The Candidates for Speaker of the Faculty Speak Out

David S. Mann

The election of Speaker is unique. It is the one instance when the faculty choose their own representative to perceive and express faculty views: to serve as conduits which transmit and receive substantive decisions, procedures, and priorities; and to advocate faculty positions on relevant issues to the administration, Board of Trustees, and legislature.

This is my tenth year at the College. I have chaired one standing committee and four ad hoc by-laws amendment committees; I have served on at least four other committees. Every academic year has been a "transition" year. Next year will be no different. Important issues--some new, some continuous--exist:

1. Internal budget priorities:
   a. What is a decentralized budget and how does it work?
   b. Rumors are that the budget system will change again. To what type? Zero-based? How will that affect faculty and departments?

2. What changes are in store for the College's physical plant:
   a. Coming Street and Bull Street houses are for sale. Obviously, revisions from the previously announced plans of two years ago have taken place. How do these revisions affect the faculty?
   b. Which departments will move into the Sears building? Will the departments have to pay--out of their budgets--for the moving costs?
   c. What will it take to limit the frequency and duration of power outages? Will the cost be borne from the College's operating budget, or will there be a supplementary appropriation from the legislature?

3. Who are the new administrative personnel and what do they do?

4. Is it possible to construct a less stressful and more meaningful evaluation of all College personnel?

5. Can faculty members' rights be more carefully delineated in the Manual?

6. Many of our graduates go to law school, medical school, and other graduate schools. We are doing a good job in preparing those graduates for their future studies. How can we better communicate that fact to potential students, to the community, and to graduate schools?

7. Is the mission of the College changing? If so, how will that change affect the faculty, the academic departments, the College budget, undergraduate student recruitment, and the curriculum?

8. Can we meaningfully replace rumors with facts?

To argue that any candidate for Speaker has more experience, superior talent, or unique ideas compared with any other candidate would be foolish. Any of us has experience, talent, and ideas. Any of us may have been "right" or "wrong" about any past issue. Linus Pauling once was quoted as saying that we all have ideas; the trick is to recognize and distinguish the good ideas from the poor ones. No one has a monopoly on—or sole possession of—that bag of tricks.

What is necessary to be a viable Speaker does not include empty promises or pledges. The Speaker must be a persistent advocate of the faculty, but there is more. The Speaker must build and retain the confidence of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the deans, and other College officials, to be sure that communication is a two way street. The Speaker, aside from being the faculty's representative and ombudsman at relevant meetings and events, must knock on doors, must use the phone, must cruise lobbies, hallways and pathways, and must solicit advice and opinions actively. Then the Speaker must transmit those opinions efficiently, frequently, and consistently. We are a diverse faculty. We are also unified: we comprise the College, we control the curriculum, and we confer the degrees. We have common problems and we have common objectives. The responsibility to communicate those common problems and objectives ultimately rests with all of us, not just Speaker, President, or individual faculty member. If elected, I will do my best to gather, understand, and articulate your views.

Robert M. Norton

In my view the speaker's main function is to serve as an information...
We have an administration whose actions have generally been pro-faculty. This can be a time when faculty can get on with what they're supposed to be doing and have needless distractions kept to a minimum. In my view, one of the main duties of the speaker is to help alleviate such distractions in the interest of faculty productivity and quality.

**Bookstore’s Conrad Details Faculty Computer Bonanza**

A sizeable discount is being offered to faculty members on the purchase of a personal computer system at the RADIO SHACK Computer Center (located on Rivers Ave. at Aviation in North Charleston, but from 1 April on Highway 61 at Sam Rittenberg Blvd.) Radio Shack will allow 20% off the catalog prices of hardware, software and related items, albeit on your "initial" purchase only. If special sale items are included in your purchase, the store will give an additional 12% off the sale price, or 20% off the catalog price, whichever discount is greater.

To get the faculty discount, simply present your College I.D. Card to the Radio Shack salespeople. If you have any problems, have them call Ralph Conrad, manager of the College Bookstore for clarification.

**Faculty Professional Activities—Rent This Space!**

No reports of faculty professional activities have been received. Now if you stop to think about it, this presents an excellent opportunity for some enterprising individual to produce a new work in trend analysis... Please note that notices of Faculty book publications are being included in The Blacklock Papers, a publication that is distributed to College Alumni. If you are interested in such recognition, it is appropriate to provide full details to Steve Hoffius in the office of College Relations.

