

Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

The College of William and Mary

September 7, 1999, Millington 150

<p>The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Geoffrey Feiss.

<p>I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

<p>The minutes of the May 4, 1999 were approved.

<p>II. Reports of the Administrative Officers

<p>Provost Cell reported that the size of this fall's entering class would be in the 1290-1300 range, and that 190 of these incoming students qualified for Monroe Scholarships. She also noted that Information Technology staff ensured that all freshmen with dorm room computers were hooked into the College network by the end of their first weekend on campus. In addition, she praised the IT training sessions held to familiarize staff members with new computing technologies.

<p>Turning to upcoming events, the Provost reminded those in attendance of the all-College faculty meeting scheduled for Friday, September 17 at 4:00 in Tucker auditorium, and the picnic to follow in the Wren Yard. She also noted that the Board of Visitors would be meeting on campus on September 9, and that several members of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Higher Education would hold an open meeting at 3:00 on September 9.

<p>Dean Feiss welcomed Barbara Watkinson to her first faculty meeting in her new capacity as Undergraduate Dean and thanked Mark Fowler for his service in that position. He thanked professors Joel Schwartz, Jenny Taylor, Debbie Bebout and Barbara King in particular for their role in this year's new faculty orientation program. In addition, Dean Feiss noted that newly-minted versions of both the Arts and Sciences Faculty Handbook and the Faculty Handbook would arrive in faculty mailboxes soon, if they had not already.

<p>He also announced the inauguration of the Dean's Lecture Series, in which one faculty member will be invited to give a presentation on ongoing research. The first speaker will be Professor Barbara King of the Anthropology Department on September 29 at 7:30 pm.

<p>Dean Feiss noted that the new Arts and Sciences continuance standards take effect this semester, making mid-semester faculty reports of students in academic jeopardy especially important. He noted that the Committee to Update the Strategic Plan is completing its work and will have specific recommendations this semester. He reported that the State Council on Higher Education has completed its extensive evaluation of general education in the Commonwealth's universities.

<p>Finally, he referred faculty to a memo outlining the costs of and funding sources for the proposed Anthropology PhD program. It indicates that the Deans are ready to implement this program, pending approval by the administration and the State Council. As for private funds outlined in the memo, Dean Feiss noted the difficulty of attaining concrete commitments for a program not yet formally approved, but indicated a high degree of certainty about receiving such support. In answer to questions, he and Dean Gross noted that one part of the funding will come from foregoing replacement of a retiring faculty member: they noted

that the Provost had approved this arrangement, which had been discussed at the Arts and Sciences meeting on March 4, 1997, when the faculty first voted upon the doctoral program (Anthropology chair Professor Mary Voigt pointed out that the Department had gained five new positions prior to 1993, before proposing the PhD program, and had decided that it could forego a retirement replacement without diminishing its ability to staff undergraduate courses). Feiss and Gross noted the significance of a commitment of private funds to part of the program and support from Colonial Williamsburg. In answer to questions, they noted that the program will fund interns at the College's Center for Archeological Research, which in turn will provide a research opportunity for doctoral students.

<p>III. Nominations and Elections

<p>On behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, Will Hausman presented the following candidates for election to the Committee on Nominations and Elections [X denotes elected].

<p>Area I (Vote for One)

X Jennifer Taylor, Modern Languages

Jack Willis, English

<p>Area II (Vote for Two)

X Berhanu Abegaz, Economics

X John Charles, Kinesiology

<p>Area III (Vote for One)

X Carey Bagdassarian, Chemistry

Marc Sher, Physics

<p>IV. Faculty Affairs Committee

<p>Will Hausman outlined the FAC's aims for the upcoming year (adding that faculty suggestions of new items for the committee to consider should be sent directly to him at wjhaus@wm.edu). Its agenda includes a proposal to help increase attendance at Arts and Sciences meetings and free up time for governance activities generally by discouraging departments from assigning (continuing) faculty to teach at the 3:30-5:00 time slot on Tuesdays. In answer to questions, Hausman saw no reason why this policy could not be initiated by spring 2000. It was also noted that State regulations on space allocation do necessitate that courses be taught at all times of the day, including late afternoon, a point underscored by the Provost. Hausman agreed that this was a potential complication, albeit mainly for smaller departments that have fewer courses taught by visiting or adjunct faculty that could be taught on Tuesday afternoon. Several faculty pointed out that conflicts with teaching schedules might not be the only reason for low attendance

<p>Other items on FAC's agenda include efforts to help a) complete submission and approval of departmental plans for post-tenure reviews (about half are not yet formally in place); b) implement the faculty's 1999 decision to have one common question on all departments' student evaluation forms; c) review the effectiveness of the Faculty Assembly; d) seek increased funding for faculty research to cover FRAs and summer grants, but also to make junior leaves an entitlement (currently the latter are offered mainly by larger departments that are more easily able to forego teaching some courses); e) discuss how service is

defined for purposes of merit evaluation; and f) ensure faculty involvement in the new Citizenship Initiative.

<p>Hausman then turned over the FAC report to David Lutzer to discuss proposed changes in the structure of the College-wide Faculty Assembly. Lutzer gave a brief history of the FASS, noting that its 36 members have hitherto been drawn from seven constituencies--all three areas of Arts and Sciences, as well as the four schools (Law, Business, Education and Marine Science). Of its three standing committees, he added, one--the Executive Committee, has had the most major policy responsibility; the Academic Affairs committee has also dealt with policy, though its mandate has been less clear; the Committee on Committees has had a clear role--to ensure faculty representation on appointed university committees--but no policy relevance.

<p>Some of the proposed changes would, Lutzer noted, alter the FASS's constitution, thus requiring a positive vote of five of the seven constituencies; other changes would only require the Assembly to modify its own by-laws (both would require approval by the Board of Visitors).

<p>Lutzer outlined two constitutional changes: a) reducing the FASS from 36 to 20 elected faculty, and b) thus reducing the number of seats held by each constituency, but keeping representation across all the seven roughly in the same proportion as hitherto (under the proposed plan, Arts and Sciences would henceforth have 12 rather than 22 members, the schools 8 rather than 14).

<p>A second set of proposals would change the by-laws, to keep the Executive Committee (which would take over the Committee on Committees role) and retitle the Academic Policy committee the Academic Affairs Committee, while creating a Committee on Faculty Affairs and a Committee on Planning and Resources. Each FASS member would henceforth serve on two. Thus the new Assembly would have 20 total members, each serving on two of the four ten-member committees. Lutzer noted, the plan would call for each of the latter to require reports from other university-wide faculty committees (though in response to questions, he noted that some--such as Procedural Review--have traditionally not had to report to FASS).

<p> In answer to further questions, Lutzer shared the concern that a reducing the assembly's size might make assuring diversity in representation more difficult, but noted that quality of input would improve with a smaller body. Likewise, Lutzer also seconded a concern that expanding the size of the FASS's committees from seven to ten members could make them unwieldy (the committees, not the faculty members).

<p>Another question dealt with compensation for faculty time: currently only members of the Executive Committee have been offered increased Professional Development Funds. Lutzer noted that this support would need to be redistributed under the new plan.

<p>Finally, to the suggestion that the FASS take over the tasks of certain existing university-wide faculty advisory committees, Lutzer suggested that the new arrangement would allow the assembly greater leverage to urge the latter to meet more regularly.

<p>These proposals will be brought for a vote at the October meeting.

<p>There being no further old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

<p>Respectfully submitted,

<p>Clay Clemens

<p>Associate Professor of Government

<p>Secretary's Note: Dean Feiss noted that this will be the last semester of the millennium; the Provost countered that it would merely be the last semester of the millennium's penultimate year. In either case, however, the rapid approach of the year 2000 makes it imperative that all steps be taken to stave off the worst consequences of the Y2K computer glitch. Be assured that the College is doing everything possible in this respect by January 1. However, to those still concerned about being cut off from access to the Arts and Sciences website, and thus to the minutes of faculty meetings from the past several semesters, it is not too soon to consider taking precautions, such as downloading and printing hard copies as soon as possible.</p>