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**Provost Search**

The Provost Search committee interviewed candidates this summer and narrowed the list to David Haney, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at Appalachian State University; and George Hynd, Senior Vice Provost for Education and Innovation at Arizona State University.

I highly recommend that you plan on attending one session for each candidate. You’ll have the opportunity to ask questions and to send your thoughts to the President. And don’t forget, just as these candidates are trying to persuade us that they’re the right man for the job, we’ll be persuading them that the College is great place for them to come.

Two open forums for David Haney are scheduled for Aug. 31 at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Tate Center Room 202.

Two open forums for George Hynd are scheduled for Sept. 3 at 10:30 and 3 p.m. in Tate Center Room 202.

For more information on the candidates, please take a look at the Provost Search website:

http://www.cofc.edu/provostsearch/

**First Senate Meeting**

The faculty last year passed a change in the by-laws that eliminated the poorly-attended annual Fall meeting of the faculty. The two bits of business traditionally conducted at these meetings were the welcoming of new faculty and the president’s fall address to the faculty. The first of these was made a more social event at the very successful reception last week sponsored by Academic Affairs and hosted by the Addlestone Library. We especially thank Claire Fund and her colleagues at the Library for a great event.

The president will now address the faculty at the first Senate meeting each Fall. All faculty are always welcome to attend and speak at Senate meetings, but I especially invite you to join the Senate at the Wachovia Auditorium (in the Beatty Center) at 5pm on September 15th. A reception in the new Glebe Street patio (behind the President’s House) will follow the Senate meeting.
Faculty Club

Heather Alexander (Office Manager, Faculty Secretariat) and Bill Carswell (Director of Guest Services) have been working hard this summer on the Faculty Club, a long-moribund organization at the College. Old-timers have regaled us with tales of the halcyon days when the Club resided at Blacklock House, of the handsome and fully-stocked bar, etc. Our hope is that we’ll re-establish a Club run by members and vital to the social life of the College.

We invite you to drop by any morning and help yourself to a free cup of coffee at 28 Glebe Street, look at the up-graded facilities, and pick up a membership application. We’ve got a rudimentary website up already that includes a draft of by-laws for the Club, a description of privileges, etc.:

http://facultysenate.cofc.edu/faculty_club.html

The Club invites you to its first Thursday Afternoon social hour, the 10th of September, from 4 to 6pm.

SSM Dean Search

The College engaged in three months of intense negotiation with the top candidate for the new dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, but in the end he took a job up the road at the University of South Carolina. The search committee, headed by Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, will start its work over. In the meantime, Jim Deavor of Chemistry has taken over the job of Interim Dean from George Pothering, who returns to the Computer Science faculty.

New Senate?

The ad hoc committee on shared governance, chaired by Larry Krasnoff (Philosophy), will be proposing some changes in the structure of the Senate and faculty committees. One important change will deal with the provost’s establishment of the Priorities Committee (see story above). But other changes will be proposed as well, including a new way of apportioning senators. Probably, discussions in the Senate will start as early as the October senate meeting.

Friends of the Library and You

The Friends of the Library Speakers Series aims to provide alternative learning opportunities outside the classroom for students, faculty and members of the community at-large. The events chosen as part of the series are meant to be relevant to multiple disciplines and interests. Events, for the most part, are informal and discussion-style in format. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and engage in dialogue with the speaker and other guests.

This fall, a four-part themed series of events, titled “Good Luck, Hard Times,” is the focus of the series. Each event reaches many different audiences, ranging from political science students to those interested in the arts. The Friends of the Library hope that faculty and staff at the College will not only attend these events themselves but encourage students in their courses to attend. All events, except for the Winthrop Roundtable, are free of charge and open to the public.

The Friends of the Library hopes to work more closely with faculty on partnering throughout the campus on events to maximize the impact these events will have on our campus community – and the greater Charleston community.

You can find a calendar of events at http://blogs.cofc.edu/friendsofthelibrary/events-2/

If you’d like to get your class involved, contact Jenny Fowler at the Library (fowlerj@cofc.edu).
New Web Page

The College has launched its new web page, as everyone probably knows by now. The College’s homepage, the page that comes up on Google searches, for example, is now designed for external viewing. It is our front door, so to speak, facing the street, where roving prospective students, parents, our alumni, etc.

Nevertheless, the whole website continues to support the internal needs and business of the College. Faculty have to drill down a link or two to get to some things that used to be available on the homepage, such as WebCT and Webmail. I’d recommend that you bookmark the “Faculty & Staff” page, which is available from the College’s homepage, and make that your homepage to the College. Andrew Bergstrom, Director of Web Strategies, consulted with faculty on what should go on the “Faculty & Staff” page, and I hope you'll find it much more useful than the College's homepage used to be. If you have any suggestions for how to improve the “Faculty & Staff” page, please feel free to pass them on to me or directly to Andrew (bergstroma@cofc.edu).

Later this academic year, we’ll be replacing CougarTrail with a new “Portal.” I’m really looking forward to this change, because you’ll be able to configure your own personal frontpage to the Portal, highlighting the links you find most useful and deleting others that you never use.

Changing the webpage is a monumental task, and External Relations and IT are to be commended for how smoothly they’ve done it. There’s bound to be a few glitches; if you have any problems getting these resolved, let me know.

State Funding

It looks likely that we’re going to take another funding hit from the State. The State Budget and Control Board expects a drop in tax revenues, so probably we’re facing a 4.04% mid-year cut (a cut not expected when the legislature passed its budget this summer). That translates into just over a million dollars for the College. Steve Osborne, Executive Vice President for Business Affairs, reported to the Board of Trustees that he and Dr. Benson think such a cut can be handled without any cuts to faculty or staff.

Enrollment

As Don Burkard reported this week, we just enrolled the largest class in the College’s history. The increase of nearly 200 students means the College is still very attractive to high school seniors and transfers, despite the rise in tuition. Of course the increase in students comes on the heels of a decrease in faculty, so for the next year or so we’ll all need to pitch in to help the College weather the financial crisis, especially those departments teaching General Education. The Strategic Plan will almost certainly call for a significant rise in the number of faculty—a rise disproportionate to any increase in students—so the pressure added to faculty by this year’s increase in students should be temporary.

Burkard asked me to thank the faculty for this enrollment success.