

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
The College of William and Mary
March 13, Millington 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Barbara Watkinson (in the absence of Dean Geoffrey Feiss).

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the February 5, 2001 meeting were approved with a correction (inserting the word “not” in a sentence on whether failing grades alone qualified as grounds for late withdrawal).

II. Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee

Carey Bagdasarian presented the Committee’s nominations for four committees; no additional nominees were proposed from the floor (x denotes elected).

Academic Status (two 3-year terms):

Area II

x Kris Lane (History)

Robert Kohl (Kinesiology)

Area III

x Hugo Woerdeman (Mathematics)

Educational Policy (three 3-year terms):

Area I

Christy Burns (English)

x Jennifer Taylor (MLL)

Area II

x Evelyn Hall (Kinesiology)

Area III

Gary DeFotis (Chemistry)

x John Michael Finn (Physics)

International Studies (three 3-year terms)

Area I

Roberta Hatcher

x Matthew Sobnosky (Theater and Speech)

Area II

x Abdullah Dashti (Anthropology)

Area III

John Delos (Physics)

x William Kossler (Physics)

Retention, Promotion and Tenure (one three year term)

x David Kranbuehl (Chemistry)

Chi-Kwong Li (Mathematics)

III. Reports of Administrative Officers

Dean Watkinson reported that, in line with the requirements from Richmond, the College had imposed a temporary hiring freeze and presented proposed cuts in operating costs on March 2. Since that time the freeze on hiring and purchasing has been lifted, although one remains in effect for capital construction projects (most notable, in the College's case, Millington renovations), although 2.1 million dollars is proposed to be restored to William and Mary's capital maintenance fund. The impact of the budget impasse on the retirement benefit situation remains unclear: the Governor's revenue plans draw on 72 million dollars from the Virginia State Retirement System, but it is not known whether funds in optional retirement plans will be affected..

IV. Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee

Professor Will Hausman reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) continues to monitor mid-semester grade reporting, adding that it is too early at this stage to draw conclusions about the rate of faculty response. He alerted faculty to a forum for discussion of proposed revisions in the Post Tenure Review procedures, scheduled for March 15.

V. Report of the Educational Policy Committee

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC), Dean Watkinson discussed proposed changes in the current catalog's language regarding internships. Concerns were first raised in fall 2000 about inconsistent application of existing limits on academic credit for paid internships. Upon examination, however, EPC concluded that whether or not students receive pay for an internship is not so much of a concern as whether such positions meet clear academic criteria.

As a result, EPC has proposed modifying the current College catalog copy to stipulate that students may receive credit for an internship only so long as it incorporates "an analytic or research component, and a final written report." Departments would still be able to decide how many credits from internships could be applied to a concentration, and how many credit hours would be offered per internship experience (though 3 would remain the norm). Likewise, under this proposal, no more than 6 credits could be counted toward the 120 total needed for graduation. In addition, students would henceforth be required to complete an internship agreement also signed by a faculty supervisor and any external supervisor, and file it with the Office of Academic Advising before beginning the internship (otherwise no credit can be given). Finally, international students who receive payment for such a position would be urged to contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs regarding visa requirements.

It was suggested that the term faculty “supervisor” be replaced by faculty “evaluator” in order to avoid creating any impression that faculty members will play a direct role in the internship. It was also proposed that the clause on international students be modified to apply only to those who “anticipate receiving payment.” Both amendments were accepted as friendly.

In answer to another question, Dean Watkinson said that EPC did not want to set a threshold for the number of internship hours necessary for credit, leaving that to departments instead.

Replying to another question, she stated that EPC had not meant to exclude students from receiving less than 3 credits for an internship and accepted as a friendly amendment the proposal that this clause be modified to “normally a maximum of three hours are awarded.”

She noted in reply to further questions that no department is required to offer credit for internships and any that does not want to continue offering an internship course should feel free to drop it.

She added that summer tuition would likely prove a disincentive and thus—especially since EPC has been reassured that no liability issues are involved—students would enroll in the fall semester.

In response to further questions, Dean Watkinson agreed that any student who did an internship without first filing an agreement with Academic Advising would not be enrolled in an internship course. Some faculty suggested that Academic Advising could first vet enrollments in any internship courses and/or that the latter could be asterisked as “permission of instructor” only.

The proposed new language, amended as noted, received unanimous approval by voice vote.

VI. International Studies Committee

Professor Talbot Taylor delivered the academic year 1999-2000 report of the International Studies Committee (ISC). The ISC had agreed that incoming students could take part in College-sponsored study abroad programs before their freshman year. It had also approved a change in the International Relations Concentration, eliminating separate “tracks,” restructuring its core requirements, tightening the language requirement and simplifying the advising/approval process.

Items under discussion include strengthening the Cambridge Program by integrating more British faculty and extending the faculty director’s position to two years. He expressed the ISC’s agreement that the program should appeal more broadly to students from different departments.

Taylor also added that a Russian Studies summer program in St. Petersburg is under review, along with a semester program at Hertford College, Oxford: the latter would involve ten students from the College annually and be less costly than a current program run by Butler College.

Finally, he suggested that the ISC is considering a staggered pay scale for resident directors of summer programs, making it easier for the smaller ones to break even.

One faculty member strongly encouraged greater quality control of the College's study abroad programs: the contact hours vary too much from year to year, that students are seeking credit for huge courses with no or only minimal (often oral) examinations. Talbot voiced his agreement.

Dean Watkinson interjected that the Dean's Office is establishing a data base of courses in study abroad programs in which students from the College take part, so that chairs/advisors will be able to check and see what/how many credits were granted for such courses in previous years.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Clemens

Professor of Government

Secretary's Note: The President, Provost and Dean of the Faculty were unable to attend today's meeting because they were working on the College's behalf in Richmond. However, it has also come to the Secretary's attention that, under a new security regulation, the tenuous condition of Millington's roof makes it unsafe for more than three senior administrators to appear inside the building at any one time. Moreover, this raises the issue of succession: should the Undergraduate and Graduate deans also be unable to attend, the Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee would preside at meetings, lending even greater urgency to restoring funds for Millington's renovation.