Minutes of the Spring 2007 Faculty Meeting

The faculty met on Monday, April 23, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium. Speaker Bob Mignone called the meeting to order, and the minutes from the Fall, 2006 meeting of the faculty were approved.

Reports

The President/The Provost

Provost Elise Jorgens reported to the faculty that President Benson was sick and that she would deliver remarks in his stead. She said that she hoped many faculty members were able to join a group on the Cistern for a moment of silence in recognition of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech. She said that the administration understands that a college campus must be a safe environment for learning, and she finds it terribly appalling when she hears arguments that faculty should be armed. Arms, she asserted, don’t belong anywhere in an environment that’s an open one for discussion and dialogue. Provost Jorgens reassured faculty members that CofC is as well-prepared as it can be for eventualities such as the shooting at Virginia Tech. Such events carry a certain unpredictability no one can protect against, but a task force has been formed to continue to investigate these matters and to make sure the campus is as safe as possible.

Next, the Provost provided some news on faculty salaries, reporting that the state House and Senate finance committees approved a 3% increase in state employees’ salaries, which is the same increase approved last year. They also provided 38.5 million dollars for growth in employee health insurance programs, so there will be no increase in employee premiums. To assist in funding retirement benefits, however, employers will have to contribute more. Mr. Benson, she added, is committed to reviewing faculty salaries with a view to increasing them via some kind of merit increase rather than across-the-board raises.

Ms. Jorgens also reported on several building projects at the College. Last Friday, the College celebrated the opening of its brand-new Education Building. The Simons Center addition is going up as well and the new basketball arena is underway. Finally, the College has good, solid plans to start the new Science Center in early September of 2007.

The Provost then briefly discussed general education reform at the College. She reminded faculty that when we launched our general education revision, she had a few significant goals in mind: 1) that faculty would have a good idea about what the goals of the general education program are; 2) that these goals should be communicated to students both in the catalogue and from professors. Ms. Jorgens said it was important that students know why they are taking required courses. She wants to avoid student and faculty apathy regarding general education. She added that a strong general education curriculum is essential to our identity as a national liberal arts and sciences institution. She understands that much discussion and some tweaking of the proposal currently on the Senate floor will be necessary—that’s natural. She urged faculty members to take part in
this discussion and said that she hopes we get a new general education curriculum in place as soon as possible.

Finally, Ms. Jorgens thanked all those who participated in the recent SACS review, which went extremely well. The SACS committee recommended that we get an assessment of general education in place. The only other recommendation related to the fact that the College had not notified SACS of a new master’s program in time. We received no sanctions on the QEP plan, an amazing achievement. The Provost also thanked Conrad Festa for his service as interim president. She thanked the faculty for our continued hard work and commitment. She said we were off to an excellent start with our new president, Mr. Benson, and that next year should be very exciting.

Awards of Distinction

The Provost then announced the 2007 faculty awards of distinction. She honored the recipients of these awards with the following remarks:

Distinguished Teaching Award—Terry Richardson

The recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award “personifies and conveys to students the ideals historically associated with liberal education... integrity, curiosity, breadth of knowledge, analytic and synthetic thinking, respect for views of others, and critically examined set of personal values.”

He believes in the importance of teaching scientific reasoning, and to that end he deploys an astonishing number and variety of methods, for instance, the “critical thinking failure of the day.” Other examples include cartoons, real-world applications of scientific principles, and analysis of “evidence” using photographs of tomatoes from his own garden. He further demystifies his demonstrations and experiments by using household objects in place of technical equipment.

He has been a full-time faculty member at the College of Charleston since 1981, has taught 25 different courses, from the introductory level on up, and recently worked with graduate students from the University of South Carolina on a research project involving telescope lens development. In undergraduate work, he focuses especially on what he calls “algebra based physics”—i.e., physics for students who don’t know calculus. Those students make up a very tough audience, and he does wonders with them. Even students who have taken his courses simply to fill a requirement write to him, sometimes years later, to express their thanks for major changes in their thinking. He currently holds the William Marion Mebane Distinguished Teaching Chair.

