Faculty Newsletter

The College of Charleston

edited by D.S. Mann,
Speaker of the Faculty

Volume VII
Number 6
February, 1988

MORE FACULTY COMMITTEE REPORTS--Fall Semester

Advisory Committee to the President: Fred Ettinger, [Education], Chair: "Topics of discussion for the fall semester included: an early retirement plan, the minority relations administrative/faculty position, visiting lectureships funding, the Governor's commitment for assisting higher education, faculty exchanges, developments in the Commission on Higher Education, possible NCAA affiliation, and suggestions for increasing minority enrollment. The committee encourages faculty to submit agenda items for consideration with the President. Questions regarding additional information for any of the above listed topics may be directed to any committee member."

Honors Program Committee: Richard Nunan [Philosophy], Chair: "The Committee met six times during the semester, including one special meeting in December with the Search Committee for a new Director of the Honors Program. . . . [T]he Committee worked on anticipating possible objections to Honors Program curriculum changes which had been . . . tabled until this fall. [T]he Committee also scheduled an Honors Program faculty meeting . . . to afford faculty a forum to discuss any special problems associated with teaching in the program, and to provide them with a sense of partnership in the Honors Program community. The standing fall semester duties . . . involved solicitation and evaluation of course proposals for the '88-'89 academic year." [editor's note: see a separate article in this issue, page four, which lists those courses.]

"New business focused on the need for more effective student recruiting . . . President Lightsey's Retreat (September) served as an occasion to reflect upon these issues." [editor's note: see the October issue of Faculty Newsletter for a summary.]

CONSORTIUM HOLDS "ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEGE" ON ASSESSMENT

On January 25th and 26th, the Charleston Higher Education Consortium co-sponsored, with the member schools, what it called an "Administrative College" on Assessment. The two-day meeting was held at St. Christopher's retreat on Seabrook Island. Representing the College of Charleston were, in alphabetical order, Wendy Baughman (Institutional Research), Bob Fowler (Education), Sam Hines (Academic Affairs), Bill Lindstrom (Undergraduate Studies), David Mann (Speaker of the Faculty), and Jack Parson (Political Science). Peter Ewell, Project Director of the Kellogg Student Outcomes Project and a staff member of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (Boulder, CO), conducted the workshop.

It appears that the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools will be requiring each member institution to establish an assessment of student outcomes program. The general purpose of such a program, according to the office of the Commission on Higher Education, is to develop and/or implement "student assessment and instructional effectiveness measures."

These programs, Dr. Ewell writes, "range from those that emphasize periodic assessment of student goal attainment and job placement to those centered on cognitive gains achieved by students in different curricula to those that seek to change the structure of teaching and learning in individual classrooms. . . . No assessment approach can successfully invest-

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NEXT FACULTY MEETING IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
5:00 pm
Simons Fine Arts Recital Hall
LIBRARY JOURNAL COSTS ON THE RISE

By Katina Strauch and David Cohen, Library

Over the past two years the "sleeper" that has caused the greatest increase in library budgets is the cost of journals. According to Chuck Hamaker, a librarian at LSU, prices of US journals have risen 10% over the past year and overall journal prices have gone up between 14% and 18%. These facts have caused many libraries to overexpend their materials budgets. Harvard, for example, which has subscriptions to 106,000 journals, overspent its budget by $480,000 and UC Berkeley, with 92,000 journals, overspent by $200,000.

Hamaker believes that the crisis has been caused to a large extent by European journal publishers. Three--Springer-Verlag (W. Germany), Elsevier (Netherlands), and Pergamon (Britain), are being cited the most frequently. For example, Analytica Chimica Acta is a popular Elsevier title the price of which rose from $967 to $1566 in one year. But the blame isn't only on European, or international, publishers. In an article in Physics Today for December, 1986, Professor Henry Barschall states that the cost of journals in physics increased by 32% in the 1985-6 academic year. Richard Dougherty observes a 36% rise in American Chemical Society journals.

What has caused the problem? The fall of the exchange rate of the dollar has accounted for some of it, according to Hamaker, but other factors include: the move of organization publications to commercial publishers, the "privatization" policy of the Reagan Administration, the loss of some subscribers making it necessary to raise the cost to those who remain subscribers, the growth of journal size per issue, and rising labor and printing costs.

Fortunately, the College does not have a high percentage of foreign journals--slightly less than 25%. However, we have seen a rise of 11% in journal prices over the past fiscal year and are expecting a similar rise over the next one. Without significant increases in funding--between $40,000 to $50,000--next year, the library will not be able to maintain its current subscriptions. Faculty must help in monitoring prices and in assuring that the library is getting the best journals which it can for its money. We don't know what the future holds, but we hope that together we can work to make it more manageable.

HELP WANTED:
Academic Computing

Sissy James writes: "The staff of Academic Computing welcomes guest columnists for its newsletter, Cougar Bytes. Is there some area of computing, some software package, or some piece of hardware which you find particularly interesting and helpful?"

See Cougar Bytes and/or contact Mike Smith at 2-8913 if anyone has anything to contribute there.

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FOR YOUR CONTINUED GOOD AND WELFARE:

Some years ago, the public safety office of the College and that of MUSC merged under one umbrella. There is no reason at this point to explain why that merger occurred. However, there is reason to explain why we, the faculty, have to understand the nature of public safety and how the officers patrol the beat. First, no officer patrols exclusively one campus or the other. Second, though there is a station on our campus, the main office of public safety is at MUSC. Third, parts of MUSC are controlled more strictly than any part of C of C. Officers have to make adjustments in their demeanor when they patrol the College. On the same hand, we have to be aware of and be cautious concerning the urban location of the campus, where local citizens, tourists, students and employees traverse. It is sincerely and respectfully suggested that when we work in College buildings outside of "normal working hours," we should notify public safety by phone that we are here and also alert them when we depart. For our good and welfare.

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Calendar Deadlines

February 19th: last day for students to withdraw from an undergraduate course with a "W"

March 21st - April 1st: Pre-registration for Fall '88 semester

April 20th - 21st: Fix-up for Pre-registration.
COLLEGE RELATIONS WINS

The College of Charleston's Admissions Prospectus, brochure, and poster has won a CASE District III Special Merit Award. A judging panel consisting of an award-winning photographer, a secondary school admission director, an advertising executive and a Ph.D. in marketing (with expertise in higher education) felt that the College's materials deserved special recognition. There will be an exhibition of the winning materials at a CASE conference in Atlanta on February 14-17. Congratulations to Ms. Susan Sanders and the College Relations and Special Events staff for their work and for the quality and creativity of the materials. First rate.

LRC WINS AGAIN

It has come to our attention that LRC won another CASE award, this time an award of excellence in the Film Category, for "A Sense of History," a short video tape of historic houses in the immediate vicinity. This marks the sixth LRC award in recent years. Kudos again to Ms. Virginia Friedman and staff.

1988 Faculty Nominating Committee

There seemed to be some confusion toward the end of the January Faculty Meeting. Rest assured, however, that the ballotting and subsequent tabulation of ballots showed that Mr. Bischoff's intuition was justified. A full slate was elected. The following faculty were elected to serve as the 1988 Nominating Committee (in alphabetical order):

Jeff Foster (Languages)
Marsha Hass (BA/Econ)
Anna Katona (English)
Robert Mignone (Math)
Martha Runey (Biology)
Richard Nunan (Philosophy)
Jung-fang Tsai (History)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

--The State Legislature has on its agenda, as Dr. Lightsey indicated at the January Faculty Meeting, a bill to create a Separate Board of Trustees for the College of Charleston. To speed up the legislative process, the bill has been introduced in both houses of the General Assembly simultaneously. The House sponsor is Rep. Limehouse; the Senate sponsor is Sen. McConnell. The bill provides a separate board each for the College and for our two sister schools. If the bill passes, each four year college and university in the state then will have a separate Board of Trustees (or in the case of a couple of schools, Board of Visitors—functional equivalents). The proposed Boards would have ten members each elected by the legislature and one appointed by the governor. No fewer than six of the eleven would have to be graduates of, in our case, C of C. The new trustees would begin their terms on July 1st. Dr. Lightsey has testified to the Education Committees of each board in the legislature. If you want to inquire about the status of the bill, call the Legislative Information Booth at 1-800-922-1539. A copy of the bill is available from David Mann.

---The following flyer was found in Randolph Hall: "Important Notice Regarding Campus Housing and Parking. Campus housing is limited. Early planning is required for students desiring residence in a dormitory. All students who are admitted and confirm their admissions prior to March 1, 1988, will be guaranteed campus housing.

"As a result of the increasing demand for limited on campus parking, parking decals will not be sold to dormitory students who have earned less than 20 semester hours. Since the College's location affords easy access to the historic district and entire lower peninsula area of the City of Charleston, newly admitted freshmen and transfer dormitory students need not rely on a car. Students are encouraged to bring a bicycle."

the planned article on faculty salaries was not ready for publication at press time; the editor apologizes for the delay

thanks to bc, dc, fe, sg, sj, mn, ar, ks, ss, ecm, for their assistance with this issue

Newsletter Publishing Schedule

March 1st: Special Speaker's Election Issue
Mid-April: Late Semester Issue
Early May: Last Issue for the Academic Year

thanks to everyone for contributions, help, and encouragement this year
HONORS PROGRAM '88-'89  
The following courses will be scheduled:  
Fall '88 and Spring '89:  
  Honors English (Harrison)  
  Honors Western Civilization (Kowal, Lesses, Newell)  
  Honors Biology (Chamberlain, Ford, Whitney)  
  Honors Chemistry (Kinard)  
Fall '88:  
  Honors Calculus (Wojcicka)  
  Hon. 240 (3 units): Value and Tradition in the Non-Western World--African Society and Culture (Bah, Uwah)  
  Hon. 390: Special Topics: Mass Media and Human Behavior (Rigney, Steuer)  
  Hon. 390: Special Topics: Images of the Hero in French and German Literature (Lowrey, Scilippa)  
Spring '89:  
  Hon. 230 (3 units): The Elements of Human Culture: La Femme Fatale: Myth and Image (Cossa, Stiglitz)  
  Hon. 390: Special Topics: Judicial Interpretation of the Constitution (Tidwell)  
  Hon. 390: Special Topics: The Vietnam War (Hopkins)  

Assessment (continued from page one)  
 trata all possible outcomes of the college experience, nor can a single approach fulfill all planning, policy, or political ends. Successful efforts in assessment, as in anything else, require establishment of carefully drawn and well-understood limits on what can and should be accomplished. . . . Indeed, many faculty, in the midst of grading papers, judging class presentations, or evaluating clinical or internship practice, may wonder what all the fuss is about. . . . Institutional assessment programs, as they are emerging, are visible, integrated, ongoing efforts governed by established policy and involving regular (and generally centralized) data collection and analysis. More than a network of resource and technical support for assessment, they serve as structural embodiments of the institution's commitment to self-examination and improvement" (Establishing a Campus-Based Assessment Program, in D.F. Halpern, ed. Student Outcomes Assessment: What Institutions Stand To Gain, 1987, at 9-10).  

Assessment (continued from previous column)  

At the workshop, Dr. Ewell stated that the measures decided upon to test the effectiveness of the curriculum could include qualitative, quantitative, direct, and unobtrusive ones. A valid place to begin would be to view with a critical eye the mission statement of the College. At the February 8th Faculty Meeting, the Faculty Nominating Committee will propose a slate of faculty to assist in gathering data for the local and impending program (cf. Dr. Festa's memo to the Faculty dated January 11, 1988). In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Consortium's retreat, feel free to contact any of the College personnel who were there for further details.  

College Skills Lab Report  
In the fall of 1982, a four-year study was begun by the College Skills Lab (CSL) regarding students entering the College as degree-enrolled freshmen. The purpose of the study was to examine CSL use by these students to compare lab use and attrition/retention.  

1. Attendance: Of the original 1,077 students entering in 1982 as degree-seekers, 529 (49%) had attended CSL at some time. 496 students of the 1,077 were still attending the College during the 1985-6 academic year. Of the 496, 291 (59%) had attended CSL. Of the 581 who left the College during that four year period, 238 (41%) had attended the CSL. Of the 227 students who entered in the fall of '82 and who graduated in May of '86, 118 (52%) had attended the CSL. Of the 269 still enrolled in May of '86 but who had not graduated, 173 (64%) had attended the CSL.  

2. A comparison of the four-year cumulative attrition rates of students in the original 1,077 who attended the CSL to those who did not do so reveals: of the 529 who used the CSL, 238 (45%) left the College; of the 548 who did not use the CSL, 343 (63%) left the College.  

The difference in attrition rates between the CSL users and non-users reflects retention of 95 students who would not have been retained had the attrition rate of the CSL users been equal to that of non-users.