

MINUTES
Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
7 February, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Dean Lutzer at 3:33 PM.

The minutes of the meeting of 6 December, 1994 were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Lutzer announced that the Provost would arrive later to report on some important items, and that Susan Bosworth, assessment coordinator, was present to answer questions on assessment.

He added that not enough freshman seminar proposals had arrived to fulfill the schedule's needs for Fall, 1995. Plans are going forward to raise doctoral student stipends to the national level.

In regard to Marc Sher's memo on online syllabi, 250 have been received; please submit the rest or students will come knocking on office doors to remind you.

Professor Axtell asked whether the stipend raises would apply to current students.

Dean Lutzer replied that the raises will take two stages, but it will be done so as to keep them equal.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

President Sullivan reported that the news from the legislature was good as of last Sunday's restoration of the Governor's budget cuts, which were as good as could be expected. William and Mary could have lost as much as \$1.2 million. He then gave details about the restoration of raises, of the Bill of Rights Law Center, and the maintenance reserve fund. Bonds for the dormitory renovation project have been approved in the legislative branch but are not likely to get the governor's approval. The victory is potentially temporary, since the Governor can delete and amend, and further confrontation will be coming in the veto session. Furthermore, we need to press our case for the unmet needs of higher education so that we aren't always celebrating about a partial restoration of losses.

Professor Houle asked what had happened to the Funds for Excellence.

President Sullivan responded that they are part of the restoration to the State Council budget.

Professor Terry Meyers asked whether the State Council will carry any power.

President Sullivan answered that the bill to amend its authority and budget failed, but the Governor can still veto its budget line.

Professor Robert Johnston inquired as to whether the Governor can still veto all this.

President Sullivan responded that the legislature can restore a line-item veto by a simple majority.

Provost Cell reported first on the Dean search, commenting on the good attendance at the open fora and the quality candidates interviewed, and promising to move quickly as soon as the Search Committee reports.

Charter Day was a great success, with 3 excellent speeches; the Provost recommended that everyone read the text of the President's speech when it appears in the William and Mary News.

Regarding the Implementation Committee of the Strategic Plan, the doctoral stipend decision has been made, as reported by the Dean, and goals and strategies are being assigned as responsibilities to various administrators. If the budget restoration holds up, that will be a great help to achieving our goals.

She then went on to discuss what she described as her most important item for this meeting: the delay of the awarding of research assignments and summer grants. Regarding Faculty Research Assignments, they were delayed because priority was given to getting out authorizations for searches already in progress for permanent positions; a decision was made to use uniform language to avoid making it possible for Richmond to make one position more important than another, and it didn't seem prudent to issue contracts for Faculty Research Assignments until it was clear that replacements would be approved. Regarding Summer Grants, it was simply a question of money: it seemed best to wait until there was some experience of what was happening to positions and budgets. None of this was meant to raise questions about the importance of research to the Provost, but she had to wait to make sure that all our instructional obligations had been fulfilled in case the soft money needed to be used to fill an instructional deficit. The commitment remains.

As far as the hiring freeze is concerned, the Provost reported that all faculty positions to which there has been a response (most of them) have been approved. Non-faculty positions which are privately funded or grant funded or student service oriented have been approved. Blanket requests for adjuncts for the summer are approved, but those for next year are still pending. The Budget Office at the State Department of Education is overwhelmed.

Professor Fuchs inquired about any news on peer groups.

Provost Cell answered that the State Council is not likely to make a move.

Professor Eckhause asked at what point would it become prudent to warn parents and students that we will not be able to graduate students in a timely way because of budget cuts.

Provost Cell replied that that would be a serious step, but it might happen.

Professor Alan Ward stated that he doubted that it was prudent to use research money for adjuncts rather than announce that we can't guarantee graduation in 4 years.

Provost Cell warned that the dynamics in Richmond are very interesting as to how far you can go and when; this administration keeps score, which makes this a very delicate question. The intervention of the Business Higher Education Council was very important.

