December 2, 1991

THE FACULTY MINUTES

The fourth regular meeting of The Faculty of The College of Charleston convened at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2 in the recital hall of the Albert Simons Center for the Arts, Speaker of the Faculty George Pothering presiding. To ensure action on some important matters at the start of the meeting, the Speaker called for unanimous consent to change the order of business, and there were no objections. The Registrar, William Anderson, was then recognized and proposed some minor changes on p. 25 of the list of candidates graduating in December. He then moved the tentative approval of degrees for these candidates, pending completion of all requirements. The motion passed, and the Registrar's corrected list is attached to the Secretary's copy of the Minutes.

The Speaker then asked if there were corrections or amendments to the Minutes of the October and November meetings. James Abbott asked that the last two sentences in the first paragraph of p. 4 of the October Minutes be corrected, by replacing the words "to vote on" with "to consider," as follows:

Mr. Abbott, reading from Robert's Rules, moved to consider each recommendation separately ("seriatim"), Mr. Finefrock agreeing to merge his motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair with Mr. Abbott's. The motion to consider the committee's recommendations one by one passed, on a voice vote.

This language, Mr. Abbott said, better reflected the intention of his motion. This correction was accepted without objection, and the Minutes of both meetings approved.

The Provost, Conrad Festa, then presented awards for long-term service at the College; the President had hoped to hand them out himself, but had had to be away at a meeting.
For Ten Years:
James Carew
Klaus deAlbuquerque
Phillip Dustan
Linda Edwards
Robert Mignone
Robert Neville
Sheila Seaman
Mack Tennyson
Carol Toris

For Twenty Years:
Eugenie Comer
Donald Drost
Frederick Ettline
Joseph Harrison
Rebecca Herring
Diane Johnson
Jeffrey Johnson
Willard Oplinger
Susan Prazak
Peter Rowe
Lawrence Simms
James Smiley

For Thirty Years:
Maggie Pennington

The first two groups (some of whom were present at the meeting) received polite applause. Mrs. Pennington received a standing ovation.

Committee Reports

For the Academic Standards Committee, George Hopkins introduced the following motion:

The Deans of Undergraduate Studies shall be authorized to grant a student permission to withdraw from all classes with documentation of a legitimate reason for that withdrawal. The Deans will also notify all professors involved of the student's withdrawal.
This motion, which eliminates the previous requirement that students withdrawing from all classes obtain the approval of each Professor, passed unanimously on a voice vote.

For the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning, Douglas Friedman presented a series of seventeen motions, which may be summarized as follows (item no. 18, a proposed change in the By-Laws, is listed separately below):

1. Minor in African Studies (Requirements)
2. New Course: AFRS 101 Introduction to African Civilization (3 hrs.)
3. Physical Education: Course Number Change (PEHD 410 becomes 458)
4. Political Science: Change in Requirement and Prerequisite
5. Political Science: Change in Number, Title, and Requirement (POSC 104, Introduction to Political Science, becomes POSC 202, Introduction to Political Inquiry)
6. Computer Science: Changes in Course Descriptions (CSCI 220, 221, 320, 330, 360, 470)
7. Computer Science: Course Deletion (CSCI 440, Operating Systems II)
9. Mathematics: New Courses
   MATH 295 An Introduction to Abstract Mathematics (3)
   MATH 421 Vector and Tensor Analysis (3)
   MATH 403 Abstract Algebra II (3)
[10. Mathematics: Course Deletion. This motion was withdrawn.]
11. Mathematics: Change in Prerequisites
12. Mathematics: Changes in Requirements for the Major
13. History: Course Deletion (HIST 344, Hitler and National Socialism)
14. History: Change in Course Title (HIST 346, Soviet Russia, becomes History of the Soviet Union)
15. History: New Course

HIST 496 Field Internship (3)

16. Honors Program: New Courses

HONS 391 Special Topics in Humanities (3-6)
HONS 392 Special Topics in Social Sciences (3-6)

17. Honors: Changes in Credit Hours (HONS 220 and 230, Honors Colloquia, changed from 6 hrs. credit to 3-6 hrs.)

With the exception of no. 10, which was withdrawn and therefore not voted on, all of the above passed. The last item (no. 18) requires separate listing.

Proposed Change in the By-Laws

18. Change the By-laws of the faculty regarding the Membership and Duties of the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning to reflect the following:

That Item d.

