

Catawba College
Faculty Senate Minutes
November 16, 2006

Senators Present: Freeze, Hayes, Homan, Horner, Hunt, Osterhus, Roberts, Silverburg, Slate, Zerger, and Zink.

Dr. Freeze convened the Faculty Senate to order at 11:00 AM in the Rendleman Conference Room.

The first item that the senate considered was the Professional Development Release Proposal that has been approved by the full faculty and is waiting for administration action. Dr. Freeze reported that he had met with Dr. Knott and Dr. Knott had responded that he would study the proposal further, but had a few questions for the Senate in the meantime. The first question he asked was how the proposed program is different from the Sabbatical program. The senate discussed many differences in the programs including that sabbaticals are only for tenured faculty and the new proposal could be applied for by any member of the faculty. Also under the new program a professor can still teach a partial load and so it will not require as much release time as a full sabbatical. Dr. Knott also asked if the new program should be limited to only untenured faculty. The senate discussed this and came to the conclusion that it should not be limited to only untenured faculty since any member of the faculty might need release time without taking a full sabbatical. Dr. Knott asked if this new program was different from the program for professional development that currently exists in the summers. The senate felt that it would give members of the faculty more freedom to request release time during the school year for projects that might not be able to be completed during one summer. Next, the senate considered how the proposals would be collected and considered since in the proposal this would be done by the Faculty Welfare and Enrichment Committee which no longer exists. Senator Zink suggested that proposals for release time under the new program could be handled like sabbatical proposals are currently handled. First the department would need to approve the proposal and then the Instructional Support Committee could look at all of the proposals and make a recommendation to the Dean. Finally, the last thing that the senate considered was how this program would be funded. There was a lot of discussion about this, but the senate wanted to make it clear that they did not want the Sabbatical program to be affected by this new program. Dr. Freeze will draft a letter to Dr. Knott answering his questions and making it clear that the senate feels that this new program should in no way affect the Sabbatical program.

The second item that the senate considered was the item dealing with pay and benefits for department chairs. After some discussion, the senate agreed that release time and other benefits should be left to the Dean and the individual chair to negotiate. Dr. Roberts made the following motion:

Pay for department chairs should be for 1 hour of overload as was established during Dean Wilson's tenure as Dean.

The motion was seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 10 yes and 1 no.

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The last issue that the senate considered was the process for selecting endowed chairs in the future. After some discussion a motion was made that could not be clarified during the time remaining in the meeting so it was decided that the secretary will write up the motion and we will consider it at the next meeting.

With no time remaining the meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

The next meeting of the faculty senate is scheduled for Thursday December 7, 2006 at 11:00 am in the Rendleman Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason W. Hunt, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary