Faculty Senate Meeting - April 3, 1991

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Holst at 3:06PM.

I. Correction and Approval of the Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of March 6, 1991 were approved with the following rewording of line 4, page M8: "...recommendations as to the instructional plan would be designed..."

II. Reports of Officers.

Chairman Holst, on behalf of the Senate, welcomed President Palms to his first Senate meeting.

President John M. Palms:

General Comments:

1. President Palms expressed his pleasure in finding a faculty structure that has faculty members as chairs of committees.
2. He is aware that Provost Smith is addressing the difficult question of faculty salaries, and plans to continue that as a top priority.
3. President Palms announced plans to meet with the Senate Steering Committee and other faculty committees in the near future. He and his administration will work closely with the faculty and its committees. "I hope that we can establish an openness and a trust in the coming together so that we can then set the course for this university and accomplish our mutually agreed to objectives."

Budget:

The presidents of the major institutions in the state are meeting to see how they can work more effectively, collectively at getting higher education a budget allocation than the State Senate is proposing.

Campuses:

The President is visiting all the campuses of the system and meeting with their supporting groups to gain collective support for higher education.
President's Council:

The Council of University Presidents has been working with the Commission on Higher Education to shape a strategic plan. It is essential to get the presidents involved in public relations so the public in this state can be better informed on why higher education should be supported. Higher education has failed to make an effective case showing that most of the problems in society can be effected by what goes on in higher education.

Final Comments:

The president expressed his regrets that he may have to leave early. He stated that his top priority is to get a budget that will not be detrimental to the university. As it turned out he did stay until the end of the meeting.

President Palms is meeting with the Academic Planning Committee and Senate Steering Committee on April 17th and the Faculty Welfare Committee on April 22nd.

CHARLES WEASMER (GINT) gave his part of a typical senate welcome by asking why, after going through a search for two faculty members, one of the two faculty vacancies was cancelled due to budgetary considerations.

PRESIDENT PALMS, since he has not been on campus long enough to give a detailed answer, deferred his response to Provost Smith. (See page M-3 of these minutes for Provost Smith's response).

RICHARD SMITH (CH-ENGR) asked about the future of the Carolina Research and Development Foundation.

PRESIDENT PALMS responded that the university foundations are clearly needed to support the research efforts of the university but they are currently handling more money than they are staffed or structured to handle. Clearly a revision of the foundations is necessary. He is currently working with the directors to determine the correct course of action.

KEITH DAVIS (PSYC) asked about the extraordinary investment that the university has in media relations, public relations and staff and, considering our lack of success, if we were going to cut back to a size appropriate to a first rate university.

PRESIDENT PALMS:

I am looking at the organization and structure of the university. I am looking at every block with a name and looking at the responsibilities. I am interested in seeing to it that we are lean but effective. I am also interested in the history of how these positions were created. I know that looking at charts
doesn't tell you anything. I know there was a culture that existed here (there usually is in any administration). I am interested in the process of appointment of these positions. That very frequently affects the effectiveness of the individuals holding those positions. It is going to take a little bit of time to do that. I want to get a sense of what kind of personnel I need to operate my kind of administration. I think the budgetary constraints for next year are going to force me to take some action sooner than I anticipated. That might be helpful, but I also want to be fair and just. So give me a little time. I don't know if we have too many or too few. It depends on what the results are; I am trying to get a better understanding of what they have been. I am certainly not happy with the image that we have suffered in the press over the last couple of years. We are looking at that also.

CHAIRMAN HOLST noted that he was not the speaker who introduced President Palms as a gentleman's gentleman. The minutes of the special faculty meeting agree with the Chairman.

PROVOST SMITH:

1. **Budget:** The state appropriation for higher education is getting worse as it moves through committees rather than its usual improvement. There is currently a $19 million difference between the house and senate versions of the higher education budget. This difference translates into $4.5 million for this campus alone. The senate budget carries the deauthorization of faculty salaries forward from this year into next year.

2. **Current $3.4 million cut:** The university is deferring maintenance and equipment purchases to next year when possible. What we don't save this year we will have to take out of next year's budget.

3. **Savings by reallocation from nonacademic administrative to academic areas:** All nonacademic administrative areas have been asked to have 5% or 10% base budget reduction plans to the president by April 15. These plans will describe what can be cut and the resulting impact on operations.

4. **Tuition and Fees:** As previously stated, action considering any raises in tuition and fees will be deferred until the budget process is finished. The president has indicated a number of times that he feels that the tuition and fees are already too high.

5. **Response to Professor Weasmer:** Positions are being filled in colleges where there is sufficient money in this year's budget to cover the salary cost for that position. The
College of Humanities and Social Sciences is running a deficit, mainly due to the cost of the core curriculum. The implied contract for the university to cover these costs has not been met entirely, primarily because of the current budget cuts and a lack of over enrollment this year. Deans have been asked to first fill those positions that will meet the commitment towards the core curriculum and to defer others. This is a problem that must be decided at the college level.

JOE WATSON (SUMTER) asked how the overall budget affects the Sumter campus budget.

PROVOST SMITH said that the budget for each campus and the Medical School is a line item in the state budget. The total amount for each campus will be known as soon as the budget is passed.

JOHN SAFKO (PHYS) asked about the status of the capital improvements bond bill.

PROVOST SMITH said the capital improvements bond bill had currently been deferred but that he expected it to be brought back to the floor. The state's rating is such that it can easily issue another $275 million capital bond bill without reaching our constitutional capacity. The problem is that both houses want to fund K-12 and Medicaid first. The house added $20 million for Medicaid to take advantage of the 3X multiplier in federal funds. To balance the rest of the budget, they increased the cigarette tax. The senate bill takes out the increased taxes but keeps the Medicaid increase. To do this they took most of the cut out of the higher education portion of the bill.

RUFUS FELLERS (ENGR) asked about the current status of tenure and promotion actions.

PROVOST SMITH replied that all but 18 cases were concluded before March 15th. The 18 remaining cases will be given to President Palms next week. The results will be communicated in the usual way -- deans get to give bad news and the president gives good news.

ERNEST FURCHTGOTT (PSYC) asked if thought had been given to closing out junior and senior transfers from our sister campuses since they are more expensive to teach than freshmen.

PROVOST SMITH said that this could be self-defeating in an enrollment driven budget. He stated that some have suggested that we make the foundations public and privatize the university on the hope that the state tuition grant program would be better than the higher education formula. This is probably an exaggeration.
CHAIRMAN HOLST recognized ALAN DUNN, Chairman of the Clemson Faculty Senate who was returning a visit that Chairman Holst made to their senate.

III. Reports of Committees.

A. Senate Steering Committee, Professor Safko, Secretary:

Election results:
Academic Responsibility: Eleanor Delpo
Faculty Advisory: Brian Fry and Roger Sawyer
Faculty Welfare: Henry Price and Tom Terrill
Honorary Degrees: Charles Tucker and Sandra Wertz

The summer meeting of the Senate will be on July 3rd.

B. Grade Change Committee, Professor Pauluzzi, Chair:

PROFESSOR PAULUZZI said that the last item (a grade change from F to I from 1988) must be completed by the end of this semester. The report was approved as submitted.

C. Curricula and Courses Committee, Professor Berman, Chair:

The course from GINT (section II, part C) was withdrawn. Section I, College of Engineering was approved as submitted.

The courses in Spanish and Portuguese were discussed. RANDY MACK (ARTH) and STAN GREEN (ANTH) both felt that there could be conflicts with their areas and that their departments had not been contacted before the agenda was printed. RAMONA LAGOS (SIP) and ALLAN ENGLEKIRK (SIP) expressed their feeling that there was no conflict. PROFESSOR SAFKO (PHYS) moved that these two courses be returned to committee. The motion passed. Professor Berman requested any departments that see a potential conflict to please contact the committee.

The remaining course on the agenda was approved.

D. Faculty Welfare Committee, Professor Tucker, Chair:

PROFESSOR TUCKER recommended that all faculty read item 3 of his committee report that appears in the minutes. The matter is very important to all faculty.

Faculty are advised to fill out a travel authorization for all trips no matter what the source of funds is. If some non-university source is providing funds, fill out a TA for no funds. Any professional travel is related to your work at the university. Without a travel authorization there may be questions on workman's compensation and other state benefits. When you go
on sabbatical you should fill out a travel authorization that covers the entire period.

When planning retirement, you must plan three years in advance. The state currently only allows retirement at the start of a quarter. Faculty should plan to teach in summer II the third year before retirement and in summer I just before retiring to maximize the salary for the 3 years before retirement.

E. Admissions Committee, Professor O'Leary, Chair:

We are anticipating a freshman class of between 2400 and 2500 and between 800-900 transfers this fall. This is about the same as last year.

Professor O'Leary presented the committee proposal to revise admission standards based upon current experience. Too many good students are having to be considered for exception to current standards. After correction of a spelling error (preceding) the committee proposal was approved by the senate.

F. Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee, Professor Sharp, Chair:

Page M-8 of the faculty minutes of March 6, 1991 stated that the Senate was confused about the Fresh Start Program at Aiken. The only change that the Aiken campus makes to the transcript is a notation of a Fresh Start status. The Fresh Start GPR is calculated by hand.

IV. Report of Secretary. - None.

V. Unfinished Business. - None.

VI. New Business.

CHRIS ROBINSON (ART) complained that the university lobbyist, Johnny Gregory, had been working against a proposal to require state building appropriations to contain a percentage of their budget for art.

PROVOST SMITH stated that it was the particular version submitted by Harriet Keiserling and its application to the current building bond that was being opposed. For example, the music building was designed for a total cost of $18 million in 1988. The current inflated cost would be $20 million but the bond bill only has $16 million. To take any of this away will give us a building that won't really meet the needs of the music department.

ROBERT PATTERSON (HIST) requested that the Admissions Committee
clarify the status of the faculty in admission by adding the following statement to the Bulletin: "all admissions to the University of South Carolina are subject to approval by the appropriate faculty committees."

CHAIRMAN HOLST referred the matter to the Admissions Committee.

VII. Good of the Order.

RICHARD CONANT (MUSC) requested that the criticism of media relations be tempered by considering the many other things they do besides media relations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.