the FAST system. Mr. McGee responded that a student will be contacted by the appropriate campus agency and offered assistance. The student may then choose whether to accept the assistance or not.

Speaking Lab

Mr. Mignone then called on Professor Deborah McGee, who introduced to faculty the college’s new Speaking Lab. Explaining that the lab was developed out of Communication-Across-the-Curriculum meetings over several years, Ms. McGee explained that the function of the new lab is to help both students and faculty members with the following items:

--Overcoming public speaking apprehension
--Developing public speaking content (including organization, research support, effective power point slides, etc.)
--Improving delivery (including the capability to record presentations and analyze them)

The new Speaking Lab is staffed by six student consultants (three of them named Jessica.) Ms. McGee also stressed that the lab is available for use by faculty members planning to make conference presentations. Faculty members using the lab will be aided by Ms. McGee herself rather than by Jessica.

Introduction of New Faculty

The Provost called on Deans to introduce new chairs and new faculty members in their schools. In admirably rapid fashion, the Deans introduced the following faculty members:

School of the Arts
New Chairs:
Michelle Van Parys, Studio Art
Todd McInerney, Theatre

New Faculty:
Art History
Mr. James L. Ward, Assistant Professor, MLA: Georgia
Dr. Mathew P. Canepa, Assistant Professor, Chicago

Music
Ms. Natalia Khoma, Assistant Professor, MA: Boston

Studio Art
Mr. Jerome B. Meadows, Visiting Assistant Professor, MFA: Maryland
Ms. Loul M. Samater, Visiting Assistant Professor, MFA: Art Institute of Chicago

School of Business
New Chairs:
Bill Koprowski, Accounting and Legal Studies
Frank Hefner, Economics and Finance
John Crotts, Hospitality and Tourism Management
Tom Kent, Management and Entrepreneurship
Kent Gourdin, Marketing and Supply Chain Management

New Faculty:
Accounting and Legal Studies
Dr. Philip Harris Seigel, Visiting Professor, DBA: Memphis
Dr. William Koprowski, Associate Professor, Temple

Economics and Finance
Dr. Heather L.R. Tierney, Assistant Professor, California
Dr. Jocelyn Evans, Associate Professor, South Carolina
Dr. Mark K. Pyles, Assistant Professor, Kentucky

**Hospitality and Tourism Management**
Dr. Christopher Anthony Ryan, Visiting Professor, Aston, U.K.
Ms. Heather Goldman, Instructor, MBA: IMHI, Paris
Dr. Robert E. Frash, Assistant Professor, Purdue
Dr. Tanya MacLaurin, Visiting Professor, Kansas State

**Management and Entrepreneurship**
Dr. Gordon E. Dehler, Assistant Professor, Cincinnati
Dr. Juan Luis Martinez, Visiting Professor, Navarra
Dr. Laquita C. Blockson, Assistant Professor, Pittsburgh
Dr. Stephen Mauldin, Visiting Instructor, Ed.D.: Georgia

**School of Education**

**New Faculty:**

**Elementary and Early Childhood Education**
Ms. Emily Neil Skinner, Assistant Professor, M.Ed.: Oakland
Ms. Meredith E. Harris, Visiting Assistant Professor, MAT: Virginia
Dr. Renard B. Harris, Assistant Professor, Tennessee
Ms. Rhonda M. Corley, Visiting Assistant Professor, M.Ed.: South Carolina
Dr. William R. Veal, Assistant Professor, Georgia
Ms. Katherine B. McIntosh, Visiting Assistant Professor, M.Ed.: South Carolina

**Foundations, Secondary, and Special Education**
Dr. Carla Renee Monroe, Assistant Professor, Emory
Dr. Faye L. Hicks-Townes, Visiting Associate Professor, Ed.D.: Tennessee
Dr. Mary C. Provost, Assistant Professor, Ed.D.: Florida Atlantic
Dr. Susan A. Beattie, Visiting Assistant Professor, Florida
Dr. Thomas E. Murray, Visiting Assistant Professor, South Florida

**Physical Education and Health**
Dr. Timothy Scheett, Visiting Assistant Professor, Connecticut

**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**New Chairs:**
Glenn Lesses, Philosophy
Lee Irwin, Religious Studies
Joe Weyers, Hispanic Studies

**New Faculty:**

**Classics/German/Italian/Japanese/Russian**
Dr. Lee Patterson, Visiting Assistant Professor, Missouri-Columbia

**Communication**
Dr. Alexis Nyandwi, Assistant Professor, Washington State
Dr. Amanda Margaret Ruth, Assistant Professor, Florida
Dr. Deborah McGee, Visiting Associate Professor, Ohio State
Ms. Merissa Ferrara, Assistant Professor, MA: Michigan State

**English**
Dr. Alison Piepmeier, Assistant Professor/Director of WMST, Vanderbilt
Mr. Anthony Varallo, Assistant Professor, MFA: Iowa
Dr. J. Michael Duvall, Assistant Professor, Maryland

Hispanic Studies
Ms. Devon Hanahan, Visiting Instructor, MA: South Carolina
Dr. Raul Carrillo-Arciniega, Assistant Professor, Tennessee
Dr. Sonia B. Maruenda, Visiting Assistant Professor, Washington

History
Dr. Anna Christina Rose, Visiting Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins
Dr. Lia Paradis, Visiting Assistant Professor, Rutgers

Philosophy
Dr. Anthony Marc Williams, Assistant Professor, Duke
Dr. Christian Coseru, Assistant Professor, Australian National
Dr. Whit Schonbein, Assistant Professor, Washington U.-St. Louis

Political Science
Dr. Brian A. Ellison, Associate Professor/Director of MPA, Colorado State
Dr. Patrick T. Hurley, Assistant Professor, Oregon

Psychology
Dr. Adam H. Doughty, Assistant Professor, West Virginia
Dr. Christy D. Wolfe, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech
Dr. Michael G. Ruscio, Assistant Professor, Cornell
Dr. Kelly Shaver, Professor, Duke (dual appointment with MGMT Department)

Library
Ms. Dongmei Cao, Librarian II, MLIS: Hawaii

School of Science and Mathematics

New Chair:
Mark Lazzaro, Biology

New Faculty:

Biology
Dr. Anastasia Maria Zimmerman, Assistant Professor, Washington State
Dr. Richard J. Southgate, Visiting Assistant Professor, Geneva
Dr. Robert David Podolsky, Assistant Professor, Washington
Dr. Tanya Leigh Darden, Visiting Assistant Professor, Southern Mississippi

Chemistry
Dr. Neal E. Tonks, Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgia

Mathematics
Dr. Amy Langville, Assistant Professor, North Carolina State

Physics
Dr. Patrick Christopher Fragile, Assistant Professor, Notre Dame

The Provost closed the meeting by welcoming new faculty and saying that she would have a lot to converse with faculty members about during the upcoming year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Susan Farrell
Faculty Secretary