George Pothering's Statement: View of the Responsibilities of Speaker

To the College of Charleston Faculty:

To me, the most important responsibility of the Speaker is to represent the interests of the whole faculty, and to do so both within the College and, as necessary, to the community outside the College.

More specifically, I think the Speaker should function as the voice, eyes, and ears for the faculty - expressing its concerns and opinions when necessary or requested, listening to those of others in order to keep you aware of what they are, and being alert for potential areas of interest so that you have sufficient time to form and express your own opinions on them. At the same time, I do recognize that a Speaker cannot serve effectively as a consultant, as the Faculty Organization and By-Laws allows, if he or she is not sensitive to those times when keeping a temporary lid on things may be the more prudent course of action. I would find this to be the case especially when an issue with a potential impact on the faculty is in its emerging stages, and ideas for handling it are being tossed about.

Operating from these premises, my greatest concern while serving as Speaker would be to maintain the confidence of the faculty that its interests are being heard by the Speaker and accurately represented. If someone were to ask me, "Well, what does the faculty think about ... (fill in your favorite issue)," I would like to feel sufficiently informed about how people felt on the matter that I could comment on the range and depth of those opinions. In order to do this, of course, I will need to know what your opinions and interests are. I can discern some of these by maintaining regular contact with the chairs of the various standing and ad hoc committees to find out what business they are conducting. I would also like to stay in touch regularly with the department chairs and deans of schools. The opportunities I had to interact with them this year while serving as acting chairman of the Computer Science Department and over the last two years as chairman of the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Planning were invaluable in giving me a better sense of what is going on at the College. I would like to continue to take advantage of these interactions would provide. Direct input from individual faculty is, of course, always welcome. I hope all of you, especially newer faculty, will feel free to contact me about issues you wish to raise or points of view you want to express. Likewise, when I think the opinion of a particular individual or group of faculty might prove insightful of a particular matter I would like to call on them. As an example, there has been a lot of discussion recently about the impact of the College's current growth period on various phases of campus life. How do these times compare with those of the early seventies when the College was going through a similar, if not more dramatic growth spurt? Perhaps some of the faculty who were present at the time could be encouraged to use the Faculty Newsletter to share their recollections and make some comparisons.

Concerning the Faculty Newsletter, I would like to see both it and the opportunities for debate provided at the faculty meetings used as more public forums for expressing opinions and exchanging information. Although some faculty told me after the last faculty meeting that they were surprised at the amount of discussion accompanying the proposal to reinstate the A.B. degree, both they and others I talked with in the few days after the meeting considered that meeting to be interesting and informative because of that discussion. When presenting business to the faculty on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, I appreciate the questions that are sometimes raised about our proposals because it not only gives the Committee and the rest of the faculty a chance to see what others regard as important (although I am sure the departments whose proposals are being questioned would just as soon have us get our enlightenment from someone else's business), but makes us that much more diligent in seeing that proposals are examined thoroughly before going to the faculty. In presiding over the faculty meetings as Speaker I would welcome debate on
curricular and other issues for the same reasons.

Whether I am elected Speaker or not, I would like to establish an electronic bulletin board on a campus computer system as a rapid way to post notices and for faculty to address questions or express opinions to a broader audience. With more faculty being equipped with computers and modems, this seems to be a natural step to take. Unfortunately, it may mean we would eventually be less able to use Campus Mall as a scapegoat when we forget about a notice to which we were supposed to respond.

It would be nice to be a teenager again and be asked to serve as Speaker because then I would know everything there is to know, have an answer for everything, and wouldn't have to ask for your input. Instead, I hope you will accept my invitation to let me know what you think is important and what your opinions are about what is going on (or not going on) at the College in order that I may more capably represent you as your Speaker.

Sincerely,
George J. Pothering,
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Faculty/Staff Loan Problems?
[Editor's note: the following communication was received a short time after copy deadline for the previous issue of Faculty Newsletter.]

Re: Student Loan Problems for Faculty and Staff

I have received some informal inquiries from faculty and staff about problems they or friends are experiencing in their recovery efforts from Hurricane Hugo. Specifically, when they have attempted to obtain loan assistance for rebuilding or repairing of their home, the process is delayed if not halted due to defaulted or delinquent student loans they had while in graduate/undergraduate school.

Definitions:
1. Delinquent: A loan is considered delinquent technically when the payment is one day late. However, the loan goes into pre-claim recovery when the account has been 90 or more days delinquent. All the time the borrower will receive "prompt notices" with increasing levels of collection language demands for payment.
2. Default: A loan is classified as defaulted when the account is 180 days past due. Once the loan is in default status there is very little intervention which can occur.

Legal Issues:
1. Federal perspective: Once a loan enters default status the borrower's federal tax refund will be claimed automatically (even in the case of a joint return) and applied to the outstanding balance of the loan. Obviously the default is reported to all credit bureaus. For federal employees garnishment of their wages becomes automatic.
2. State perspective: In South Carolina, an employee of the state, county, municipality must be terminated unless the account is brought current. No one may be hired who is already in default status. South Carolina tax refund is automatically claimed as a credit against the outstanding balance if the loan was received through the National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) or S.C. Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Again, it makes no difference if the tax refund was a result of filing jointly.

One Time Amnesty Coming: A one time six months period beginning in March of 1990 will allow people to repay defaulted loans and get their credit records expanded. The U.S.E.D. is required to have this in place by March of 1990.

Hardship Deferment: In the case of individuals who have experienced some catastrophic incident, they may be eligible for a deferment or for refinancing of their student loan and thus avoid default status. It is most important that a hardship deferment is sought prior to default status.

Should any faculty or staff employee of the College wish to discuss their individual situation with me, I will try to assist you to obtain information on your accounts and just what your options may be. You will need to schedule an appointment and bring with you the latest correspondence concerning your account from your lender, guarantee agency, and/or servicing agent.

--Donald R. Griggs, Director of Financial Aid

FACULTY EXHIBIT SET FOR EARLY FALL

Next fall the Robert Scott Small Library is planning an exhibit of faculty publications: books, journal articles, and other scholarly and creative works. This will be the first exhibit of faculty publications since 1984.

Since the exhibit is part of the effort by the library's Special Collections Department to collect faculty and staff publications, we hope that you will consider donating copies of any of your works you are submitting for our exhibit and indicate whether we may add this material to our permanent collection.

Please send examples of your work to David J. Cohen in the library. We hope that you will agree to participate in our exhibit. We are excited by this opportunity to show the College community what you and your colleagues are accomplishing.

--David J. Cohen,
Director of Libraries; and David S. Mann,
Associate Professor of Political Science
NEWS SHORTS

--Phi Kappa Phi will hold its annual used book sale on Thursday, April 12, 10:30-1:30, Stern Center Breezeway. A number of children's books will be available as well as the usual varied offerings. If you have books you'd like to donate to this sale, please contact Randall Skalsky (762-3252); Julie Kresh (2-7154); George Dickerson (2-8186); Susan Morrison (2-8078). Donations can also be dropped off at the office of Professor Fred Watts, Physics Department, first floor Science Center.

--Help! Angel Wanted. The Air Force ROTC department at The Citadel is interested in establishing an Angel Flight on the C of C campus, and would like to hear from anyone interested in being the faculty/staff advisor. Angel Flight is a national, fraternal service organization and is affiliated with the Arnold Air Society, an honorary service organization of Air Force cadets. Both are jointly involved in regional and national philanthropic activities, community service, and social affairs. Area and national conclaves are held annually. Interested? Contact Colonel Krause, 2-5005.

--LEADS is a group of 75 College of Charleston students who speak to C of C organizations and classes on alcohol and drug awareness. Programs include How to Help a Friend, Responsible Use of Alcohol, Cocaine, Marijuana, Athletes and Steroids, Women and Addiction, Alcohol and the Family, and The Executive Addict. Contact Faith May, 2-6349 if you desire to set up a program for your group.

--Faculty Research and Development Monies have been awarded to the following faculty members, according to Wayne Jordan (History), Chair of the Committee: John Rashford (Sociology), Brad Huber (Sociology), June McDaniel (Philosophy/Religious Studies), Norbert Scippa (Languages), Jung-fang Tsai (History), Charles P. Beam, Jr. (Chemistry), Beverly Diamond (Mathematics), Barbara Duval (Art, Music, and Theatre), A. Kem Fronabarger (Geology), Jozef A. Modzelewski (Languages), and E. Paige Wistozka (Languages). Congratulations to one and all.

--We need a survey of faculty morale. I feel powerless at this point.

--The role, or lack thereof, of the Faculty in governance of the College should be carefully re-examined.

--It is imperative that each senator be diligent in contacting his colleagues for input and opinions. He/she should keep his/her colleagues informed of Senate action and encourage input. This will allow for diverse opinions to be expressed. In other words, the senator should be a true representative. Minutes of the Senate meeting and agendas should be distributed to all faculty.

