

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

**September 2, 2003  
Small 113**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Barbara Watkinson.

**I. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the May 6, 2003 meeting were approved as posted.

**II. Elections**

**Election held by FAC**

Election to the Nominations & Elections Committee  
(3 three-year terms, 2003-2006 (Areas I and III))

Area I

Jacqueline McClendon (English)  
James Armstrong (Music)

Area III

Steve Knudson (Chemistry)  
George Rublein (Mathematics)

**Elections held by Nominations and Elections Committee**

Election to the Faculty Assembly Committee  
(1 three-year term, 2003-2006 (Area II))

Clay Clemens (Government)  
Grey Gundaker (Anthropology/American Studies)

Election to the Faculty Hearing Committee  
(1 four-year term (2 active; 2 alternate))

Cindy Van Dover (Biology)  
Mark Fowler (Philosophy)

Election to the Procedural Review Committee  
(2 four-year terms (2 active; 2 alternate))

Colleen Kennedy (English)  
 Ron St. Onge (Modern Languages & Literatures)  
Robert Noonan (Computer Science)

**III. Report of Administrative Officers**

Provost Geoffrey Feiss announced that the administration has submitted a 4-year strategic plan for the university to the State Council of Higher Education. It will be available on the university's web site. A core part of that plan is that the College of William & Mary does not intend to grow.

Provost Feiss gave information on the budget. The Governor is preparing to create the next 2-year state budget. W&M will be asked in October for its proposed budget, which must be submitted in November. In preparation, W&M's administration is submitting a draft of the next university budget to the Board of Visitors next week. The first budget priority is increasing faculty salaries. (The state's goal is to have faculty salaries at the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile of peer institutions; they are now at the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile.) The second priority will be increasing stipends for graduate students. The third priority will be "base adequacy funding" (by the state's calculation, W&M is underfunded by \$13 million). In the state budget, no cuts are anticipated.

Provost Feiss said that the search committee for the Dean of Arts & Sciences has begun its work. He and the committee's Chair, Gene Tracy, encouraged faculty to submit nominations. Review of applications will begin on October 21.

Provost Feiss announced that the 10-year SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) reaccreditation process for W&M has begun. The on-site visit will be in the Spring of 2005.

#### **IV. Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee**

Clyde Haulman presented a motion to approve the proposed new Bylaws for the International Studies Committee, to take effect immediately.

(See [http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/iscapdocuments/ISCAPC\\_Bylaws.pdf](http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/iscapdocuments/ISCAPC_Bylaws.pdf).)

In the discussion, two proposed amendments PASSED:

- To add "and will receive resident director reports" to the end of Article III, Section 5.
- To change the first sentence of Article V, Sections 2, to read: "Arts and Sciences faculty vacancies, and student vacancies shall be filled promptly by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences."

All other proposed amendments either were not brought to a vote or FAILED:

- (reworded several times) To add "insofar as it affects academic matters" to the end of Article III, Section 2.
- To strike Article IV, Section 2.
- To add to Article IV, Section 2, "Only one representative of the schools may vote at any given meeting of ISCAPC"
- To replace Article IV, Section 2, with "A representative from the School of Education shall have the right to vote."

On a voice vote, the proposed Bylaws for the International Studies Committee were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, with the two amendments above.

Prof. Haulman then led a discussion about electronic course evaluations. Dean Watkinson provided background information: the university's mainframe computer, used to process the Scantron paper course evaluation forms, is being phased out. So after this year the university plans to have students evaluate courses outside of class time by filling out forms on-line. In the ensuing discussion, some faculty said that eliminating the standard paper forms will allow departments to design more useful course-specific evaluation instruments. