CURRENT PROPOSALS IN COLUMBIA
WILL DRAMATICALLY AFFECT
STATE HEALTH INSURANCE
PREMIUMS AND DEDUCTIBLES

Current proposals in the Senate Finance Committee
call for a 30% increase in health insurance premiums
paid by individual state employees plus a 30% in-
crease in the contributions paid by the employer. De-
ductibles will go up as well. Earlier estimates had
been in the range of 15%. This came even after the
Senate added additional money to the health fund not-
withstanding the previous reports from the House.
We can't help but think that this proposal is ineextrica-
ibly linked to supercomputer funding (see page two).

There will be an updated report made at faculty meet-
ing on May 8th.

Other News from Columbia

The Senate Finance Committee has recommended
passage of a new retirement plan that would permit
state employees to retire after 25 years rather than the
current 30 years. State employees would pay 7%
rather than 6% to the system. Some benefits will ac-
crue based on what we pay now.

It looks as if any changes in the optional retirement
plan will have to wait for another year. The bill still
rests deep within the House Ways and Means Com-
mittee. Usually such bills at this time of the legisla-
tive session require more work than there is time re-
main in the session, which lasts until some time in
June.

Honorary Degrees Announced

Four honorary degrees will be awarded on May
14th. Pat Conroy, as you know unless you have been
asleep at the wheel, desk, or pc the last few weeks,
will be Commencement Speaker. Also to be honored
are Nathan Addlestone, Wendell N. Johnson, and
Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Mr. Addlestone—as you proba-
bly know—along with his wife Marlene, have donated
a major grant to the College to fund the Nathan and
Marlene Addlestone Chair in Lowcountry Arts, Cul-
ture and History. Mr. Johnson recently retired from
his post as commander of the Charleston Navy Base.
Mr. Rubin, who attended the College from 1940-42,
is Distinguished Professor of English at UNC-Chapel
Hill and is president of Algonquin Books.

NEWS SHORTS

--There have already been two meetings for next
year's Homecoming/Superweekend. The coordina-
tor for the 1990 event, Jane Smith (Stern Center/
CAB), hopes that the steering committee will be ex-
panded to include more areas of the college. The
event will be designed to "represent a weekend for
students, parents, alumni, and the rest of the campus
community to 'Come Home' to the College together."

--Did you know that the College has a FAX machine?
Located in the Duplicating Center, the price for re-
ceiving a fax document is nothing. The cost of send-
ing a fax document is the price of the phone call.
What you need is an RQ with the standard authorized
codes to place the call; costs will be borne according
to the cost of the call. The phone number for C of C
fax is 792-5505.

--The Center for Physical Fitness has two programs
in place right now. Both are MWF: 12:15 - 1:15,
Johnson Center gym at the intercollegiate side: (1)
Low Impact Aerobic Dance Class and (2) Walking
Program. Next fall, according to Center Director and
Professor Dana S. Espinosa, plans call for more pro-
grams to be added at a variety of times during the
day.

--Professor Rose Hamm (Honors Program) was sa-
luted by the local YWCA recently in its "TrIBUTE
Women and Industry, 1989." Also honored was Ms.
Cheryl Whipper, Esq., a member of the C of C
Board of Trustees. TWIN is a Trident Area award
that recognizes "the untapped executive, managerial
and professional resources represented by women."

--Last month twenty-eight new Peer Mentors were
initiated into the organization, according to Sue Ven-
tola, Director of Orientation.

--Did you ever think about what happened to the fa-
culty-staff golf tournament? Last year, you might
recall, Bob Matheny (Financial Aid, Veterans) won
low net and the privilege of organizing the next tour-
ament. Due to a series of scheduling conflicts and
unfortunate timing, the tournament will be in the Fall
Semester, when Bob, assisted by Jim Snyder (BA/
Econ), promise a first-class event.
Supercomputer Funding Request--The Effects on C of C's Budget

USC has sent a funding request for a high-speed supercomputer. So has Clemson (note: for you fanatics, it is not known at this desktop which came first, the chicken or the kitty). The requests by-passed normal CHE channels and went straight to the General Assembly, which is considering the requests in a supplemental appropriations bill (note: supplemental appropriations bills are priority-based requests from state agencies; if there is a budget surplus after the regular budget bill's items are expended, the supplemental items can be funded). The initial funding request for the supercomputer was $24 million, in yearly amounts of $8 million for three years.