In the community, he showcases a very human side of science. Hundreds of Charleston area residents have had their first introduction to meteor showers through his viewing sessions or viewed eclipses through his own telescope set up in their neighborhood. Schools, too, have benefited from his visits and advice. His dean describes him as “a great ‘public face’ for the College.” His department chair calls him “a consummate
science educator.” The selection committee unanimously agreed that **Terry Richardson** of the **Physics Department** fully deserves the College of Charleston’s highest teaching honor.

**Distinguished Research Award — Paul Allen**

The recipient of the Distinguished Research Award has a career distinguished by its vast number of publications, by its ongoing productivity and creativity, and by the many accolades it has garnered.

He has produced over 50 published poems in well-regarded literary journals. His book publications include the award-winning collection *American Crawl* (Vassar Miller Prize), the chapbook *His Longing*, and the forthcoming *Ground Forces*, due out in 2008. His work has been reprinted in nine anthologies.

In the past several years, he has made a name in a new field of creative expression as a songwriter and performer. His many invitations to perform his work, including most notably his 2005 appearance at The Millennium Stage of The Kennedy Center, indicate the broad appeal of his work in this new area of creative "research."

Other poets speak highly of his work, remarking especially upon the breadth of its emotional and intellectual range. Sydney Lea writes, "I know of no contemporary who could manage self-effacement, humor, ribaldry and genuine spiritual seeking *all in the same compass* as this writer so brilliantly does."

**Paul Allen’s** career at the College of Charleston exemplifies the very sort of achievement that the Distinguished Research Award was designed to honor.

**Distinguished Service Award — Jack Parson**

The recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award has devoted 27 years of service to the College of Charleston. During this time he has held both a faculty position and administrative posts. He has served on numerous committees and task forces, represented the faculty in the Faculty Senate and has taught in the Study Abroad program. His many contributions to the College and to the academic community at large include serving as Director of the Institute for Public Affairs and Policy Studies (now the Riley Institute), Speaker of the Faculty, chair of the Political Science Department, director of the African Studies program, and Founder & Director of the Office of International Education. He also founded and participated in the planning of the College’s Model United Nations Conference, now in its second year, and has served as an officer or member of the National Board of Directors of the African Studies Association. As his chair states in his nominating letter, “Jack serves as a role model for the ethos of ‘living service’ as a professional responsibility.” The 2007 award for Distinguished Service goes to **Jack Parson**.
Distinguished Advising Award

Our Distinguished Advising Award recipient has played a fundamental advising role from the general education level through his department’s major and senior capstone experience. He has served as both a guide to our students and a standards-bearer for his department.

Each semester, he handles hundreds of requests from students, mostly for placement advice, pre-requisite and placement overrides, or transfer evaluations. In spite of a steady stream of such requests, he handles each as if it were his first and individualizes it, taking into account many factors about the student and then explaining his recommendations. Recognizing that placement is a difficult and inexact “science” and wanting to have confidence in the guidelines, he assessed student success rates relative to placement data, so the department could fine-tune its recommendations. He has also worked with other faculty to ensure that the pre-requisite courses serve students well in both content and level of difficulty. In evaluating students’ work for capstone credit, he is meticulous, often going through several careful readings of the proposal and final product, giving detailed advice to ensure that our student projects and final papers are something of which the students and our department can be proud. Regardless of whether the news he is delivering to a student is good or bad, he performs his duties with a firm but gentle and caring manner, giving each student the time, respect, and attention that he or she deserves. For this, the College is recognizing Professor Tom Kunkle of the Math Department with the 2007 Distinguished Advising Award.

Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award—Simon Lewis

The recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Oxford University, an M.A. degree from the University of South Carolina, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, all in English Literature. Growing up in South Africa and studying in England prepared him well for his primary teaching and research areas in the field of world literature. Since coming to the College in 1996, he has offered eight different classes that look at non-western literature and culture from a postcolonial perspective. A colleague notes that the recipient’s research and teaching are virtually inseparable and energize each other in ways that create what might be called “the electricity of learning” in the classroom. In addition to classroom teaching, he has directed numerous independent studies, bachelor’s essays and master’s theses.

