THE FACULTY MINUTES

The second and final regular meeting of the Faculty of The College of Charleston for the academic year 1994-1995 convened at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24 in the recital hall of the Albert Simons Center for the Arts, Speaker of the Faculty David Mann presiding. Susan Morrison served as Parliamentarian. The Minutes of the previous meeting (September 12, 1994) were approved as circulated.

New Business

Conrad Festa, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, was recognized and moved the tentative approval of undergraduate degree candidates, pending completion of all requirements, as named on a list from the Registrar's office, dated April 12, and supplied by the Office of Academic Affairs. Additional names were added by Andrew Lewis, Charles Beam, Robert Dukes, and Nan Morrison, and the motion was approved, on a voice vote. The list is attached to the Secretary's copy of the Minutes.

The Speaker then addressed special thanks to Dr. Sam Stafford, President of the College of Charleston Alumni Association, for attending the meetings of the faculty and senate throughout the year; the entire faculty, Mr. Mann said, was grateful for his patience, and for his efforts to help the faculty and the Alumni to keep in touch with each other's concerns, for the mutual benefit of the College.

Wayne Patterson, Dean of Graduate Studies, presented a list, dated April 21, of fifty-six candidates for graduate degrees, and these, too, were tentatively approved, subject to completing requirements.

Election of Faculty Committees

Beverly Diamond, for the Committee on Nominations and Elections, then asked for the approval of standing committees of the faculty for next year, as previously nominated; they were declared elected by acclamation. Two committees, for which additional nominations had been received, were then voted on by written ballot. When the results were reported at the end of the meeting, the following were elected: Welfare Committee: Abdul Aziz, Jim Deavor, Susan Gurganus, Dorothy Marban, Kim May, William Moore, Harold Nations, Carolyn Russell. Library Committee: Thomas Baginski, Bonnie Devet, Brad Huber, Roger Logan, Paul Marino, June Mirecki, Robert Russell. There was also a correction: Martha Runey was removed (at her request) from the President's Advisory Committee, and Richard Godsen added. The corrected list is attached to the Secretary's copy of the Minutes, and a corrected version would be circulated the next day (April 25) attached to the "Highlights" of the meeting, and again, with any changes occurring over the summer months, at the beginning of the Fall Term.
President's Report

President Alexander M. Sanders was then recognized and addressed the faculty on three issues: budget and revenue projections; pending legislation, especially the attempt to abolish tenure; and the College's prospects for the future. The bottom line on the budget was that, even if costs remained approximately the same next year -- and they would inevitably go up in some areas over which we had no control, like postage or electricity -- revenues would go down, because of declining financial support from the State. This meant that, even with fairly optimistic projections, we would be facing next year a budget imbalance of almost a million dollars, if nothing were done -- which explains why recent cuts had had to be planned or put in place. The good news was that we are an efficient operation, much more so than some other educational institutions in the region. This has allowed us to increase our instructional budget in recent years by a substantial 69%, while administrative costs have gone up only 31% -- a figure that includes routine maintenance, right down to the cost of cutting the grass. In stark contrast to this, Mr. Sanders pointed to the figures for another institution, which showed a meagre 9% rise in instructional expenses, but 45% more for administration. Another heartening development was the special appropriation by the Legislature of $7,000,000 to enable the College to buy the Bishop England High School campus. This was very good news indeed, especially at a time when all government expenditures, and especially educational costs, were being scrutinized more closely than ever.

The" bad news," of course, was the bill to abolish tenure. Mr. Sanders said the faculty could do three things to help: not abuse tenure (but this is very rare); educate people about its real benefits; and avoid deluges of letters to legislators they don't vote for. In other words, elected government officials should be contacted on this issue only if there is some previous connection between that official and the faculty member. When making a case for tenure, by the way, there were a number of arguments that don't work. These include: telling people that academic salaries are too low (they certainly are, but times are tough all over, and South Carolina is not a rich State); claiming that tenure protects First Amendment rights (it would be very difficult to conceive of a situation today, the President said, in which State employees could actually be punished for saying what they think); and pointing out that to abolish tenure would seriously damage our competitive hiring position, as we bid against other educational institutions for able teachers, scholars, and administrators, particularly those from outside the region (proponents of this legislation say that other states are going to follow suit, so this will be of no consequence).

On the other hand, there are some arguments against abolishing tenure that are not only valid, but useful, because they work: first, no other enterprise subjects its employees to the kind of disciplined, nay, tortured scrutiny that higher education does before awarding tenure -- in fact, independent tests confirm that in the large majority of cases, tenured professors just keep on going, and going, and going, without slacking off. Second, there is no substantial danger whatsoever of getting "tenured in" -- because the College today has about the same ratio of tenured to untenured faculty as it had ten years ago, and in the academic world in general, moreover, these numbers seem to be fairly constant: at any given time, about a third of faculty are tenured, a third are trying to get
that way, and a third are on their way out, that is, non tenure-track, not returning, and so forth. Above all, we should avoid gratuitously insulting our legislators -- some of whom are actually our friends! -- even if, for example, financial arrangements for the Bishop England campus do not work out exactly as we hope. In addition, it might be very helpful to make some symbolic political gestures, one of which would be to call attention to the fact that it is possible, right now -- however unwise as a general rule -- for students who are especially hard pressed financially to graduate from the College in three years. Mr. Sanders said that he would also like to see some way for a family to "lock in" tuition costs at the College, perhaps even from the time a child is born. Measures like this would provide a real propaganda windfall for the College in today's climate, and might help the public to perceive us as the dedicated and public-spirited institution that we surely are.

The President concluded his report by saying that he thought the future of the College is actually brighter than it ever has been in the past. Because we operate on a fundamentally sound financial basis, and have done so for many years, we are not being forced to cut into the bedrock of our educational programs. This fiscal soundness should stand us in good stead not only now, but into the next century. Above all, he did not see the Administration and Faculty as adversaries, but as allies, on the same side when it came to all the really important issues, like the question of tenure. This was one reason why he had never felt better about the future of the institution.

A few questions followed. Jack Parson asked if an appropriations bill had been through the House of Representatives? Yes, but it was unclear whether the Senate would do any better with it than the House. James Carew wondered if there was any truth to rumors of a bonus being turned into a real pay raise? No, it was just talk. Frank Kinard asked whether, as a way of making up the projected fiscal shortfall, any thought had been given to setting up a "female leadership program" at the College? No.

New Business (cont.)

Two retiring senior members of the faculty were then honored by the College and their colleagues. Dean Gordon Jones spoke of Professor James P. Anderson (Mathematics). Mr. Anderson, a graduate of the Class of 1955, was appointed to the faculty in 1957, and had served with distinction and dedication, in many capacities, for over thirty-eight years. Dean Samuel Hines spoke of Professor Malcolm C. Clark (History), who was appointed in 1966, and had served variously as chairman of his department, Speaker of the Faculty, and director of the graduate program in History; Mr. Clark was given an additional valedictory encomium by George Hopkins, present chair of his department. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Clark received standing ovations in honor of their long and distinguished service. Sapientia ipsa libertas.

Conrad Festa then gave out service awards from the State of South Carolina to faculty members who had reached the traditional milestones:
Finally, an engraved plaque, from the Office of Academic Affairs, was presented to David Mann for his unprecedented five years' service as Speaker of the Faculty. This concluded the awards.

Mr. Mann read out the results of balloting for faculty committees, which had just been reported to him, and asked if there were any concluding announcements. In response, Hugh Haynsworth spoke briefly about a substantial faculty "retreat," to be held early in the Fall Term of the next academic year, and Peter Rowe reported that he was gratified by the ample faculty response to a questionnaire which he had sent out earlier in regard to "job satisfaction."
The Secretary then asked to be allowed to read following resolution of appreciation into the record:

Resolution

The Faculty of the College of Charleston wish to thank David Mann, once again, for his outstanding contributions to the life of this institution. As Speaker of the Faculty, under two Administrations, and under two different systems of faculty governance, he has given unstintingly of his energy, enthusiasm, and humor. In the Faculty Newsletter, he has refreshed our spirits; in countless committees, he has worked for the general welfare, in ways large and small; in the conduct of faculty meetings, and now at meetings of the Senate, he has stood resolutely for the independence of the faculty and the integrity of the teaching profession. Mr. Speaker, we are in your debt. Thank you!

With no further business, the meeting adjourned sine die, at about 6:45 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Hunt,
Faculty Secretary