

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 3:30 p.m.
Millington 150

Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm.

I. Minutes of the last meeting, September 1, 2009

The minutes of the last meeting, on September 1, 2009, were approved as posted:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20090901.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Michael Halleran reported:

- In spite of the gloomy economic situation, the mood was optimistic and constructive at a recent meeting of the Board of Visitors.
- The new rector, Henry Wolfe, of the Board was eager to meet with faculty and the Provost encouraged faculty to take advantage of the opportunity.
- The latest version of Strategic Planning documents will soon be available on the W&M website. Among the Grand Challenges, being a leading liberal arts university is now cast as the overarching challenge, with the other challenges subordinated to that one.
(<http://www.wm.edu/about/administration/strategicplanning/summary/index.php>)
- There will be strategic planning forums faculty can attend in coming months, some with visiting discussants. Martha Nussbaum of the University of Chicago is tentatively scheduled to come to campus for that purpose in early February. The Provost encouraged faculty to participate and contribute concrete ideas on meeting our strategic goals.
- As the College deals with a 32% cut in state support over the past 18 months, a plan has emerged to use some of the FY '11 federal stimulus money in FY '10, but this must be approved by the federal authorities and would still leave a significant shortfall. A mid-year tuition increase is still a possibility, although none of the other state schools has resorted to that yet.

In response to a question from Terry Meyers (English), the Provost noted that no decision had been made about a possible furlough in the coming year, and that the state would be the one to decide; individual state agencies are not empowered to declare furloughs. In response to a question from John Riofrio (Modern Languages), he detailed the political difficulties of a mid-year tuition increase in the absence of a similar move by other state universities.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported:

- Enrollment planning has gone smoothly.
- Planning processes are underway for various building and renovation projects, including a feasibility study for renovation of Tyler Hall, consideration of what to do with Jones Hall, and renovation projects in the Matoaka Studio, Andrews Hall, and elsewhere.
- Margaret Fonner has taken up her position in the Dean's Office and is working alongside Betty Sandy so that the transition when Betty retires can be as seamless as possible.
- Deadlines are approaching for various faculty awards: October 19 for the Plumeri Award and November 1 for a number of others: Distinguished associate professorships, chancellor professorship, the Murphy faculty fellowship and the Arts & Sciences governance award.

III. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

Committee chair Berhanu Abegaz (Economics) presented the previously-posted slate of nominees for a one year replacement term on the Committee on Nominations and Elections: Anne Charity Hudley (English) and Denise Wade (Theatre, Speech, and Dance). Posted list of nominees:

<http://web.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/facultyaffairs/reports/20091006.pdf>

With no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed.

IV. Report from the Faculty Assembly

Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science) reported on the recent activity of the assembly:

- In concert with a resolution of the Faculty Committee on University Priorities, the F.A. passed a more detailed resolution strongly advocating a mid-year tuition increase and an end to cuts that threaten the College's mission.
- The assembly heard a presentation on the budget from Sam Jones (Vice President for Finance).
- The Provost has agreed to yield some of his time before the Board of Visitors for the Faculty Liaison Committee to bring faculty concerns to the Board's attention. Kate Slevin (sociology) has already made a presentation to the Board in this capacity.
- The Assembly worked out the changes to the Strategic Planning Grand Challenges which made all challenges subordinate to the overriding challenge of making W&M a leading liberal-arts university.
- The executive committee of the F.A. has had a meeting with the new rector of the Board of Visitors, and will meet with him again in the near future.

V. Report from the Committee on Retention, Promotion, and Tenure

Chris Abelt (Chemistry) speaking on behalf of committee chair David Armstrong (Physics) summarized the posted report of the committee:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/rpt/reports/20090905.pdf>

During the past year the committee passed on positive recommendation 16 of 17 cases for tenure at the associate professor level. The one negative recommendation was overturned by the Dean. All six cases for promotion from associate to full professor were approved, as was one case for a hire at the full professor level.

In response to a question from Ron St. Onge (Modern Languages), Prof. Abelt and Dean Strikwerda said that there was one tenure case this year in which electronic submission of the dossier was being tried on an experimental basis. This may become a more regular means of submission if it works well in this case. In response to a question from Will Hausman (Economics), both Dean Strikwerda and Provost Halleran said they were not sure why a second copy of the dossier is required for the Provost, and would consider whether that was really necessary.

VI. Report from the Study Abroad Committee

Kate Slevin (Sociology), referring to the on-line report, reported that under its new chair, Arnab Basu (Economics) the committee was working with the Reves Center to clarify guidelines for directors of study-abroad programs, and to encourage faculty to apply for directorships. Prof. Slevin noted that for many programs the directorship is not as competitive a position as one might think. The posted report:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/studyabroad/documents/annualreport0809.pdf>

In questions, Berhanu Abegaz (Economics) inquired whether low compensation might be deterring people from applying for the directorship. Laurie Koloski (Reves Center) responded that the directors' pay was in addition to the normal teaching salary the faculty member would earn.

VII. Report from the St. Andrew's Review Committee

Dean Strikwerda introduced the report of this ad hoc committee, stating that it had been formed over the summer in response to a resolution at last May's A&S meeting to evaluate certain issues pertaining to the proposed Joint degree program with St. Andrews University in Scotland. The report of the committee was being brought before the faculty for endorsement.

John Donahue (Classical Studies), chair of the review committee, summarized the contents of the committee's posted report, stating that the committee had responded to recommendations of the Educational Policy Committee in four areas:

1. Ensuring that the students can fulfill breadth requirements outside their majors in the framework of the program;
2. Developing further the Joint Program Seminar course required of all participants;
3. Developing guidelines for adding additional departments/programs to the joint degree program;
4. Addressing additional curricular support that will be needed for the program.

The posted report:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/educationalpolicy/documents/st.andrewsreviewreport.pdf>

Related documents are listed on the EPC's document page.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/educationalpolicy/documents/index.php>

In discussion, a number of questions and concerns were advanced, including the following (response of members of the review committee, the St. Andrews committee, the Dean and the Provost in parentheses):

- What is the rationale for all the proposed personnel additions: ½-time Assistant Dean, 4 FTE's (these positions are needed because administration of the program is much more complicated than a regular study-abroad program; the program is designed to pay for itself, and the cost of these new positions is included in that calculation).
- Does the appointment of an "Assistant Dean" constitute title inflation? (the title is warranted given the responsibilities).
- Are students in the program counted as in-state or out-of-state? (vast majority will be out-of-state, but will not count against our in-state/out-of-state ratio).
- Does the series of 4 1-credit courses in the Joint Program Seminar provide a workable frame for fulfilling the undergraduate writing requirement? (other ways are possible; if EPC does not approve this method, others can be devised).
- Why was the proposal to add English to the joint program rejected? (English was not rejected; the proposal of the English department came later than the others and was difficult to reconcile with other parts of the programs because its curriculum was more restrictive. It is hoped that these issues can be worked out and English added to the program).
- Are students accepted into the program as honors students with the expectation that they will write an honors thesis? (The degree is called an

“honors” degree to suit St. Andrews terminology. It does not necessarily entail and honors thesis on the W&M model).

- Is St. Andrews too similar to W&M? Shouldn't study-abroad programs strive to get students out of their comfort zones? (St. Andrews' similarity to W&M makes it a good place to initiate our first joint-degree program; it can serve as a model for future joint degree programs in more alien locales).
- What happens if W&M moves away from the current GER system? (the joint-degree program is designed to be flexible in this regard)

In response to concerns expressed by Dean Joel Schwartz (Charles Center) on the question of how the governance of the program is defined, Dean Strikwerda (History) moved to amend the report with the addition of the following statement:

The program committee for the St. Andrews joint degree program will report to FAC, and then subsequently to this body [A&S Faculty] with a statement on the governing structure over the joint degree program with St. Andrews.

This proposal was seconded, but after some discussion John McGlennon (Government) moved that the motion be divided so that the motion on governance would be considered subsequent to voting on the endorsement of the committee's report. This motion was voted on and **passed** unanimously by voice vote.

Voting was then held on the original motion to endorse the committee report. This motion **passed** unanimously by voice vote.

Dean Strikwerda's motion to add the statement empowering the program committee to report back to FAC and the A&S Faculty with a statement on the governing structure of the program (text of the motion above) was reintroduced. This motion was also voted on and **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

VII. FAC Discussion Topic: Size of the Undergraduate Student Body

Due to the lateness of the hour it was agreed to postpone this discussion to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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