

Catawba College
Faculty Senate Minutes
November 1, 2007

Senators present: Barnes, Chamberlain, Eastis, Fish, Freeze, Hayes, Hood, Osterhus, Roberts, Stringfield, Zerger, Zink

The Catawba College Faculty Senate met on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 11:00 in the Rendleman Conference Room. Chair Chris Zink called the meeting to order and presided.

The Senate approved the minutes from the October 18, 2007, meeting.

Old business included Prof. Zink's informing the Senate about his discussion with Dr. McCartney about the 2009-2010 calendar. This discussion put the "idea [of a January term] on the table," but more planning needs to be done before implementation. A motion was made and seconded (Freeze, Hayes) to set up a subcommittee to pursue the issue. The motion passed. Four senators (Eastis, Freeze, Hood, Osterhus) volunteered to serve on a task force to study the feasibility of a J-term, gauge the support of the faculty, and consider options for structuring and staffing it.

Other old business pertained to the absence of equipment money for academic departments. Prof. Zink announced the Dr. McCartney and Chuck Williams have been invited to the November 16 meeting with program heads to discuss this problem. Furthermore, Dr. McCartney intends to ask academic department chairs to provide lists of pressing equipment needs. Currently, no money is available for capital expenditures for academic departments, and equipment that has been bought was purchased with money donated for specific projects.

The final old business item acted upon was this motion (Roberts, seconded by Zerger):

The recently established procedure of using a four-year rotating cycle for committee service (*The Faculty Handbook*, Section 1: page 16, paragraph 2) be rescinded effective with the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year. Those faculty whose "year off" is scheduled to occur during 2008-09 will have the option of being appointed to a standing committee or taking the "year off."

Discussion included the rationale for the implementation of the rotating cycle; faculty attitudes and activities since its implementation; possible revisions to the current cycle; retirement/phased retirement and their effect on committees' functioning; and effects of an optional "year off" on new faculty. The senate voted in favor (8-3) of taking the motion to the faculty with statements about the rationale for the system as well as reasons it may need to be discontinued.

Related to the above motion was the following motion (Roberts, seconded by Freeze):

The current statement regarding (i) Committee Chairs (*The Faculty Handbook*, Section 1, page 17) be modified to read:

“Chairs will be tenured faculty members who served on the committee-to-be-chaired during the previous year and are appointed by the Dean of the College upon recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. A committee chair shall vote only in the case of a tie.”

The motion passed unanimously, and the Senate plans to take it before the faculty at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Hayes
Faculty Senate Secretary