

Catawba College Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2009

Present: Boulter, Chamberlain, Eastis, Fish, Osterhus, Roberts, Stringfield, Sullivan, Zink

The Senate convened at 11:00 a.m. in the Rendleman Conference Room. Senate Chair Chris Zink called the meeting to order and presided.

Item 1:

Prof. Zink reported that he will speak at the president's installation ceremony on February 16, as a representative of the faculty. He asked the senators for a sense of the tone and message we would like to convey. It was agreed that an emphasis on the "c's"—communication, cooperation, collaboration—as well as a mention of the items identified by faculty in the visioning process, would be appropriate for the occasion.

Item 2:

The senate discussed the plan to complete the analysis and report of last fall's vision focus groups. The president hoped to present the findings at the February trustees meeting, but there was a strong sense among the senators that we need to communicate to the faculty what the findings were before we take it to the president and the trustees.

Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Roberts maintained that we should hold to the original plan—to have senators complete the data analysis and write a report, circulate it to the faculty, and then hold an open meeting for public response and reaction. The issue is timing. With the trustees meeting only 10 days away, it would be very difficult to do this. A discussion ensued, touching on various ideas about data reduction, e-mail vs. open meeting, and so forth.

Prof. Zink will contact the president ASAP, tell him where we are in the process of analysis, and find out what he expects with regard to the timing of a report (Feb or April trustees meeting).

Dr. Eastis will coordinate the analysis and report writing, which will involve at least a few dedicated meetings with the smaller group of senators who wish to be involved directly: Boulter, Chamberlain, Fish, Osterhus, Sullivan, and Zink. She will arrange a meeting of this group ASAP after Prof. Zink has spoken to the president.

Item 3:

It's awards time.

- Drs. Chamberlain and Osterhus volunteered to handle the Barbara Hill Scholarship Process.
- The call for nominations for the Swink Award will go to faculty soon.
- The Senate went into closed session to discuss the Trustee Award process.

New Business

Senators discussed an issue on the minds of many constituents—namely, as the financial challenge continues, what can the faculty expect with regard to benefits, professional development funds, salaries, and so on? What are the projections and best estimates about cutbacks to come?

Dr. Roberts asked Prof. Zink to confirm that there will be faculty representatives at the Board of Trustees subcommittee meetings later this month, particularly the financial subcommittee where these issues are discussed. Chairs of standing faculty governance committees are traditionally invited to sit in on/observe subcommittee meetings, but there is no obvious representative for the financial committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla M. Eastis