

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
The College of William and Mary
December 7, 1999, Tucker 120**

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 November 2, 1999 were approved as posted.

II. Reports of the Administrative Officers

Dean Feiss reported that Provost Cell was in New York with Lady Thatcher. With regard to Arts and Sciences announcements, he reminded faculty of the need to report all grades (G's if necessary) before the end of December so as to avoid any potential Y2K complications. Otherwise, he reported, that the College preparations for the date turnover were complete: facilities were to be staffed on December 31-January 1 to handle any contingencies, three toll-free telephone numbers had been set up, and tests of all systems showed no problems.

III. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)

Will Hausman reported that FAC is reviewing the Strategic Plan update document and is also monitoring progress on approval of post-tenure review policies: the process is about halfway done, he reported, as differences between the Procedural Review Committee and some departments are still being reconciled. Meanwhile, the Faculty Assembly is reviewing the university policy statement on post-tenure review, which the Personnel Policy committee must ultimately approve. He added that the Assembly Executive Committee (which includes two FAC members) is working on an unrelated document proposing revised language on how to count service in all personnel evaluations (see the November 1999 Arts and Sciences minutes).

Hausman also moved two resolutions in anticipation of the Board of Visitors' approval of recent amendments to the Faculty Assembly constitution (see the October Arts and Sciences minutes).

1) The first motion would a) reduce the number of FAC members automatically on the Assembly from six to three, one from each area (nominees for one of the two open slots to be filled on FAC annually would also be simultaneously nominated for a place in the Assembly), and b) require that one of those three FAC members--whenever possible the chair--would also serve as one of the Arts and Sciences representatives on the Assembly's Executive Committee.

2) The second motion would resolve an anomaly in the current cycle of elections: by requiring that some current FAC members serve for either longer or shorter than normal periods, it would restore a situation in which two terms expire each year.

The only discussion centered on what might happen if the Board delayed or rejected the

constitutional amendments to restructure the Assembly, amendments necessitating these changes in the Arts and Sciences elections to the Assembly. But it was agreed that approving these two motions “in anticipation” of Board action on the amendments covered that contingency.

Both motions then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Nominations and Elections

After these deliberations, the Nominations and Election committee submitted its list of candidates for election to three committees, one of which is affected by the above change

Procedural Review Committee

X Robert MacCubbin, English

Educational Policy Committee

X Paula Blank, English.

Anne Rasmussen, Music

Faculty Affairs, Area III

Morton Eckhause, Physics

X Rex Kincaid, Mathematics

V. Educational Policy Committee

In a midyear report, Bill Cooke noted that EPC approved 20 new courses or course descriptions for fall 1999. He noted that content changes in course with GER credit require EPC action, and several of these changes were in courses carrying GER 4, 6 and 7 designations.

EPC also approved a new minor in teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language.

As for GER assessment, he reported that the process for GER 3 was completed in 1998-99 and may result in some proposed modifications to be discussed in the spring of 2000. This academic year, EPC has also met with the working groups for GERs 5 and 6. The assessment of GER 1 is getting off the ground, while the group working on GER 2 is putting out a survey with the aim of completing its work by Spring 2001.

Cooke also pointed out that forms for GER approval are on the web (see the Arts and Sciences homepage, Forms and Documents, EPC, or go to <http://www.physics.wm.edu/~cooke/EPC/>).

Cooke also noted that the upper-level writing proficiency requirement has been assessed. Until now, he noted, the lower-level writing proficiency has been evaluated only in the context of the overall assessment of freshmen seminars, but will henceforth be done separately so as to ensure continuity between the goals of this requirement and the upper-level writing proficiency.

IV. New Business

On behalf of the Task Force for the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), Dean Barbara Watkinson and the Secretary thanked the faculty for its record-setting participation: the final count showed that nearly 31% made contributions. Sociology, Chemistry, Government, Kinesiology and Physics had the highest rates of faculty participation, while the largest dollar amounts came from Physics, History, English, Chemistry and Government.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Clemens

Associate Professor of Government

Secretary's Note: Despite extensive university preparations to handle any potential problems from the Y2K date turnover on computers, some faculty have expressed concern about the lack of plans to address prospects of apocalypse. Others, however, voice confidence that, should the world indeed come to an end on January 1, 2000, the College need not worry immediately, as everything plainly makes it to Williamsburg about ten years later than everywhere else anyway.