From: Terence Bowers, Faculty Secretary
To: Faculty

The Faculty meets Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Spring 2008 Faculty Meeting
3. Reports
   - The President
   - The Provost
   - The Speaker
4. New Business
   - Introduction of New Faculty
5. Constituents’ Concerns
6. Adjournment

RECEPTION: to be held in the lobby of Physicians Auditorium immediately after the meeting.
Minutes of the Fall 2008 Faculty Meeting

The faculty met on Monday, 8 September 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in Physicians Auditorium. Speaker Joe Kelly called the meeting to order, and the minutes from the Spring 2008 Faculty Meeting were approved.

Reports

The President

President George Benson wished to update the faculty on several developments. First, he said there was some bad news with respect to budget cuts. Earlier in the year the College had been required to deal with a 3% budget cut in state funds; recently, the state announced another 3% cut. The President reported that the cuts would not affect salaries or personnel, but that there would be a 1% cut in the operating budget. Overall, he said that despite the reduction in state funding, which now only amounts to about 16% of the institution’s overall budget, the College remains in sound fiscal shape. He hoped that the worst of the economic problems facing the state and nation were over, but warned that after an economic recovery there is a lag in tax revenues and thus a lag in possible increases in state funding for higher education.

On a brighter note, President Benson reported that the strategic planning process had been going well and was about half way over. Referring to the Interim Report on the strategic plan that had been circulated in the summer, he said that the analysis of focus group surveys, the environmental analysis, competitive analysis, and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis had been completed. The next stage is to work out a descriptive vision of the College’s future, to envision and describe what the College will be and look like in ten years. That part of the strategic plan will be completed in about a month, the President said. Also, the development of a macro-plan will include a draft of the College’s values and purpose; and as departments complete their own strategic plans, those plans will be incorporated into the macro-plan. The President stressed that the departmental plans are critical to the success of the strategic plan. President Benson added that overall the strategic planning has been a two-way process, both bottom-up and top-down.

The President next reported on a presentation that he had made to the Commission of Higher Education (CHE), in which he spoke about the realities facing colleges and more specifically the financial challenges facing the College. He told the CHE that one of the most important things that will come out the College’s strategic plan is a new financial model for the institution. He also told the CHE that the College most importantly needs, not funding for new programs, but more money for the basic budget to pay for salaries and for costs in the operating budget. The College also needs more money for the Science Center and for a hazard budget to deal with natural disasters. With regard to the new Science Center, he said that of the $52 million needed to build the facility, $44 million have been born on the backs of students and parents. He also noted that in terms of funding, the state is behind its neighbor North Carolina.
Moving next to topic of the new merit review system, President Benson thought that the transition last academic year to the new system went well, and he complimented Provost Elise Jorgens and the deans of all the schools for their work in the transition. While he thought the new system worked well, he said that he wanted to hear what the faculty thought, and invited faculty to send him their thoughts on the issue.

The President then commented on the administrative re-organization that had occurred since his tenure began. He said that the old scheme, which had many Vice-Presidents who reported directly to the President, did not suit his strengths, and that the new model, which is centered around five key Sr. Vice-Presidents, has worked well. The five Sr. Vice-Presidents head five key offices: Academic Affairs, External Relations, Business Affairs, Institutional Advancement, and Student Affairs. He added that effective marketing and communication activities to be coordinated by the office of External Relations are badly needed. Getting the College’s story out to the public, effective branding, and being consistent in the use of logos are some of the responsibilities of this office.

The President next announced some recent key hires to senior administrative positions: Tom Trimboli, Sr. Vice-President of Legal Affairs; John Hull, Athletic Director; Jonathan Ray, Director of Events; George Watt, Executive Vice-President of Institutional Advancement; and Shirley Hinson, Director of Government Relations. The President welcomed these individuals to the College and said that they had already made significant contributions to the institution since their arrival.

President Benson mentioned that searches are underway to find a new Dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics (SSM), a new Dean of the School of Business and Economics, and a new Dean of Libraries. The President also thanked George Pothering for stepping in as Interim Dean of SSM.

The President next updated the faculty on construction and renovation projects. He said that the renovations of the houses on College Way were nearly complete, and that they would enhance the attractiveness of the College and make that section of the campus a special place. The President reported that Carolina First Arena was scheduled to open soon, and that the Charleston Classic Basketball Tournament would be held there in October and televised by ESPN. Though the College does not own the rights to that event, it is contracted with ESPN to hold it for the next four years. The Cato Center for the Arts is also moving forward. The President said that though the project had struggled to make progress and encountered various problems, it is now making good progress. Construction of the new Science Center is also moving along well. However, he announced that funds have not yet been found to complete the second floor. The other floors will be completed and fully functional. Changes have also been made to the grounds of the President’s House to make it a more public place that the College as a whole can use. The President hoped the changes, which should be finished soon, would increase the green space on the campus.

On the topic of admissions, the President reported that though applications were up this year to 12,000, the yield rate has not been as high as in recent years: every four offers to out-of-state students yield only one acceptance.
Speaking on the Battery Project, the President reported that Sunguard, one of the vendors bidding to implement the new system, has been selected. He said that some 2,000 people will be trained to use the new computer system, and that it will help us streamline administrative processes and make us more efficient.

With respect to the College’s Web site, President Benson said that while it is serviceable, it needs to be better, and that efforts will be made to improve it. He said, too, that Mike Haskins, Executive Vice-President of External Relations, is completing a “Brand Manual,” which will codify how the College presents its “brand” and help the College form a coherent marketing strategy.

On the topic of the Spoleto Arts Festival, the President reported a discovery about the relationship between the College and the Spoleto organizers: we thought, he said, that we had a good relationship with them, but they didn’t think a relationship existed. The fact of the matter, he continued, is that Spoleto would not exist without the College. In meeting with the Spoleto director and reviewing the Spoleto contracts, President Benson discovered that the organizers didn’t really regard the College a full partner. They didn’t see and appreciate all that the College brought to the festival—the effort, the energy, the commitment. (He added that this is also true of some of our contractual relationships with other organizations.) He discovered, too, that the College offers its services and facilities at bargain-basement rates: for example, the College offers dorm rooms to visiting artists at rates far below typical hotel rates. As a result of these discoveries, the President said that the College would try “to push back a little” and make sure that the institution is recognized as a full partner deserving better treatment. He said that he hopes the relationship with Spoleto can be strengthened to the mutual benefit of both sides.

President Benson then asked if the faculty had any questions. As he did so, he told the faculty not to hesitate to see him about issues they wished to discuss. He was happy to talk to faculty about anything at anytime and would do what he could to help.

Jon Hakkila (Physics and Astronomy) asked if the plans for the new Science Center included plans to renovate the old Science Center. The President replied that there were such plans and that work is being done on them.

Rob Dillon (Biology) asked why the decision about how to respond to hurricane Hanna took so long. The President responded that the reason was because the storm was far away and predictions about its direction were changing. However, he said that he does appreciate the view that earlier decisions in such situations are better. He added that he was looking into the idea of building into the academic calendar a couple storm days so that disruptions caused by storms could be managed better in the aftermath. He also said that the school adopted a safety-first policy with respect to personnel who need to remain on campus during storms: only the minimum number would remain.

Phil Jos (Political Science) asked about adjunct contracts, and wondered if adjunct salaries are going to be included in the review of staff salaries. President Benson replied that he planned
Next, President Benson introduced three recently hired administrative officers, and asked them to make a few remarks about what they do. He began with Shirley Hinson, the new Director of Government Relations. The President said that Ms. Hinson is a lifelong resident of Berkeley County and a graduate of the College of Charleston, who has served our state in various capacities during her career: she served on the Berkeley County School Board from 1988-1996, in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1996-2007, and as Director of Corporate & Community Relations at the Low Country Graduate Center from 2004-2008.

Ms. Hinson, who has been on campus for three months, said that the College needs someone in Columbia to look after the interests of the College because legislation that adversely impacts the institution can happen in an instant. She explained that her job is to work with the government at various levels—county, state, and federal—to improve the College, especially with respect to funding (e.g., she recently worked with Charleston County government to procure some funding for the new athletic arena). She also monitors legislation that affects the College. She said that she understands how government works, and how government officials make decisions. She added that she would be happy to visit the classes of faculty to talk to students about government, and that she could get some legislators to visit classes to do the same. She asked the faculty to let her know how she could help them, and how she could be a good advocate for the College. She concluded by saying that she was proud to be at the College, and felt that, having been a student here, she has “come full circle.”

Next President Benson introduced the College’s new General Counsel, Tom Trimboli, who had been General Counsel and Assistant to the President at Bowling Green State University from June 2004 to March 2008. Prior to his employment by BGSU, he was Deputy General Counsel of Howard University, in Washington, D.C. for nine and one-half years. Before working in the area of higher education, Mr. Trimboli was General Counsel of Unified Industries Incorporated. He received a Juris Doctor Degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1973 and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from St. John’s University, New York, in 1970.

Mr. Trimboli explained that his job is to represent the College in legal affairs, and that the College is his only client. He works for no one else or no other entity. He represents only the institution, not individuals. He said that when faculty call him for advice, he will first refer them to their deans. As to the types of issues his offices deals with, Mr. Trimboli listed a number them. They included issues related to the Faculty/Administration Manual, hiring, firing, and retention, internship agreements, academic affiliation and consortium agreements, non-disclosure agreements between faculty and businesses, Title VI and Title IX, real-estate contracts, construction agreements, involuntary withdrawal of students, licensing agreements, regulatory matters, FERPA, copyright matters (e.g., registering the C of C logos and “marks”), conflicts of interest, etc. He added that his office will be especially focused on reviewing various sorts of contracts and agreements into which the College has entered.
President Benson next introduced George Watt, the College’s new Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement, who has come to us from the U.S. Naval Academy where he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and the first President and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. Mr. Watt was at the Naval Academy from 2000 to 2008, during which time he raised $300 million. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and his commission in June 1973.

Mr. Watt said that he was glad to be the College. Though he had only been on campus for four days, he said that he had made some observations. First, he saw the need to advocate in Columbia for better state funding. The state, he said, simply funds sufficiency, but the case needs to be made that the state fund excellence. He also said that we couldn’t expect government funding or tuition fees to care of all our financial needs. He will therefore ask alumni, friends of the College, and corporations to support the institution. To garner support, Mr. Watt emphasized that the College needs to tell its story, which is a strong one with a long legacy and a rich tradition. He concluded by saying that the future is exciting, and that while it is essential to tell the story of our past and its traditions, we must also connect it to and look toward the future.

The Provost

Provost Elise Jorgens formally welcomed the new administrative officers who had just spoken. She then announced that David Cohen, the interim Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs would continue in that post until June 2010, when he would retire. She thanked Mr. Cohen for his service and said that he would also assist in the search for a new library dean/director.

She next reported that the search for a new Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics and is well underway and that there are some candidates who will be considered. She also mentioned that Ray Barclay, Associate Vice-President and Director of Institutional Research, is doing not only reporting, as IR has traditionally done, but also research analysis. She announced, too, that she will continue to hold her informal meetings with faculty called “Conversations with the Provost,” and said that she enjoyed them very much last year, and encouraged faculty to attend them this year. She welcomes ideas from faculty and wants to hear their concerns.

The Speaker

Speaker Joe Kelly, rather than read his report, referred to the newsletter he had circulated by email on September 28, 2008, which contained the report. He then reminded the faculty of tomorrow’s Faculty Senate meeting (9-9-08) and said that all faculty may attend and speak at the Faculty Senate meetings, but only Senators are allowed to vote.

New Business

Introduction of New Faculty
The Provost called on the deans to introduce the following new faculty:

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Burgess  Christopher  Arts Management  Ohio State Univ.
Templeton  David  Music  Ohio State Univ.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
Garner  Dana  Accounting and Legal Studies  VA Polytechnic Inst. & Stat Univ
Allen  Tim  Economics and Finance  Univ. of Georgia
Canberg  Andrea  Hospitality & Tourism Management  Clemson Univ. PhD
Chou  Chen-Huei  Marketing & Supply Chain Management  U of Wisc-Milwaukee

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE
Small  Karen  Health and Human Performance  Univ. of GA
Manning  Maria  Teacher Education  U of North TX
Mayer  Kelly  Teacher Education  Univ. of NC
Phillips  Michelle  Teacher Education  Univ. of Florida

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, CULTURES AND WORLD AFFAIRS
Beck  Emily  Hispanic Studies  Columbia Univ.
Abuhakema  Ghazi  International and Intercultural Studies  University of Texas

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Lee  Michael  Communication  Univ. of MN
Moscowitz  Leigh  Communication  Indiana Univ.
Rogers  Kathleen  English  Univ. of NC Ph.D.
Delfeld  Helen  Political Science  Rutgers Univ.
La Pira  Timothy  Political Science  Rutgers
Stewart  Kendra  Political Science / MPA Program  Univ. of SC
Watson  Annette  Political Science  Univ. of Minnesota
Bishara  Anthony  Psychology  Washington Univ.
Wright  Jen  Psychology  Univ. of Wyoming Ph.D.
Doire  Louise  Religious Studies  Harvard

SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
McElroy  Eric  Biological Sciences  Ohio University
Welch  Allison  Biological Sciences  Univ. of Missouri Ph.D.
Przeworski  Andrew  Mathematics  U of Chicago

Constituents’ Concerns

None was raised.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terence Bowers
Faculty Secretary