

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
1 November, 1988

Dean Lutzer began calling the meeting to order at 3:32 PM. The minutes of the meetings of 27 September and 4 October were approved with corrections.

Announcements by the Dean:

1. Professor Clyde Haulman of Economics has been nominated as the next Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The nomination will be presented to the Board of Visitors later this month.
2. Please remind your students that 5 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 2, is the last possible moment to receive an automatic 'W' grade for withdrawing from a course.
3. 100 PC's are expected during January and April and a plan has been worked out for allocating them to faculty desktops.
4. During a recent discussion of +/- grading in the Educational Policy Committee, it became clear that whether or not individual faculty members employ the +/- system is entirely up to them; that was the sense of the Faculty meeting in which the issue was debated and passed.
5. Ms. Delta Helmer, a student reporter for the Flat Hat, has asked to be present during today's debate on the add/drop period. After consulting with the chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee to determine precedents, the Dean decided to allow her to be present for that debate, and she has agreed to leave as soon as the debate ends. Dean Lutzer does not view this as setting a precedent and is going to ask the next meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee for their advice on the subject. If you have opinions which you would like the Committee to consider, please talk to a Committee member about this issue soon.

Associate Provost Slevin then reported on the current state of development of the assessment plan. Since the issue of accountability and the demands for more broadly based hard data to confirm the validity of educational programs began in the mid-1980's, Virginia has been unique in allowing its institutions to plan locally so that assessment will reflect the unique character of each institution and in providing funding up front for the expenses involved. Nevertheless, the clash of political and academic timetables has prevented adequate faculty input until this point. After discussing the general principles and problems of the plan, she charted its major components and areas of responsibility for implementation. Matters down the road include the search for ways to make the data useful to ourselves and the problem that assessment involves a fundamentally different set of research standards than any particular discipline.

Mr. Finifter asked if the Subcommittee on Concentrations had criteria to govern the acceptance or rejection of departmental proposals.

Associate Provost Slevin stated that there were ten pages of guidelines, the basic principle being that this must not be just a program review, but must emphasize student "outcomes"; nevertheless, there has been an attempt to maximize flexibility for the departments.

Associate Provost Kranbuehl presented a report from the Grants and Research Office. It has been a very positive year, with great growth in Arts and Sciences, resulting in more funding from indirect costs and further plans to expand internal funding. There are also prospects for more research directions at the institution. Problems being dealt with include the resignations of key staff in the office and the need to recognize the differing needs of different departments in the three areas. Mr. Kranbuehl plans to create a group in each area to help him understand their different needs.

The Nominations and Elections Committee presented nominations for elections to the Faculty Affairs Committee, its chair, and the Secretary of the Faculty. There being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and the motion carried by voice vote. The ballots were distributed and collected.

Mr. Meyers, as chair of the Educational Policy Committee, then presented a report consisting of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the add/drop period be shortened to six class days for dropping courses and two additional days for adding courses.

After correcting the Committee membership list, Mr. Meyers explained the motivation for the change and the alternatives which had been considered and then moved the resolution, which required no second since it was a committee report.

Mr. Tiefel asked whether "six class days" meant "six meetings of a particular class" or "six days into the semester."

Mr. Meyers responded: "six days into the semester"

Mr. Willis asked why the Committee had not proposed that instructors be allowed to remove enrollees from their courses for non-attendance.

Mr. Meyers pointed out complicated communications problems in such a system.

Mr. Cockrell noted that some Applied Music courses do not meet until the second week.

Mr. Coleman added that the shortened time would defeat some recent moves to improve freshman advising.

Mr. McCord informed those present that School of Business records indicate that most add/drop activity occurs in the first few days; his impression is that the situation in Arts and Sciences is the same.

Ms. Freeman objected that the resolution would penalize students for convenience's sake.

Mr. Meyers responded that much of this was mere shopping around which creates serious inconvenience for others.

Mr. Finn stated that this resolution speaks to the severe problem of disenrollments. Changes already adopted in the automatic 'W' drop will help eliminate some other problems.

Mr. Willis added that he favors the proposal very much because it addresses the frustrating problem of having students string along faculty until the last minute when they intended to drop all along, but we should still have the right to disenroll students for absences.

Ms. Shirk, Student Association Liaison, then stated the position of the Student Association that this is not the most appropriate solution because: 1. The number of adds and drop are too large to handle in so short a time; 2. the new preregistration rules will create more add/drops and some panic; 3. the short time will prevent consulting advisors; 4. a later withdrawal leaves a 'W' on the record -- not an 'F', but not desirable; 5. Tuesday - Thursday classes only meet twice before the end of the period - not long enough to decide; 6. The Applied Music students will need special treatment; 7. a random phone survey indicates that a large majority of the students favor the present system; 8. The Student Association wants the Educational Policy Committee to meet with them first, and therefore asks that the motion please be tabled.

