

Clemson trustee says board not place for faculty, administration representation

By [John Staed](#), Thursday, April 16, 2009

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY — The Clemson University Board of Trustees chairman said Thursday that the board will be willing to work with the faculty regarding salary issues, but there are no plans to add a faculty member to the board's compensation committee.

Bill Hendrix said the board's structure does not allow for faculty or administrative members on the full board or its committees.

The Clemson faculty senate on Tuesday passed a resolution asking that a faculty member be added to the trustees' compensation committee to allow more transparency about raises and salaries awarded at the university. The senate also passed a resolution criticizing the administration for "disproportionate" raises given to some administrators while most faculty were provided raises of 3 percent or less this year.

Those raises became even less when Clemson imposed a mandatory, five-day furlough to offset state budget cuts, which have totaled about \$38 million this fiscal year.

"We have a good working relationship (with faculty) and a good understanding, and we're going to move forward together," Hendrix said Thursday before the start of a closed meeting of the compensation committee. "There is no specific faculty representation on any of the boards. There is no administrative representation on any of the boards.

"We have faculty ... and administrative support personnel who work with the committee chair in preparing the agenda and having the material together," Hendrix said. "We will talk with them (faculty) about what it is exactly they would like to learn, and we will address those concerns, but I do not see changing the existing committee structure to have sitting members of committees who are not members of the board of trustees."

Bryan Simmons, the faculty senate president at the time of the resolution's passage and one of those who helped write it, said Thursday that the faculty would work with the board to address the issue.

"If we can't have a seat at the table, maybe we could have a long walk to the table," he said. "I would hope in discussions with Chairman Hendrix we would find a way to voice the opinion of the faculty with regard to specific raise issues."

Clemson President James Barker has said he and the incoming faculty senate president, William Bowerman, already have discussed appointing a joint administration-faculty committee to look at the compensation issue. Barker said he is open to working with the faculty, but given the recession and budget cuts, the criticism is not unexpected.

He also said the resolutions show that Clemson is open to debate on issues.

A survey taken this year listed dissatisfaction with compensation for administrators, and for faculty, as a top issue faculty members would like to see addressed.