

**Faculty Assembly Meeting
Minutes for December 13, 2016
3:30-5:00 pm
Blow Hall Board Room**

Officers Present: Sophia Serghi (President), Cathy Forestell (Vice President), Chris Abelt (Secretary) and Eric Chason (Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors)

Other Members Present: Mark Forsyth, Steve Holliday, Rex Kincaid, Scott McCoy, Christy Porter, Patty Roberts, Megan Tschannen-Moran and Tricia Vahle

Members Absent: Danielle Dallaire, John Eisele, Carl Friedrichs, Courtney Harris, Ron Hess, Mark Hofer, Sibel Zandi-Sayek and Cynthia Ward

Others in Attendance: Michael Halleran (Provost) and Terry Meyers (Parliamentarian)

Ms. Serghi called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes for November 29, 2016

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

2. Provost's Report

- The preliminary FY18 budget will be announced Friday. A bonus of 1.5% is proposed for next December.
- COPAR met on November 30th and was presented with planning budget requests (PBRs)
- The Personnel Policy committee approved the amendment to the Handbook concerning emeritus status for NTEs with small modifications. It will be returned to the Assembly for a vote.

3. Discussion on electronic learning with guest Michele Jackson, Associate Provost for University eLearning Initiatives

Ms. Jackson introduced her colleague Ryan Baltrip, Director of Online Programming. Ms. Jackson has been in her position since February 2015. The first online courses at the College were in the summer of 2013. There have been several incarnations of the advisory committee. Currently, it is the eLearning Committee appointed by the Provost. Institutions deal with eLearning either as a separate entity or as part of learning. At the College, it is a part of learning. The goal of her office is to build readiness on campus for faculty to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The definition of eLearning is the integration of technology into teaching and learning. About 90% of courses have an eLearning component. The eLearning website has many examples of how colleagues have incorporated eLearning. She described current and pending online programs at the College.

The Mason School of Business has an online MBA program in partnership with the full service vendor Everspring. Several staff members at the Mason school help support the program. The program has three starts per year with around fifty students in each cohort. They hope to expand to six starts. The Mason school is in the process of rolling out a Master's in Business Analytics online program and a Global Business minor hybrid program. The School of Education has an executive Ed.D. online program. It has two starts per year with a cohort size of twenty-five. All programming and support is done in house. Two more programs, Masters in Educational Counseling and Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, will be introduced in August of 2018 and 2019, respectively. Arts and Sciences will have thirteen online courses this summer. The educational policy committee now requires approval review of online courses. Mr. Kincaid asked about whether flipped courses were considered online courses. Ms. Jackson responded that being flipped does not necessarily mean involving technology, although most do currently. Watching a video before coming to class allows other pedagogy to be used in class. Ms. Serghi asked whether online courses were open to anyone. Ms. Jackson replied that we are not preparing MOOCs. Only matriculated students have access. We are not using online content as a lure for online programs. Non-W&M students can take our online summer courses. Ms. Porter asked what the Assembly could do to help. Ms. Jackson said that her office welcomes discussion and guidance. For example, previous discussions have affected contract agreements and led to creating new codes for online adjunct instructors. The Provost said that eLearning is being responsive to the heterogeneity of the schools. There is no directive for eLearning, only the opportunity to take advantage of technology.

4. Reports from Standing Committees

Executive Committee: Sophia Serghi

Nothing to report

Liaison Committee: Cathy Forestell

Nothing to report

COPAR: Tricia Vahle

At the November 30th meeting COPAR learned that not only will there be a 7.5% reduction (four million) from the state next year, but also there will be new expenses for annualizing the recent salary increase (two million) and financial aid (two million). There are thirty-five PBRs. COPAR has developed a list of priorities by which to rank the PBRs. The priorities are to maintain and enhance core programs (salaries and research), to support business innovations, to enhance diversity and to promote safety. COPAR also met with Vice Provost Manos about F&A allocations.

Faculty Affairs: Megan Tschannen-Moran

Edits to the Faculty Handbook are continuing.

Academic Affairs: Christie Porter

Ms. Porter met with Michele Jackson in advance of the presentation today.

5. Old/New Business

The criminal case against Prof David Dessler was not pursued. Ms. Serghi then moved that the meeting go into a committee of the whole to discuss this case further. It was seconded and approved.

The committee of the whole rose without a report.

Ms. Serghi adjourned the meeting at 4:59.

Prepared by Chris Abelt