[To conduct at five-year intervals a review of the programs and courses offered by each academic department, gathering from the departments being enrolled in a given year information on enrollments, staff, facilities and such other information as may be needed to make informed recommendations subsequent to the review. The Self-Study Guide for departments issued by the Committee contains the approved procedure to be followed by them in gathering data.]

be deleted from item #2.

[The duties of the Committee shall be these:]

Mr. Friedman emphasized that this proposed change was being suggested as a separate charge, unconnected with other proposed changes in the By-Laws currently under consideration. Mr. Pothering agreed to appoint another ad hoc committee to consider this proposal and report at the January meeting. The complete document circulated by the Curriculum Committee, containing all eighteen items, is attached to the Secretary’s copy of the Minutes.
Old Business

James Abbott was then recognized and moved to postpone consideration of the proposed changes in the By-Laws, remaining as unfinished business from the October and November meetings, until the February meeting in the next session, where, he said, they would be introduced as a special order, requiring a two-thirds majority for final approval. His motion passed resoundingly.

Jack Parson, speaking for himself and for James Carew, then put forward the following motion on faculty governance, originally intended for the October meeting:

That an ad hoc committee of five faculty members be selected by the Committee on Nominations to study and recommend changes, if any, to the structure of faculty governance to make it more effective in representing the interests of the faculty. To be included in the committee's report will be an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the current structure as well as the strengths and weaknesses of possible alternative structures, including the faculty senate structure rejected by the faculty at the November, 1990 meeting. The ad hoc committee will report to the faculty at its April 1992 meeting.

Herb Silverman wanted to amend the motion from the April reporting date to "two months after the other By-Laws changes now pending" had been dealt with; Mr. Parson opposed this, because he wished to expedite the consideration of faculty governance; Mr. Silverman agreed to withdraw the amendment. During the discussion, Mr. Abbott asked whether this was not simply a repetition of what the committee did two years ago. Mr. Parson answered, that essentially the new committee would be looking at the same two "models" as before. Last February the Faculty had asked for further consideration of the faculty senate issue, and he felt that "Appendix B" did not, in fact, adequately address the issue. Frank Kinard asked why we need a "constituted body" to look into these questions; why not just let anyone still interested in the issue of faculty governance make suggestions? Mr. Parson replied that he thought there ought to be faculty sanction for bringing the matter around again. Mr. Abbott asked if the proposed committee would merely issue a report, or whether it would make specific recommendations. Mr. Parson: the door is left open for either of these possibilities. Mr. Silverman: another ad hoc committee would of course have to be appointed to consider and make recommendations on any recommendations suggested by the ad hoc committee now being proposed. Caroline Hunt spoke against the motion, arguing that the faculty had made it sufficiently clear through its actions that, at least for now, it does not want a Faculty Senate. James Carew disagreed, and spoke in favor of the motion; so did Beverly Diamond. In the event, the motion passed on a voice vote.
James Hagy then introduced a motion proposing changes in the administration of student evaluations of the faculty:

1. During a person’s first three years of teaching at the College, the evaluations will be administered in all courses.

2. After a faculty member has passed the third year evaluation or has been granted tenure, whichever comes first, the evaluations will be administered in two courses only during the second semester of each year. The determination of which courses will be evaluated will be made by the faculty member and the chair at the beginning of the semester.

3. Persons who feel that evaluations would be useful to them may request they be evaluated during any semester. The request must be made to the chair of the department at the beginning of the semester.

4. Chairs may request teaching evaluations of members of departments if it is felt that a faculty member is experiencing difficulty in meeting his or her responsibilities in teaching. The chair must notify the faculty member in writing that this will be done at the beginning of a semester and state the reason why the evaluations are to be administered.

5. Adjuncts and visiting professors will be evaluated in all courses as if they were in their first three years of teaching.

6. No evaluations will be administered during the summer except for persons teaching at the college for the first time.

A short discussion followed. Michael Pincus asked if the students had been consulted on the proposed changes. "No," said Mr. Hagy. There was a motion to remand the matter to the Faculty Welfare Committee, but the motion failed, on a show of hands, 57 to 28. Phillip Jos and Andrew Lewis spoke against Mr. Hagy’s motion; Paul Allen, Reid Wiseman, and Robert Cross endorsed it. Jeffrey Johnson called for the question, successfully. The motion passed, by a vote of 54 to 37.

After some brief announcements, and some discussion (off the record) for the Good of the Order, the meeting adjourned at 6:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop C. Hunt
Faculty Secretary