

Faculty Senate Minutes April 17, 2008

Senators present: Chamberlain, Eastis, Fish, Freeze, Hayes, Osterhus, Roberts, Stringfield, and Zink.

The Catawba College Faculty Senate met on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. in the Rendleman Conference Room. Senate Chair Chris Zink called the meeting to order and presided.

After approval of the minutes of the April 3 meeting, senators discussed committee assignments for next year. Dr. Roberts reported that he has received responses for preferences from about a third of the faculty; the forms are due by May 1. After that deadline, the Senate Executive Committee will meet to make committee appointments as well as select committee chairs. According to Dr. Roberts, Dr. McCartney has said that he will approve our recommendations.

Other discussion about Senate responsibility involved committee chairs' evaluations of members and members' evaluations of chairs. Dr. Roberts reported that those evaluations are "trickling in"; Prof. Zink will send an email reminding faculty of this responsibility. Additionally, the record will reflect the Senate's belief that next year's Senate should have a discussion with committee chairs about what may need to be added to the evaluation sheets that chairs fill out when they evaluate committee members.

Next, senators engaged in a lengthy discussion about endowed professorships and selection of endowed chairs. Dr. Roberts provided copies of pages from the faculty handbook with coverage on these professorships and procedures for their appointments and administration. Dr. Freeze pointed out that there is no evidence of the existence of, and certainly no funding for, several endowed professorships. These include the Alpha K. Kline Professor of Bible; The Annie Warlick Shuford Rankin Professorship of Fine Arts; Distinguished Service Professor of English; Ralph W. Ketner Chair of Entrepreneurship; and Ralph W. Ketner Professor of Entrepreneurship. According to Dr. Freeze, Dr. Ketner has no knowledge of, and therefore no information to provide about, the two professorships with his name on them. As a result of the discussion on this issue, a motion was made and seconded (Freeze, Roberts) to remove the Distinguished Service Professor of English, the Ralph W. Ketner Chair of Entrepreneurship, and the Ralph W. Ketner Professor of Entrepreneurship from the Handbook when that section is revised. The motion passed with one abstention.

Some senators expressed the opinion that it is inappropriate and/or unfair to involve department chairs in the process, as they themselves may be eligible for an award and therefore be forced to make a very difficult decision about a recommendation. Currently, the Dean may or may not, at his or her discretion, consult department chairs during the process. All senators agreed that the process needs to be clear; that rules need to be included in the Faculty Handbook; and that documentation is essential. Senators who have concerns or opinions on the issue of endowed professorships and selection of endowed chairs should send them to Prof. Zink as soon as possible, as Prof. Zink is meeting with Dr. McCartney soon.

The final agenda item was the Faculty Handbook, which Dr. McCartney has asked Dr. Roberts to "get . . . in order" by the time the new provost begins his or her work. Already the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee has identified numerous items in that area of the Handbook that need revision. Their recommendations, as well as other desirable and necessary revisions, need to be addressed, and Dr. Roberts stated that revisions are currently underway. The current Faculty Senate will recommend to next year's Senate that they form a subcommittee to study and revise the Faculty Handbook.

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hayes
Faculty Senate Secretary