A colleague writes, “What distinguishes both his teaching and scholarship is his probing critical mind, which does not accept at face value the many presumed “truths” that characterize most postcolonial theory and criticism, particularly about African literature.” He invariably provides fresh ways of understanding postcolonial literature—quite evident is his first book, White Women Writers and Their African Invention. A summary statement in a review of his book in Choice notes the book’s accessibility to students as well as to scholars. His numerous publications have appeared in journals all over the world. He directs the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World and edits its literary journal Illuminations.
I am pleased to announce the Distinguished Teacher-Scholar recipient: Professor Simon K. Lewis of the English Department.

Emeritus and Retiring Faculty

The Provost then recognized several faculty members who were retiring from the College of Charleston. These included:

Samuel M. Hines, who has been at the College of Charleston since 1973, and who is moving down the street to become Provost at The Citadel. He will be recognized at a special reception in Alumni Hall from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Thursday, May 10th.


Jung-fang Tsai, Professor of History from 1976-2007.

J. Fred Watts, Professor of Physics, who retired in December after 36 years of service.


Elizabeth M. Martin, Associate Professor of Chemistry from 1975-2007.

Paige Wisotzka, Associate Professor of French with 24 years of service.

Deborah Euland, Senior Instructor of Foundations, Secondary and Special Education with 18 years of service.

The Speaker

Speaker of the Faculty Bob Mignone then delivered what would be his last report as Speaker. He began by thanking the Faculty Secretary (Susan Farrell), the Senate Parliamentarian (George Pothering), and the Senate Webmaster (Deb Vaughn). He also thanked Bertie Mack for managing the secretariat’s office. Mr. Mignone then said he wanted to single out a few committee chairpersons who had done a tremendous job during the previous year—Michael Phillips for modernizing the Senate election process, Brian McGee for undertaking major updates to the Faculty Administration Manual, Jane Clary for her committee’s taking the initiative to improve the T&P process, and Julia Eichelberger for her 3-year effort to overhaul general education.

Mr. Mignone ended his report by noting that shared governance between the faculty and administration is the key to our success at the College. He urged faculty members to continue to bring our perspectives out of our offices and classrooms and into the college as a whole.
New Business

Nominations and Elections Committee—Election of Faculty Committees

Mr. Mignone recognized Michael Phillips, Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, who noted that all committee slates had been circulated. The faculty approved the slates submitted by the Nominations Committee. Please see Appendix 1 for a complete list of new committee members.

The President: Approval of Degree Candidates

Because of the President’s illness, Provost Jorgens presented the degree candidates in his place. The faculty approved the 2007 degree candidates. Ms. Jorgens then gave a special thanks to Bob Mignone. She said it had been a distinct pleasure to work with both Mr. Mignone and Hugh Wilder, his predecessor as Speaker of the Faculty. She said she very much appreciated the work that they had done.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan Farrell
Faculty Secretary
Appendix 1

2007-2008 Committee Rosters

Faculty Senate Committees (* incumbent)

**Academic Planning-** 7 (at least 4 senators)
Erica Artiles, Assistant Professor, English
Linda Fitzharris, Associate Professor, Elementary & Early Childhood, Senator
Douglas Friedman, Associate Professor, Political Science
Todd McNerney*, Associate Professor, Theatre, Senator
Scott Peeples*, Associate Professor, English, Senator
Howard Rudd, Professor, Management & Entrepreneurship
Paul Young, Professor, Mathematics, Senator

**Budget-** 7 (at least 4 senators)
Scooter Barnette, Senior Instructor, PE & Health, Senator
Michael England, Senior Instructor, Mathematics, Senator
Anthony Leclerc, Associate Professor, Computer Science
Bing Pan, Assistant Professor, Hospitality & Tourism
Darryl Phillips, Associate Professor, Classics, Senator
Norris Preyer, Associate Professor, Physics/Astronomy, Senator
Vijay Vulava, Assistant Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences

**Committee on By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual-** 3 (at least 2 senators)
David Gentry, Professor, Psychology, Senator
Brian McGee*, Associate Professor, Communication
C. Michael Phillips, Librarian III, Senator

Faculty Committees (* incumbent)

**Academic Standards, Admissions, and Financial Aid-** 7
Barbara Borg, Associate Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
James Deavor, Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Chris Korey*, Assistant Professor, Biology
Larry Krasnoff*, Associate Professor, Philosophy
George Pothering*, Professor, Computer Science
James Ward, Assistant Professor, Art History
Chris Warnick, Assistant Professor, English

**Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness-** 9
Julia Blose, Associate Professor, Marketing & Supply Chain Management
Burton Callicott*, Librarian II
Roxane DeLaurell, Assistant Professor, Accounting/Legal Studies
Kara Hammond, Assistant Professor, Studio Arts
Caroline Hunt*, Professor, English
Christine Moore, Senior Instructor, Computer Science
Karen Smail, Assistant Professor, PE & Health
Parissa Tadrissi, Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies
William Veal*, Assistant Professor, Elementary & Early Childhood

**Bookstore Council-1**
Richard Voorneveld, Associate Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special

**Compensation-7**
Calvin Blackwell, Associate Professor, Economics/Finance
William Danaher, Associate Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
Michelle Futrell, Senior Instructor, PE & Health
Anthony Harold, Associate Professor, Biology
Laura Turner, Associate Professor, Theatre
Katherine White, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Hugh Wilder, Professor, Philosophy

**Curriculum Committee-9**
John Bruns, Assistant Professor, English
Timothy Callahan*, Assistant Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Edith Ellis, Assistant Professor, PE & Health
Sara Frankel, Assistant Professor, Studio Arts
Gerald Gonsalves*, Assistant Professor, Management & Entrepreneurship
Katherine Johnston-Thom, Professor, Mathematics
Nancy Nenno, Associate Professor, German and Slavic Studies
Bob Perkins, Associate Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special
Thomas Ross, Associate Professor, Psychology

**Educational Technology-7** (no more than 2 from one department)
Lancie Affonso, Instructor, Computer Science
Jarod Charzewski, Assistant Professor, Studio Arts
Maria Colomina-Garrigos, Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies
Jannette Finch*, Librarian II
Mark Hurd*, Associate Professor, Psychology
Debbi Jeter, Senior Instructor, Mathematics
Michael Reardon, Assistant Professor, Communication

**Faculty Advisory Committee to the President-11**
Steven Arsenault, Associate Professor, Accounting/Legal Studies
Matthew Canepa, Assistant Professor, Art History
Jason Coy, Assistant Professor, History
Heath Hoffmann, Assistant Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
Claudia Moran, Instructor, Hispanic Studies
James Newhard, Assistant Professor, Classics
Gorka Sancho*, Assistant Professor, Biology
Leslie Sautter, Associate Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Sandra Shields, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Katina Strauch, Librarian IV
Catherine Veninga, Assistant Professor, Political Science

**Faculty Grievance Committee- 5 regular** (3 tenured, 2 not tenured) – **4 alternates** (2 tenured, 2 not tenured)
Deborah Boyle, Associate Professor, Philosophy, Tenured
Tim Carmichael, Assistant Professor, History, Non-Tenured
Angela Halfacree, Associate Professor, Political Science, Tenured
Catherine Holmes, Senior Instructor, English, Non-Tenured
Deborah Miller, Professor, PE & Health, Tenured
Alternate: Carla Breidenbach, Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies, Non-Tenured
Alternate: Tom Heeney, Associate Professor, Communication, Tenured
Alternate: Jess Miner, Assistant Professor, Classics, Non-Tenured
Alternate: Jason Overby, Associate Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry, Tenured

**Faculty Hearing Committee (all tenured) - 5 regulars** (at least 2 full Prof) - **6 alternates** (2 full Prof)
Bill Barfield, Associate Professor, PE & Health
Barbara Duval*, Professor, Studio Arts
Rick Heldrich*, Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Ned Hettinger, Professor, Philosophy
Michael Skinner, Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special
Alternate: Tessa Garton, Professor, Art History
Alternate: Caroline Hunt, Professor, English
Alternate: Tom Kunkle, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Alternate: Allen Lyndrup, Professor, Theatre
Alternate: Renee McCauley, Associate Professor, Computer Science
Alternate: Frank Morris, Associate Professor, Classics

**Faculty Research and Development-9**
Gary Asleson, Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Peter Calcagno, Associate Professor, Economics/Finance
Tim Carens*, Associate Professor, English
Giovana De Luca, Assistant Professor, Italian
Brenton LeMesurier*, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Clifton Peacock*, Professor, Studio Arts
Scott Poole, Assistant Professor, History
Gioconda Quesada*, Assistant Professor, Marketing & Supply Chain Management
Timothy Scheett, Assistant Professor, PE & Health

**Faculty Welfare Committee-8**
Tracy Burkett, Associate Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
Diane Cudahy, Associate Professor, Foundation, Secondary & Special
Bethany Goodier*, Assistant Professor, Communication
Stephane Lafortune, Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Glenn Lesses*, Professor, Philosophy
Amy Rogers, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Michelle Van Parys, Associate Professor, Studio Arts
Janice Wright, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies

**Graduate Education, Continuing Education and Special Programs**- 5 (at least 1 grad faculty)
Susan Gurganus, Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special, grad teaching
Patrick Hurley*, Assistant Professor, Political Science, grad teaching
Amanda Ruth, Assistant Professor, Communication, grad teaching
Heather Tierney, Assistant Professor, Economics/Finance
Joseph Weyers, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies

**Honors Program Committee** - (5, 3 teaching in Honors Program)
Zeff Bjerken, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, honors teaching
Marie Fitzwilliam*, Senior Instructor, English, honors teaching
Thomas Ivey, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Philip Powell*, Librarian II
Robert Westerfelhaus, Associate Professor, Communication, honors teaching

**Honor Board-8**
Carrillo-Arciniega, Raul, Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies
Christian Coseru, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Cara Delay, Assistant Professor, History
John Duvall, Assistant Professor, English
Deborah McGee, Associate Professor, Communication
Whit Schonbein, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Elena Strauman, Assistant Professor, Communication
Eric Thomas, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

**Honor Board Advisors-8**
Karen Berg, Senior Instructor, Hispanic Studies
Doryjane Birrer, Assistant Professor, English
Tom Carroll, Instructor, PE & Health
Mark Long, Assistant Professor, Political Science
C. Michael Phillips, Librarian III
Elizabeth Rhodes, Instructor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Jared Seay, Librarian II
John White, Librarian I

**Library-7**
James E. Carter, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Briget Doyle*, Assistant Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences
Natalia Khoma, Assistant Professor, Music
Jennifer McStotts, Assistant Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
Elijah Siegler*, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies
Anthony Varallo, Assistant Professor, English
D. Reid Wiseman, Associate Professor, Biology

**Parking Advisory and Adjudication Committee** - 2 (1 regular and 1 alternate)
Luis Linares-Ocanto*, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
Alternate: Ann Wallace, Elementary & Early Childhood

**Post-Tenure Review Committee** - (5 tenured regulars; 5 tenured alternates)
Marion Doig, Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Lynne Ford, Associate Professor, Political Science
Diane Johnson, Professor, Art History
Charles Kaiser, Professor, Psychology
Denis Keyes*, Associate Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special
Alternate: Edward Hart, Associate Professor, Music
Alternate: Celeste Lacroix, Associate Professor, Communication
Alternate: Robert Mignone, Professor, Mathematics
Alternate: Robert Neville, Librarian III
Alternate: Myra Seaman, Associate Professor, English

**Recycling and Environmental Responsibility** - 5
Deborah Bidwell, Instructor, Biology
Andrea Canberg, Instructor, Hospitality & Tourism
Yoshiki Chikuma*, Instructor, Japanese
Jeffrey Diamond, Assistant Professor, History
Noah Wasielewski, Assistant Professor, PE & Health

**Student Affairs and Athletics** - 5
Elizabeth Baker, Senior Instructor, English
Susan Balinsky, Associate Professor, PE & Health
Jocelyn Evans*, Associate Professor, Economics/Finance
Merissa Ferrara, Assistant Professor, Communication
Sheila Seaman, Librarian III

**Tenure, Promotion and Third-Year Review** - (5 regulars, 5 alternates, all tenured)
Richard Nunan*, Professor, Philosophy
Pamela Riggs-Gelasco*, Associate Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry
Dinesh Sarvate*, Professor, Mathematics
Julie Swanson, Associate Professor, Foundations, Secondary & Special
Rhonda Swickert, Associate Professor, Psychology
Alternate: Isaure de Buron*, Associate Professor, Biology
Alternate: M. Luci Moreira, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
Alternate: Laura Penny, Associate Professor, Physics/Astronomy
Alternate: Chris Starr, Associate Professor, Computer Science
Alternate: Patricia Ward, Professor, English