

Minutes of Faculty Affairs Committee, December 14, 2021

Present: Elizabeth Barnes, Josh Burk (co-chair), Sarah Day (co-chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), John Eisele, Peter McHenry, Marc Sher (scribe). For the first 45 minutes, Mark Sikes and Tiffany Christian attended.

The meeting was held on Zoom and began at 2 pm

1) Mark Sikes (Acting Dean of Students) and Tiffany Christian attended the meeting to discuss issues regarding Student Accessibility Services. They provided some information:

(a) 917 individual students are receiving accommodations (some with several accommodations). This is an 83% increase (501 --> 917) from four years ago.

(b) There are severe staffing shortages in the SAS office. The National SAS office recommends 1 FTE for every 136 students. UVA has a ratio of 216:1, VaTech has a ratio of 240:1, W&M has a ratio of 437:1. The SAS office has requested three new positions.

(c) It is believed that the increase in accommodation requests is pandemic related. Concern was expressed about faculty having so many requests that it becomes physically impossible to meet them all. It was emphasized that "reasonable accommodations" must be provided. It was suggested that Mark Sikes let the faculty know the latest numbers and perhaps put up an FAQ to inform faculty of their responsibilities and to remind them to contact SAS if there are difficulties fulfilling some accommodation requests.

(d) The large increase is causing space problems, but this will be remedied in the long-term with space in Sadler.

(e) ADA accommodations were also discussed. The bulk of these are academic, but some deal with housing issues and some with transportation issues.

2) The minutes from the December 7th meeting were approved.

3) Updates from Maria

(a) Budget projections were discussed

(b) The International Fellows program, where they come for a year, was discontinued due to the pandemic, but will be beginning again.

(c) 70% of the dorms on campus are substandard, maintenance has been deferred for a long time. Dining is also below standards.

(d) An NTE town hall was attended by 40 people earlier today and plans moving forward were discussed.

(e) The DEI Dean search is progressing well

(f) A phased retirement template is on the Provost's desk.

4) February FAS meeting

Derek Aday will come to the meeting. Gerald Bullock may also attend to discuss some recent gifts.

5) The A&S Joint Appointment policy has been edited by Peter and will be given the PRC for their feedback before it goes to the FAS.

6) A decision on whether the CIS (formerly CHIS) will remain in the bylaws will be made at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.