

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences *February 6, 1990*

Dean Lutzer called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in Rogers 100.

The faculty approved the minutes of the meeting of December 5, 1989.

Announcements

Dean Lutzer made these announcements:

1. Only "voting" (full-time) members of the faculty may vote in A&S elections.
2. The Board of Visitors (BOV) has approved revisions in A&S by-laws concerning elections of Faculty Assembly representatives.
3. Departmental merit evaluations are due February 19th.
4. FFE (Funds for Excellence) proposals have been submitted to SCHEV (the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia) after review by EPC (the Educational Policy Committee). The proposals concern (a) curriculum revision, (b) the impact of desk-top PCs on undergraduate education, (c) science education, and (d) undergraduate advising.
5. Last October, W&M was among 1800 colleges and universities submitting preproposals to a federal agency called FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education). We are now pleased to be among 200 institutions invited to submit full proposals for these prestigious awards.

Reports of Administrative Officers

The President

President Verkuil reviewed budgetary vicissitudes and prospects for the next biennium. After requesting a 2% reversion and freezing all capital funds and uncommitted lottery funds, the former governor submitted a budget proposal calling for 5% cuts from all state agencies for the next two years. The new governor then adjusted faculty salary increases further downward from 5.3% to 4.5%. How the Assembly will respond is unclear. Mr. Verkuil believes the worst of the crisis is past. He noted that higher education tends to be a discretionary item in the state budget (vulnerable to cuts) because most other items are federally mandated. The fate of the freeze will depend on the legislature's willingness to cut back pension programs that give enormous amounts of money to a handful of retirees. University presidents, including Mr. Verkuil, have been lobbying hard in Richmond. W&M is likely to recover funds for some projects (e.g., Blow furniture), but others (the Matoaka art studio, Washington Hall, and Tercentenary Hall) will be delayed. Nevertheless, space needs on the main campus will be met for the foreseeable future, and all of our capital needs will be met with some delay. The Baliles budget does include a new \$7 million Marine Toxicology building at VIMS. Although no new initiatives have been funded on the operating-budget side, W&M is pressing hard for support of programs such as Applied Science, which has economic implications for the Peninsula. Mr. Verkuil emphasized that the overall the picture is not as grim as it may appear: we are talking about slower growth, not cutbacks. Prospects for long-term support remain favorable; higher education in Virginia is still the envy of many states.

On the private side, the tercentenary campaign is doing extremely well: In terms of commitments (not cash), we are already more than half way to the \$150 million goal. The President pointed out that this money is dedicated to prioritized areas established at the beginning of the campaign, and therefore cannot be applied to shortfalls created by the state budget. The Development Office is nonetheless exploring other sources of private funds for unmet existing needs.

Finally, Mr. Verkuil reviewed progress in four new programs ("initiatives") related to the campaign: International Studies, American Studies, Applied Science, and Public Policy. These programs, he said, give W&M new academic dimensions that "keep us out front." The trend at the state-level is toward funding specific projects and cross-discipline initiatives; new faculty positions are going only to high-growth institutions staffed below 90% (e.g., George Mason and Radford). To compete for programmatic resources, we need to have good ideas and be first in line when money is available. The Commonwealth Center is an example of what can be gained from being ready with a good idea.

Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections Committee

Mr. Kiefer presented the names of candidates for four vacant positions in the Faculty Assembly. He also explained recent changes in A&S election procedures: Everyone now votes for candidates in all areas. Mr. Willis asked if there was a philosophical reason why the Committee did not renominate the short-term Assembly representatives whose terms had expired. Mr. Kiefer said there was not. Ms. Ventis then suggested the faculty discuss whether the Committee should ask outgoing members if they want to stand for reelection. Mr. Kiefer said such a procedure could be considered, although it is not done for other committees and not precluded by nominations from the floor. Mr. Ward expressed dis-ease: Is the idea that representatives have a right to serve a second term, or that the Assembly is more august than other A&S committees? Ms. Ventis said the Assembly is unique and has its own explicit by-laws. Mr. DeFotis then supported Mr. Ward; Dean Lutzer agreed the faculty has not yet spoken on this issue; and Mr. Hausman suggested the faculty "unfilter" Assembly elections by taking them out of the Committee's hands altogether. Ms. Ventis said she hoped the faculty in choosing Assembly representatives would keep in mind the importance of continuity, which the professional schools will have.

Before Dean Lutzer called for nominations from the floor, Mr. Willis asked if any faculty member could nominate representatives in any area (answer: yes). Mr. Willis then proceeded to nominate, in turn, each of the former Assembly members being replaced. Dean Lutzer, in turn, asked each nominee if he would accept. Those present -- Mr. Conlee, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Bradley -- ultimately declined; Mr. Johnson could not be asked. (Mr. Edwards, who affirmed the continuity principle espoused by Ms. Ventis, initially appeared to accept the nomination, but later he withdrew, explaining amid murmurs of protest that he did not want his position to be misunderstood. Although some faculty appeared to misunderstand Mr. Edwards not wanting to be misunderstood, the matter was eventually settled.)

There were no further nominations from the floor, so the Committee collected the ballots and left the room to count the votes. Seventy-six faculty members voted. Later in the meeting Mr. Kiefer announced the following new Assembly members: Area I: J. Livingston (Religion); Area II: R. Rapoport (Government); Area III: B. Goodwin (Geology) and D. Thompson (Chemistry).

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) and Faculty Assembly

Mr. Selby reported that FAC met seven times since the last A&S meeting, mainly to review departmental revisions of merit-evaluation procedures. FAC also considered a question Mr. Hausman raised at the November faculty meeting, namely whether committee service during research leave is consistent with the terms of a full-time research assignment. FAC decided not to make a recommendation about this because units such as the Commonwealth Center have their own (mandated) guidelines and because the Faculty Research Committee reports to the Faculty Assembly. Mr. Selby noted that existing guidelines for research assignments could, in FAC's opinion, be more strongly worded.

FAC received an inquiry from the Elections Committee of the Faculty Assembly concerning the A&S policy for selecting alternates when members take leave. The Assembly policy permits electing a standing alternate (to be in reserve) or having a pool of alternates, as the A&S faculty agreed to do in November. Mr. Fuchs (who chairs the Assembly Election Committee) pointed out that the pool-of-alternates approach offers less flexibility than having a standing alternate who can sit in and vote; the A&S faculty should be aware that some of the professional schools are taking the standing-alternate option that we are passing up.

Mr. Selby said the Faculty Assembly considered a report on tenure-ineligible faculty at its January meeting; recommendations from that report were amended on the floor and will be put to a vote at the February meeting. The Assembly will also hear a report in February on the revised Faculty Handbook. In the meantime, copies of the Handbook draft and the amended recommendations for part-time faculty are available for review.

Educational Policy Committee (EPC)

Ms. Ventis began by thanking her predecessor, Mr. Meyers, for his good work last semester. She then presented to the faculty proposals for new undergraduate concentrations in American Studies, International Relations, International Studies, and Public Policy (Appendix 1). All of the proposals had been endorsed by EPC as official concentrations.

The faculty took up each proposal in turn.

American Studies. After reading aloud passages from the American Studies proposal, Mr. Finn declared his "strenuous objection" to the concentration's content. He cited six courses from his own department (Religion) that should be included; without them, Mr. Finn said, the curriculum is "totally inadequate." He then moved to table the American Studies proposal, but the Parliamentarian (Mr. Edwards) said such a motion may be overruled if it will cut off debate. Mr. Haulman (Dean of Undergraduate Studies) pointed out that the proposal represents the American Studies concentration as it currently exists; approving the program in no way precludes the department (or Director) approaching EPC with proposed revisions. In fact, Dean Haulman expects this to happen with all new programs. Ms. Ventis added that the concentration requirements were approved several years ago under Interdisciplinary Studies, so these are not new proposals. Mr. Finn (the former undergraduate dean) replied that bad habits from the past should be corrected, not perpetuated. Mr. Axtell, a member of the American Studies Committee, assured Mr. Finn that the omission of religion courses was an oversight, not a philosophical issue. Mr. Roberts said American Studies programs at other schools typically include religion courses as electives, which our (proposed) concentration permits as well. Mr. Harris then pointed to American philosophy (a course in his department) as yet another significant curricular omission. Mr. Finn again exhorted the faculty not to approve a defective program, but to "let it come back reconstituted". Dean Lutzer said he did not think the faculty has the authority to change a program without consultation. After some discussion of procedure, Mr. Finn

began to offer a friendly amendment to the American Studies proposal, but Mr. Selby objected on grounds that departments should not tell other departments what to do. Mr. Archibald then wondered if the discussion was misdirected, since the issue is whether to have this concentration, not what its content will be. Ms. Ventis replied that faculty have a right to know what a concentration is before approving it. Referring to Mr. Selby's remark, Mr. Finn said he "respects a sensible observation from a sensible man" and therefore would not move to amend the proposal. In response to a question from Mr. Ward, Dean Lutzer explained the time-table for submitting concentration proposals to BOV and SCHEV. Mr. Finn then made his motion to table the American Studies proposal. After receiving a second, the motion passed by a less-than-unanimous voice vote.

