

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

**February 4, 2003
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 December 3, 2002 meeting were approved as posted.

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Gillian Cell reported on the budget proposals in the Virginia legislature. On February 2, the two houses presented their proposed revisions for the second year of the biennial budget.

Salary increases would take effect in December 2003. The Senate proposed a pay increase for all state employees, including professors, of 2%. The Senate proposal would require that the College pay for 40% of this increase, out of tuition hikes and nonrestricted funds. The House proposed a 2.5% pay increase for state employees, including faculty and staff, with no increase for teachers of grades K-12. Both bills make it clear that if there is a budget shortfall, these increases would not be enacted.

The House proposes a cap on tuition increases of 9%, the same as last year's suggested cap. The Senate bill would allow either a tuition hike this year of 5% or a total tuition increase of \$800 for the biennium, whichever is less. This means that the College could increase in-state tuition by only \$145 this year. These bills surprised Provost Cell and other university administrators, because there had been no previous indication that the two houses would impose caps on tuition hikes. The projected caps, Provost Cell said, will be devastating.

The Senate bill would remove 10% of the budgets of Research Centers. The House bill would remove \$4.8 million from state funding for Research Centers. Reliable rumors indicate that all state funding would be eliminated for the Institute of Early American History and Culture. This proposed cut, Provost Cell said, will be opposed vigorously.

Both houses propose increases in financial aid for students in public and private institutions.

The House proposes removing \$3.2 million of funding for Eminent Scholars, which will cost the College \$600,000.

Both houses propose cuts in the Virginia Technology Research Fund, which supports economic development.

Both bills propose funding from bonds for Rogers Hall: the Senate \$5.2 million, and the House \$2.1 million.

Swem Library has uncovered severe structural problems, which will require an additional \$6 million to repair. The Senate proposes \$2.5 million for this purpose, plus another \$2.5 million in bonds that the College would have to repay by charging students library fees.

Provost Cell concluded her prepared remarks by noting that there has been no attempt in this legislature to address the serious structural problems in the way the commonwealth is funded. She then took questions.

To the question of increasing out-of state tuition, she said that we have the freedom to do that, but that out-of-state tuition was increased significantly in the early 1990s and again last year by 9%. Out-of-state students are already paying 135% of cost. With insufficient financial aid, the College has to be careful not to increase out-of-state tuition so much that we are no longer nationally competitive.

To a question about the ratio of in-state students to out-of-state students, Provost Cell said that one house proposes that out-of-state students should number no more than 25% of the student body, except at institutions which already exceed that ratio, which should not exceed their current ratio.

To the question of whether the College is consulting with other state institutions, Provost Cell said that President Sullivan will be in Richmond to join with other educational leaders to push our case with legislators.

III. Nominations and Elections Committee

The following were elected to serve a split term as FAC Chair for 2003-2004:

Clyde A Haulman, Economics (Fall)

Elizabeth L Barnes, English (Spring)

IV. Report by the International Studies Committee

Beatrice Guenther summarized the Report, which is available at

http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/iscapcdocuments/Committee_Report_February_2003.pdf.

V. Discussion Topic: Early Admission at William & Mary Led by Karen Cottrell, Associate Provost for Enrollment

There are two programs used at colleges and universities: Early Decision, in which students are obligated to enroll at an institution which accepts them; and Early Action, in which students are offered admission early but are not obligated to enroll. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of schools adopting Early Decision programs, especially selective schools such as Stanford, UNC, Brown and Princeton. William & Mary has only the Early Decision program, and lacks the finances to implement an Early Action program even if it wanted to.

In our ED (Early Decision) program, applications are due November 1, and letters of acceptance are sent by December 1. William and Mary uses the same standards in admitting students in the ED students as in admitting other students. The ED pool is 800-900 students, and the regular pool 8000 –9000 students. The socioeconomic features of the ED pool of applicants differ from the regular pool: 10% of the ED pool is students of color, and 16% of the regular pool is students of color; 20% of the ED pool applies for financial aid, 30% of the regular pool applies for aid; 60% of the ED pool is from Virginia, while only 36% of the regular pool is from Virginia. Last year the College offered early admission to 75% of the ED applicants who were students of color, and admitted only 46% of the applicants in the regular pool who were students of color. As is true nationally, ED applicants who are students of color tend to come from families who are more affluent.

After Ms. Cottrell finished her presentation, several faculty asked questions.

In the absence of Old Business and New Business, Dean Feiss adjourned the meeting at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morreall
Professor of Religion