CHE wrote a "position statement" relative to that funding request. Mr. Fred R. Sheheen sent me a copy under a cover letter. In essence, the position paper (which is over five pages, double-spaced and typed--and therefore too lengthy to reproduce in this format) makes the following points:

1. The universities didn't follow prescribed procedures in submitting the request; statute specifically states that such requests go before CHE first.

2. Therefore, CHE cannot faithfully adhere to its function of serving "to conduct the preliminary evaluation of the fiscal needs of" all the institutions.

3. CHE has rank-ordered known supplemental requests from all the schools as part of the Cutting Edge package. CHE wants the legislature to refuse consideration of the supercomputer request and to acknowledge the Cutting Edge package as the legitimate request.

4. CHE has experience in examining computer requests. If the supercomputer requests are so important, and if the campuses plan so thoroughly, "we are left to wonder why the Commission and its staff were not officially involved by the institutions long ago."

5. Perhaps the institutions could compete for one system--"funding two supercomputers may mean needless, wasteful duplication. . . ."

6. In a state where higher education is not funded at full formula, it is an empirical question whether acquisition of supercomputers at all is worth the high cost. CHE is in a better position than the legislature to make that judgment.

Task Force Proposal
There are other arguments as well. CHE supports the Kirsh and Johnson Amendment to H 3600, which would set up a task force to examine the issue of supercomputer funding. This task force would consist of two members appointed by the Governor (one Chair), one appointed by the Chairman of CHE (Fred Sheheen), and one each appointed by Chairman of House Ways and Means, Senate Finance Committee, President of Clemson, President of USC, President of MUSC; staff will be CHE staff. Funding for the task force is at $20,000; report is to issue on October 1, 1989.

As of press time for this issue of the Faculty Newsletter, the Senate Finance Committee approved of some supercomputer funding without having the task force in this fashion: $4 million this year, $10 million divided over the subsequent three years. The line is that this is "special" money, not money that would come from the formula fund or the usual appropriations bill; this money would come from the new revenue enhancement package.

Effects on C of C Budget
First, the task force amendment is pretty much dead. That leaves the General Assembly to decide that there is a need to spend millions on supercomputers. Assuming that to be the General Assembly's finding, several things could happen. One remote possibility is that the millions could be added to the formula for all the colleges and universities, making the formula look much better than it really is. Second, if this funding really is "special money," then the formula will be unchanged from its proposed 93.3% and the costs to all state agencies would be difficult to find. Third, if there is a recession, the formula could drop and all the colleges of course would suffer, with or without the additional burden of supercomputer funding. Fourth, if the tax increase does not pass, there would have to be another source for that funding. Fifth, it is important to remember that this is but a stage in the legislative process. Positions are taken and compromised. But Senators Waddell and Lindsay are the senior senators on the Finance Committee, and they support the supercomputer funding.

Other/Related Funding Issues
The increases in health insurance and deductibles paid by employees, added to the increases paid by employers, will have a noticeable impact on salaries and state agency budgets. The new proposal for a 25 year retirement system will also affect state employee payroll deductions because all of us will be paying into a fund that will assist those who retire earlier than they had anticipated when they were hired (as well as assisting us when we all decide to retire at the end of 25 years instead of 30 years or more). Employers will be contributing an additional amount into this fund as well. There will be a quiz on this.
THE PHYSICAL PLANT: An Interview with Jim Shumate

(Editor's note: the last (for this year) in a series of interviews with some key administrative personnel is with Jim Shumate, who has been Director of Physical Plant for about two years.)