**The Reports of Faculty Committees**

**Honors Program Committee**

The Honors Program Committee has met some fifteen times since the beginning of the fall semester 1986. In addition to the normal activity of reviewing student petitions, requests for independent study, applications to the Honors Program, and course proposals for the 1987-88 academic year, we have also devoted a good deal of time to examining a number of important issues which have been brought to the attention of the committee by students, faculty, and the director of the program. These issues include: changes in the Honors Program requirements; offering a greater variety of courses and improving the sequence in which they are offered; orientation for new students entering the Honors Program and for faculty who will be teaching in the program; grading policy; and advising process for students.

The committee expects to forward a proposal to the Curriculum Committee this semester.

Chair, John H. Rashford (2-8188)

**The Fifth Column**

**Details of Institutional Advancement Sought**

Recently, it has come to my attention that Coker College and Newberry College have successfully raised one million dollars each during 1986. Coker College has a total of 300 full and part time students and 36 faculty members (1984 figures). Newberry College had 628 students and 45 faculty in 1984. Baptist College successfully raised fifteen million dollars recently and the Citadel has launched a drive of
similar magnitude. How much money did the Office of Institutional Advancement generate during the equivalent time period and why is this information not presented to the Faculty on a regular basis? How much of that money was in excess of their budget of about $250,000 (1985 estimate)? I realize that some of the above institutions are private; however, I would appreciate a response from the appropriate administrative officer in the next issue of NEWSpeak.

Robert L. Nusbaum
Geology Department

The Speaker’s Soap Box

Academic Affairs Sr. V.P.
candidates being evaluated

The members of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Committee have been working long & hard to sift through the 104 applications received. A very short list will be presented to the President early in March. Any candidate(s) making the final cut will be invited to the campus for an interview before the end of the month, the details of which visit will be communicated to the faculty at the appropriate time.

Withdrawal Form must have Undergrad Dean's chop

Last semester the Committee on Academic Standards cited the existence of a long-standing policy on procedure for approving student requests to withdraw from a course. According to page 323 of the current Undergraduate Bulletin, “after the official withdrawal date, a student may withdraw from a course with a grade of “W” only with the special permission of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the professor.” Accordingly, the committee asked that the Continuing Education staff cease their recent practice of signing withdrawal forms in place of the Undergraduate Dean. In a memo dated February 24th, Rev A. Godow, who among other things is the Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies, asked the Registrar to accept only the signature of the Undergraduate Dean on withdrawal forms.

O.K., Skip—keep up the good work!

Lightsey supports elected Faculty representation

The President has created and defined the functions of three new standing committees of the College: (1) the College Planning and Program Evaluation Committee, to provide advice on institutional planning issues and program evaluation; (2) the Computer Advisory Committee, to advise on computer, prioritization and implementation of campus computer use; and (3) the Advisory Committee on Campus Planning and Space Allocation.

These are not ad hoc committees, and individual faculty members will not be asked to serve on them. Instead, the Faculty will in each case elect its own three representatives. Once again President Lightsey has demonstrated his commitment to a constructive use of the existing system of faculty governance, and he is to be commended for his continued effort to improve faculty morale thereby.

Nevertheless, the Speaker feels that some adjustments in the composition of these committees could greatly enhance their overall effectiveness:

1. More than any other standing committee of the Faculty, the Curriculum Committee is involved in planning and program evaluation. A liaison from this committee should serve as a voting member of the College Planning and Program Evaluation Committee.

2. Most people agree that there is a right way and a wrong way to decide on a computer system. The right way involves defining one’s mission or purpose, finding the software that will achieve that purpose, and then selecting hardware to run the software. In a 4-year undergraduate college, administrative computer users have a mission significantly different from that of academic computer users. Only at the level of institutional budgetary prioritization do the two come together with a common goal—money.

As both faculty members and administrators at the College of Charleston will tell you, if the end-user can’t accomplish his purpose, any decisions made on computer implementation are irrelevant. The President should reconsider the decision to create a single computer advisory committee. The recent College Self Study recommends both the creation of a standing committee of the Faculty to advise on academic computing. Such a body is more likely to articulate the end-user computer needs of our academic program than three faculty serving at large in a predominantly administrative committee.

3. The autonomous Council of Chairs, which disseminates minutes of its meetings to neither faculty nor Administration, has considerable interest in and perspective on campus space allocation. The elected chairman of the Council of Chairs should serve as a voting member of the Advisory Committee on Campus Planning and Space Allocation.

An open letter to President Lightsey urging greater recognition of student academic achievement

As a combined Homecoming, Parents weekend & Alumni Appreciation extravaganza, SuperWeekend (February 13-15) proved a considerable success.
One of the interesting things learned is that students whose parents come out for such events tend to be either athletes or honor roll achievers. Now, what with awards, banquets, & guaranteed media coverage, it's safe to say that those who attain athletic excellence get recognized; but is the same true for students who achieve academic excellence? Not according to some of their parents. During SuperWeekend, more than one parent asked why the names of those who made the honor roll hadn't been published in the News & Courier. Well, with SuperWeekend & all at the time, last semester's "Dean's List" hadn't yet been released to the press; and certainly it's a lot harder to get media attention for scholastic achievement than for a win on the courts. True, but I respectfully submit that such an explanation begs the question.

As I've noted on several occasions, we give our really good students very little recognition. And the slow but steady decline in the S.A.T. scores of our entering students suggests this is a real problem. If we can't guarantee media attention in a timely manner, let's make some noise of our own about student excellence when it happens, even if it's only the most simple of ceremonies in the president's garden over a couple cups of lemonade and some finger sandwiches. Timely recognition that students can write home about may seem little enough, but such positive P.R. could do a lot to help enrollments. I for one am willing to bet it would be worth it!

**Spring Semester Calendar**

**March**

2 Mid-semester grades
due at Registrar
Academic Affairs Meeting
3 Jewish Studies Film "Garden of the Finzi-Continis"

5 Speaker Candidates' Forum
due from Chairs
Begin Spring Recess
10 IBM Users Group meets
11 Board of Trustees meets
15 Maymester book requests
due at Bookstore
16 Classes resume
Faculty Meeting -- President's "State of the College" Address & Election of the new Speaker
23 SHOWCASE 1987 begins/Distinguished Faculty Award nominations due
Begin Preregistration
25 Summer Session book requests
due at Bookstore
27 President's Installation classes cancelled 10 a.m. on
30 Council of Chairs Meeting

**April**

1 Fall Preregistration ends
3 Faculty R & D Grant applications due
6 Academic Affairs Meeting
7 Jewish Studies Film "The House on Chelouche St."
10 Maymester/Summer Sessions Preregistration ends
13 Faculty Meeting -- Faculty Committees elected
14 IBM Users Group meets
15 Fall book requests
due at Bookstore
21-22 Fall Preregistration Fixup
24 Classes end
25 Council of Chairs Meeting
28 Final Exams begin

**May**

4 Faculty Meeting
7 Final Grades due
10 Commencement
11 New Faculty Speaker takes office
Evaluation of Chairs
due from Faculty
12 IBM Users Group meets
13 Board of Trustees meets

and academic nature for inclusion in the next issue of NEWSpeak -- Ed.]

**A Fable**

Once upon a time in a galaxy far, far away there lived a prince who was very, very good. In fact, he was so (I blush to refer here to a very small device used by tinkers....good that he had medals to prove it. He had a medal for bravery. He had another medal for truthfulness. He had a third medal for honesty. He even had a medal for being a team player! The only problem was that his (small tinkers' device) medals clanked together and made so much (small tinkers' device) noise that nobody could stand to be around him... Well, once you have greatness thrust upon you, there is (small tinkers' device) little you can do to change your destiny.

Anyway, one day he was waiting patiently at the intersection of George and St. Philip Streets for some way to be of value to his fellow human beings, when he spotted a little old lady standing right there beside him. She was obviously in a high state of consternation, befuddled by the whir of traffic passing before her. Well, recognizing this to be a golden opportunity for another merit badge, the prince grabbed the arm of the little old lady and drug her, kicking and screaming from curb, toward the other side of George Street -- her protestations (due apparently to the fact that she actually wanted to cross St. Philip Street) proved to be for nought.

In the middle of George Street, both the prince and the little old lady were run over by an 18-wheeler with "Fruhford" mud flaps. The moral of this story? Your guess is as good as mine.... [But there's now no question that the Editor will print anything just to fill the white space on this last page of NEWSpeak -- Ed.]