This newsletter provides a short summary of items from the April 14 and 15 meeting of the Board of Trustees and an overview of business completed in the Faculty Senate during the Spring semester.

Board of Trustees Meeting Report

On the morning of Thursday, April 14, the Ad Hoc Committee on Information Technology heard an update from Bob Cape about the College’s move to a new e-mail system through Google Mail. To date, some 4,000 students have moved to the g-mail system, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Faculty and Staff will soon be able to take advantage of many Google features while continuing to use the e-mail system on Microsoft Exchange.

At the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board later on Thursday morning, Provost Hynd reported on the outcome of this year’s tenure and promotion, post tenure review, and sabbatical application processes.

Third-Year Reviews were conducted for 16 faculty members and all were successful. Of nine Senior Instructor promotions and renewals, seven were successful. Out of 30 evaluations for tenure, 22 were successful. Included among the tenure evaluations were 27 cases of promotions to Associate Professor, of which 20 were successful. Ten faculty members were considered for promotion to Professor; all were successful. In all, this year saw 65 cases under review, with 55 successful outcomes.

For faculty undergoing a post-tenure review, all 21 seeking a rating of “Satisfactory” received that rating. Of the 11 faculty members seeking a rating of “Superior,” ten were successful.

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Curriculum Changes Approved by the Senate

The Senate approved formal guidelines for the First-Year Experience which will be required of all entering first year students starting in Fall 2011. A new Honors College First Year Experience was also approved. The Senate approved a change in academic policy, allowing students to complete two minors and removing the limit on the number of concentrations. The General Education requirement in Mathematical Reasoning and Analysis was changed, and new approval criteria were adopted for courses in this area. At our March meeting, a new B.A. degree in Mathematics was approved. Throughout the year, the Senate reviewed some 387 individual proposals to change undergraduate and graduate courses.

Full details about all of the curricular items considered by the Senate can be found in the meeting minutes on the Faculty Senate website.
Board of Trustees Meeting Report
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For Sabbaticals, 32 proposals were submitted. 26 proposals were funded, and several were deferred.

Finally, the Provost reported that seven faculty members were retiring this year. The reception honoring retirees as well as the faculty members receiving awards of distinction will be held on April 25 at 4:00 P.M. in the Stern Center Ballroom.

At the full meeting of the Board of Trustees on Friday, April 15, several items of special interest to the faculty were approved. Four proposals for new majors were formally approved by the Board (BS in Exercise Science, BS and BA in Public Health, BA in Psychology, and BA in Dance).

A proposal was passed making permanent the change in full-year sabbatical funding that had been piloted for the past two years. Full-year sabbaticals will now be funded at 2/3 of base salary.

A new tuition structure was approved for dual enrollment students (highly qualified high school students who enroll in College of Charleston courses as part of their high school studies). The tuition for dual enrollment students has been set at $450 per three-credit course.

Finally, a resolution was approved to explore the possibility of constructing a new dormitory near campus.

The “Board Book” from the April meeting can be reviewed in the mini-library in the Faculty Secretariat Office (Randolph 106 conference room).

Bylaws and FAM Changes
Reviewed by the Senate

The Educational Technology Committee introduced a motion to include the Provost (or the Provost’s designee), the Chief Information Officer (or the CIO’s designee), and the Director of Teaching, Learning, Technology as non-voting ex-officio members of the committee. The Academic Planning Committee and Graduate Education Committee introduced motions to include in their charge the new duty of reviewing proposals to terminate programs. These changes were approved by the Senate and formally ratified by vote of the Faculty.

The Senate approved changes to the Faculty/Administration Manual modifying the statement of Academic Freedom. A number of changes in language to Tenure and Promotion policies were also passed, including the rewording of sections related to Library faculty and sections governing promotion to Senior Instructor. The proposals for changes to the FAM will be formally referred to the Provost, and then be put forward to the President for final review and approval.

The Senate approved a new cover letter to the Faculty/Administration Manual. The cover letter clarifies the process for making changes to material in the FAM. The new cover letter will be included in the 2011-2012 edition of the FAM.

Finally, a motion was introduced to change the term of office for the Speaker of the Faculty and the Faculty Secretary. The proposal seeks to realign these offices with other faculty administrative posts on campus that run from July 1 – June 30. The proposal will be reintroduced in the Senate at the start of the Fall semester for full consideration and a vote.
New Orientation Materials for Faculty Senate & Faculty Committees

New orientation materials have been developed for faculty members serving on the Senate and committees. These materials are designed to provide a basic overview of Senate procedures and committee duties and to serve as a supplement to the more detailed descriptions found in the Bylaws of the Faculty. These materials can be found on the Senate website at:


Reminders

All Faculty and Senate Committees have now been elected for 2011-2012. This year’s committee chairs should convene a meeting of the new committee members before the end of the Spring semester and elect a new committee chair for next year. The new committees begin their work on August 15. Committee rosters for 2011-2012 can be found on the web at: http://facultysenate.cofc.edu/faculty-standing-committees/committees-roster.php

Lynn Cherry begins her term as Speaker of the Faculty on May 8. Please join me in wishing her every success as she takes up this position. It has been a great honor to serve as Speaker this year.

– Darryl Phillips

Other Items Considered by the Senate

At our February meeting, the Senate reviewed and offered feedback on a draft of the College's Diversity Strategic Plan. At our April meeting, the Senate approved a resolution to support the construction of a bike and pedestrian lane across the Ashley River Bridge.