

MINUTES  
Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
18 October, 1994

The meeting was called to order by Dean Lutzer in the Chesapeake "B" room of the Student Center at 3:33 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor William Hausman announced a fund raising event sponsored by the Student Advancement Association and encouraged the faculty members to buy tickets.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Faculty Affairs Committee

Professor Chappell presented a statement, dated 13 October, 1994, prepared by his committee to be submitted to Provost Cell.<sup>1</sup> He summarized its contents as:

- Support for some aspects of the Plan;
- Strong objections to other parts:
  - MA programs have been very valuable here
  - Aspects of the public service and research components in evaluations;
- Specific suggestions for revision;
- Suggestions for implementation in the context of current procedures.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote to endorse the report of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Professor Becker objected that he would have preferred a motion to forward, since he didn't agree with every aspect of the letter. The Dean agreed to forward it to the President.

Professor Thomas Finn agreed that the Faculty shouldn't endorse such a document without a week to consider its contents.

Educational Policy Committee

Professor Tracy presented the printed comments of the Educational Policy Committee,<sup>2</sup> pointing out some areas of agreement, but stressing the need for the Faculty to retain control of the curriculum and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

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<sup>1</sup>A copy of the complete letter is attached to the archival copy of the minutes as "Appendix A."

<sup>2</sup>Attached to the archival copy as "Appendix B."

Professor Nezlek asked what information the Committee was looking for about the impact of cutting graduate programs on the undergraduate program.

Professor Willis moved to endorse and transmit the document. The motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

#### The Committee on Graduate Studies

Dean Scholnick presented a memo<sup>3</sup> which, he stated, only emphasized the concerns of his committee, not the many areas of agreement, such as the interdisciplinary emphasis, cooperation with CEBAF, NASA, etc. He then pointed out specific concerns about the cluster concept, especially its implementation, about the goals of diversity, outreach, and community service which may be undercut by the loss of programs, and about the impact of the loss of graduate programs on faculty and undergraduate programs. He also pointed out doubts expressed in the memo as to whether the program cuts really would produce budget cuts and concerns that cutting disciplinary programs may undercut interdisciplinary ones.

Professor Thomas Finn called for Provost Cell to comment on the move toward a cluster concept.

Provost Cell responded that the cluster concept has not been well understood -- it is not a framework for a degree program, rather a working relationship between departments, programs and schools, an effort to compete with the big universities by making the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Dean Scholnick cited the work with NASA under Applied Science, in which Computer Science and atmospheric science faculty and students are working together with NASA funding.

Professor Terry Meyers asked: "Do you think that the proposals intrude into your prerogatives under the Bylaws as they are about to be implemented?"

Professor Fuchs asked whether the Graduate Committee was criticizing the criteria for Masters' programs or the fact that criteria were formulated outside the Committee.

Dean Scholnick answered that the philosophical position was that the Masters' programs were within the realm of this committee.

Professor Terry Meyers asked: "Who makes policy?"

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<sup>3</sup>"Appendix C."

Dean Scholnick replied: "We recommend policy to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences."

Professor Terry Meyers added, "Does Arts and Sciences make Policy?"

Professor Willis commented that this is the most depressing issue: it is appalling that the Faculty was not consulted; points 5 and 6 are a very serious matter which strikes right at the heart of faculty empowerment.

Professor Axtell stated that programs should be based on criteria of need and the presence of a critical mass of faculty.

Professor Becker added that the report seems to say that we cannot afford to operate on these criteria alone because of the decision to remain small; the resources are not available.

It was added that the real problem was the lack of faculty involvement in the primary decisions.

Professor Deborah Green replied that she and some others did participate in the development of the Strategic Plan.

Professor Thomas Finn asked how we would terminate a program.

Dean Scholnick replied that we do have an evaluation procedure, consistent with national guidelines for assessment.

Professor Thomas Finn added, "But where does the authority lie?"

Dean Lutzer responded that a vote by us goes to the Provost and the President, then to the Board of Visitors, who have the authority, subject to approval of the State Council.

In response to a question from Professor Kreps about early precedents, Professor Selby stated that in the case of the History graduate program, the concept came from the administration, but that there was a division of authority and shared planning on all levels and responsibility for details of the program was left to the Faculty.

Professor Rublein pointed out that numerous steps require faculty participation in creating a program, but cancellation is a simpler act: the Board of Visitors merely says: "Stop doing it."

Professor Terry Meyers moved that existing MA's be maintained until the criteria for program continuation, and the application of those criteria to existing programs, can be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. The motion was seconded.

Professor Aday suggested that this review should apply to all graduate programs. This was taken as a friendly amendment to Professor Terry Meyers's motion.

Professor Fuchs pointed out that procedures require that a substantive matter of educational policy have time to be considered. This motion seems to be out of order -- we are protesting haste by haste.

Professor Willis argued that the motion actually emphasizes that decisions need considered input to be constructed; criteria need to be defined by committees.

In response to an inquiry as to why the Graduate Studies Committee was not represented in Strategic Planning, Provost Cell said that this is an institutional document which takes a view of the whole institution over the long term. MA programs are seen as less important, and the criteria for exceptions were considered.

Professor McGlennon said that the criteria for weak versus strong graduate programs in the Restructuring Plan were not the same as those in the Strategic Planning document. "Are these two documents one or what are the relationships?"

President Sullivan responded that the Restructuring Plan is in part a product of the Strategic Planning Committee which has faculty involvement.

