

# Clemson University faculty resolution criticizes administration

By Mike Ellis  
Monday, April 13, 2009



James F. Barker, Clemson University's 14th president.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY — Clemson University's Faculty Senate is expected to vote Tuesday on a resolution that harshly criticizes the university president and administration for raises some administrators have received.

The resolution asks the university to add faculty representatives to several university administrative councils and addresses one of the core issues that recently have divided faculty and administration at the university: raises.

Administration officials received much higher raises than faculty members, according to Faculty Senate research, some of which will be released today, said Faculty Senate President Bryan Simmons.

The senate resolution is the first openly critical statement of the administration by the faculty in recent history. Plenty of faculty and others have been pushing for the faculty senate to make a big statement and get results, Simmons said Monday.

"We've been pressured by outside and inside sources to do our work quicker," he said. "We worked along quietly, letting outside entities say what they want to say."

The senate has been waiting to study both a recent faculty survey and a recent salary report before drafting the resolution, Simmons said.

Clemson spokeswoman Cathy Sams said the university would not be commenting on the resolution, which is still in draft form, until the faculty senate approves the language.

“They have done a lot of research,” Sams said. “I think we need to let them determine what course of action they want to take and the administration will respond to that.”

The resolution asks that the university president to meet with faculty to discuss raises and “total compensation,” and to appoint Faculty Senate members to the administrative council, the provost’s advisory council, and the academic chairs group. It also asks that a senate member be placed on the Board of Trustees’ compensation committee.

Simmons said the wording could change, but he is comfortable with how the resolution criticizes the administration’s role in the raises.

“I think as written — and I had a hand in writing this — I think it’s on the right tone,” Simmons said. “We wanted to say we’re not happy about the situation, we reviewed the situation closely and we would like to see some corrective action to make this better.”

What Simmons wants is for the faculty to be involved in more discussions at the university, including Board of Trustees’ committees that approve raises.

Sams said university President James Barker and Provost Doris Helms met Monday with incoming Faculty Senate President Bill Bowerman to talk about the faculty’s concerns, including the administrative raises.

Sams said she did not know further details about the meeting. Bowerman was not available for comment.

Simmons said as outgoing president he is responsible for the resolution but future faculty concerns, which Barker and Helms talked about Monday, would be falling to Bowerman and others.