Faculty Newsletter

The College of Charleston
"Welcome (Back) Lists"

edited by David S. Mann, Speaker of the Faculty
e-mail: Mann

The contents of this, past, and future Faculty Newsletters is available on Ashley gopher campus information services

Volume XV, Number 1 (late August, 1994)

Speaker's Report

Welcome or welcome back. By the time you read this, classes will have been meeting for a few days, and students will have been milling about trying to find the elusive seat in the class "I have to take this term... and it has to be after 9 and before 1."

This issue of Faculty Newsletter should serve you well for the lists it contains, if not for the brief news reports. Find the list of Faculty Senators; also find the list of Faculty and Senate Committee Chairs, which is complete as possible at press time. Any additions or corrections to that list should be brought to my attention as soon as possible.

The Faculty Senate Secretariat office is almost finished. It will be located next to the Faculty Lounge in Maybank, and will be a fully functional office for all Faculty and Senate business. Committee chairs and senators are urged to complete Faculty and Senate business through that office. Until that time, contact me or Bishop Hunt, Faculty Secretary.

Fall Semester Faculty/Senate Meeting Schedule

1. Fall Faculty Meeting Monday, Sept. 12th
   5:00 pm, Simons Recital Hall

   Agenda items due to the Secretariat no later than September 2nd.

2. Faculty Senate Meetings
   September 6*
   October 4
   November 1
   November 29

   All of these meetings convene at 5:00 pm, and are in ECTR 118.

   *This is a known religious holiday for some.

   Agenda items for the first Senate meeting are due to the Secretariat no later than August 26th.

Newspeak to Return as a Book

by Herb Silverman

[Editor's note: Professor Silverman was Speaker of the Faculty from 1980-82, and was the original editor of the first iteration of Faculty Newsletter, which was called Newspeak. Read on.]

The purpose of the newsletters was to facilitate communication on campus and serve as a forum for faculty issues and concerns. Looking back, I believe it to be a reasonable account of the history of the college in that two-year period. Interestingly, many of the issues raised then are with us today—not only at the College of Charleston, but at most academic institutions. This book consists of monthly newsletters that I published when I served as Speaker.

The newsletters are essentially intact. Virtually all my Editorials and Letters to the Editor by faculty and administrators are included, and all such letters were originally published as submitted. I was an editor who did not edit the writings of other faculty. [Editor's note: this column has been edited.]... Rest assured, controversial subjects are highlighted rather than censored. In some cases, I have added a comment to the original newsletter to provide appropriate background, context, or information. All such additions and insights are so indicated by "Updated Remark."

As is evident in the newsletters, I am not in the habit of heaping effusive praise on administrators. I would, however, like to acknowledge our current President, Alex Sanders, who suggested, encouraged, and financially supported my turning these newsletters into book form. When it comes to showing respect for, interest in, and honest and open communication with faculty, I strongly believe Alex Sanders to be by far the least worst president the College has ever had.

Watch this space for a forthcoming publication date.

Faculty Seminar
Robert Gruda: Book
An academic novel.
Contact Sam Hines or Marilyn Tharp at 953-5770.
Sponsored by President Sanders and Dean Hines
**Faculty Senators**

*indicates years remaining in term

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**Sexual Harassment Group Recommends**

**Grievance Policy Changes and More Education Programs**

In the fall of 1993, President Sanders requested Dr. Sue Sommer-Kresse, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to convene a group for the purpose of reviewing the issues and concerns related to sexual harassment. Over 75 students, faculty and staff members participated in at least one of the many group and subcommittee meetings. The group has made two recommendations.

1. A revised grievance policy has been drafted that includes faculty and staff (volunteer) liaisons or advocates who would be initial contacts for alleged victims of sexual harassment. These advocates would provide information about the grievance system and assist the alleged victim through the process.

2. The Education Subcommittee recommended that a cadre of students, faculty and staff be trained to provide education programs about sexual harassment.

***** VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED *****

The first training sessions for anyone willing to serve as a resource and speaker on sexual harassment and gender issues will be conducted fall semester, 1994.

