FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
December 4, 1991

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 in Gambrell Hall, Room 153 by Chairman Becker.

Before the senate considered the minutes, the secretary noted that Sue Rosser's name was left off the list of the Provost Search Committee printed in the minutes of October 2, 1991. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

page 2 - 3rd paragraph from the bottom: "I do not look upon my request..."
correct the spelling of "precedent"
and delete the last sentence that starts at the end of the page.

page 4 - "PROVOST REEVES announced: ...salary letters will be out in two weeks ..."

page 6 - correct the spelling of awkward in two places.

II. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT PALMS - "I know that we are at the terminal part of the semester. I want you to know that, in spite of what you might think, the most important issue of concern to the administration is the status of the budget of this institution. We are trying to provide as much forceful information as possible to all those who have a role to play in establishing the budget for this state, to encourage them to include a high priority for higher education. We are encouraged at least by the preliminary initiatives that have been taken by some key political officials in realizing the need for support for higher education. We are discouraged as you are by the continued revenue shortfall shown as late as the reports for October, meaning we need to have an improvement for the month of November and December somewhere of about 6%. That is unlikely to occur and so it is possible that we might yet experience another budget cut before this academic year is over. However, I am encouraged by the identification of some possible new sources of funds that might come into the University next year if the economy picks up somewhat.

Having returned from the meeting of Presidents of Land Grant Colleges and State Universities, I know that the mood around the country is very sober. We heard anecdotal information from various presidents about what they were doing in their states. I think the University of Virginia was even contemplating a 40% increase in tuition. At Oregon the deans have been asked to present budgets with a 5% decrease. Then were told, suppose you got a 5% increase, what would you do? That went to a central Faculty Advisory Committee and it made some decisions about priorities in the University. I think it was decided to close one college completely and do some reallocation and reduction of programs.

As you know the deans here on the Columbia campus have presented their dreams and aspirations for their programs. They were instructed to come back with more specific information to me, giving me a top tier list of priorities of things that are absolutely essential, then a second tier of wishes, and a third tier of desirables.

I think it is very important for us at this time to make a very clear distinction as to what is going to be essential for us and what is going to be desirable. We will use that information to do our budget allocations. The hearings for budgets will take place in the spring. I am going to sit in on all of the college deans' budget presentations, and we are going to ask them about reallocation of reductions using the documents they are now..."
completing on priorities. I certainly expect the faculty to be engaged in putting together those documents. That is the concern principally of those of us in the administration.

I want to talk a little bit about the **acquisition of the Carolina Plaza Hotel** and maybe correct some information in the press and some rumors that are going around among the student body and the faculty. This is a possible acquisition that has been under discussion for sometime, as I understood it after arriving here. It received very thorough discussion in the Board of Trustees and the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board and the Executive Committee of the Board. We looked at it as a possible opportunity because of financial difficulties that the hotel was having. The hotel had been repossessed by the bank. Then it had been taken over by RTC and there was an opportunity to make a bid on this hotel. We tried to keep things quiet because there was considerable speculation that this hotel might be used to house the visiting solicitors and prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office and we did not want to have people speculating. There were several rounds of bids, and we finally came up with a bid that was acceptable. We are now engaged in the formal process of trying to get that approved by the appropriate bodies - the CHE, Budget and Control Board, the Bonding Board, etc.

Contrary to what you may have read there is no money going to be used in the acquisition of this hotel that will affect the operating budget in any way or that affects tuition. For decades, a percentage of fees paid by students' tuition was set aside for the purpose of allowing the University to pay for renovations and acquisitions of properties. I think at that time the tuition was $275 a semester and the fee that was set aside was $75, about 27% of tuition fees. Today there is still $75 put aside every semester, which is now about 6% of those fees. The same type of thing happens at all of the public institutions in the state. That money is used to show that we are credible as far as debt is concerned in case we want to acquire buildings or do renovations, etc.. Those are the funds that will be used and they are not available for any other purposes.

Now the reasons for acquiring this particular facility: As I have walked through the campus and have visited deans and department heads, I have heard over and over again about the shortage of space. We have inadequate office space for our faculty. We have inadequate instructional space. We are unable to hire certain faculty who need laboratory space. In fact we just lost a couple here in the spring and just a another major individual this week, partly because we do not have adequate space. Our research endeavors here are growing rapidly. We are at about $50 million a year and increasing that by about 10% annually. We need space for these particular purposes.

We also have space needs because we have asbestos problems throughout the campus, and we cannot begin work on them because we have no place to house the faculty in the interim. So for a number of years we are going to need to put people in new space, and part of this space (eight to ten floors) will probably be used for that purpose.

We are spending about $300,000 a year leasing space off-campus. That is money we could also use for the operation of the former hotel if we could move those people who are using that leased space into it. Then we would be able to use the overhead money from research grants, etc. to help operate it. There was an appraisal made of this property some time ago, as a hotel. It was appraised at about $6 million with the understanding that about $1.5 million of renovation would have to take place. It may, therefore, be worth about $4.5 million and then there was asbestos removal which was estimated at about $500,000. So it is about $4 million. But this is worth a lot more than that to this University. It is contiguous space to the campus. It will complete an area with the Coliseum and the Koger center, and will provide another 350 parking spaces also.

It will probably also provide temporary space if the solicitors and prosecutors program would desire to have it. Then there would be some federal money available from that program to help us in the interim doing some renovations. This was thoroughly discussed with the Board. We are still very much committed to acquiring this
space. I do not see any way that it will affect programmatic support in the University, or I really would not be engaged in it. At least that is the best advice that I have received, and I have made about every kind of inquiry that I could possibly make on it. It involves part of the setting up of priorities that we are now engaged in. I know that the Institute of Public Affairs needs space. I know that the core curriculum has increased space needs of the Humanities and Social Sciences College. I have walked through some of the language labs. They are deplorable for an institution that is supposed to have a number-one-ranked International Business program, to have language labs that are not as good as some of the rural high schools. We need to do something about our space in the Humanities Building and I think that this will help a great deal."

RUFUS FELLERS (ENGR) pointed out that it will be expensive ($3 million) to renovate the hotel for the stated uses while Music, Art and Engineering have pressing needs for renovation.

PRESIDENT PALMS replied that the renovation of the SCE&G space and Sumwalt are critical and will proceed rapidly. He then referred the Senate to David Rinker.

VICE-PRESIDENT DAVE RINKER (Facilities Planning) said that approximately $50,000 would need to be spent immediately plus some additional upgrading and repair. We can make use of the building almost as it is.

1. 8-10 floors have been set aside for the next 3-5 years to replace space currently rented.
2. Space for faculty from Law and Business Administration while asbestos abatement is completed in their facilities.
3. 20 classrooms for English Speaking for Internationals (these rooms are exactly the right size for this purpose).
4. 16,000 to 17,000 square ft for the Institute of Public Affairs to allow expansion of its Environmental Policy program.

RUFUS FELLERS (ENGR) asked what was being done for Music and Art.

PRESIDENT PALMS said we are only waiting for the Governor to sign the bond bill so we can start the Music Building. It is the deadline of February 1 specified by the RTC which forces us to place this request before the CHE so rapidly.

RICHARD CONANT (MUSC) disagreed with Prof Fellers stating that purchasing this building is a good opportunity to expand near campus, and it would allow the possibility of parking near the new Music building.

WOLFGANG ELFE (GSO), as chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee, asked Vice-President Rinker to say more about the asbestos removal program.

VICE-PRESIDENT RINKER answered that of 247 buildings on the nine campuses, 117 had some asbestos, and of those eight required some immediate attention. On the Columbia Campus only Nursing, Physical Sciences, Law and Business Administration remain as priority problem buildings. The university now has an asbestos abatement trust fund of more than $5 million, which is not very large since any one building, with the exception of nursing, could use the entire fund. Detailed plans for renovation are now being made.

CHARLES MACK (ART) - remarked that perhaps the acquisition of the hotel is a grand opportunity. It presents itself as great. But some are worried about the appearance of these priorities and the appearance of making extensive purchases at a
time there should be fiscal constraint. How it is going to affect the total appearance of
the institution. He is concerned with those departments on campus which are housed in
buildings which are in deplorable and in some instances dangerous condition and have
been that way for years. Why, if renovation money is available, haven't Anthropology,
Art, and Music renovations been done?

PRESIDENT PALMS replied that these decisions were made in context of all needs and
priorities. "...A set of priorities was chosen and it was agreed this would give us more
flexibility to move people around while we sought additional revenues or as we started
to renovate these other facilities. That does not mean we are not going to be aggressive
in trying to seek funds to do the renovations that you have outlined."

The president then changed the subject to Emeritus President Holderman "I had
delivered to the appropriate committee on Sunday a notification that I am proceeding
with the termination of tenure of Emeritus President Holderman. I do not consider this
an initiative in any way setting a precedent for how tenure is going to be treated on this
campus. I continue to view this as an extraordinary case, a very serious case, that reflects
upon the ethical integrity of this institution. I would not be proceeding if I did not have
confidence that we have a strong case, a case that should be decided by the collegial
process you have put into place and that is well delineated in the Faculty Manual. I plan
to follow the Faculty Manual procedures as you have put them together, in their entire
detail. This will be a process that will be conducted in strict confidentiality. The matter
will finally be decided by the Board of Trustees, but it would have the input, as called
for, by the faculty."