She concluded by announcing that an exemption request has been approved for the hiring of an Associate Provost for Research and Coordinator of Graduate Education, who is to be a forceful proponent of the search for outside money and chair of the council of graduate deans. This person will also review other graduate policies and implement strategic plans. She also intends to restore the office of Associate Provost for Academic Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nominations Committee

Professor Alan Ward placed the following names in nomination for 3 year terms on the Faculty Assembly:

Area I: Jacquelyn Y. McLendon (English)
Gary A. Smith (Modern Languages)
(1 to be elected)

Area II: Donald J. Baxter (Government)
Mary J. Voigt (Anthropology)
George V. Strong (History)
W. Larry Ventis (Psychology)
(2 to be elected)

Area III: Gary C. DeFotis (Chemistry)
Norman J. Fashing (Biology)
Rex K. Kincaid (Mathematics)
Paul K. Stockmeyer (Computer Science)
(2 to be elected)

The name of Clay Clemens was also placed in nomination for the Chairperson of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

The Dean called for nominations from the floor; there were none. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and it was accepted, and the ballots previously distributed were marked and collected.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Professor Chappell began by offering congratulations to his successor and noted the selection of Dean Lutzer for the Thomas Jefferson Award. He then reported on the activities of Faculty Affairs regarding the Dean search, including the preparation of a letter to each candidate regarding the most pressing concerns of the Faculty, the development of a set of questions to be asked of each candidate, and the attendance at the meetings and open fora with the intention of making a recommendation to the Dean Search Committee.

He also stressed that the delay in announcing the Summer Research Grants and Faculty Research Assignments was discussed as a matter of great concern. The situation was resolved happily by the Provost in January, but the Faculty Affairs Committee, recognizing that the absence of funding for replacements is a real contingency, remains very concerned for the integrity of our research program and hopes that the program will not become the standard cushion for fiscal crises.

Regarding Faculty Assembly business, Professor Chappell reported that a resolution in support of the restoration of funds for higher education had been passed and sent on to Richmond at the 24 January meeting. He also noted that Professor Slevin had made a presentation for the Liaison Committee to the Board of Visitors at their meeting of 3 February on the invisible activities of faculty members, and that it had been very well received.

Educational Policy Committee

Professor Tracy noted that his committee's report for this month contained discussion items only. He pointed out the progress on the new curriculum in regard to GER course proposals and the new assessment procedure for the GER's which the EPC endorses. He then read through the discussion items on the report regarding pilot projects in general and the Music Department's project specifically.

Professor Gutwein responded that we should discuss the duration of pilot projects after we know the tools of assessment.

Dean Lutzer interjected that discussions continue in order to bring in an acceptable document next month.

Professor Thomas Finn asked whether the EPC has proposed an extension or whether that was still being discussed.

Professor Rublein inquired about the status of the Art and Art History pilot project.

Professor Tracy responded that it is one year later than the Music project.

Professor Johnston admitted to having reservations about how important enrollment figures have been in this evaluation and gave examples where comparisons to other universities' situations may justify our programs' situations.

Professor Tracy responded that the EPC has a right to be concerned about any migration of students to other programs and to use enrollment figures as one way of looking for the impact on the students of a new curriculum, but they are not involved in setting targets.

Professor Edgar Williams asked how one compares things in a vacuum -- perhaps the Music Department had too many students 5 years ago; some departments have more service oriented programs, others are more oriented towards majors.

Dean Lutzer added that any Dean who sees a serious drop in a department's enrollments has to realize that such a change has put positions and major programs at risk, especially under the current state system.

Professor Edgar Williams responded that we need real criteria.

Dean Lutzer replied that we do need to set up enrollment targets through mutual consultation.

Professor Gutwein called for qualitative assessment, and added that there may need to be a standard method on a college-wide basis to provide a baseline, since the Music Department's surveys have been too idiosyncratic. If we hold pilot projects to a higher standard, the double standard will discourage further program innovations.

Dean Lutzer commented that the Music Project will help to establish the guidelines and baselines, as Sociology did early in the assessment project.

Professor Tracy stated that the new proposals have been crafted to meet these goals and set up such a uniform process.

Professor Tiefel expressed a hope that the consensus between EPC and Music would hold together and not have to be fought out on the floor of the Faculty meetings. He then asked whether there is an ongoing process of more courses to be submitted to the working groups.

Professor Tracy answered that the working groups have not been disbanded and would have more work to do; the snake has swallowed the water buffalo, but can still eat something else.

Dean Lutzer announced the election results: winners were Gary A. Smith, Donald J. Baxter, Mary J. Voigt, Rex K. Kincaid, Paul K. Stockmeyer, and Clay Clemens.

International Studies Committee

Professor MacGowan outlined the responsibilities of the Committee, its current activities, and the future focus of its efforts to improve opportunities for international study and communications, and then highlighted the details of the committee's 1993-94 report.

There was no response to the Dean's call for other business. He then called for a motion to adjourn and the Faculty responded with a rising motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


James R. Baron

Secretary of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences