February 3, 1998

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The sixth regular meeting of the Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston convened at 5:07 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3 in ECTR 118, Speaker of the Faculty Robert Mignone presiding. Forty-five senators attended. Minutes of the January 13 meeting were approved as circulated.

Reports

1. Modification of the Mission Statement. The Speaker reported on changes to the Mission Statement that were required for compliance with Performance Indicator I, C. These modifications included specifying an enrollment of 8,000 to 9,000 full time undergraduate students at the College and striking a sentence stating that “the College also anticipates offering a limited number of doctoral degrees should location and need warrant.” Although Academic Affairs wanted the Senate to vote approval of the changes, Mr. Mignone said that he did not present the modifications for a vote because the Senate could not make any changes to the document. In answer to questions from a number of senators, Mr. Mignone said that the Senate could revisit the statement in the future.

2. Summer School Policy. The Speaker alerted the Senate about possible changes in the summer school policy, although a full-fledged review has not yet taken place. The Speaker wants full faculty participation in any such review. Bill Moore pointed out that precedent exists for such participation: The current policy [document dated January 24, 1994] was presented the Faculty Welfare Committee before being adopted.

The proposed change in summer school policy that concerns many faculty is the reduction from four to three of the maximum number of courses allowed to be taught during summer sessions. Mr. Festa told the Senate that he thinks the gradual increase over the years in the number of courses taught has created a situation he called “academically indefensible,” even though state policy allows a faculty member to earn a maximum of 30% of salary during summer sessions.

When Gary Tidwell asked if the Senate can expect information from the Faculty Welfare Committee about summer school, Terry Bowers responded that the committee
has not conducted any major review; in response to constituents’ concerns about the reduction of earning potential, the committee looked into the reduction in the number of courses and was told by Associate Provost David Cohen that the new policy would limit faculty to three courses.

Jane Clary moved that if and when a review of summer school policy commences, the faculty review process will be followed. The motion passed.

3. Assessment of Administrators. Mr. Mignone reported on the status of the document created by the Academic Planning Committee and approved by the Senate. President Sanders is concerned because some offices are so small that individuals could be identified. Mr. Mignone will discuss the assessment instrument with the President.

New Business

* Amy McCandless presented a change proposed by the Academic Standards Committee in the default for course repetitions. Many students are unaware that the current policy requires them to fill out a form during registration requesting that the repeated course grade be averaged into their GPA. Since most students repeating a course want the grade computed in the GPA, the following motion requires a form only if the student does not want the grade averaged: Grades for repeated courses will be averaged unless specifically requested by the student during registration. Any student who does not want the grade for a repeated course averaged must complete a form available in the Office of the Registrar during registration. The motion passed.

* For the Committee on Graduate Education, Chip Biernbaum presented the following motion [slightly altered from the one circulated to senators]:

Under normal circumstances any graduate course proposed by a department that does not have a graduate program will be proposed with a three-year sunset provision. After three years one of two things will occur: 1) the course will become part of an approved graduate program or 2) the course will be dropped from the curriculum. Departments submitting such proposals are required to indicate in the body of their proposal that they realize that if the course is approved, it will be offered under this provision. Furthermore, the department proposing such a course will have to justify offering the course outside of an established graduate program. Certain courses not offered through an established graduate program, e.g., those offered by the School of Education for teacher certification or possible ones in the future offered by the Department of Accounting for CPA licensing, would be exempt from this three-year rule. However, departments submitting proposals for such courses will have to request such an exemption and make a strong case supporting it.
Mr. Biembaum listed three options in treating non-program-linked courses: 1) evaluate all non program-linked courses as legitimate graduate courses, 2) require that all graduate courses be part of an existing program, or 3) allow non-program-linked courses to be proposed under stipulations described in the motion.

When June McDaniel asked about the sunset provision, Mr. Biembaum said that the Committee on Graduate Education thought that all graduate courses should be part of an exiting program; however, realizing that there is some sentiment for allowing a department to “test the water” with a graduate course to determine interest, the committee offered the motion for Senate consideration. (Mr. Biembaum pointed out that no current graduate program began with a trial course.)

Speaking for the motion, Conrad Festa said that the policy provides options for departments considering graduate programs and urged the Senate to consider these departments. Deanna McBroom added that all courses would be reviewed by the Committee and subject to Senate approval. Using the Math Department as an example, Tom Kunkle said that sometimes professionals want to take a course at the College, not enroll in a program. Although the motion exempts courses offered by the School of Education for recertification, both Brian Scholtens and Tom Baginski pointed out that many teachers recertify with courses in their academic areas as well as in Education. The motion passed.

Doug Friedman introduced a series of motions from the Curriculum Committee. The following, listed by department, passed.

PHYSICS

- Course Change (number, prerequisites, catalog description): PHYS 310 renumbered to PHYS 206 (Planetary Astronomy) and prerequisites changed to “MATH 111 or equivalent. Also, one year of introductory astronomy, or one year of introductory physics, or GEOL 206, or permission of instructor.”

- Revision of Bachelor of Science Degree: Revised catalog description to include newly created courses PHYS 203, 456, 457, and 458 as electives and allow PHYS 399 to be used as an elective; PHYS 206 (renumbered from 310); electives listed as “PHYS 203, 206, and any 300 or 400 level course.”

- Revision of Minor in Physics: Revised catalog description to include the following: a minimum of six courses replaced by “a minimum of 18 credit hours”; a minimum of four upper-level courses replaced by “a minimum of two upper-level
courses”: exclude courses used in the minor in physics which are purely astronomy or meteorology; include PHYS 203 in the minor.

* Revision of Concentration in Astronomy: Revised catalog description to include the following: PHYS 206 (renumbered from 310); add GEOL 206 as an elective.

* Revision of Minor in Astronomy: Revised catalog description to include the following: a minimum of six courses replaced by "a minimum of 18 credit hours"; PHYS 206 (renumbered from 310); add GEOL 206 as an elective.

* Revision of Concentration in Meteorology: Revised catalog description to include the following: add PHYS 105 (Introduction to Meteorology), PHYS 456 (Air Pollution Meteorology), PHYS 457 (Satellite Meteorology), and PHYS 458 (Climate Change) as additional options for meteorology courses; require all students to take two meteorology courses; add ENVT 200, HONS 390, CHEM 112, CHEM 441, GEOL 442, PHYS 399, and PHYS 499 as elective courses; a minimum of six courses replaced by "a minimum of 18 credit hours"; PHYS 206 (renumbered from 310); delete BIOL 204 from list of electives.

* Revision of Minor in Meteorology: Revised catalog description to include the following: all students are required to complete one additional meteorology-based course in addition to the core course; Add ENVT 200, HONS 390, CHEM 101, CHEM 112, CHEM 441, PHYS 399, PHYS 456, PHYS 457, PHYS 458, and PHYS 499 as elective courses; a minimum of six courses replaced by "a minimum of 18 credit hours"; PHYS 206 (renumbered from 310); delete BIOL 204 from the list of electives.

GEOLOGY

* Course Change (title, prerequisites, and catalog description): GEOL 312 changed from Field Methods to Environmental Field Methods; revised catalog description to include deletion of GEOL 215 and addition of GEOL 210 as prerequisite.

BIOLOGY

* Catalog Change: insert following sentence: “Students may not receive credit for both BIOL 101 and 111, or for both BIOL 102 and 112, or for both BIOL 111/112 and Honors Biology.”

CRITICAL LANGUAGES

* New Course: ARBC 313 Conversation and Composition I (3)
* New Course: ARBC 314 Conversation and Composition II (3)
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

- New Course: EDFS 500 Nonviolent Crises Intervention (1)

MARKETING

- Change in prerequisites: ECON 201 and ECON 202 are prerequisites for MKGT 302. (Arts Management students may take either ECON 101 or 201,202.)

[New major in International Business listed on agenda will be presented at a later Senate meeting.]

Constituents' Concerns

Voicing the concern of colleagues with offices located nearby a very loud and very long reggae concert recently held on George Street, Bishop Hunt asked that the Faculty Welfare Committee investigate rules for staging concerts on campus.

Robert Russell asked why the grading system at the College has plus but not minus grades and requested that the Academic Standards consider a reevaluation of the system.

Adjournment

Mr. Mignone expressed his pleasure with the two candidates nominated to succeed him as Speaker—Jane Clary and Trisha Folds-Bennett.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Haney
Faculty Secretary