

Faculty Assembly Meeting
Minutes for February 25, 2020
3:30-5:00 pm
Blow Hall Board Room

Officers Present: Tom Ward (President), David Armstrong (Vice President), Chris Abelt (Secretary) and Cathy Forestell (Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors)

Other Members Present: Mark Brush, Josh Burk, Lynda Butler, Marji Friedrichs, Brennan Harris, Natoya Haskins, Bill Hutton, Rowan Lockwood, Michael Luchs, Alan Meese, Jennifer Mellor, John Riofrio, Scott Swan and Brad Weiss

Members Absent: Lisa Landino, Sophia Serghi and Molly Swetnam-Burland

Others in Attendance: Peggy Agouris (Provost), Ann Marie Stock (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs), Martha Wescoat-Andes (Senior Associate Provost), Terry Meyers (Parliamentarian), Chris Lee (Chief Human Resources Officer)

1. Call to order

Mr. Ward called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes for January 28, 2020

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Provost's Report

Dean searches. Three finalists have interviewed in the A&S search. Semifinalist interviews will take place March 2-3 and 5-6 for the School of Education and the Law School, respectively. Two of the A&S Dean candidates asked for a closed search.

The pilot program for summer school will focus on data science. It already has 30 applicants.

Strategic planning is moving to the next phase. The environmental scans will result in a list of framing assumptions that represent the current state of the College.

The search for a permanent director of the Muscarelle Museum is proceeding.

There has been a call for creating an Arts School with the construction of the Arts Quarter. A task force may be formed to study this proposal.

4. Discussion of the Strategic Planning White Papers

The Teaching and Learning paper pointed to interdisciplinarity as a desirable trait. Many units already have embrace interdisciplinarity. It would be helpful to develop memoranda of understanding that would provide incentives for these goals. Other impediments to interdisciplinarity are related to space and to limited time.

5. Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Tom Ward

The committee discussed the possible consequences of growth, especially any pressure points like dormitory space and course offerings. Growth was raised as a mechanism to address budgetary shortfalls. Some worried that we are in a pulsing pattern where growth will always be necessary periodically. Besides the usual metric of student to faculty ratio, the student to administrative staff ratio is another one of concern. The College is relatively lean in this regard relative to our peers. Some offices are in demand; for example, the Counseling Center.

Liaison Committee – David Armstrong

For the last BOV meeting we will either present the result of the faculty survey or a topic from Arts and Sciences.

Faculty Affairs – Scott Swan

The report from the faculty survey is being prepared.

Academic Affairs – Rowan Lockwood

Work on the evaluation of teaching white paper continues. A literature review has been conducted. A survey of current practices across campus was sent out. A selection of case studies of new practices at other institutions will be incorporated.

COPAR - Lynda Butler

The process for recommending funding requests will remain the same this year, but likely will be changed next year. It is hoped that there will be funding to allocate this year.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Prepared by Chris Abelt