Catawba College Faculty Senate Minutes August 16, 2007

Senators present: Chamberlain, Fish, Freeze, Hayes, Hood, Roberts, Stringfield, Zink, Zerger.

The Catawba College Faculty Senate met on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 9:00 in the Rendleman Conference Room. Prof. Zink called the meeting to order and presided.

The Senate approved the minutes from the April 12, 2007, meeting.

Prof. Zink distributed a list of proposals from Provost Jess McCartney, who attended the first half of the meeting to discuss the proposals.

Proposal #1 is "That the name of the Academic Planning and Budgeting Committee be changed to the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee." A motion was made and seconded (Freeze, Roberts) to approve the motion. Discussion included the absence of budgeting in the work of the committee; the need for faculty participation in budgeting in a different way; the importance of communicating with the faculty about budgeting; and the possibility of an *ad hoc* committee to review priorities for academic budgets. Though no vote was taken on the motion, senators seemed amenable to the proposed change of the committee's name.

Proposal #2 is "That the present rotation of service system be modified so that faculty rotate out of committee service for one year after their fourth year of committee service or that the rotation system be dropped altogether." Dr. McCartney explained the rationale, which is that with the size of our faculty, combined with faculty members unable to serve due to administrative roles or special cases, the rotation system results in not enough people to staff the standing committees, especially with sufficient distribution and representation of disciplines. Dr. Freeze, an advocate of the rotation system, noted that discipline balance had not been considered when the system was implemented three years ago. He added that information about faculty opinions about the rotation and how faculty used the release time is needed. This proposal will be on the senate agenda for further discussion.

Proposal #3 is "That the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAR), currently an *ad hoc* committee, be established as a standing committee of the faculty." Dr. McCartney explained that the committee is needed because general education courses and programs need ongoing assessment and because programs need to be re-accredited. Discussion ensued regarding the distinction between the work of the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee and the General Education Assessment Committee. Roberts expressed a desire for a statement of the scope and function of each committee, and Dr. McCartney offered to ask Dr. Sang and Dr. Cavalier, the committee chairs, to provide those statements to the senate.

Before Dr. McCartney left the meeting, the senate discussed with him the need to revise the faculty handbook, particularly the section on copyright and intellectual properties. Dr. McCartney encouraged the senate to work on that issue.

Next Prof. Zink provided information to senators about the FT&PC's decision about Dr. Bitzer's tenure eligibility after his appointment as Dean of Admissions. Because Dr. Bitzer has completed all steps of the process except the review with the committee, his eligibility remains unchanged.

Prof. Zink also communicated to senators the status of the un-endowed chair motions from last year. The process to select un-endowed chairs will be done before the October faculty meeting; senators suggested that the chairs be formally recognized in the spring. Dr. McCartney will pursue financial backing or some other form of recognition for the un-endowed chairs.

New business included concern about whether a faculty member who is also an administrator should serve as chair of a faculty committee. A motion was made and seconded (Roberts, Freeze) that, given the change of status of Dr. Bitzer, the senate recommends that a new chair, with faculty status, be appointed for the Admissions Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item of new business pertained to expectations and requirements of the Faculty Tenure and Promotions Committee. Lack of awareness of the weight given to the "personal narrative," as well as what information it should include, had been problematic for some faculty going through the processes for tenure and promotion. Prof. Zink will invite FT&PC chair David Pulliam to our next meeting to discuss this and other issues pertaining to the committee's work.

Before adjournment, senators briefly discussed the senate's role in the searches for a new president and a new provost. Prof. Zink will ask Dr. McCartney about the senate's role in the searches.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

The next meeting of the faculty senate will be Thursday, September 6, at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Julia Hayes
Faculty Senate Secretary