

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

**December 3, 2002
Millington 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Dean Geoffrey Feiss.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the November 5, 2002 meeting were approved as posted.

II. Nominations and Elections Committee

Faculty Affairs Committee
3-year term, Area 3 (2003-2006)

Weizhen Mao (Computer Science)
X John Drew (Mathematics)

Retention, Promotion, and Tenure
1-semester replacement, Area 1 (Spring 2003)

Thomas Payne (Music)
X Ronald St. Onge (Modern Languages & Literatures)

III. Oral Report by Educational Policy Committee

Joan Gavalier briefly described some of the current and upcoming work of the EPC, including testing students' computer literacy and issues connected with GER requirements. Prof. Gavalier noted that there have been computer problems with submissions for GER courses, so that faculty who have made submissions online and have not gotten responses should send their submissions a second time.

Prof. Gavalier then presented the following proposal to eliminate the College's physical activity requirement:

The EPC proposes to eliminate the two-course (or equivalent) physical activity requirement for undergraduate students and to continue permitting students to count a maximum of 4 physical activity credits toward the 120-credit graduation requirement. The Activity Program will be retained on an elective basis, and the Department of Kinesiology may pursue the option of continuing some courses on a fee basis as is currently done with Judo and Self-Defense classes. The activity requirement for Kinesiology concentrators will be addressed as a separate issue within the department.

(For background, see http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/epc/reports/Physical_Activity_Requirement.pdf)

The main reason for this proposal is financial: most physical activity courses have been taught by adjuncts, and the budget for adjuncts has been permanently slashed.

Prof. John Charles then presented a motion from the Kinesiology Department:

The Kinesiology Department faculty endorses the Educational Policy Committee motion to eliminate the activity requirement and the accompanying rationale statement that is highly supportive of the process of fostering physical literacy in and through the liberal arts curriculum. In addition, we offer the following "friendly" amendment: that the number of activity credits that may count toward

graduation be increased from four to six. At this time, the Department requests that the specific issue of whether the maximum number of activities credits that may count toward graduation should be four or the proposed six be deferred for further discussion by EPC and the faculty in the Spring.

In the ensuing discussion of the two motions, Prof. Gavalier said that the EPC motion would take effect immediately and so affect students graduating in Spring 2003. Some faculty were concerned that decisions about the curriculum were being driven by monetary concerns; others said that's normal in budget crises. To the suggestion that we eliminate the physical activity requirement only temporarily, until the budget crisis is over, Dean Feiss noted that \$400,000 has been permanently removed from the adjunct base budget (80% of last year's budget).

The EPC proposal was presented as a motion, and on a voice vote, the motion carried.

Prof. Charles' proposal was modified to become a **motion to refer to the EPC Committee the issue of whether the maximum number of activities credits that may count toward graduation should be four or six. On a voice vote, that motion carried.**

IV. Report of Administrative Officers

Dean Geoffrey Feiss discussed the extensive reorganization of academic advising at the College. Two staff positions have been eliminated, one through retirement and one through resignation. The new Banner computer system will shift much record keeping to the Registrar's office. The Director of Advising will be a faculty person reporting directly to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and advising will be done predominantly by faculty. Students' files will be kept electronically, and will be instantly available to people involved in advising students.

Lastly, Dean Feiss announced that the annual Dean's holiday reception this year will coincide with a farewell party for Darlene Crouch. It will be held in the Ewell Hall lobby on Wednesday, December 12, from noon to 2PM.

V. Report by Ombudsperson for Graduate Arts and Sciences

(Report available at <http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/gradstudies/Ombuds%20Annual%20Report%20-%202002.pdf>)

Prof. Scott Nelson reviewed the main issues in his report, and reiterated his three main recommendations: 1) that the spring letters of admission sent to new graduate students be explicit about their duties and whether those duties might change; 2) that Directors of Graduate Studies take seriously complaints about faculty shouting, publicly berating, or abusing advisees; and 3) that a clause be added to regulations either at the graduate level or by department that establishes a turnaround time for thesis or dissertation work.

The discussion which followed centered mostly on reports of faculty abuse of graduate students. Several faculty said that when graduate students complain to the ombudsperson but do not allow that person to talk to the faculty member involved, the Director of Graduate Studies, or the department chair, it is difficult to investigate and resolve the problem. Others pointed out that unless the ombudsperson respects graduate students' wishes for confidentiality, graduate students will be unlikely to come to the ombudsperson at all.

In the absence of Old Business and New Business, Dean Feiss adjourned the meeting at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morreall
Professor of Religion