--This better be fully debated! We don't want Hines & Co. pushing it on us through the back door in the guise of reform.

--A faculty senate will dilute minority representation, which is already minimal; part-time administrators should not be senators; since the Blacklock House is gone for us, we seldom meet as a group. A faculty senate will cause us to meet as a group even less; efficiency is not an end in itself. Democracy is always a bit inefficient.

--Additional representation should be by quota by discipline or area. Numbers, popularity of major should not be the basis of representation.

--I like our imperfect version of the Athenian democracy.

--perhaps it's time has come. We'll get what we deserve in any case. We always do! Much will depend on the composition of the senate. (signed)

--I am worried about elitism and the further loss of faculty participation in running the College. If we have a senate, some strong assurance must be had that the senators will keep the faculty informed about issues and will frequently (and on almost all issues) consult with them.

--Meetings should be open to other faculty. Some allowances should be made for voice privileges (with no vote) for other faculty. Minutes and agendas should be circulated to all faculty.

--Length of term? Number of consecutive terms?

--I think we should not have a faculty senate. I think we should not move in the direction of multiple schools.

--What's the matter with what we have now? "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

--I have no interest in any of this. As long as the faculty fits in the hall I see no need for it. Perhaps we have too many people with big titles sitting around with not enough to do, so they come up with silly ideas like this.

continued on the next page
Advisory Committee to the President meeting (23 Jan. 1990)
I brought the subject up again. The President explained that
he hadn't known what had happened to the proposal, and was
surprised that it wasn't forthcoming. He reiterated his enthusi-
astic support for the idea of one or two steps within the Pro-
fessor rank, as long as the criteria were not simply longevity
based, but were on well defined criteria based on accomplish-
ments (most likely dominated by, but not restricted to profes-
sional growth and development). He would support substan-
tive raises to be associated with these steps. (He has
mentioned 5%-10% salary increases.)

We have a young faculty, many of whom may soon fall into a
boat similar to the one I'm in; that is, twenty plus years ahead
of me before retirement and no significant chance of raises
other than state employee raises (low %), and no goals
(within the College) to strive for. From both a faculty and ad-
ministrative point of view this should be a positive idea. We
should all be pleased that the President supports it.

Please do whatever you think should be done to move this ex-
citing and beneficial opportunity forward before it withers on
the vine. Perhaps an Ad Hoc committee would be the best
vehicle. What say you? Please contact me if you wish more
input.

Speaker Replies

The Welfare Committee held more than one meeting on this
subject last year. I would be surprised if the only reason
for the committee's lack of support for that proposal was be-
cause the proposal was perceived to come from the adminis-
tration. Such prejudice I would never expect from any fac-
culty committee. If any faculty member proposed any item
through committee channels, and if the committee did table
the item, the faculty member always has the prerogative of
bringing the matter directly to the floor, with the proviso that
the faculty be informed one calendar week in advance of the
faculty meeting that such an item was on the agenda for new
business.

"If you have anything to say, anything you feel no-
body has ever said before, you have got to feel it so
desperately that you will find some way to say it
that nobody has ever found before, so that the thing
you have to say and the way of saying it blend as
one matter--as indissolubly as if they were con-
ceived together." F. Scott Fitzgerald, quoted in
Forward by Charles Scribner III, in Short Stories

thanks to tnp, ech, drg, djc, gjp, jlc, sb, mb, and ct for their
assistance with this issue.

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LETTER RECEIVED:
Promotional Steps For Full Professors

To: David Mann
Fr: Professor James L. Carew
Re: Formation of an Ad Hoc Faculty Committee

After discussions last year with President Lightsey about the
need for promotion "carrots" for our young faculty as they
reach the rank of full professor, he had a proposal routed to
the Faculty Welfare Committee. That proposal suggested (as
I had proposed to the President) that there be additional pro-
motional steps, based on merit, within the rank of Full Profes-
sor. The rationale being that, thereby additional meaningful
salary increases could be sought and acquired by meritorious
activity, especially in the area of professional development,
but not necessarily limited to that avenue.

After discussion, to which I was not privy, that committee ta-
bled the idea, seemingly (as has been recently reported to me)
because it was perceived as having come from the administra-
tion and was viewed as a way to punish less productive facul-
ty at the rank of Professor. The reality is that it was all my
idea, and President Lightsey liked it.

During the last Faculty...