

MINUTES - May 2, 1979

The meeting of the general faculty was called to order by President James B. Holderman.

The President called for consideration of the minutes of the general faculty meeting of February 7, 1979. The minutes were approved as distributed.

A. President's Report

President Holderman reported on the appropriation requests for next year. (Attachment 1, p. 4). These recommendations have been approved by the House and are now being scrutinized by the Senate Finance Committee.

He also distributed a document regarding new positions. This was in reaction to concern over the number of new employees as published in the news media. One of the problems encountered is that South Carolina is one of the few states in the Union which includes higher education employees in the total number of state employees. This total makes South Carolina appear out of proportion compared to other states. (Attachment 2, p. 6)

Dr. Holderman added that he wanted the Legislature to understand that South Carolina and its University are still in a process of catching up. Although the recommended budgetary figures provide a little less than \$3300 per FTE funding for the Columbia Campus this is about \$1200 less per FTE than Chapel Hill and about \$500 less per FTE funding than the University of Georgia. Even with the current increase USC will still fall short of comparative institutions in the Southeast. Funding for the four-year campuses is approximately \$2,550 and about \$1800 for the two-year campuses. This is an increase for both, but the four-year campuses will still be funded at a level less than other four year colleges in South Carolina while the two-year colleges will now be brought to a level where they are at least competitive with comparable institutional funding.

Dr. Holderman said that the budget itself is good, that he was pleased with the action of the House and hoped that the Senate will give the budget favorable consideration.

Dr. Holderman asked if there were any questions regarding the budget.

Professor John Safko, Physics and Astronomy, inquired into the new positions summary.

Dr. Holderman answered that he did not have the material with him regarding the breakdown of classified and unclassified employees by departments. He offered to make it available.

Next, Dr. Holderman outlined the successful recruitment of outstanding students. He gave the following figures showing the increase in the number of outstanding students: 1976, five students with SAT scores of more than 1400 were accepted and enrolled; 1977, six students with more than 1400 on their SATs; 1978, eight; for the fall of 1979 there are twenty-one students scoring above 1400 who have been accepted, registered and have paid their fees. In 1976, there were 94 students enrolled with scores between 1200 and 1399; 1977, 88; 1978, 130; and for the fall of 1979 there will be 324. With scores between 1000 and 1199: in 1976 there were 540; 1977, 519; 1978, there were 497 and in 1979 there will be 1107. President Holderman commended the admissions recruiting staff and everyone in the University for the tremendous job in helping recruit outstanding students to Carolina. Dr. Holderman added that the 103 new Alumni Scholars already designated have an average SAT score of 1250, ranging as high as 1490 and the average SAT of the Carolina Scholar is approximately 1360 this year. This is an indication that USC is beginning to attract brighter students.

Dr. Holderman expressed his optimism that the Legislature will support the supplemental appropriation for equipment and library books. He said about \$2 million have been recommended for new equipment for the Columbia Campus and about \$600,000 for additional library books. These figures were recommended by the Budget and Control Board and the Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. Holderman asked if there were questions on any subject.

A question was asked regarding the increase in faculty salaries for next year.

Dr. Holderman answered that the average is approximately 7% but the Senate has not made a decision on salaries. The University will make the strongest possible case for additional funds for salaries. He added that the reduction of the retirement vesting period from fourteen to five years was passed by the Senate and is now in the House.

Dr. Holderman pointed out that all nine campuses are standing side by side and that this mutual support helped obtain an additional \$4,000,000 for this campus when the University appeared before the Ways and Means Committee several months ago.

In response to a question Dr. Holderman said that he hoped the 7% increase would not be an across the board but a merit increase unless instructed otherwise by the Legislature.

Professor Peyton Teague, Chemistry, expressed his delight with the increase in the number of highly qualified students attending USC, but wondered whether or not USC would raise the cut-off point for low SAT scores.

Dr. Holderman answered that the admission standards were rising and that the Director of Recruitment in the Admissions Office is advising all incoming freshmen to apply early because we will probably have to close admissions by January. Special attention will be given to the more successful students based on their high school rank and SAT scores. The University is accepting fewer and fewer applicants scoring below 800 and this will be reflected in the quality of next year's freshmen class. He added that one of the deans reported that his college had several magna and summa cum laude graduates this year who had achieved less than 800 on their SATs. This is in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences where the standards are very good. This indicates that we must be careful about imputing too much to SAT scores by themselves. The Admissions Office is becoming very sensitive and attentive to the possibilities of SAT scores and high school rank as a joint index of projected college success.

President Holderman then proceeded to present the annual faculty awards and honors:

Amoco Award for Outstanding Teacher

--Professor Peter Becker, History Department

Amoco Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant

--David B. Kellish, English Department

Amoco Award for Outstanding Teacher for Two-Year Campuses

--Professor David Freeman, Sumter Campus

Russell Award for Research in Science and Engineering

--Professor James Roberts, Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics

Russell Award for Research in Humanities and Social Sciences

--Professor James Hardin, Foreign Languages, Division of German

Samuel Litman Distinguished Professor Award in Engineering

--Dean J. David Naugh, College of Engineering

Robert L. Felix, Chairman of the Faculty Senate, thanked President Holderman for his vigorous and high spirited leadership during the academic year, his interest in and affection for the University which he so openly displayed, and asked the faculty to express their thanks and appreciation by a round of applause.

President Holderman responded by apologizing for not having been able to visit every department as planned this year. He went on to say how tremendously impressed he was with the quality of the faculty and how easy it was to be enthusiastic about Carolina because of the performance of the faculty on the "front lines." He continued that he must talk about what appear to be the superficial dimensions of University while the people who are spending every day in the classroom and the students give him the feeling that he is charged with a unique stewardship, the challenge and opportunity of which he appreciates. Dr. Holderman added that he has come out of his attempt at teaching once more fully aware of the task and the challenge which confront those who spend their lives doing it. He expressed his profound disturbance about those who attack academics while not understanding what constitutes academic workload. A better job is needed of telling them about the University Community and its work. In closing, Dr. Holderman thanked the faculty and stated that for him it is as much a distinction to be a member of the University faculty--or even more so--than to be its president.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.