

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
The College of William and Mary  
May 5, 1998 Ewell Hall 107**

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m., Dean P. Geoffrey Feiss, presiding. The published agenda was revised in order to complete our Old Business.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting (April 7) and the Special Meeting of April 14

The minutes of the April 7 meeting were corrected as follows:

Approximately nine hundred "visitors" contacted the campus during the virtual visit, not five hundred as reported in the minutes. In regard to faculty salary increases, Provost Cell noted that the school is being asked to pay for raises only in part through tuition increases. Substantial funds for salary increases have been allocated by the state. The minutes of the April 7, 1998 meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes of the special meeting of April 14, 1998 were approved as submitted.

II. Reports of Administrative Officers

Provost Cell reported that acceptances are currently down by 120 relative to acceptance levels at this point last year. This is good news, as it seems unlikely that we will over-enroll. The provost thanked the faculty for its continued good work as we approach the end of the academic year.

III. Memorial for Howard Fraser

In memory of the late Howard Fraser Dean Feiss read the citation from the Thomas Ashley Graves Jr. Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching, which noted both Professor Fraser's scholarly achievements and his generous and

enlivening support of students and colleagues. George Greenia then read the following memorial resolution:

#### Memorial Resolution

Howard M. Fraser, Professor of Modern Languages, Emeritus

Howard Fraser gave 24 years of tireless service and excellent teaching to the College, his students, and his colleagues before succumbing to cancer on April 18, 1998. He passed away, at age 54, at his home and surrounded by his family.

A native New Yorker, Howard loved to remind us that there were other centers of culture beyond the pastures of Williamsburg. He began his study of Latin American literatures and cultures at Columbia University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1964. Subsequent Masters degrees were earned at New Mexico, in Spanish and Portuguese, and at Harvard, in Portuguese and linguistics. His PhD in Spanish was again from New Mexico. More than any of his colleagues perhaps, Howard was able to represent the vast diversity of Latin American languages and culture. For years he single-handedly maintained a vibrant undergraduate program in Portuguese which gave many of our Spanish majors a special edge later on in graduate school.

Prof. Fraser's scholarly efforts quickly made him a discussant and contributor on the national scene. A co-founder of the respected literary journal *Chasqui*--the native Peruvian word for "messenger"--Howard served as its co-director and managing editor for over twenty years. Other publications, such as *The Latin Literary Review* and *Hispania*, the journal of the American

Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, also benefited from Howard's service as an associate editor. The breadth of his professional commitment and expertise are well exemplified by his two books. *Caras y caretes* documents the role played by that influential literary magazine in the ferment of turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires. *In the Presence of Mystery: Modernist Fiction and the Occult* explored far different critical territory, as did his most recent work on theories of children's literature and the cultural constraints on its production.

Howard's teaching was just as influential as his research. A score of graduates have volunteered that his personal enthusiasm for Spanish decided their concentration--or even their career. From the 101 classroom to the senior seminar on Magical Realism to the sometimes madcap cultural "events" of the Spanish House, Howard's love of music, language and life made a common academic field into a charged experience for a generation of William and Mary students. In recent weeks individual stories have emerged by the hundreds, none perhaps as amusing or memorable as Howard pounding drums in the classroom to teach the rhythms of an Afro-Cuban hymn to the glistening snake. Finally, Howard provided exceptional service and unrivaled professional example in endless committee work--even to the point of chairing a promotion committee during a devastating course of chemotherapy--in his two terms as Department Chair, and in his tenure as National Endowment of Humanities Professor of Modern Languages. His example and his friendship will be missed by our entire College community.

Therefore, we ask that it be resolved that the Faculty of Arts & Sciences record in its permanent minutes that it acknowledges the many contributions Howard Fraser made to the College of William & Mary and mourns his passing. Be it further resolved that a copy of this tribute be sent to members of his family.

The faculty observed a moment of silence in honor of Professor Fraser.

Dean Feiss then announced the inauguration of the Howard Fraser Memorial Fund. Donations for this student scholarship may be sent to Katherine Kulick.

Dean Feiss next announced the following awards, honors, and faculty retirements:

Awards and Honors Received During 1997-98

American Studies- Robert Gross, Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American Studies for Denmark

Anthropology- Barbara King, State Council of Higher Education Outstanding Faculty Award; Richard and Sally Price, Fulbright Lectureship in Brazil; Vincent Sutlive, Anthropology Award by the Virginia Social Science Association

Chemistry- Gary DeFotis, State Council of Higher Education Outstanding Faculty Award

English- Nancy Schoenberger, 1998 New York University Press Prize for Poetry; Sharon Zuber and David Essex, Global Vision Award from the 1997 World Population Film/Video Festival; David Essex, Gold Award for Best Original Dramatic Screen Play, Houston Film Festival

Geology- Jerre Johnson, John Moss Award for Excellence in College Teaching  
(Eastern Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers)

Physics- Reginald Brown, NSF Career Award; Shiwei Zhang, NSF Career  
Award

Thomas Ashley Graves Award

Howard Fraser

Jefferson Awards

Randy Coleman- The Jefferson Award

Colleen Kennedy- The Jefferson Teaching Award

Alumni Fellows Awards (September, 1997)

Keith Griffioen (Physics)

Paul Heideman (Biology)

Lu Ann Homza (History)

Christopher Howard (Government)

Alumni Fellows Awards (September, 1998)

Christy Burns (English)

Margaret Saha (Biology)

Nancy Schoenberger (English)

Jennifer Tayler (MLL)

1997-98 Retirees

William Cobb (Philosophy)

Patricia Crowe (Kinesiology)

William DeFotis (Music)

Howard Fraser (MLL)

James Livingston (Religion)

Larry Rabinowitz (Mathematics)

Leonard Schifrin (Economics)

#### IV. Nominations and Elections

Steve Knudson presented the following slate of nominees, which was approved without further nominations from the floor:

Chair, Educational Policy Committee

X William Cooke (Phys)

Procedural Review Committee

X Dorothy Coleman (Phil)

Christopher MacGowan (Eng)

Faculty Hearing Committee

John Conlee (Eng)

X Hans Tiefel (Rel)

Board of Faculty Compensation

X Francie Cate-Arries (MLL)

Anne Rasmussen (Mus)

X Berhanu Abegaz (Econ)

Norman Fashing (Bio)

Faculty Assembly

Donald Baxter (Govt)

X Mary Voigt (Anth)

Candidates whose names are marked with "X" were elected.

#### V. Old Business

Hans Beier presented the 1996-97 report (deferred since February, 1998) of the International Studies Committee. The full report is available on the Web at FAS/Meetings. This university-wide committee oversees academic programs in International Studies, programs abroad, and various Reves Center activities. In 1996-97 fifty-one concentrators graduated in International Relations and twenty in Area Studies within International Studies. Two hundred William & Mary students studied abroad. Concentration advising committees were established for each area. The Borgenicht Endowment brought its first scholar to campus. In general, International Studies is well-integrated and in a healthy state. In response to a question regarding the number of faculty assigned to the Cambridge program, the plan is to return to three for 1999.

Franz Gross presented two new policies of the Committee on Graduate Studies (full text attached to hard copy):

Courses offered jointly to graduates and undergraduates: Any course awarding graduate credit must carry a designation of 500 or higher and be approved by CoGS. Courses at the 600 level are open to undergraduates only with the dean's permission. No more than 12 credit hours of 500 level courses can be applied toward a graduate degree. The catalogue description of a 500 level course must state that the course is open to undergraduates and specify additional requirements for graduate credit. Discussion clarified that although CoGS is moving toward requiring additional work for graduate credit, this is

not yet universal practice. The policy was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Graduate courses taught by units which do not offer a graduate degree:

Units not offering graduate degrees are encouraged to offer graduate courses in support of the college's graduate programs. Courses must be approved by CoGS; application for approval must specify which students are expected to take the course and the course's impact on both graduate and undergraduate programs. Such courses will ordinarily be designated 400/500 and will be listed in a separate section of the graduate catalogue. The policy was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### VI. Report of the Educational Policy Committee

Larry Ventis presented the committee's 1997-98 report, which details issues dealt with over the past year. The report also included the following item for faculty approval:

Recommended Change in Writing Requirement: EPC has approved (and the English Department endorses) the Writing Committee's recommendation that exemption from the lower-division writing requirement no longer be based on SAT scores. The only exemptions to the writing requirement would now be through AP, IB, or transfer credit. In response to the question of whether this change would result in a need for additional courses, the answer was that probably fewer than 100 students would be affected. The new policy was approved by unanimous voice vote.

In response to a question regarding the growing number of GER courses, Ventis and Mark Fowler responded that the entire GER system is continually

being reviewed; monitoring will include enrollment and area shifts. It's still too early to draw firm conclusions.

## VII. Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee

The intrepid Jack Willis led the faculty to the stunning conclusion of revisions to the current draft of the new Faculty Manual. In Section A.5. Evaluation of Students, the committee proposed to change the word "be" in the last sentence to "of" ("each piece of required work"). Section A.5 was approved by unanimous voice vote as amended by the committee. In Section A.6. Student Course Evaluations, the committee proposed adding the phrase "sections of all their" to the first sentence ("all sections of all their courses, including . . ."). Discussion clarified that departments may design their own evaluation forms. It was not clear whether individual faculty members could design their own forms; this may need clarification before final approval of the manual. It was observed that a faculty member who administers the evaluation during the final exam cannot be present and available to students without de facto being present while students fill out the evaluation forms. Discussion weighed the merits of administering the evaluation during the final exam period. On the positive side, students are present during the exam period who might be absent during the last week of classes; they also have the benefit of being able to evaluate the final exam itself. On the negative side, students may be less inclined to take time and care on the evaluation--indeed, they may not have the required time--during the final exam period. The question was raised of whether the forms ought to be redesigned and made uniform

for the college. FAC has not considered this; it falls under the purview of the EPC. Section A.6 was approved by unanimous voice vote as amended by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Galambush

Assistant Professor of Religion