

## FAC minutes

Minutes for the Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting, held via Zoom, 2-3:20 on March 1, 2022

Members: Josh Burk (co-chair), Sarah Day (co-chair), Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), Elizabeth Barnes, John Eisele (scribe), Peter McHenry, Marc Sher, Peggy Agouris (Provost).

The FAC welcomed the Provost Peggy Agouris to the meeting:

1. A first question broached the topic of faculty reaction to Vision 2026 and how to actualize this. A first question/comment touched on the rather general nature of the terms such as “water,” “democracy” and how they relate to the faculties’ fields of study. The provost replied that the plans could not be more specific or too broad but rather that they are ways of communicating goals to the larger community. Also, the goal of the rather simple terms is to ensure that actions taken by departments and faculty should have more individualized action plans, to give a framework at department levels to make plans and request funding in the future, one of whose goals is to enhance community feeling. This includes gaining the support of all parties to support and contribute to the larger goals of the plan, to allocate resources in the most suitable manner, and to strengthen the university. Others noted that these terms were meant to guide future steps, to be a “road map” to enable both the bottom-up (“bubbling up”) of ideas as well as the top-down structuring of the general directions.
2. A second topic involved clarification of the ISC4 and its general purpose as a computational hub, as well as a building that brings people together. Excessive costs have led to changes in the exact composition of the departments and individual faculty slated to occupy the new building. The initial plans have been changed, and it was suggested that the administration inform faculty of current plans.
3. This led to the discussion of the notion of “themed buildings” involving interdisciplinary units or themes, as found in other peer institutions, which in turn led to a discussion of the notion of an “engineering” mindset, not simply a department or school, which is envisioned for the application of the “engineering” concept at William & Mary.
4. A further discussion ensued on the topic of the phased retirement plan, which led to a discussion of the idea of “research active” faculty members. It was noted that this notion is dependent on the department and should be neither too detailed nor unfocused. This marked the end of the discussion with the provost.
5. The final discussion dealt with the next FAS meeting, including the proposal for the IIC coming from the EPC, which approved the courses necessary for the program but there is concern about staffing. Related to this is the proposed certificate in data science, which has the support of faculty in related departments with some reservations on the part of some in the administration. A variety of other topics were mentioned including stipends for staff serving on committees, ways of reorganizing the mentoring of students, and finally the issue of masking