continued on page three, column two
1994-95 Faculty and Committee Officers

Speaker of the Faculty
--David S. Mann (Political Science)
Secretary of the Faculty
--Bishop C. Hunt (English)
Speaker Pro Tempore of the Faculty Senate
--the
Faculty Advisory Committee to the President
--Chair: Maggie Pennington (Biology)
--Secretary: Julia Eichelberger (English)
Curriculum and Academic Planning Committee
--Chair: Wayne Jordan (History)
--Secretary: Paul Young (Mathematics)
Senate Academic Planning Committee
--Chair: Brian Scholtens (Biology)
--Secretary: Joyce Carpenter (Philosophy)
Academic Standards Committee
--Chair: Von Bakanic (Sociology)
--Secretary: Richard Godsen (PEHD)
Assessment Committee
--Chair: Allen Lyndrup (Theatre)
Senate Budget Committee
--the
Library Committee
--Chair: Denis Keyes (EDFS)
--Secretary: Roger Daniels (Acctg/LS)
Research and Development Committee
--Chair: Dinesh Sarvate (Mathematics)
Student Affairs and Athletics Committee
--Chair: Elizabeth Martinez (Languages)
--Secretary: James Carter (Mathematics)
Tenure and Promotion Committee
--Chair: Marion Doig (Chemistry)
Grievance Committee
--Chair: Dana Espinosa (PEHD)
--Secretary: Genevieve Hay (EE)
Senate By-Laws and Faculty/Administration Manual Committee
--Chair: Herb Silverman (Mathematics)
Welfare Committee
--Chair: William Moore (Political Science)
Nominations and Elections Committee
--Chair: Beverly Diamond (Mathematics)
Graduate Education... Committee
--Chair: Larry Carlson (English)
Hearing Committee
--Chair: Charles Kaiser (Psychology)

Ad Hoc Committee on the Library
--the
Ad Hoc Cmte. on Honors Program Name Change
--Chair: Betsy Martin (Chemistry)
Honors Program Committee
--Chair: Trish Ward (English)
Sexual Harassment/Campus Climate Group
--Convenor: Sue Sommer-Kresse (VP, Enrollment Management)

College Skills Lab Update
Welcome to new faculty and welcome back to old friends!
For those of you who do not know us, the College Skills Lab is an academic support program for ALL of the students at the College. Our services are utilized by freshmen through graduate students and by students maintaining good grades as well as those seeking to improve academic performance. The CSL serves students through walk-in labs, professional assistance in learning techniques, and individual tutors for courses not covered by labs. Our tutors are faculty recommended, carefully chosen, thoroughly trained, and nationally certified. The lab directors (faculty members) routinely solicit faculty guidelines for the tutors to follow in working with students so that the students may be appropriately assisted. Supplemental Instruction, a collaborative learning program, is in place in selected science classes, and feedback from students and faculty is very supportive. Over 45% of the student body used the services of the College Skills Lab this past year, a fact that would not be possible without the consistent support of the faculty. Thank you.

Open House at the College Skills Lab
Friday, September 9th
3:00-4:30 pm
216 Education Center

Sexual Harassment Report, continued from page two
Dr. Cary Weber, a licensed Psychologist and former Counselor in the College Counseling Center will be conducting the sessions. The group is designed to provide information about the prevention of sexual harassment and rape so that participants can serve as campus resources on these issues.
The group is open to any student, faculty or staff member who has an interest in preventing sexual harassment and rape and is willing to attend the training sessions as outlined below.

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
(lunch provided)
Saturday, October 22, 9:00 A.M. to Noon
Saturday, October 29, 9:00 A.M. to Noon

All sessions will be conducted in the Stern Student Center.
Anyone interested in attending should contact the Academic Affairs Office and speak with Sonya Hayden or Kirk Kilgore at 953-7031 to reserve a place. Reading materials will be sent prior to the sessions.
Speaker's Report

[Editor's note: since many may have left before these reports appeared during the summer months, and since there was room in this edition, find some summer news here.]

The Board of Trustees met on July 19 and 20. A full copy of the business meeting agenda is available from the Secretariat.

1. Budget: The Board approved the College's 1994-5 Budget. There was absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind, nor was any doubt raised either at the Budget committee meeting or at the Board meeting, that the salary increments would be awarded and that other College items would bear the burden.

2. Dr. Festa proposed, and the Board approved, granting Emeritus status to Professor Jim Anderson (Mathematics) upon his retirement in 1995, and granting Distinguished Professor status to Professor Malcolm Clark (History). Congratulations to both.

3. The Ford Foundation has awarded the College a $200,000 grant to be used toward completion of the renovation of the Avery Research Center. This is a 3/1 matching grant.

4. The General Assembly is scheduled to fund a capital improvement bond in its 1995 session. Although the Legislature did not vote to postpone the 1995 bill, the Budget and Control Board has not yet given a directive to state agencies to prepare a plan for possible funding. If and when such a plan is requested, the College's first priority will be the purchase of the Bishop England campus. Second is a new library facility.

5. The Board elected a new chair: Joel H. Smith, Esq., of Columbia, who is a C of C graduate. Dr. Jordan Stine remains as Vice-Chair and William Day as Secretary.

An Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting this summer to explore a name change from Honors Program to Honors College. This committee's chair is Betsy Martin (Chemistry), and the committee will meet again during the fall term and pass along its recommendation to the Honors Program Committee, which will then make its own recommendation to the Faculty Senate. Anyone wishing to comment should address Professor Martin.

