Faculty Newsletter
The College of Charleston
"The Last Issue This Fall"

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President Veto Message
(see next column for details)

November 15, 1993
Dr. David S. Mann
Speaker of the Faculty

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I write in response to your memo of November 3 advising me of the resolutions passed by the Faculty Senate at Monday's meeting. Please print this letter in the next issue of the Faculty Newsletter.

I have no problem whatsoever with the resolution asking you to direct the Academic Planning Committee to inquire into how deadlines for the submission of course schedules are determined, and by whom. I will be glad to cooperate fully with the Committee in obtaining the information.

The other resolution presents a problem. The Faculty Senate requests that "the results of last year's evaluation of the administration be made available, in full, to all members of the faculty."

Those who participated in the evaluation were told that the results would be kept confidential. To accede to the request of the Faculty Senate would amount to a breach of faith with those who received the assurance of confidentiality.

I reached my decision in this matter after conferring at some length with the Faculty Advisory Committee. The Committee unanimously concurred in my decision and unanimously agreed with the reason for my decision.

The faculty might be interested to know that the Faculty Advisory Committee, together with the College's AAUP chapter, plans to conduct their own evaluation of the administration. I understand that their evaluation will be available to the faculty.

Apart from the advice I received from the Faculty Advisory Committee, a number of other faculty members have told me, in no uncertain terms, that they would consider it a breach of faith if I released the results after they had been promised the results would not be released.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that I sincerely regret having to deny the request of the Faculty Senate. I believe this is the first time I have done so, and I am sorry. It is simply a matter of my giving first priority to keeping the promise made to those who participated in the evaluation. Promises are important to me. In the words of Robert Frost, "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. / But I have promises to keep, / And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep."

Sincerely,

Alex Sanders

Senate Resolutions Passed at Nov. 2nd Meeting

Editor's Note: At the November 2nd Senate meeting, the Senate passed on voice vote the following two resolutions proposed by Professors Frank Cosza (Art History) and Klaus de Albuquerque (Sociology/Anthropology):

1. The Faculty Senate of the College of Charleston request that the results of last year's Evaluation of the Administration be made available, in full, to all members of the Faculty.

2. The Faculty Senate wishes the Speaker to direct the Academic Planning Committee to inquire into the establishment of deadlines, particularly for the submission of Course Schedules (how are these deadlines determined, and by whom?).

Reply to Veto Message from the Speaker

November 16, 1993
President Alexander M. Sanders, Jr.

Dear Judge Sanders:

I promise to convey your message to the Faculty via the Faculty Newsletter and to the Senate at its November 30th meeting.

Sincerely,

David S. Mann

Faculty Senate Meets
Tuesday, November 30, 1993
5:00 pm
Simons #309

Partial Agenda (agenda also distributed separately):

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations
2. By-Laws Committee on By-Laws Change
3. Tentative approval of undergraduate and graduate degree candidates
4. Curriculum Committee
5. Graduate Education Committee
6. Welfare Committee Reports on summer pay and senior instructor

A reception follows the meeting, sponsored by Academic Affairs
1. Request from Professor Jim Smiley (S, Biology) to find out why the C of C did not participate in the state retirement incentive plan.

The General Assembly passed a law which permits state agencies to reward employees who agree to retire. The reward would be a one-time bonus of the larger of $7500 or 25% of annual salary. However, the General Assembly did not fund the legislation. So any monies paid out would have to come from the existing budget of the agency. President Sanders reported that the College budget does not have the flexibility to participate in that incentive plan.

2. Request from Professor Jack Parson (S, Political Science[Chair]) to find out about the student evaluation process decision-making for this term.

At the November, 1992 Faculty Meeting, the Faculty approved a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations, which read (in part): "The evaluation forms need to be made available to faculty only shortly before they are ready to administer the evaluation. . . .[T]he administration should designate one week toward the end of the semester when all student evaluations are to be administered."

Future solution: Faculty Senate should specify implementation responsibilities.

3. Request from Professor Mick Norton (Math) to inquire about the "new" payroll/personnel requirement that faculty sign Exempt Employees Recap Time Sheets. From Dollie Bond and Daphne Stephens: This is not new, but should have been done all along. During briefings on the new payroll system put in place last summer (July 1, 1993), department administrative assistants were reminded that faculty should sign to confirm sick or other leave they might have taken. It is a way for payroll to know that faculty are there—and should be on the payroll—to receive their checks. These signatures are not construed as time sheets. For non-faculty, the concept is the same, so that employees can be apprised of their sick and annual leave accruals.

4. Conversation with President Sanders on the following matters:

--What are the decision criteria for space allocation for Sears' 3rd floor and basement? Answer: President Sanders will accept recommendations from any faculty member; he will receive recommendations from Dr. Festa as well. The decisions will be President Sanders'.

