Non-exclusion proposal is before IAC

By Brian Duncan

A proposal to allow faculty representatives to remain during executive sessions of the Board of Trustees' Intercollegiate Athletics Committee meetings is before the board, according to Peter Becker.

Dr. Becker, chairman of the University Athletic Advisory Committee, said his suggestion deals with the non-exclusion of himself and William F. Putnam, faculty delegate to the NCAA, from closed-door IAC meetings.

These two faculty representatives presently attend the IAC's regular sessions as advisory visitors with no voting rights, Becker said.

Becker said he and Putnam have been attending the regular sessions, but must leave along with members of the press and other unauthorized persons when an executive session is called "unless expressly asked to stay."

"I had written them (the IAC) a letter previously, and simply reiterated it at the last meeting," Becker said. "I requested my presence at executive sessions to be better able to represent the faculty's opinion on overall athletic dealings within the university."

Hugh H. Wells, chairman of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, said the IAC, "operates as a major board committee, and functions as a liaison between the board of trustees, the administration and the athletic department, primarily concerned with the developments, problems, and the athletic activities of the university."

The University Athletic Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. July 10 in Room E of the Faculty House.

OTHER MEMBERS of the IAC are William S. Brockington, J. Robert Peters Jr., William E. Whitney, and D. Glenn Yarbough.

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USC professor studies Charleston quake

By Barry J. Glenn

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Such was the response of one witness to what has become known as the Charleston Earthquake of 1886. It is an eyewitness account such as those that are of great interest to Dr. Kenneth Peters of the USC College of General Studies, who has begun a study on the social aspects of the earthquake.

Peters, faculty director of the Learning Resource Center of the college, recently received a $500 productive scholarship grant to study the earthquake, which resulted in about 60 deaths and caused widespread damage to the Charleston area.

Peters, who plans to culminate his study with a book or booklet on the subject said he wants "to trace the social implications of the earthquake — how it affected religion, businesses and the personality of the people. There are accounts of people attributing miraculous cures to the earthquake. On the other hand, there were people who attributed all sorts of maladies to the earthquake."

According to Peters, the earthquake, which occurred on the morning of August 31, 1886, had its epicenter not in Charleston but at a place called Ten Mile Hill, between Charleston and Summerville. "If it had hit Charleston with the impact it hit Ten Mile Hill, there would have been even more devastation," he said. The effects of the earthquake were felt in Boston and Detroit. On today's Richter scale it would have measured about an eight.

Peters hopes to get information on the social impact of the quake from sermons, newspapers, letters and other sources written during that time. "Some of the white pastors had written their sermons down and these are available. Of the black churches, however, where the emotion ran high or higher, very few of these sermons were written down.

"A few weeks after the earthquake the merchants put out a brochure describing the earthquake. Interpersed in these were advertisements which said 'Yes, we're still open' or 'Unaffected by earthquake.' Some businesses even attempted to get rich quick. One bus had advertised Earthquake Beer as the beer made in Charleston."

Peters said the biggest problem he has run into with the project is lack of time. "The money from the grant is available until the end of the year. But library work and looking through newspapers takes a lot of time. I have been to Charleston five times and have found people very willing to help. Most of the letters I have received back from historical societies and museums have been very excited about this project."

Peters, who teaches American and South Carolina history courses in the College of General Studies, said he first became interested in the Charleston earthquake when he accompanied USC geology professor Pradep Taiwani on an exploration trip last summer. "I went with him into the Dorchester County area near Holly Hill to do some testing. Together with his suggestion and my own trip I became interested in the Charleston earthquake."

Peters said he hopes to include pictures of the earthquake damage in his book. "There are pictures of tents being pitched in the middle of the squares in Charleston just to keep people away from the narrow street where the buildings were falling down," he said.

Charleston-August 31, 1886

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