

# Greenville Journal

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## Barker's decisions questioned

Clemson faculty says it has 'lost trust'

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Former Clemson University Faculty Senate President Bryan Simmons said he's confident the university's administration will address a disparity in salary increases between administrators and the school's faculty and staff.

On Tuesday, Clemson's Faculty Senate passed a resolution saying it had "lost trust" in President Jim Barker's administration over the issue.

"Raises, especially in these economic times, should be fairly distributed," said Simmons, whose last day leading the Faculty Senate was Tuesday. "When the faculty and staff are being asked to do more with less, we just want to make sure the administration is doing more with less also."

Simmons said the Faculty Senate began looking at the issue of raises after it was one of the issues brought up by faculty members during a survey about working conditions.

About 61 percent of performance raises greater than 1 percent went to administrators, administrators with faculty rank or staff with administrative-type positions, according to a study conducted by Wayne Sarasua, who chairs the Faculty Senate's finance committee.

The study showed that 26 percent of all employees who earned more than \$50,000 were administrators.

Of the top 50 raises in terms of dollars, half went to administrators. When measured in terms of percentage, 19 of the top 50 raises went to administrators, according to the study.

Instructional faculty received seven of the top 50 raises measured by percentage and 11 of the top 50 raises measured by dollars, the study said.

The numbers did not include athletics or employees who received promotions.

"No matter how you looked at it, it still looked disproportionate," Simmons said.

Simmons said the disparity became more pronounced during the current economic slowdown, but that it began prior to that.

"It's been a trend over many years," he said.

Simmons said the faculty made

recommendations to Barker on how to address the problem, including putting faculty members on some of the university's committees and councils that do not currently have any.

Simmons said there's no faculty representation on Barker's administration council or the board of trustees' compensation committee which reviews and approves some raises.

"We want greater clarity and transparency," he said. "If we can't have a vote on these committees, at least let us in the room so we know what's going on."

Simmons said the administration cooperated with the faculty senate during its salary study and he expects them to be receptive to make changes.

"They've shown they're willing to work with us in the past," he said.

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