

The Senator

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David Levy, President

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Provost Search Progresses

Vice President Wilson updated the Senate on the progress of the Search Committee. The 75-100 applications have been winnowed to 10-15 who are being interviewed off campus. The top 4-6 candidates will be invited for extensive interviews. Vice President Wilson may report on the committee's progress briefly again at the April 18 meeting. The Search Committee plans to send a nomination to the President by the end of the semester.

Trustee Representation

The Executive Committee selected Tim Smunt to serve on the Trustees' Business Operations Committee and David Levy to serve on the Trustees' Advancement and Communications Committee. Ed Wilson will speak to Leon Corbett about the need for a process for the other elections to the Trustee committees.

Fringe Benefits

Tim Smunt and the FRB Committee have met with the head of Human Resources on both campuses to look at benefits, and to look at the benefits of peer institutions. AON Consulting is working on benchmarks and should have a report by the summer. There have been several changes in fringe benefits:

- Long term disability – the definition has been changed so that it reflects the current job requirements, not just one's ability to do any job. The cap was raised \$5,000/month (60%) to \$10,000/month (60%). The one-year eligibility period for disability was eliminated.
- Life Insurance – There will be the option to buy additional insurance without a medical examination.
- Dental plan – There will be a two-tier plan available for an added premium. The new plan would include orthodonture.
- Short term disability - This plan might be self-insured. No details as yet.

The Health Care subcommittee should receive a proposal from Qualchoice next week. The subcommittee would like to see a proposal from another provider. AON will be looking at the contract.

The FRB committee has addressed the price increase in basketball tickets for faculty and staff. Apparently, offering a discount greater than 20% might result in a taxable benefit. Tim is working on some alternatives to the higher ticket prices. There is a fitness center at the Comprehensive Rehab facility on Miller Street that is only open to Wake Forest Medical School/Baptist Hospital employees for a fee. Tim is investigating opening this to Reynolda campus employees as well. Future issues include: the day care center, with the possibility of a private firm sharing the cost and management; a new look at tuition remission; retirement benefits; maternity and/or parental leaves, including adoption, and lastly, a faculty club.

Honorary Degree Nominations

Bernadine Barnes announced that honorary degrees would be conferred upon Mr. Martin Isepp, Dr. Hytche and Barbara Bush. Jimmy Carter will be approached soon about an honorary degree in 2002, and other nominations will be requested from faculty and staff. The Senate voted to award Barbara Bush an honorary degree and to postpone the invitation to former President Carter for a year. Barnes reported that Sandra Boyette would welcome suggestions for future commencement speakers. Barnes added that the Medical School is free to nominate individuals outside the medical field for honorary degrees.

Capital Planning

Vice President Anderson reported on plans for the Reynolda campus. Currently underway is the Student-Athlete Enhancement Center, with expected completion in the fall of 2001. At that time, the exercise area of the Benson University Center will be relocated to the new facility, and the Benson space will be remodeled for Residence Life and Housing and other offices. These should be ready by late spring, 2002. Calloway Hall will get a 53,000 sq. ft. addition, which will house the Calloway School. Groundbreaking is planned for February 2002 and the expansion project will take two years to complete. The Health and Exercise Science Research facility is stalled because City Planners are objecting to the extension of the Wake Forest campus across Polo Rd. There is currently no other acceptable solution to the siting problem, but Dr. Anderson is working on a solution. HES can continue for a few months without damaging its research program. The 20,000 sq. ft building would resolve the department's research needs, but the growth of athletic programs is encroaching on the teaching space HES uses in the gym. Eventually, they may need a new building, perhaps one forming the fourth side of the area bounded by the Reynolds Library, Winston and Salem Halls, currently a parking lot.

Two other projects are on hold: Dr. Anderson is in discussion about the daycare center and will meet with the Daycare Committee in the coming weeks. The structure that had been discussed would be in the meadow near Reynolda Village. The parking plan, currently unfunded, includes three decks. One behind Scales would net an additional 200 spaces. Two others in lot "Q" would net 804 spaces. However, the completion of the parking structures would make possible the removal of many other parking spaces in order to beautify the campus. The construction of the Calloway extension will remove 100 or so spaces and there is no short-term solution to this problem. There are, however, about 250 spaces across Polo Road, and there has been some discussion about trading some student parking for staff parking.

Senate Website, Nominations, and Meeting

Senator Womack distributed copies of pages from a sample website he had developed for the Senate. It would include information about membership, by-laws, committee assignments, minutes and Senate meetings. In response to questions, Womack offered to provide a form on the website for input to the Senate. The questions concerning how the site might be accessed are in Lloyd Whitehead's hands. Tim Smunt suggested that the professional schools might want to link from their own sites as well. Womack was thanked for his efforts and the Senate voted to approve the website.

The following officer slate was proposed for the 2001-02 academic year: Tim Smunt, Senate President; Larry Daniel, Vice-President/President Elect; Rhoda Channing, Secretary; Roger Jenkins, Assistant Secretary; Page Laughlin, Member at Large. The next senate meeting will be April 18 in DeTamble as John Anderson, Lou Morrell and Maureen Carpenter report on the fiscal state of the university.