

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
November 11, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm in Rogers 100.

Minutes of the October 2 meeting were approved without correction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dean

- i) Reminded the audience that only members of the Arts and Sciences Faculty may vote at the meeting.
- ii) Asked that members of the Faculty display some flexibility with students seeking preregistration entry to oversubscribed courses. Budget constraints have curtailed course offerings in the Spring and students need sympathy.
- iii) Announced the appointment of a Curriculum Review Steering Committee to be chaired by Clyde Haulman. Other members from the Faculty are: Larry Becker, Alan Fuchs, Tomoko Hamada, Will Hausman, Colleen Kennedy, James Livingston, Richard Prosl, Cam Walker, Barbara Watkinson, Robert Welsh and Larry Wiseman, together with ex officio members Randolph Coleman, Joel Schwartz and Deborah Ventis. Also serving will be George Bass of the School of Education and student members: Mark Bloom, Mac Duis, Mona Hargrove, Jill Lord and Karen McNeish.
- iv) Said that preliminary information indicates that another \$700,000 will have to be cut from the University base budget in the '91-'92 academic year. The Dean offered upcoming retirements by senior faculty as one source of budget reduction, but said that these would certainly not cover a reduction of this magnitude. Some involuntary personnel cuts may be in store for Arts and Sciences Faculty. There may even be further cuts.

The Dean then offered the floor to Andrew Langer, the SA liaison to the Faculty. Mr. Langer announced that next week would be "Ribbon Week", wherein badges worn by participants would denote allegiance to campus unity and respect for the multicultural milieu of the University.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

President Verkuil delivered the latest on budget matters. The Governor has approved a (reduced) tuition surcharge which will yield some \$542,000 in the '91-'92 academic year. These funds are already earmarked, \$242,000 for lease payments to the equipment trust fund, \$100,000 for the student information system and \$200,000 for initial funding of the Applied Science Program.

The \$350,000 stripped out of library acquisition funds this year must be returned to that budget in '91-'92, and it remains to be seen which items currently funded will have to suffer.

Meanwhile, tax receipts in Richmond continue to decline. It is certain that we have not seen the end of fiscal problems. A public report from the Governor is due in December.

The President's account of the previous weekend's Homecoming festivities had a somewhat happier tone. The \$10 million give of Walter Zable, announced in the local press, is, he reminded, a commitment, not cash in hand. When these funds do appear, their endowment will be divided, with half allocated to athletic scholarships, one fourth to graduate student aid and the remaining fourth unrestricted. In particular, the President said he looked forward to the prospect that the fraction of the Athletic budget funded by student fees will continue to decline in part due to such endowments.

Lastly, the President said that owing to the Commonwealth's financial problems, the budget for the Tercentenary will be scaled down so that an appropriate but seemly celebration can take place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Affairs

Mr. Eckhause, reporting briefly for FAC, said the committee continues to discuss ramifications of the the budget crisis. Also, the committee had received from the Faculty Senate revisions to sections 4A and 4B of the Faculty Handbook and was studying them. Mr. Eckhause then introduced Mr. McGlennon, chair of the Faculty Senate Liaison Committee to the Board of Visitors. Mr. McGlennon described the first in a series of presentations of the Liaison Committee to the BOV. The presentation was an account to the Academic Affairs Committee of the BOV of the tenure process at the College. Mr. McGlennon said the BOV members were gratified by the heavy emphasis given to teaching in tenure decisions, and, at the same time, impressed by the rigorous standards generally applied to candidates. Mr. McGlennon complimented Mr. Willis, who, he said, had given a masterful explanation of the departmental role in the tenure process.

Mr. Axtell inquired about topics for future presentations. Mr. McGlennon said that most likely the Liaison Committee would try to give the BOV some details of the assessment program, with particular emphasis on student job placement. The presentation would probably be given at the Charter Day meeting.

Graduate Studies

Mr. Scholnick, Dean of Graduate Studies, reported for the Committee. A formal report is attached to the archival copy of the minutes. For aural consumption, Mr. Scholnick simply said that the Arts and Science graduate program had enjoyed a very good year, graduating a record number of PhD's: 14. Enrollment in the entire program was up by 44 students, and there had been a record number of applications to the various A&S graduate programs. There had been improvement in minority enrollment. Also, some external graduate student funding schemes had been worked out with the National Center for State Courts, with NASA and with CEBAF.

Mr. Scholnick announced Robert Orwoll's appointment to a three-year term as Director of Applied Science.

Mr. Scholnick said that an internal survey of graduate

students had been completed with a 45% return rate. He anticipates that useful information is available in the data. Finally, in spite of budget problems, Mr. Scholnick said that he still has a sunny outlook on the future of graduate work at the College.

Mr. Axtell inquired about the schedule for cutting graduate student aid by programs. In particular, would American Studies and Applied Science be first in line for reductions? Mr. Scholnick said there would be no cuts in the current year (except for the 2% across the board cut), but that he was unsure about next year. Dean Lutzer said that the \$700,000 reduction he had mentioned earlier in the meeting was unlikely to involve changes in departmental/program graduate aid allocations.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rapaport offered a motion asking the Educational Policy Committee to study the Physical Education proficiency requirement and report back to the Faculty at the December meeting on the advisability of retaining this requirement. Mr. Archibald seconded.

Ms. Ventis, chair of EPC, said that, in light of EPC's current workload, the short notice was unreasonable. She also wondered about the compulsion for such a study just now.

Mr. Rapaport responded that the PE proficiency had been the subject of discussions in EPC within the last two years, but that no definitive statement about the proficiency had ever been published.

Mr. James Harris, seeking confirmation, asserted that the part-time PE staff budget is quite large. The Dean agreed. Mr. Harris then inquired about the source of funding.

Ms. Jackson said that this was the first she had heard of such a study, and thought it peculiar that no one had discussed the idea with the Physical Education Department. She said the part-time PE budget is approximately \$69,000, and that the department was very sensitive to the cost issue. A large fraction of the budget is used to pay accompanists in Dance courses (which carry academic credit). Next year, more PE proficiency courses will carry user fees to support the instructors. This motion, she thought, smacked of a lynch mob.

Mr. Willis said that he too had heard nothing of the motion until now. Educational policy should not be linked to the economy he stated. Moreover, there is better opportunity to do such a study, namely in the general curricular review just under way. Many courses may need to be cut, and PE may be only one of these. The timing of the motion, he said, is quite inappropriate.

The Dean said that there must be a tighter link between educational policy and budget. The issue is upon us now. He suggested a friendly amendment to the motion which would postpone the reporting date to February.

Mr. Fuchs pointed out that changes in educational policy require a week's notice to the Faculty. But the Dean said that "policy" was not being discussed, only a study of the policy.

Mr. Tiefel agreed with Mr. Willis. Noting the Dean's obvious sympathy with the motion, he said that the Faculty has not had any discussion concerning broad cuts, so that the proposed study would

be artificially narrow. Mr. Johnston also agreed with Mr. Willis. Targetting a single department for budget reduction is inappropriate in the absence of general information, he said.

Mr. Welsh, while singing a hymn of praise to physical fitness, nevertheless said that the 4 hour PE proficiency requirement is much out of date. Mr. Langer supported the motion. He said that removal of the requirement would allow students greater flexibility in their schedules.

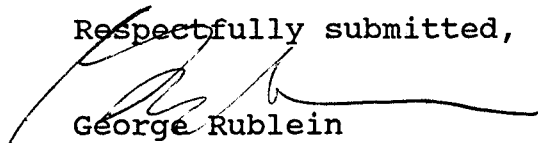
Ms. Ventis wondered how the debate had shifted to the policy itself. The Dean agreed that such substantive comments were out of order. Mr. Conlee asked about the reporting schedule of the Curriculum Review Committee. Mr. Haulman said that by early Spring, various study committees appointed by the Steering Committee would have work under way, with reports due by the end of the Spring term. The Summer would be used to study these reports so that a package of specific proposals would be published by the Steering Committee some time next Fall.

Mr Willis returned with the claim that the motion is educational policy in disguise and that there are other more expensive programs, e.g. Writing 101, which could also be studied for immediate reduction.

The question was called. The Dean inquired about the friendly amendment he had proposed. Ms. Ventis said that February is still too hard a deadline for EPC, while Mr. Rapaport said that he could live with that deadline. The Dean asked Ms. Ventis whether a March reporting date would be more comfortable. Ms. Ventis grudgingly agreed, but then asked for a quorum call.

Two mathematicians in the assembly were unable to count the audience, but both agreed that there were fewer than 60 faculty present. The quorum call having failed, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



George Rublein
Secretary to the Faculty