As Provost Hynd reported to the Senate at our January 18 meeting, he had made plans to use his time at the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee meeting on January 20 to share with the Trustees details about the internal processes for developing new academic programs. Given the fiscal climate, it seemed particularly timely to share information about the rigorous screening that takes place. Before new program proposals are sent to the Board of Trustees for review they undergo a multi-step screening process to assess the academic merits, budgetary impact, need, and suitability of the proposed new programs. Faculty committees play a significant role in these reviews. The Provost’s presentation, with contributions from Associate Provost Diamond, was well received by those in attendance.

As this meeting focused on informing the Trustees about our major and minor program development processes, no new items were introduced for approval. The major proposals that were approved by the Faculty Senate during the fall semester (new majors in Psychology, Dance, Exercise Science, and Public Health) remain to be considered at upcoming meetings of the Trustees. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14-15.

Given the remaining steps in the approval process, these major programs will most likely not be approved in time to be incorporated into the 2011-2012 edition of the College of Charleston Catalog and will not be able to go into effect in Fall 2011.

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As I reported to the Senate in December, to help make our governance system more effective we should have in place orientation materials for the Faculty Senate and Faculty Committees. My goal for this semester is to start the process by drafting and posting a short orientation guide for members of the Faculty Senate. For Faculty Committees, the development of these materials is a much larger task. In the next few weeks I will be contacting faculty members who are currently serving on committees to ask for some feedback about their committee work. I plan to collect information about major duties and activities of the committees, meeting patterns, workloads, and advice for future committee members. Working with this information, I will develop brief overviews of the committees that will be posted on the Senate website. I hope that these materials will be expanded in the future and eventually be developed into handbooks and guides for all of our faculty committees. For this initiative to be successful it will take the input of all of you who are serving on committees. When you receive the request for information, please take a few minutes to respond.

New Orientation Materials for Senate & Faculty Committees

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Notes from Board of Trustees
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The Ad Hoc Committee on Information Technology heard a report from Bob Cape about the College’s move to a new e-mail system through Google Mail. Student Government Association members are currently testing the new system.

Starting in March no new “Edisto” accounts will be issued to students, and student accounts will be migrated to Gmail. Faculty and Staff will be able to take advantage of many new services while continuing to use the e-mail system on Microsoft Exchange. Students are very excited about the change to a new e-mail system.

A budget update was presented to the Board. The mid-year tuition roll-back resulted in the need to trim $2.3 million from the budget this semester. Further reductions are anticipated in state support next year.

Steve Osborne reported that the College’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been posted. The reports from 2002-2010 are available at: http://controller.cofc.edu/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports/index.php.

Finally, at each meeting of the Board of Trustees, a “Board Book” is produced with the agenda and documents that are discussed at the public portion of the meetings. We are establishing a mini library of “Board Books” in the Faculty Secretariat Office (Randolph 108 conference room). You are welcome to stop by to read these materials.

Deadline for Nominations

February 1 is the deadline for nominations for at-large school senators, Faculty Secretary and Speaker of the Faculty. Nominations should be sent to the Committee on Nominations and Elections (RoxAnn Stalvey, Chair).