

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences**  
**The College of William and Mary**  
**December 1, 1998**  
**Millington 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m., Dean P. Geoffrey Feiss, presiding.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Regarding the motion recorded in section III, paragraph 3, conflict continued over the word "charging." Although this word was used when the motion was made, the faculty does not have the authority to direct the actions of its representatives. The minutes were therefore amended, substituting "enjoining" for "charging" in the motion and "enjoin" for "charge" in the previous sentence. It was further noted that implicit in such a request is the expectation that the representatives will report back to the faculty. The minutes of the November 3, 1998 meeting were approved as amended.

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Dean Feiss reported that the provost is in New York on development business.

III. Nominations and Elections

Gene Tracy presented the following slate of nominees, which was approved (despite objections from Clay Clemens) without nominations from the floor:

Secretary of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

X Clay Clemens (Govt)

Faculty Affairs Committee

Area I:

Dorothy Coleman (Phil)

X Katherine Kulick (MLL)

Area II:

Philip Funigiello (Hist)

X Barbara King (Anth)

The candidates whose names are marked with "X" were elected. The outgoing secretary adds her personal congratulations to Mr. Clemens.

#### IV. Committee on Graduate Studies Annual Report

Franz Gross summarized the COGS Annual Report, highlighting the following: new policies on courses offered jointly to graduate and undergraduates and on undergraduate units offering graduate courses, support for graduate students (the new training program for teaching fellows, the task force on learning climate, the extension of health care coverage for research graduate students), and recruitment of graduate students. Gross also reported that in the current semester the university is employing seven teaching fellows (graduate students teaching as teachers of record) and 111 teaching assistants. In regard to recruitment of graduate students, our applications have been down in recent years, consistent with a national trend. The quality of the applicants has not decreased. We do, however, need to attend to recruitment, especially since some of our graduate programs are not well known. Cindy Hahamovitch has been appointed Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, with responsibility for recruitment.

Discussion focused on the quality of applicants. It was noted that in some departments quality indicators such as undergraduate GPA have decreased substantially; we need to strengthen both the programs themselves and recruitment. The committee is also asking for substantial increases in funding, including Arts & Sciences-wide fellowships and better funding at the Masters level. Gross agreed that we need to be aware of problems surrounding the overproduction of Ph.D.'s, but stressed our good record in placing graduates in a variety of positions (academic and non-academic). In issues of both recruitment and placement Gross emphasized the need for better data gathering.

#### V. Old Business

No old business was brought forward.

#### VI. New Business

Dean Feiss announced President Sullivan's request for an update of the 1994 Strategic Plan, noting our accomplishments and reviewing our outstanding goals. The Board of Visitors plans to re-examine the 1994 restructuring; it is therefore appropriate for us to consider our goals and priorities at this juncture. The FAC has approved a proposal that the dean form a committee in the spring of 1999, consisting of Dean Feiss, the deans of graduate and undergraduate studies, the chair of FAC, a representative from the Dean's Advisory Council, six faculty representatives, one undergraduate student, and one graduate student. The committee will be charged with updating the 1994 plan. The committee will complete its work and present the faculty with an Arts & Sciences update of the Strategic Plan in advance of the summer administrative retreat. Although the committee will reach its own conclusions, the dean intends that the committee should focus on what has not been accomplished from the 1994 plan and assess whether these are still appropriate goals. The committee will not be charged with repeating the strategic planning process.

The faculty discussed the wider phenomenon of increased activism on the part of boards and the mistrust that often motivates such activism. Initiatives such as inviting board members to sit in on classes were suggested; the dean agreed that we can and should address the issue on a number of fronts, but cautioned that some individuals will not be impressed by any action on our part.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Galambush

Assistant Professor of Religion