Dean Lutzer called for an appropriate motion to refer the matter back to Committee.

Dean Finn made the motion, it was seconded, but failed by a vote of 36 yeas to 40 nays.

Mr. McGlennon agreed that the schedules of those freshmen taking less than 15 hours would be a more serious problem under the proposed schedule.

Associate Provost Kranbuehl asked whether there was any way that we can solve the problem of those disenrolled without penalizing others with real problems.

Ms. Houle stated that the waiting lists are the real problems and that we need more classes and more sections to solve it.

Mr. Fuchs pointed out that the problem which exists now would not be solved by giving instructors the right to disenroll absentees, since the inconsiderate problem people sometimes come the first day but wait two weeks to cancel.

Mr. Wiseman recommended that, in view of the doubt about which way to go, we follow student opinion.

Mr. Schwartz suggested that the new limit on the number of courses requested may solve the problem, but we oughtn't confuse the disenrollment problem with the add/drop. We need to solve the disenrollment situation first and then go after whatever is left of this problem.

Mr. Meyers pointed out that the student members of various committees do not seem to reflect the same opinions as Student Association surveys.

Mr. Willis characterized the student poll as self serving and added that the present system works to the students' advantage in some cases, but to their disadvantage in others. The students are actually maneuvering too much for mere convenience -- most can tell from the first class and syllabus whether they want the course or not.

Mr. Shaver, after expressing some fears about his record of expressing support for causes which later lose, summarized the views for shortening and added that they didn't seem critical to him because the worst thing that could happen might be a few extra people in a class.

Mr. Archibald added that a student needs time to find something else that's actually better before dropping, so some shopping is appropriate.

Ms. Ventis reemphasized the problems caused by large waiting lists.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 35 yeas to 31 nays.

The election results were announced:

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Reed  
McGlennon

Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee:

Selby

Secretary of the Faculty:

Rohrbaugh

Mr. Finifter reported on the current activities of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The Committee is currently studying assessment issues and plans to report at the next faculty meeting. Evaluation procedures of teaching and research administrators are also being examined. The Committee has reexamined the issue of faculty communication with the Board of Visitors and prepared the following statement which has been agreed to by the President and Provost:

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Statement on Faculty Communication with the Board of Visitors

We affirm that faculty members have the right, as individuals, to communicate with the Board of Visitors. They also have an obligation to do so in a responsible way. The need for dialogue between faculty members and the Board of Visitors is recognized formally by the creation of the Faculty Liaison Committee. It is assumed that the Liaison Committee will be the usual means of exchanging information and opinions when complex or sensitive issues arise which require direct communication between individual faculty members or faculty committees and the Board. Therefore, under usual circumstances the channels of communication are:

(1.) to the President and the Board of Visitors through the Faculty Liaison Committee

or

(2.) to the President, to be communicated by him to the Board of Visitors.

It should be understood that the President will transmit any communication to the Board which is sent to him for this purpose, and that any communication sent directly to the Board will also be sent to the President for his information.

Mr. Finifter then mentioned two other items related to the Committee's responsibilities:

1. On Tuesday, 3 November, 1988, the Faculty Liaison Committee will meet with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors to discuss three aspects of the student body:

- a. the profile of students admitted
- b. their academic experience
- c. the residential nature of the College.

The presenters will be Professor Edward Crapol, chair of the Admissions Committee, Professor Clare Mather, chair of the Academic Status Committee, and Professor David Dessler, the resident faculty member of Taliaferro Hall, which houses the Presidential Scholars.

2. As announced in the William and Mary News of 14 October, 1988, an Advisory Working Group on Undergraduate Enrollments in the 1990's has been formed from the membership of R(at)PAC. An updated membership list is: Edward Crepol, David Finifter, Rita Wright, Larry Wiseman, Terry Meyers, John Thelin, Larry Pulley, Joy Austin, and Jeff Kelley. Mr. Finifter also described the plans and tasks of the Working Group.

Dean Scholnick presented the previously distributed report of the Committee on Graduate Studies, and reported that the State Council and the Committee were very happy with the progress of our new programs.

Dean Lutzer called for new business.

A round of applause for Mr. Shaver's still unblemished record was evoked.

A motion to adjourn was elicited, seconded, and passed at 5:10 PM.

James R. Baron  
Acting Secretary