Ed. What does the Physical Plant encompass?
JS: Maintenance, new construction supervision, grounds including Remley's Point, Grice Lab, central energy, janitorial service for the whole campus, and Motor Pool.
Ed. OK, so if we have a plumbing leak in our building, then it comes through Physical Plant to get repaired?
JS: Right. We get about 1200-1500 work requests each month. Almost 18,000 requests a year. Everything from cleaning carpets, repairing defective electrical outlets, lighting, roof leaks, flooding; the normal things that you as a householder have to cope with. But we have 105 or so buildings. And we only have three plumbers. A work request will come in to us, Larry Franklin, the maintenance superintendent, who will assign it to the trade shops, carpenters, and so on. The driving force on the campus revolve around the availability of the carpenters. It is apparent that if we get a large job, labor intensive, smaller jobs have to wait and we may get a backlog.
Ed. How many people work for Physical Plant?
JS: Approximately 100, 65 so of which are janitors and gardeners. Most of the rest are trades, clerical, and management.

Ed. So if you imagine a Physical Plant with about 30 workers, for the size of campus this is, with all the restored structures that need constant work, 100 people or so isn't a large staff.

JS: You can't imagine how difficult it is to heat and cool properly a campus like this. Next week Hipp--our outside contractor for the Central Energy Heating and AC Systems--is going to install sensors in two rooms of Maybank, which presently are controlled by one thermostat. This currently presents a problem for temperature control because you could be teaching in the room that does not have a thermostat, while the room with the thermostat does not register any load. The room in which the thermostat could be 72 degrees while the full classroom is 79 degrees. It is envisioned that by utilizing a sensor in each room we will be able to tell the equipment to provide additional heat/air to both rooms based on the room with the biggest load.

Ed. Let's talk about the work required at Sears and at 88 Wentworth.
JS: I don't know too much about Sears or who is going in there. That work will be bid out, and we will assist Monica Scott's office and provide day to day inspection of how that work proceeds.

Ed. How much will the new dorm complicate your life?
JS: Obviously we are giving up a rather old facility, then we get rid of College Inn, which has required a lot of tender loving care to get along, but it is difficult to keep up because the rooms are seldom vacant, as are the academic areas.

We will be able to put all of the summer students in the new dorm in future years, which will give us more time in the summer to work on the other dorms. Right now I have been trying to hire temporary carpenters and painters for the summer, but I haven't had much luck.

Ed. And 88 Wentworth?
JS: Our people will be converting the interior to make it viable for College personnel. That work will be all in-house.

Ed. We've talked about trouble calls made by state employees. How do student trouble calls work, for example, a weak fluorescent light in a dorm room?
JS: The same way. We have a general handyman who works from 3-11 each night. The phones in Physical Plant shift to central energy at the end of the work day. Plumbing, electrical, and other problems are handled there. Depending on the nature of the problem, he calls me or Larry Franklin and we make decisions on calling other people in. Light bulbs, broken windows, and like are handled through a log book in each dorm. That supports the housing effort.

Ed. How is Motor Pool doing these days?
JS: We have approximately 15 vehicles available for use by College personnel ranging from sedans to the 15 passenger vans. They are "leased" out on a mileage basis. If we cannot support a request we may lease a vehicle from Hertz or Budget to supply the need.

Ed. Is there in-house maintenance of vehicles?
JS: Only very minute problems are handled in-house. On a case by case basis we will take the vehicles out to be serviced. Right now there is only one person in Motor Pool.

The biggest problem we really have is the ability to get into a space and work on a problem until the problem is solved. Go into any room in Maybank. It will need paint. But we cannot paint during class times. A lot of the Physical Plant problems that exist result from the inability of our people to have the necessary time to do the job when classes and the like are not in session.

Ed. After the no smoking resolution passed, the free standing ashtrays were removed and no smoking signs were placed. I say this now I smoke a little cigar and you smoke a cigarette in my office. How has all of that worked out?
JS: It has been more painless than I had anticipated. I expected more negative student reaction, more butts stomped out on the corridor floors.

Ed. I have only found one student who lit up in Maybank since it came out. I informed the student that it was a no smoking area. JS: I have had three notices of complaint since December.

Ed. Any faculty who have observed that more work needs to be done about the no smoking policy can contact me, and I will notify Mr. Shumate directly.

Summer Paycheck System Changed

A new scheme has been worked out, with approval based on a random survey of faculty who are teaching in the summer. Paychecks for summer will be separate, arriving a day later than "regular" 1/24th paydays. No direct deposit. Tax withholdings should be lowered using this method.

Woody Allen to Teach Psychology at C of C

It has come to our attention that Woody Allen will be offered the traditional adjunct position to teach Introduction to Psychology next year. The course description reads: "The theory of human behavior. Why some men are called 'lovely individuals' and why there are others you just want to pinch. Is there a split between mind and body, and, if so, which is better to have? Aggression and rebellion are discussed. (Students particularly interested in these aspects of psychology are advised to take one of these ... courses: Introduction to Hostility; Intermediate Hostility; Advanced Hostility; Theoretical Foundations of Loathing.) Special consideration is given to a study of consciousness as opposed to unconsciousness, with many helpful hints on how to remain conscious."

Other courses will include Psychopathology and "Yeats and Hygiene, A comparative study."

Communications Received/Sent

CHE commissioner Fred Sheheen sent a letter regarding the funding request made by Clemson and by USC for supercomputers [for details regarding the funding request, see p. 2]. Mr. Sheheen sent a copy of CHE's policy statement on that issue. A reply (using Speaker letterhead) was sent on April 13th:

Dear Mr. Sheheen,

Thank you for sending a copy of the Commission's position statement on supercomputers. I agree with the Commission and its statement about this very costly endeavor. The faculty of the College of Charleston will be informed about these developments at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty, May 8th (your package of materials arrived one day after our April meeting). If there are legislative updates from now until then on this issue, please feel free to contact me.

If I may take a moment more of your time, I would like to address "Assessment." Granted, that SACS requires many components that the Commission has outlined in its criteria of assessment. Granted, that CHE has the legislated authority to require the colleges to "assess" themselves, through measuring student performance matched by the goals and objectives of the colleges, etc. I find it very difficult to understand why--unless I am mistaken (if I am, I sincerely apologize)--CHE hasn't seen to it that the colleges are funded for this assessment program in a way that is separate from the normal operating budgets of the institutions.

Throughout the state, faculty have seen the short end of the budget stick for years. Our income in constant dollar terms is lower now than it was five years ago, ten years ago, and fifteen years ago. Our salaries next year, regardless of what the General Assembly enacts, will decrease more, not only because of inflation, but also because of the pending increases in health insurance payments and deductibles.

Requiring the colleges to pay for assessment (how many dollars per FTE is unknown at this time, but estimates range from $7 to $15 per FTE) out of general operating budgets seems to be unfair. If CHE is requiring the colleges to do assessment, shouldn't CHE make sure that the colleges are funded--separately from the general operating budgets--to perform that task?

Please accept these comments in the spirit with which they were intended. Best wishes.

David S. Mann
Associate Professor

Mr. Sheheen called on Monday, April 17th, to reply. He appreciated our support regarding the supercomputer funding request. He also called to reply about "assessment." He indicated in no uncertain terms that "assessment" monies are part of the formula allocation for each institution. If assessment was funded separately, there would be no flexibility in how the money was spent. Funded as it is--as part of the formula, permits institutional discretion in making decisions regarding assessment. If assessment weren't designed to be funded, our formula percentage would be about one percent lower than it will be. [Further note: this must be accurate, because such was announced to the chairs on May 1st.]

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PHI KAPPA PHI
Annual Book Collection/Sale

Phi Kappa Phi usually has a Spring Semester book collection and book sale. This year, due to a variety of circumstances and constraints, as well as deliberate and rational decisionmaking under uncertainty, the book collection drive is going on now. Any faculty member who wishes to contribute books to the sale can contact Fred Watts (Phys), Susan Morrison (Biology), or Julie Kresch (Honors Program). The book sale itself will be in the Fall Semester.

More Faculty Summer Grants Awarded

Two more faculty have been awarded summer grants by the Research and Development Committee. They are: Professor Andrzej Grochulski (BA/Econ) and Professor Jozef A. Modzelewski (Languages).

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Faculty Committee Reports for Spring, 1989
will appear in the second annual
"Midsummer Night's Faculty Newsletter"
which will be published
one midsummer night.

thanks again to all those who assisted with the publication of this newsletter in 1988-89