

Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting, October 3, 2023
Minutes

Members attending: Suzanne Raitt, J.C. Poutsma, Marc Sher, Peter Vishton, Josh Burk, Cristina Stancioiu, (scribe)

1. Minutes approved for Sept. 26 meeting
2. Updates from Suzanne:
 - Provost moves ahead with the School of Computational and Physical Sciences (working title) outside of Arts and Sciences; an implementation committee will consider the structure of the new school
 - consequently, a faculty-led steering committee will consider the direction and future of Arts and Sciences; the Council of Arts and Sciences advised starting with planning, with a vision likely to emerge in the process
 - BoV met last week:
 - proposed 6-year plan is moving forward, including allocation of funds for academic buildings renovations
 - emphasis on a return to student/faculty ratio of 12/1
 - BoV asked for a review of the Faculty Handbook
 - updates on ongoing Arts and Sciences administrative searches
3. Francie Cate (Chair, MLL) wrote a response to West Virginia University's decision to eliminate its entire World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics programs, and asked for best avenues to distribute it; FAC suggested MLL website; the Digest; campus newspaper.
4. Barbette Spaeth (emerita) asked whether W&M/Arts and Sciences offer any support for publication-related costs to emeriti; no support, logistical complications prevent financial support of non-employees
5. Today's FAS meeting is set
6. New business
 - questions about policy on student drivers: Marc raises concerns regarding unavailability of required van training for graduate students driving to conferences; reimbursement process is difficult and cumbersome

Meeting adjourned 2:55 pm