GROWTH ISSUES SURFACING

Growth issues dominated discussion at the monthly exchange between department chairs/deans/program directors, Conrad Festa (Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs), and Sam Hines and Sue Sommer-Kresse (the Associate Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs for Departmental Affairs and Enrollment Management, respectively). The Council of Chairs [editor’s note: an autonomous and unofficial group; the editor hesitates to capitalize the “c” words] had passed nine resolutions [note: see next column] which were addressed at the meeting of February 5th. Numbers one, five, six, and eight were not addressed at all, Dr. Festa commenting that he had to consult with Dr. Lightsey on those issues.

Of those resolutions discussed, here were the administrative responses:

2. Three of the four classrooms in Ectr 107-110 will be converted and available for Fall ’90.

3. The “dead zone” or “activity hour” or “free period” will move from 12:05–1:30 to 3:00 approx to 4:30 approx beginning in Fall ’90. Lab course schedules can remain in place; graduate courses will run as scheduled during the new “zone/hour/period”.

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Resolutions from the Council of Chairs
January 29, 1990
[editor’s note: this is virtually a verbatim copy of the Chairs’ resolutions.]

1. Maximum class size will not be raised without the consent of the Dean/Chair. (16-0)
2. At least two of the following rooms (Education Center 107, 108, 109, 110) will be converted to full-time classrooms with solid partitions available for the beginning of Fall 1990 semester. (16-0) [emphasis added by the editor]
3. The class period on Tuesday and Thursday between 12:05 and 1:30 will be utilized to alleviate classroom congestion beginning Fall 1990 semester. (16-0)
4. Planning should begin now to provide office space for new faculty arriving in August, 1990. (16-0)
5. Any further division of the College into schools will be preceded by public discussions and faculty review. There will be no further division of the College into schools without the approval of the faculty at large. (16-0)
6. The Vice President for Departmental Affairs will work out equitable and reasonable expectations of teaching load with individual academic chairs/deans. Departments/schools will not be required to exceed these expectations. (16-0)
7. Procedures for advising non-declared majors should be reviewed and restructured by an ad hoc committee which includes faculty. (16-0)
8. There will be no further growth in the College’s freshman class until the faculty has grown to an acceptable student to faculty ratio of 18:1. (16-0)
9. Admissions of new, transfer, and re-admit students to the college for the fall semester will normally end on July 1. (14-2)
growth issues, continued from page one

4. Dr. Hines addressed most of this question. He indicated that he and Monica Scott (Vice President for Institutional Development and Research—see the January issue of Faculty Newsletter for an in-depth report) were surveying 88 Wentworth, 14 Como, and 2 Bull "maybe, plus other possible locations." He also indicated that furniture set-ups have been ordered. Other alterations which might be made, such as built-in bookcases, have always "come out of the department's budget." Dr. Bill Goleightly (Math) asked if there will be computer set-ups for new faculty.

9. Some students are allowed to come in after July 1, "but usually they are very good students," commented Dr. Festa. Dr. Sommer-Kresse informed us all that in the new Bulletin (1990-92) applicants are "encouraged to reply by June 1." There was a query from Dr. Mike Pincus (Languages) about those applicants who were "non-paid and notified by July 1." Dr. Sommer-Kresse responded by indicating that Admissions notifies the non-paid by July 1. She also reminded us that there are students who pay but do not show.

At last we come to #7, which was discussed separately and at times vehemently for most of the meeting. The focus was the recommendation made in December in a memo from Dr. Hines. The basic issue seems to be about rewards for service. It became clear that no one is likely to be denied tenure or promotion for lack of service; similarly, in some sense, no one is likely to receive tenure with massive doses of service but no professional growth and development (translate: research and publications).

Several chairs had suggestions. One was to assign a level of expectations per department, based in part on how many majors there are in that department. Two was to pay faculty for summer advising when they are not under contract, which would signal a commitment that advising is important. [Editor's note: this suggestion was made several times by at least two different chairs during the meeting.] Three was to decentralize advising out of a "center" and into academic departments—remember that we continued next column are talking about undeclared students—where the students' files will be kept and they will be advised by the same professor until declaring a major. [This suggestion came up more than once, also.—ed.]

Several issues were raised. One was that the current system obviously isn't working very well if the students are not advised during fix-up and drop/add. Also, students don't seem to flood the Advising Center except at preregistration time. Second was the observation that the best advisors are disillusioned with volunteerism. "Service is a drudge because it is expected." The problem rests with the award structure, which is insufficient, given the trade-off for needed and apparently or obviously necessary publication time.

To all this it was said, "We have several points of view here to take under advisement."

Editor's last notes: (1) this will be the last time that I will report directly on a meeting where no minutes to my knowledge are kept—and then again, maybe it won't be the last time; (2) continue reading.

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Proposed Advising Center Liaisons

The memos concerning Advising Center Liaisons were in scarce supply at the meeting between the Chairs/Deans/Program Directors and Academic Affairs.

Increased enrollment through growth and retention necessitates the use of advisors through the summer who can serve as contact persons between departments, et. al., and the Advising Center. Course changes which are not incorporated in the Bulletin but which are in effect are one example of information that is not always known. So the suggestion from Dr. Hines in the December 22 memo and updated by Dr. Isacco-Niesslein on February 2 is that each department assign a liaison to the advising center to serve as that conduit. Liaisons will be trained, experienced advisors who will receive the equivalent service credit as if they had served or chaired a faculty committee.

Dr. Isacco-Niesslein's memo states: "I am aware that some of you feel that this is not adequate compensation. . . . The feeling generated [in discussion with many advisors] is that this compensation continued on the next page
is indeed viewed as positive. Please bear in mind that, up to this point, all advising [emphasis original--ed.] has been a volunteer effort, and there will still be volunteer advisors. There will also be, however, a core group of liaisons receiving acknowledged service credit for their additional advising duties."

H. 3609--Retirement Bill--Round 2

As promised, the optional retirement bill which did not pass last legislative session is being considered in a new-and-improved package. The problem is that it is also receiving new-and-improved criticism.

An ad in the Sunday paper last week or so encouraged citizens to write for two reports on why the optional retirement system is not "actuarially sound nor fair to a large majority of state employees" (quote from Barnett to Mann, 1-31-90, a copy of the report--and the bill--can be placed on reserve if the readers so desire). But there is also a report, in response, from the South Carolina Education Association, a copy of which has not yet reached the editor's desk. The statement of estimated fiscal impact, printed at the beginning of H. 3609, as printed in the proposed legislation, follows:

"1. Estimated Cost to State--First Year: $3,435,922
2. Estimated Cost to State--Annual Thereafter: $3,435,922"

H. 3609 as amended by the Ways and Means Committee provides for changing the years of service requirement from thirty to twenty-five; increases the multiplier fraction used in calculating service retirement benefits in the case of class two members and those members already retired from one and seven tenths percent to one and three quarters percent; provides for an increase in the employee share of the retirement system contribution of one percent; provides that members may amortize purchase of out-of-state or out-of-system service at 10 percent of current salary over the years being purchased and that they pay for it through payroll deduction at the time prime rate plus two percent; and also includes a technical adjustment in the calculation of the South Carolina average teacher's salary pool as it relates to the Southeastern average.

"The actuary under contract to the S.C. Retirement System states that there would be no additional employer cost for this legislation assuming an increase in the interest assumption from 7.5% to 8% and taking into consideration the increased employee share increase of one percent. The only state cost associated with this increase is the .11 percent of payroll cost for increasing current retirees and the health insurance cost for new retirees coming under the system. The interest assumption percent for $27.5 million of this increase. [editor's note: that is the way it was typed in Columbia]. This estimate is based on current premiums and assumes only 25 percent of those new eligible to retire would elect such an option.

"It should also be noted that these estimates do not consider the cost of future cost of living increases for retirees or the additional impact of extending the Cola's to members retiring after 25 years of service.

*This amount would increase each year by the cost of living for state employees, the Southeastern average for public school employees, and any increase in health insurance premiums.

Prepared By: David L. Anderson
State Budget Analyst
State Budget Division
Preston T. Cantrell
Deputy Budget Director

Local State Legislators' Addresses

Senator Herbert U. Fielding
610 Gressette Building

Senator Sherry Martschink
502 Gressette Building

Senator Glenn F. McConnell
613 Gressette Building

Senator Peden B. McLeod
305 Gressette Building

Senator Ernest L. Passailaigue, Jr.
608 Gressette Building

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NEWS SHORTS

-- The Center for Physical Fitness has Spring Semester Aerobic Dance classes, which began February 6th. The hours are TTH, 12:15-1:15, and 5:15-6:15. All classes will meet in the Johnson Center, Dance Studio. No fees. "Come dressed to work out with a certified aerobic dance specialist." Contact Dr. Dana Espinosa. 2-8249.

-- Homecoming is almost here. February 15-17:
15th: Taste of the College of Charleston, 12-1 on George Street;
16th: Coaches' Appreciation Dinner (advance tickets only) at the Blacklock House, 6-7 pm; Oyster Roast at the Stern Center, 6-10pm; 7-10pm if the sky is available, Observatory viewing.
17th: President’s Pancake Breakfast (advance tickets only), 8:30-9:30 am, Stern Center; Alumni Fun Basketball Game, 9-10 am, after all those pancakes, at the Johnson Center; Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon (advance tickets only), 12:00 noon, Stern Center; Basketball games and homecoming, 3-00 pm, Johnson Center; Homecoming Queen will be crowned at half-time of the men's game; Young Alumni Association Pig 'n Chicken Pickin' Fundraiser, 5-7 pm; Homecoming Band Party with food and beverages, Stern Center, 9:00 pm.

After all that food, we will need the aerobics class.

legislators' addresses, continued

All zip codes are 29211. All house members may be addressed at Blatt Building. Note: names which are underscored are sponsors of H. 3609.

thanx to: dd, ab, de, pt, and to sb, twp, mb, ctc--for their assistance to the editor and their contributions; most grateful thanx to cch.

FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945

We Are Survivors! Consider The Changes We have Witnessed!

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together-how quaint. In our time, closets were for clothes, not for coming out of. Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exams. Pizzas, McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We hit the scene when there were five and ten cent stores where you bought things for five and ten cents. For one nickel, you could ride the streetcar, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for $600, but who could afford one? A pity, too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, grass was mowed. Coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullabye and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think that you needed to have a husband to have a baby. KMPC Radio, 1989.