CHARLES MACK (ART) asked if it would be possible to consider the tenure of
Former President Holderman as a special case since it was given without involving the
Departments of Government and International Studies in the procedure.

PRESIDENT PALMS replied that once somebody is granted tenure, regardless of
technical violations along the way, that person is entitled to all the privileges that that
tenure provides.

The President also announced that his inauguration will take place at the Spring
Commencement, that there will be no honorary degrees and that he will give the
commencement address.
III. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

IIla. Senate Steering Committee, J. L. Safko:

Secretary Safko announced that requests for nominations to committees have been mailed to all faculty and asked that the forms be returned by December 20. He also announced a 6-year term on the USC Development Foundation to be filled by the Faculty Senate at the next meeting. Nominations should be sent to the Senate Steering Committee (with name, rank, department and tenure status) at the Faculty Senate Office. Nominations are not limited to members of the Faculty Senate.

IIlb. Grade Change Committee, Mary Caldwell, Chair:

The report of the grade change committee was accepted as submitted.

IIlc. Curricula and Courses Committee, Jean Massey, Chair:

The following corrections were made:
page 15 - for HRTA 473 the prerequisite should read "HRTA 370 or 372"
pages 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 - The foreign language requirement should have the word "proficiency" so it reads "This ability can be demonstrated by achieving a score of two (2) or better on a USC foreign language proficiency test." In all cases the remaining comments on foreign language which were in the catalogue are being deleted.
The committee report was approved as submitted.

IIID. Student Affairs Committee, Richard Conant, Chair

Prof Conant drew the Senate's attention the the committee report on pages 28-35.

IV. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, J. L. Safko: No report
V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and VI. NEW BUSINESS: None

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

RUFUS FELLERS (ENG) made two comments:

1. Fewer than half of the seats reserved for faculty at commencements are ever filled (approx 45 out of 90 for winter and 75-100 out of 200 for Spring). This is a pitiful performance. Please go and get a colleague to attend also.

2. Our SAT scores have gone down again while Clemson's went up. We are at the bottom of the State by that measure as well as at the bottom of the Southeastern Conference. School counselors know that if you can't get in anywhere else, you can get into Carolina. Let's do something about that.

ED SHARP (GEOL) disagreed to some extent with Prof Fellers. "I would rather we did away with the SAT score altogether; we know of many examples of students who come..."
with very low SAT scores who do very well. We do a disservice to the State of South Carolina if we simply eliminate people just because they do not have the best SAT scores.

PROF FELLERS stated that the SAT scores are what people see. They are a reflection of our low admission standards.

JIM SEARS (EDUC) said that to raise SAT scores was a classic case of the university responding to an erroneous public image. Regardless of whether our SAT scores are low, we ought to assume a pro-active stance to make the point that SAT scores are not reflective of the kind of indicators that we want for students at this university. We should not be terrorized by the newspapers or by parents or by counselors who believe that SAT scores by and large are the sole criteria for quality.

HOYT WHEELER (BADM) - thought that regardless of whether SAT scores accurately reflect the quality of the students, it is his impression that our students are not very good, an impression bolstered by the opinion of many colleagues. It is a denial of reality to pretend that our students are good compared to those at other state universities when in fact they are not. Whatever measurement we choose, we should take very seriously the challenge to improve the quality of the students at this university.

LESLIE JONES (MEDC) - contributed that perhaps rather than assessing ourselves based on the quality of the students we accept we should be looking at the product we turn out. Rather than saying we are the lowest in the southeast or the State of South Carolina, we ought to acknowledge that we are having an effect on the students who graduate from here. We ought to be measuring the quality of the output rather than worry about the quality of the input.

DON WEATHERERBEE (GINT) expressed his dismay as a member of the faculty by the failure of the Board of Trustees to take responsibility for its own actions. He was indignant at the statement as reported in the press by the chairman of the Board of Trustees that the faculty would have to accept part of the blame for what has happened in the past few years at this university. Although the Board of Trustees, for reasons of its own, may wish to wash its hands of the affair and pretend that somehow or other the wool was pulled over its eyes, it is wrong of this faculty simply and supinely to accept the allegation from the Board that we did not do our job in oversight of the President of the University. He hopes that the Faculty Advisory Committee or the Senate will take note of this attempt by the chairman of the Board to dump the mess created by the Board and its failure of oversight onto the faculty.

MIRIAM FREEMAN (SOWK) was very pleased to see the article in the paper this week about the University's Booker T. Washington's Children's Center and the optimistic note that the University will keep it open. That was very good news for her. That center provides a wonderful service for faculty and staff and students and for the community. She hopes that the news continues to be good about it.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUNThER HOLST (GSO) introduced Chairman Becker's mother to the senate. At the age of 91 she has made the trip to this country from Germany to be here for Christmas.