

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
The College of William and Mary
October 5, 1999, Millington 150**

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

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the September 7, 1999 were approved with one correction noted

II. Reports of the Administrative Officers

Provost Cell reported on two initiatives, soon to be publicized. One involves cooperation between the College and Thomas Nelson Community College on workforce training. The joint project (no facility as such is envisioned) will act as a broker, helping to see if certain faculty assets can be matched up with the needs of local employers or prospective employers. Provost Cell noted that this venture can help address the College's concern about the structure of employment in this area, which is dependent on tourism and retirement services: low-wage workers are imported, whereas potentially higher-wage employees gravitate elsewhere for lack of prospects. Any such role the College can play in diversifying the local economy might also help make it a more attractive place for students: currently applications are trending downward (at a time when figures for schools like UVA, JMU and Georgetown are rising), and a major reason high school students cite for not coming is location. Secondly, attracting more and different business to the area might provide opportunities for new relations with corporations that could eventually help compensate for the increasing challenge of getting state funding.

The Provost also announced a second part of this strategy, one involving the College and Colonial Williamsburg--which, for its part, is concerned that ever more tourists come to Williamsburg but do not patronize the restoration or Merchants Square. A major proposal is thus under consideration to revitalize and expand the latter with 250,000 square feet of additional space for retail and dining. Part of this plan would involve moving the College Bookstore from its Jamestown Road site to the former Casey's building in Merchants' Square: this shift from a 10,000 square foot facility (14,000 with a scheduled expansion) to one of 25,000 square feet would permit Barnes & Noble to expand, creating a full-scale store (with a Starbucks).

III. Nominations and Elections

Professor Lu Ann Homza introduced the nominees for two committee replacements.
[X denotes elected].

Committee on Degrees: Special Election

(One year replacement from any area to replace Cindy Hahamovitch)

Todd Avert, Physics

X Sharon Broadwater, Biology

Committee on International Studies: Special Election

(Fall semester replacement for Anne Rasmussen)

X Monica Kaup, English

Jim Griffin, Modern Languages

IV. Faculty Affairs Committee

On behalf of the Faculty Assembly, David Lutzer moved a resolution introduced and discussed at the September meeting. Its first set of proposals would modify the FASS constitution, shrinking that body to 20 members and modifying the balance of representation among the university's seven constituencies (Arts & Science's three areas would have four members each and each school two). To an objection from the floor that this change would reduce chances for participation in faculty governance, Lutzer responded that the model of the Faculty Affairs Committee suggests that smaller bodies encourage greater participation. The motion passed on a voice vote (passage in two of the other four constituencies and approval by the Board of Visitors would then lead to a change in FASS by-laws with regard to its internal committee structure).

V. Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee

Professor Larry Becker reported on the Committee on Retention, Promotion and Tenure's 1998-99 recommendations to the Dean: of 23 fall semester tenure cases, the Committee voted negatively on one; was divided evenly on another; was divided, but voted positively on a third; and recommended the remainder. RPT voted to endorse all 10 cases before it in the spring--five for promotion, one for hiring with tenure, one for promotion to associate professor without tenure, one for emeritus promotion, and one mid-probationary retention.

In answer to questions, Professor Becker said that this year's report did not include the final disposition of the cases on which RPT made recommendations. Dean Feiss indicated that he will henceforth report back to the Committee on the final actions taken once such information is available. Several faculty underscored the importance of including that material in the RPT's year-end report as a measurement of the Committee's effectiveness.

VI. New Business

On behalf of the Task Force for the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), Dean Barbara Watkinson and the Secretary urged all faculty to make a pledge. They noted the wide variety and number of charitable organizations that benefit, adding that donations may be designated directly for any such groups. They stressed that past faculty participation has been slightly below the College average of 22% and--as an incentive--promised to report back in November on those departments that have an especially high rate of pledging this fall.

In answer to a question, Dean Feiss summarized the conclusion of a recent report on distance learning: it underscores the value of integrating relevant technologies into instruction on-campus, but does not envision any fundamental change in the nature of the College's academic program and makes no proposals. The Faculty Affairs Committee saw the report, but was not asked to endorse it. One faculty member stressed the importance of early, frequent faculty involvement in any discussion of something which such potential pedagogical importance.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Clemens

Associate Professor of Government

Secretary's Note: A floor motion will be introduced at the November Arts and Sciences meeting to shift all faculty merit pay raises from departments with low rates of participation in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign to those with high rates of participation. See you there...