

Catawba College Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 05, 2009

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

The Senate convened at 11:10 a.m. in ADM 235. Senate Chair Chris Zink called the meeting to order and presided.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 11/20/08, 1/29/09 and 2/5/09. The motion carried with no opposition. Dr. Eastis will send the approved versions to all faculty members and to the college webmaster immediately.

Agenda Item 1

Senators discussed the issue of faculty-provost relations and communication in the context of specific developments earlier in the week. [Tuesday's faculty meeting opened with an announcement about a change in the way general education requirements will be handled for some transfer students. On Wednesday, the provost held a lunchtime meeting for faculty about plans to revise the curriculum substantially by the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year.]

Some specific proposals emerged from the discussion, including:

- Making minutes/notes/records from unit head meetings (and possibly other venues) available to all faculty to keep everyone "in the loop"
- Communicating to the provost that we (*the Senate on behalf of the faculty??*) look forward to receiving his "white paper" about curriculum revision, and that we trust that any specific proposals in it will go through the College's established governance procedures
- Adopting a proactive approach to communication with the provost and president, including a review of the scope of faculty governance committees

For the near future, the Senate will meet weekly to work on the summary report of the Vision focus groups.

Agenda Item 2

The call for nominations for the Swink Award has gone out, and the call for the Trustees Award will go out soon. Prof. Zink reported that the amount of the Swink has been reduced this year (to \$500 from \$1000). He also reported that Dr. Laurel Eason, last year's Swink recipient, has received her award after some delay.

Agenda Item 3—New Business

Dr. Seth Holtzman has asked the Senate to consider a proposal to call upon the President to create an *ad hoc* faculty/staff working group to examine the budget and create a prioritized list of potential budget cuts. Senators had mixed reactions to this idea. Dr. Eastis volunteered to collect additional information about the proposal (including ways that other institutions have handled faculty involvement in budgetary decisions). Further discussion was tabled till a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla M. Eastis