The revised Faculty/Administration Manual is in its final throes of revision and is scheduled to appear before the beginning of the Fall term. A more trim volume, this Manual eliminates the redundancies which compounded previous version's size. Included in the Manual is the recently revised Faculty By-Laws, as amended by your ballots in April. Unless it is the will of the Faculty, no separate publication of the By-Laws will be circulated.

A word about cats: meow. But seriously, folks, have you noticed several arrays of stray/feral cats on campus? Currently being owned by "x" cats (I do not want to divulge the number publicly, because I might get busted by the dog police), I am concerned that the campus cats not currently under the care of a veterinarian might be suffering from a variety of maladies. I propose that the College undertake a humanitarian effort to "live trap" the cats, check them in with a local vet, have them spayed and returned to campus to live out their lives. The self-proclaimed "Queen of Cats" in this one of her nine lives, Professor Stiglitz, concurs. Professor Garganus has offered to fund one cat. I would like to think of this as a college community effort, but I don't know how such an effort would be funded; I think it is appropriate.

I talked with President Sanders for about an hour and a half on June 7th. We discussed a plethora of issues. CHE and the General Assembly are going to study faculty workload. The study will find that all faculty should be required to teach 12 contact hours per semester. Salary compression has begun to be dealt with this fall. Growth at the College is limited by local geography. President Sanders indicates that an overall 2% student population growth figure is really a steady-state target, but within that rubric he hopes that minority student population will increase by 40%. "No massive growth is on the horizon," he said. We (especially the students) can thank former Governor Richard Riley, who assisted the College in becoming part of the Direct Student Loan program.

Only 100 or so colleges were picked. Finally, President Sanders stated that he has had four goals since his arrival: increase the number of regular faculty, decrease reliance on adjunct faculty, decrease the ratio of administrative personnel/faculty, and obtain more money for salaries. To date, all those goals are being realized. Counseling Center will move in with Health Services beginning this fall. The concept is that psychological counseling and physical health are interrelated and should be located together. Some counseling services will be contracted, as opposed to the system of hiring state-supported staff persons.

thanks to bs, jd, mem, kk, pg, and others
WE BEGIN AGAIN
by Alex Sanders

The beginning of school brings to mind Thomas Hardy's image of the cycles of the natural world and its implications for our world. Confronting yet another moment in life's endless urge to renew itself, Hardy wrote, "The season had developed and matured. Another year's installment of flowers, leaves, nightingales, thrushes, finches, and such ephemeral creatures, took up their positions where only a year ago others had stood in their place." So it is with us. So it is at the College of Charleston.

One change you should notice is that our colleagues have grown more numerous. We will add 19 new roster faculty positions and hire 31 new faculty this year. Since I arrived two years ago, we have increased the regular, tenure-track faculty by 25 percent, a rate more than two-and-a-half times the growth rate of the undergraduate student body. There is other good news in the area of growth. The audit of the Foundation is now complete for my first full year at the College. Revenue has increased by 38 percent. Unrestricted giving is up 18 percent, and total giving is up 23 percent. As a point of reference, total giving in the year prior to my arrival had only increased 1 percent from the previous year, and unrestricted giving had only increased 1.5 percent. Faculty salaries will increase this year by a minimum of 4.5 percent. With characteristic humility, I do not take all the credit.

Speaking of colleagues, we continue to chase the elusive butterfly of collegiality. The New York Times recently addressed the subject in an article entitled "Ode to Academic Nastiness." The phenomenon is widely perceived and commented upon. The brothers Robert and John Solomon, in their recent critique of higher education, Up the University, say "the level of mutual respect in academia is probably the lowest of any job or profession in America, except perhaps for professional wrestlers." After spending a year at Kenyon College, the writer, P. F. Kluge, compares the atmosphere among the faculty there with that of "downtown Mogadisha."

The New York Times article suggests various reasons for the internecine warfare which rages on campuses. We have all heard the old saw: "The reason faculty politics is so vicious is because the stakes are so low." Henry Kissinger is quoted similarly as saying the bitterness of academic disputes "is in inverse proportion to the importance of the subject." I think the best explanation why academics are so confrontational is given by George May, a former provost, dean, and professor of French at Yale. "The university is a daughter of the church," he said. "We have inherited from it the costumes, the vocabulary and the concern for truth, and when the truth is at stake you may regard someone who disagrees with you as a heretic." I, for one, don't think confrontation is always bad. The search for truth should take precedence over almost everything. As I said when I was inaugurated: "Tranquility is the hallmark of a great country club, not a great college." Of course, that doesn't mean we shouldn't act with civility toward each other.

What do you think?