Faculty Newsletter

The College of Charleston

Faculty Secretariat office phone: 953-5425
phone: 953-5703; fax: 953-8140
114 Wentworth, # 106

e-mail: Mannd

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

Volume XV, Number 5 (January, 1995)

Faculty Senate Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th
5:00 pm
ECTR 118

Agenda

--Attendance Policy Motion from Student Affairs/Athletics Committee

--Curriculum Committee

--Faculty Salary Study Special Report

Changes in South Carolina Ethics Law
by Andy Abrams

The South Carolina General Assembly changed the state ethics law. This will affect all College of Charleston employees, particularly faculty.

Section 8-13-715 prohibits state employees acting in an official capacity from receiving anything of value for speaking before a public or private group. This precludes faculty from receiving honoraria for speaking if the faculty member is acting in his/her "official capacity," which generally means using College funds, resources, time, etc. The State Ethics Commission has held, however, that an employee may receive payment or reimbursement for actual expenses. The Commission has also ruled that any reimbursement for actual expenses should ordinarily be made directly to the state agency (i.e., College), rather than to the employee. This means that the employee normally should seek travel reimbursement as usual from his/her department. The subsequent reimbursement from the outside entity will then reimburse the College.

The most significant change in the Act is the provision that if the employee receives the reimbursement or payment for actual expenses directly for a speaking engagement, then the employee must report in writing this information directly to the College's "chief administrative official or employee with which the public employee is associated." Obviously, this is either the President or the appropriate Senior Vice President. I would suggest that the College interpret the language to mean the latter. Therefore, faculty receiving reimbursement of actual expenses would need to submit this information to Dr. Festa, while other employees would submit their information to their respective Senior Vice Presidents.

Secondarily, the State Ethics Commission has previously held that the prohibition against receiving anything of value for speaking does not prevent the employee from accepting a meal "provided in conjunction with this speaking engagement where all the participants are entitled to this same meal and the meal is incidental to the speaking engagement." This ruling is now incorporated into the statute itself.

Board of Trustees Meetings

Tuesday, January 17th
All Committees
2:30 pm
6 Glebe Street

Wednesday, January 18th
Board Meeting
9:30 am
Lightsey Conference Center #228

These are open meetings. Any and all are welcome to attend.

Happy New Year.
God Denied Tenure*

*Reprinted from "The Separationist", the newsletter of The Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry, edited by Herb Silverman

I have served on the College of Charleston Tenure & Promotion Committee several times, and the deliberations of its members have always been held in strictest confidence. However, because of the controversy surrounding one case, I have decided to release the letter sent from the Committee to the President of the College:

Dear President Sanders,

After careful consideration, the Tenure & Promotion Committee has voted to deny tenure to God. He has only one unreferred publication that contains unsupported scientific claims and is of questionable authorship. He has frequently violated our "informed consent" standard when performing psychological experiments on human subjects. We illustrate with one particularly egregious example. God gave his subject Job boils from head to toe and killed his children just to see if he would become disloyal. Job, amazingly, remained devoted to God, thus helping Him win His little bet with His colleague Satan. God was so pleased with the success of his experiment that He restored Job's health and gave him new children that He claimed were even better than the ones He had killed.

Some members of the Committee were originally supportive of this book, believing it to be an interesting work of fiction. There are certainly some very well-written and moving passages. God, however, claimed His book was historically and scientifically inertiat--much to the amazement of the Committee, which found countless factual errors and inconsistencies.

God also listed a follow-up publication, which had been attributed to His Son. When we explained that He could not take credit for a family member's book, He replied that the second book was really His because He was His own Son. When we appeared skeptical, God displayed His wrath and said He was also a third person and that He (They?) would see us all burn in hell for doubting Him. At this point, there was some sympathy for postponing a tenure decision until a psychiatric evaluation could be completed.

God's teaching credentials are also mixed. While many of His students praise Him daily, it appears they are motivated to do so primarily out of fear. He requires them to follow unquestioningly His many arbitrary and seemingly outdated rules and threatens them with incredibly cruel punishments for disobeying. His most devoted students, those to whom He takes the time to speak directly, claim that fewer than 1% understand His teachings. Even these top students fare no better, frequently contradicting each other and themselves. Is this the sign of a competent teacher? Faculty members often are denied tenure when their students so consistently fail to understand the basics. And these faculty haven't been given thousands of years to improve their teaching techniques, either.

