

FAC Minutes 11 October

Attending: Provost Peggy Agouris; Dean Maria Donoghue Velleca; Elizabeth Barnes; Catherine Levesque (scribe); Peter McHenry; John Poutsma; Marc Sher; Ayfer Stump

The meeting began at 2:00 PM

It started with a statement by Provost Peggy Agouris that she was glad to share her thoughts in response to the FAS meeting last week. She spoke in general terms about the concerns expressed by the faculty on the restructuring of computation and data science in relation to A&S and to the university.

FAC and the provost discussed a variety of topics of concern about computation and data science: the process of exploring a new computation and data science entity at W&M and the potential design of such an entity.

Jim Golden is now included as the process co-ordinator.

FAC and the provost discussed the benefits and disadvantages of various structures accommodating computer and data science, including the burden placed on departments in teaching general education requirements and prerequisite courses.

Discussion included the possibility of a computation and data science entity that directly admits students or a place W&M undergraduates go for their major (as in the current W&M business school model).

Discussion also included student demand for computation and data science courses, and student demand for data literacy.

The provost noted the potential for state funding and philanthropy to support computation and data science (e.g., Tech Talent Program money). The provost also noted the emphasis on graduate students in discussions about computation and data science.

The meeting ended around 3:15 so that the members and Provost Agouris could attend the FA meeting.