

Minutes of the regular meeting of
The Faculty of Arts and Sciences
4 October, 1988

Dean Lutzer called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

He then:

1. introduced the student liaison, Georganne Shirk;
2. reminded the Faculty of the rules regarding eligibility to vote in Faculty elections;
3. introduced a representative of the Flat Hat who was present with the Dean's permission.

President Verkuil spoke on the recent demographic projections forecasting an unexpected surge in demands for admission to the State's top five universities. A commission on the 21st Century has been formed through the State Council on Higher Education, at the request of the Legislature, and a report exploring the options, such as creating another major university or expanding those already in existence, is due in eighteen months. Another aspect of the problem is a feeling in the General Assembly and general population that there ought to be more slots for in-state students in particular. We must be careful not to ignore political realities by taking positions which strip us of our political allies and benefactors. The longer term question is: what would our optimum size be?

Mr. Johnston asked whether the State was now a net "importer" of students.

Pres. Verkuil said that it was.

Mr. McCord pointed out that we have not received new positions to match recent growth, and asked whether this problem would continue.

Pres. Verkuil responded that there has been some growth in positions and that we have gotten a good share, but that the Commission is to discuss such problems.

Mr. L. Johnson added that reduced teaching hours of many faculty were also causing a loss of teaching quality.

Pres. Verkuil again expressed an awareness of the problem.

Ms. Walker asked whether the State's growth problems couldn't be solved by strengthening institutions such as Longwood and Radford.

Pres. Verkuil pointed out that these are not the places likely to receive the greatest increase in applications for admissions, but that Mary Washington is making progress in this respect, and Radford had, in fact, added 2,000 people in a single year.

Delegate Grayson then argued that, in spite of the benefits to growth, there would always be a lag in the arrival of such resources, creating a strain, and that we can make a case to the General Assembly, the State Council, and the media for the continuation of our present size and mission, granting that the proportion of Virginia students might need some revision. The Commission and other pressures won't necessarily dictate change to us.

Pres. Verkuil emphasized the disparity which already exists between our acceptance ratios for in-state (1 in 3) and out of state (1 in 9) students.

Mr. L. Johnson asked if the urban commuter colleges would absorb the growth.

Pres. Verkuil replied that the demographics showed that a disproportionate share will want and be qualified to go to the best schools and those of a residential character.

Dean Lutzer proceeded with the elections.

Ballots were distributed

Dean Lutzer called for nominations from the floor for the Nominations and Election Committee. There were none. It was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote that the nominations be closed.

Dean Lutzer then called for nominations from the floor for the Educational Policy Committee. None were made. It was moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote that the nominations be closed.

The Ballots were collected.

Dean Lutzer presented a report on events 1987-88 and prospects for 1988-89. He pointed out aspects of curricular and programmatic growth and development and the problems created by the need for assessment. After mentioning the current state of development of the Faculty Assembly, he summarized the personnel changes of the past year. Then he dealt with the difficult problems only partially solved in the past year, such as the large sizes of many courses taken by freshmen and the disenrollment problem, space utilization and coming short-term crises, and flat-funded M&O budgets. In conclusion, he described the opportunities which 1988-89 would present in high profile searches and curricular development.

The election results were then announced:

Educational Policy Committee: Doverspike
Nominations and Elections Committee: Donaldson
Garrett
Carlson

Mr. Finifter reported for the Faculty Affairs Committee:

1. The report on the Faculty Assembly has been adopted.
2. Next to be investigated are:

Faculty Development projects
What form should monitoring of gender equity take?

3. The Faculty Liaison with the Board of Visitors would give three presentations to the Board:
Whom do we teach? (November)
Who teaches them?
What do we teach?

Mr. Funigiello presented the report of the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee and announced that the new chair would be Richard Terman, Professor of Biology.

Mr. Johnson asked whether it is now possible for a superb teacher to get tenure without publications.

Mr. Funigiello responded negatively, citing the Faculty Handbook.

Dean Lutzer called for old business.

There was no response.

Dean Lutzer called for new business.

Still no response.

Dean Lutzer called for a motion to adjourn.

Enthusiastic response.

James R. Baron
acting secretary