International Relations and International Studies. Mr. G. Smith asked how revisions of these new programs would be made, since the programs are not departments. Ms. Ventis said revisions could be proposed by the Director or the International Studies Committee. Mr. Baxter (Chair of the International Studies Committee) explained from the floor his committee's role and relationship to EPC. Mr. Finn said the Religion department now has an extensive Islam program that perhaps should be included; Mr. Baxter said his committee is aware of this and has corresponded with Mr. Williams. Mr. Baxter also answered questions from Mr. Willis and Ms. Wilson (the student representative) concerning language requirements. Mr. Harris asked what the procedures are for adding courses to the International Relations/Studies list, and he suggested more communication with department chairs about this would be helpful. Dean Lutzer said the procedure is for a department chair to write to the chair of the International Studies Committee. Dean Haulman added that concentrations are updated all the time. Mr. Bill (Director of International Studies) said the International Studies Committee welcomes suggestions for curriculum revision and has a well-worked out "system" for handling them. With no further discussion, the proposed concentrations in International Relations and International Studies were put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

Public Policy. Mr. Finn asked if the Public Policy concentration will now be administered by Mr. Finifter, and if so, what the procedure will be for adding and subtracting courses from the core curriculum. Dean Lutzer said the procedure for proposing revisions is the same for Public Policy as for the American and International Studies concentrations: a department (or any faculty member) writes to the program director or to the chair of the relevant faculty advisory committee. Mr. Haulman added that these committees essentially act as subcommittees of EPC. The proposed concentration in Public Policy was then put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

Committee on Graduate Studies

Dean Scholnick asked the faculty to approve an M.A. program in Public Policy Analysis (Appendix 2) that was approved unanimously by the Committee on Graduate Studies in October.

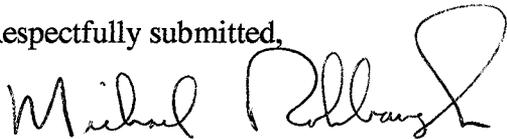
Mr. Fuchs asked how the level of staffing for the program was determined. Dean Lutzer said the Public Policy Committee and the program director (Mr. Finifter) worked out how many FTE positions would be generated if the program is fully funded (50 M.A. students taking 4 courses = 7 positions). Mr. Finifter added that the goal was not to damage but to enhance undergraduate programs in participating departments, and Mr. Scholnick pointed out that graduate courses will be cross-listed. Mr. Axtell asked where 50 new graduate students will hang their hats. Dean Lutzer said space will be available in Morton Hall when the Blow project is complete, well before the Public Policy program begins in 1991. Mr. Finn said he sees a "careful pedigree" of courses in the curriculum, but none concerns ethics in public policy. Where will ethics and public policy meet? Mr. Finifter replied that this will be dealt

with in several courses, and will be the topic of a faculty seminar in May; he also noted the recent lecture by Charter Day honoree Dennis Thompson of Harvard. Mr. Finn asked Mr. Finifter if there would be a trained ethicist (like Mr. Becker of the Philosophy Department) or an in-house substitute. Mr. Finifter, acknowledging he would be delighted to have Mr. Becker participate, said he looks forward "at worst" to a new ethics course covered by the Government Department. Mr. Finn affirmed his belief that in-house ethicists are poor substitutes for trained ones. Dean Lutzer, mindful of the hour, acknowledged Mr. Finn's suggestion and said he hoped Mr. Finifter and Mr. Finn would debate this issue at great length later. Before the discussion ended, Mr. Harris noted a possible problem with the curriculum: Because his department gives precedence to concentrators, there may not be room for public policy graduate students electing philosophy courses. When put to a vote, the proposed M.A. program in Public Policy passed unanimously.

Mr. Ward asked the faculty to pay tribute to Mr. Finifter's work in establishing the Public Policy program. The faculty did, by applauding.

There was no other new business. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Rohrbaugh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Michael Rohrbaugh
Secretary to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

- Appendix 1. Proposal for New Concentrations within the Bachelor of Arts Degree.
- Appendix 2. Proposal for a Master's Degree Program in Public Policy Analysis.