

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
The College of William and Mary**

**October 1, 2002,  
Millington 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m. by Dean Geoffrey Feiss.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the September 3, 2002 meeting were approved as posted.

II. Elections

Educational Policy Committee

One 3-year term, Area 3

- X Phil Kearns (Computer Science)
- Gunter Luepke (Applied Science)

International Studies Committee

One 2-year replacement

- X Michael Como (Religion)
- Dan Gutwein (Music)

Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee

Two 1-year replacements (2002-2003), Area 2

- X Berhanu Abegaz (Economics)
- X Larry Evans (Government)
- Deirdre Royster (Sociology)

III. Report of Administrative Officers

President Timothy Sullivan invited the faculty to ask questions and offer comments about the current problems facing the university because of cuts in state funding. To the question whether there was any evidence that the state legislature was considering income tax increases or other revenue enhancements, Pres. Sullivan said that he knew of none. To the question whether donors to WM could be asked to leave their donations unrestricted so that they could be used for operating expenses, he said that there are no readily available sources of unrestricted funds which could make much of a difference. To the question of how the university might renegotiate its relationship with the state government in light of current and projected cuts in funding, Pres. Sullivan said that many things are being considered. These include giving WM the ability to do purchasing, manage personnel, set tuition rates, and make appointments to the Board of Visitors independently. He noted that in the next budget, the state's funding is likely to equal less than 20% of the university's expenditures.

A faculty member asked whether there would be less money for Faculty Research Assignments next year, to which Provost Gillian Cell replied that it is possible but has not yet been determined. Provost Cell also said that she hopes that the summer research grants would be reinstated for next year.

Pres. Sullivan said that Governor Warner plans to announce the revised numbers for budget cuts on October 15, 2002 and that the university administration would proceed quickly with their planning after that, keeping everyone informed as they do so.

To a question about whether there are members of the General Assembly sympathetic to higher education, Pres. Sullivan said that there has been a general trend among legislators to focus more on the concerns of their districts and less on the needs of Virginia as a whole.

Provost Cell then gave a short presentation and took questions. She noted that in discussions with new faculty, she has been impressed by their favorable comments about the collegiality in their departments. To the question of whether WM will “go to the max” with future tuition increases, she said that it is not possible to define an absolute limit, and that it is difficult to tell how much of an increase is excessive until the applicant pool of outstanding students declines. To another question, she said that there is “considerable room” for increasing in-state tuition. She also said that she would not like to see WM become a private university, and that as tuition is increased there will be a need to set aside funds to support qualified students who could not otherwise afford the tuition.

Dean Geoffrey Feiss then spoke. Because the budget crisis will have an impact on course scheduling for Spring 2003, he said, the registration period for Spring 2003 will begin on November 18, two weeks later than originally planned. Current agreements with adjunct instructors will be honored, but no additional adjuncts will be hired for Spring 2003. Dean Feiss noted that there are 24 faculty searches currently authorized, and that some of them may be eliminated if the upcoming budget cut is large. Dean Feiss also announced that Joel Schwartz had found funds to allow first-year, tenure-eligible faculty to mentor students in the summer. This funding will amount to about half of the summer research grants which were suspended for this year in the budget cuts. Lastly, Dean Feiss said that no start-up funds for new faculty are in jeopardy because of budget cuts.

#### IV. Honor Council Procedures

Three students from the WM Honor Council gave a condensed version of their presentation at the Center of Academic Integrity’s Convention at Texas A&M. Then they answered faculty questions, providing information on the operation of the Honor Council. Among the facts presented were that academic cheating is the most common offense among lying, stealing, and cheating, and that plagiarism is the most common form of cheating (about 20 charges per year). The standard punishment is a 1-semester suspension from the university. A simple way for professors to check material which they suspect of being plagiarized from a published source is to type in a sentence or two as a search topic on the [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) search engine. Suggestions for improving any aspect of the Honor Council’s operations may be sent to [honorc@wm.edu](mailto:honorc@wm.edu).

Dean Feiss concluded the presentation on the Honor Council by mentioning that professors should go to the Honor Council whenever they have a case of suspected plagiarism or cheating, because students have a “due process” right to have such cases heard before the Honor Council. Below is contact information:

[www.wm.edu/SO/honor-council/](http://www.wm.edu/SO/honor-council/).

Office: Campus Center 167

Office hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Office Telephone: (757) 221-3305

Email (confidential): [honorc@wm.edu](mailto:honorc@wm.edu)

Fax (label it Honor Council): (757) 221-2538

Dean of Students: (757) 221-2510

V. Report of the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee

Susan Peterson read the RPT Report available at

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/rpt/20021001.pdf>

VI. The Faculty Affairs Committee Report was postponed until the November 5 meeting. But the FAC did announce the following:

FAC has agreed that changes to the personnel policies of a department should be sent simultaneously to the Procedural Review Committee and the Dean's office. The submission to the Dean's office will keep the Dean informed as well as facilitate record keeping

The Discussion Question about the increase in average undergraduate GPA was not discussed.

In the absence of Old Business and New Business, Dean Feiss adjourned the meeting at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morreall  
Professor of Religion