--A compromise was sought regarding the Senate resolutions (see p. 1 of this issue).

--Recommendations by the Speaker:

(a) Expand the Mail Room

(b) Monitor more closely decisions made by Academic Affairs

(c) All C of C employees deserve a raise

(d) Help to set up a campus forum to air frustrations; see next column, "Board Letter"

5. Faculty Welfare Committee will be issuing a report to the Senate regarding summer pay and senior instructor at the November 30th Senate meeting. All senators have copies of the Welfare Committee report.

6. Faculty Research and Development Committee will be issuing a report to the Senate at some future Senate meeting regarding ethics in publishing.

7. Joan Hillman of Academic Affairs has put together a Data Management Team, which has been meeting every two weeks this term. This team's central task is to learn how to pool data from the SIS and HRS (Human Resources System) menus so that better and more complete information can be tapped easily for projects including the President's Advisory Committee/AUAP salary study.

8. Partial Contents of Speaker's November Letter to College of Charleston Board of Trustees

"Frustration exists on every level of the campus, from the students on up through the President's office, including but not limited to: students are frustrated with the advising system, faculty are frustrated with the perceived student quality (too low given 'the SAT numbers'), alumni are frustrated with their perception that standards 'are not what they used to be,' staff are frustrated with low operating budgets, the president is frustrated with CHE, and some faculty are frustrated with College administration and vice versa; all are frustrated by the lack of attention and money paid to state employees in general and higher education in particular by the General Assembly. As a self-identified 'problem solver,' my frustration is from not knowing what to do about all the frustration. If you have any ideas, please let me know."
A Fable

Henry the Planter was the Lord of the best flower plantation in all the land, but he had lost his family's corner on the market of flower de lis (hard won by his father). This loss enraged his cousin Richard, a nasty, deformed, but clever man who was lord of the fields of white roses, and who raised 400 pound attacking boars for a hobby.

Henry's other cousins, who lorded over the fields of red roses were merely annoyed. They felt that Henry was a good man. He was a quiet visionary gentleman, with a good rapport with the heavenly father.

As time passed, Richard's fury grew, and he openly proclaimed that he, not Henry should run the plantation. This of course caused many bad feelings.

These feelings came to a head one spring evening, when Henry was hosting a fancy feast, with all of the local royalty attending except (for obvious reasons) Richard.

When this feast was in full swing, Richard burst in, with five of his biggest, most vicious attack boars. And they tore up the feast and the people, turning it into a grotesque study of blood and flesh.

When this was done and only Richard and a few others were left alive, Gruesome Richard proclaimed:

"Now is the dinner of our wistful gent wrent gory assunder by this ton of pork!"

Happy Thanksgiving

Sex Harassment Group Meeting
Thursday, December 2
3:00 pm
ECTR 107
Information Meeting on C.A.R.E. and Counseling

This is an open meeting

Faculty and Staff Holiday Drop-In Schedule--
Watch your e-mail and campus mail for details

Early Bird Reminder:
January, 1994 Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday,
January 11th
5:00 pm
Maybank 100

note change of location for Spring '94

Academic Affairs Five Year Plan
and One Year Action Plan
are on reserve at the RSS Library under the title: "Five Year Plan"
Faculty Research and Development
Awards, Round #1, 1993-4

from Professor Randy Sparks, Chair, R & D Committee

The Committee received eleven research proposals in Round 1 and made the following awards:

1. Rosemary Brana-Shute (History): "Computerizing 18th Century Slave Data." $800


4. Malcolm K. McGowan (Psychology): "An Examination of the Role of GABA (A) and GABA (B) Receptors in Food Intake Regulation in the Rat." $2090

5. Gerard Montbertrand (Languages): "A Study of Racine's Alexandre and Britannicus through Biocriticism." $1290


7. Cliffton Peacock (Studio Art): "A Series of Paintings and Drawings." $1300

8. David N. Sattler (Psychology): "Psychological Distress Following Hurricane Inike: A Longitudinal Study." $1050


Advising Undeclared Majors

[Ed. note: Dr. Festa sent this letter to department chairs on November 17th:]

Each semester the College has between 2500 and 3000 undeclared majors. Students in this group include lower division traditional students deciding on their majors; returning adults seeking degrees, recertification, or additional training; transients visiting from other institutions; international students visiting for one year; and concurrently enrolled high school students. All need assistance from well-informed faculty advisors.

The College of Charleston faculty have mandated that the advising of students be done by faculty, for good reason. Research on retention, student academic success, and student satisfaction consistently supports the importance of student/faculty interaction outside the classroom which is fostered by the advising system. Therefore, the College remains strongly committed to the concept that advising is an important component of teaching.

We have tried several different advising models at the College of Charleston. I believe that the current model of advising majors within departments and advising undeclared majors in the Advising Center, where career decision resources are built into the system, has the potential to be among the best system in the country. However, as we all know, staffing of the Advising Center by faculty members has been a difficult issue. An advising advisory committee, that included several adjunct faculty members, recommended that 3/4 and full-time adjuncts become a part of the advising system. Although I support the concept (advising is a part of teaching), I realize that you have not had an opportunity to discuss this recommendation. Thus, we will not require participation at this time, and will continue to ask for volunteers. I have asked Dr. Sue Sommer-Kresse to work with a committee of chairs to review this issue and make recommendations.

In the meantime, I ask for your assistance by encouraging all faculty including 3/4 and full-time adjuncts to participate in advisor training and to assist us to serve our students by providing excellent advising.

cc: Sue Sommer-Kresse, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Deans of Schools
Pam Isacco Niesslein, Assistant Dean, Advising
THE LESSON OF THE GOOSE: THE BEST ADVICE
by Alex Sanders
(For the College of Charleston Faculty Newsletter)

I receive a lot of advice. The Faculty Advisory Committee is not the only source. The best advice I have received recently came from an unlikely source, Captain James Parlor, who is in charge of security at the College.

In the 1950s, when Eisenhower was President, James Parlor graduated from high school in Yemassee, South Carolina. Not far from Yemassee, to the east, begins the great expanse of the salt marsh, which makes up South Carolina’s coast.

When James Parlor was a boy — and it is still true, even today — huge flights of migrating waterfowl often crowded the skies over Yemassee. There are sometimes more ducks and geese above Yemassee than there were people on the ground in Yemassee.

Naturally, it was James Parlor’s ambition to go to college, and even more naturally, the college he wanted to attend was the College of Charleston.

But James Parlor was not allowed to attend the College of Charleston. Although Parlor is a prominent name in South Carolina, James Parlor and his family are not prominent people — at least not in the ordinary sense.

James Parlor’s ancestors did not come to South Carolina from Europe. They came from Africa. James Parlor is not a European American. He is an African American.

In the 1950s, African Americans were not allowed to attend the College of Charleston. Therefore, largely without choice in the matter, James Parlor followed the pattern of the migrating waterfowl and left Yemassee.

At first, he did not go far. He went to an island in the salt marsh not far away, named Parris Island. It is, of course, the basic training facility for the United States Marine Corps. James Parlor joined the Marines. He became a drill instructor and had a distinguished military career.

In 1984, James Parlor retired from the Marine Corps. He returned to Charleston, and he did two things upon his return. He got a job as a campus policeman at the College of Charleston. He now holds the rank of police captain and is in charge of campus security. The second thing he did represents an even more significant accomplishment at the College.

Upon his arrival on campus in 1984, James Parlor fulfilled his childhood ambition by enrolling as a student at the College of Charleston. Seven years later, in December 1992, at my very first graduation ceremony as President, it was my great honor to hand James Parlor his diploma and declare him a graduate of the College.
The education establishment says a student who does not graduate in six years, or less, is a failure. The education establishment does not know James Parlor and thousands like him.

Not long after I handed James Parlor his diploma, he gave me something in return, something he had written. He said it was not original with him. He said the author was anonymous. Nevertheless, like his life in general, I think James Parlor was drawn to the words by the experience of his childhood.

He must have been influenced, I think, by the migrating waterfowl of his youth - the great flights of ducks and geese over Yemassee. In any event, what he gave me turned out to be the best advice I have received recently.

Here it is. These are the words he wrote, the words of James Parlor, African American from Yemassee, South Carolina; United States Marine Corps, Retired; Police Captain; College of Charleston graduate.

"Next fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in 'V' formation, you might consider why they fly that way," he said.

"As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following."

"By flying in a 'V' formation, the whole flock adds a good bit more flying range than possible if each bird flew on its own."

"When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and it quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front."

"When a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot and falls out of formation, another goose leaves the formation with that goose and follows it down to lend help and protection. The goose stays with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies. Only then does the goose launch out on its own or with another formation to catch up with its group."

"Finally — and this is important — the lead goose is encouraged to keep up its speed by the other geese honking from behind."

"If we have the sense of a goose, we will treat each other like that," said James Parlor.

I want you to know I have taken the advice of James Parlor to heart, and that is why, as the "lead goose" at the College of Charleston, I do not resent, rather I am encouraged by, all your "honking from behind."

So, do not ever hesitate to tell me what I need to know to lead the College well. Somehow, I doubt you ever will.