Finally, service or collegiality is a factor in the awarding of tenure. Every academic institution contains intolerant and jealous colleagues, like God, who think they are perfect and try to lord it over the rest of us. But there is no place in a college or university for someone so opposed to critical thinking and rea-

soned debate that He abuses His position of power by continually threatening and intimidating those who refuse to worship the ground He walks on.

Prior to publishing the above tenure evaluation on God, I sent a copy to Alex Sanders, including the following questionnaire:

Dear President Sanders,

I would like to publish the enclosed in "The Separationist." Please check one of the following:

1. What a brilliant satire! Please publish as is.
2. What a brilliant satire. Please add a disclaimer in the unlikely event that someone takes it seriously.
3. I have contacted my lawyer! If this drivel appears in print, I will sue your heathen organization for all $242 in your treasury.
4. I would like the opportunity to speak to your godless bunch of miscreants. Please schedule a forum at my convenience.
5. Other.

I don't know for sure if Alex Sanders considers himself to be a humanist, but I do know he has a sense of humor. Prior to assuming the presidency, Alex Sanders served honorably as Chief Judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Rumor has it that he would have been on the South Carolina Supreme Court had he not been opposed to capital punishment. Alex Sanders' response certainly reflects his legal background. He checked:

5. Other. "I have the right to remain silent." Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436 (1966)

Dr. King Commemoration January 16th

The College of Charleston plans a special celebration commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 16th, 8:00 pm, Sottile Theatre. The celebration will feature excerpts from speeches by Dr. King read by students and community leaders and musical interludes by the College of Charleston Gospel Choir.

Vanessa Hill, anchor of the evening news on WCIV-TV, Channel 4, will give the address. Following her talk, there will be a multi-media program featuring excerpts from speeches by Dr. King read by students and community leaders. Participants will include Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Cheryl Whipp Hamilton—a member of the C of C Board of Trustees and partner in the Joye Law Firm, Dr. James E. Campbell—retired educator, Dr. Bill Moore—voice of the Cougars at home basketball games, and Leconte Richardson and Terrainio Cunningham, two C of C students.

This program is free and open to the public.
AAUP REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING
by Richard Nunan

If you've been keeping abreast of the debate generated in the Faculty Newsletter as a consequence of a C of C AAUP memo concerning Trident United Way's distribution practices, you know that your local AAUP Chapter has taken the position that faculty and staff ought to be informed of two facts: (1) the Boy Scouts of America, the Low Country chapter of which is a member agency of Trident United Way, have adopted policies which are explicitly discriminatory towards gays, atheists, and agnostics; (2) while designated gifts to Trident United Way are assigned (by law) to the designated agencies, the net effect of any contribution to United Way, designated or not, is to help all member agencies achieve goals set by T.U.W.'s Citizens' Allocation Board. Therefore, it is effectively impossible to contribute to Trident United Way without indirectly supporting an organization which is on record as embracing invidiously discriminatory policies.

In the AAUP's original memo to faculty and staff, some alternative tax-exempt organizations were suggested as possible options for those faculty and staff who wished to continue making charitable contributions as participants in this year's institutional campaign to support charitable giving in the Low Country, but who felt uncomfortable about participating in the United Way effort under the circumstances. In anticipation of a similar problem next year, the AAUP invites you to submit suggestions of local chapters of IRS Code 501(c)(3) organizations which you know to have SC Comptroller General's clearance for tax-deductible payroll contributions organizations, and which are not already member organizations of Trident United Way. We request that you abide by two constraints in submitting your suggestions: (1) please submit only names (and addresses/phone numbers, if possible) of organizations to which you would be prepared to contribute, if those organizations were added to the College's payroll deduction plan; (2) please try to determine if your suggested organization really does have the appropriate tax-exempt status. (If you are not confident that is the case, please make that clear.)

After we have accumulated a list of suggested organizations, the AAUP will conduct a poll of faculty and staff to determine the level of interest in each of them. There is only a limited amount of space for payroll deductions, so only those 4 or 5 organizations which enjoy the most support will be candidates for inclusion. The absolute level of expected support is also important. If only a handful of faculty and staff are interested in participating, the amount of labor involved for the Personnel Office may not be worth it.

You can send your suggestions to me, in writing please, through campus mail or by e-mail. (My e-mail address is: NunanR@ASHLEY.) Thanks for your participation in this experiment.

Richard Nunan
President, C of C AAUP

SIS Training for Faculty

Several training sessions for faculty are planned during the spring semester for the SIS (Student Information System), which is a database used to store official records about students, faculty, courses, etc. It is especially helpful as an advising tool. Fifty-five faculty were trained during the summer and fall of 1994. This training is possible with the cooperation of the Registrar's Office and Administrative Computing. A committee composed of Jeff Foster, Caroline Hunt, Sandra Powers, Chivon Jenkins, and Ann Pellegrino directs the sessions.

The training session lasts 1 1/2 hours. Faculty who attend will receive an account on WANDO, an account on SIS, and an instruction manual. If you are interested, fill out the form below and send to Ann Pellegrino, Math Department.

☐ Send me information about SIS Training

Name: __________________________
Department: ____________________

Send to Ann Pellegrino, Math Department (3-5733)
Institutional Review Board
Meeting Schedule
Spring, 1995 Semester

by Barbara Gray

The College of Charleston's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects will meet monthly during the Spring 1995 Semester to review and approve research activities and projects involving human subjects. IRBs were established by P.L. 99-158 in 1985 to protect humans involved in research funded by the Public Health Service. Since that date, many other federal agencies have adopted similar, but usually less stringent, policies. Universities have elected to apply the PHS regulations to all research involving humans—whether or not it is federally funded—so as to afford the same protections to ALL persons participating as subjects in university research activities.

Applications for review must be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs at least five working days in advance of scheduled meetings. Please observe the following schedule if you plan to conduct research involving human subjects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRB Meeting Date</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 27, 1995</td>
<td>January 20, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20, 1995</td>
<td>February 13, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20, 1995</td>
<td>March 13, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 1995</td>
<td>April 14, 1995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES MUST BE REVIEWED BY THE IRB?

All research activities which involve the use of human subjects (including those projects which are not externally funded) must be reviewed and approved by the College of Charleston's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects PRIOR TO INITIATION.

Federal regulations allow for exemption of some types of activities involving the use of human subjects. Other types of projects may be eligible for expedited review. Investigators who believe that their research qualifies for either exemption or expedited review may submit their applications to the Office of Sponsored Research at any time. These applications will be reviewed by a team of IRB members within one week of submission.

DEFINITION OF RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

An activity or project is considered "research involving human subjects" if it meets BOTH of the following definitions:

1. "Research" means a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge; AND

2. "Human Subject" means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conduct-

ing research obtains:

(a) data through intervention or interaction with the individual or

(b) identifiable private information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

For further information about the IRB review process, including exemption and expedited review, for copies of the application form, or for assistance in completing the application, please contact Barbara Gray in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Ext. 3-5673 (e-mail grayb@cofc.edu).

Questions about the IRB review process may also be directed to Professor Mike Marcell, IRB Chair, at Ext. 3-8197. (Other members are Andy Abrams, Mike Skinner, Richard Nunnan [vice-chair], John Rashford, Susan Morrison, and Rebecca Mays. Rebecca is our "community consultant" member which is required by the regs. She has retired from MUSC and is now doing consulting work in the area of human subject and animal care and use compliance.) As of right now, everyone on the committee is serving an indefinite term.

The IRB is not a university committee per se. It is intended to operate outside of the university administrative structure, and its overriding purpose is protection of human subjects (not protection of the university from liability). In fact, if the IRB determines that a particular protocol should not be approved, no one, including the President or Board of Trustees, can overrule that decision.

One of the things that we have yet to do to come into full compliance is to develop operational policies and procedures for the committee. Included in these P&Ps will be appointment of members and terms of membership. We hope to do this in the next year, but right now our ability to make any progress on this task is severely limited by the time I have available to devote to drafting this document.

We are hoping to bring in an IRB consultant in the spring to help us with some of the thorny interpretation issues we have been discussing. As a part of her visit, we hope to offer an open forum for faculty who are currently, or may in the future be, involved in human subject research so that they can learn more about the regs and how to meet them.