Professor McGlennon stated that the criteria were not mentioned in the draft circulated for faculty input.

President Sullivan responded that the state defined the restructuring criteria, not us -- the state process intervened during the way, and it was a struggle to balance state power against internal decisions.

Professor McGlennon added: "I see a fundamental conflict in changes made in three weeks."

President Sullivan: "I do not."

Professor McGlennon: "I agree that we do not agree, but faculty guidance and advice are needed."

Dean Lutzer: "I have a parliamentary pickle: I do not want to cut off discussion, but we have a motion on the floor. I rule that the motion is out of order because it is an educational policy issue. Does anyone want to move to overturn this ruling?"

Professor Shaver: "So moved." Professor Thomas Finn seconded.

Professor Shaver: "This is not a change from what exists, but a proposal to maintain the status quo."

Professor Anemone asked whether the original motion could have any binding force.

Professor Fuchs said that the Bylaws apply to anything which affects Educational Policy,

Professor Terry Meyers argued that the motion only affirms existing policy by sending the issue through existing procedures.

Professor Becker replied that this is an issue of strategic planning, not educational policy.

Professor Katherine Preston asked the Dean: "If we vote in favor of your ruling do we have to wait a week to vote on the motion?"

The Dean answered affirmatively and promised to circulate the motion immediately.

The vote, by a show of hands, was:  
53 to overturn the Dean's ruling,  
33 to sustain.

Professor Becker reaffirmed that this is a matter of Strategic Planning for that committee to be concerned with.

Professor Anemone repeated his question as to whether the motion on the floor could have any binding force.

Dean Lutzer replied that it amounted to a recommendation to the Board of Visitors.

Professor Diane Owen asked how this motion related to the motion to the Board of Visitors to delay passed last meeting.

Professor Terry Meyers replied that they dovetail.

Professor Barbara King asked what were the consequences of not acting.

Provost Cell responded that there hangs in balance a significant amount of money in budget cuts if an acceptable plan is not submitted in accord with a timetable set by the State Council, who have given positive signals, but if the details, including program cuts, are not submitted on time, we will be in danger of losing \$600,000 or more.

Professor Shaver inquired about the likelihood of the State Council becoming purely advisory.

Provost Cell pointed out that this report goes to the Secretary of Education also.

Professor Selby added that the President has made his decisions, this meeting can best be seen as a form of protest to participate in decision making. Strategic Planning decides that we can't afford everything, but it is dangerous to allow the precedent that they can decide the details.

Professor James Harris said that the national prominence or status criterion is what strikes most people as new; did it apply to the Schools?

Provost Cell: "Yes." She then went on to disagree with Professor Selby, saying that everything is not decided; Gordon Davies and others are aware that they are dealing with a rough draft which will have changes when finally submitted.

Professor Gary DeFotis stated that the problem remains always to act in accord with the democratic process in such sensitive matters.

Professor Ann Reed asked whether the Strategic Planning Committee were still open to negotiation.

Provost Cell answered that the Committee was still at work daily discussing the document.

Professor McCord asked whether the document will have wording about implementation by regular processes.

Provost Cell: "It will have language about implementation."

Professor Robert Johnston asked whether we could redirect this motion to call for implementation through regular channels.

Professor Thomas Finn asserted that the College cannot afford this motion because it cannot afford the budget cuts.

Professor Willis responded that it was important to pass the resolution as a protest -- implementation is a false issue - - we are being told to amputate a leg and asked only how we would like to do it.

Professor George Strong asked what will happen to the money saved by restructuring.

Dean Lutzer explained that it stays with Arts and Sciences, mostly with the remaining graduate programs, also some to replace the benefits the graduate programs brought to undergraduates.

Provost Cell added that administrative money saved will also be reallocated to Arts and Sciences.

Professor Rublein stated that that was what Richmond specified.

Professor McGlennon said that we have to understand that the Board of Visitors will act in our best interests regarding the budget cuts, but we need to make the recommendations to them.

Professor Kennedy said that what SCHEV wants to know about is the specifics of the program; they are suspicious of us because we want to stay small. We are underfunded now. This is all very painful, but some difficult decisions will need to be made. Where will the money come from if we don't want to cut the MA programs?

Professor Bongie asked how much money would be saved by cutting the MA's.

Provost Cell estimated \$340,000 plus faculty time.

Professor Palmer asked if something less specific would have been acceptable to the state.

Professor Cell: "In my opinion, no."

There was a call for the question on the Meyers/Aday motion and it failed by a standing vote:

In favor:	30
Against:	43

Professor Rapoport inquired as to whether the Zable gift equalled the amount needed to continue the programs.

Provost Cell pointed out that it was not known when the gift will become available.

Professor William Hausman asked when the document would become available to all the Faculty.

Provost Cell replied that the report goes to the President to be circulated to the Faculty Assembly by Tuesday; was it worth the extra printing costs to make a copy for everyone by Monday?

Dean's Advisory Council

Professor Linda Collins Reilly then presented the following resolution on behalf of the Dean's Advisory Council:

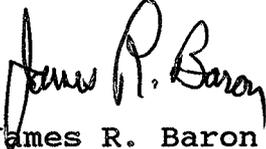
"The strategic Planning Committee should include in the planning document an explicit statement that the policy recommendations and implementation of the plan should be accomplished through the established committees and procedures of the Faculty."

Professor Fuchs moved the resolution be adopted; the motion was seconded and adopted by voice vote.

The Dean called for reports of other committees; there were none.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Baron".

James R. Baron  
Secretary of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences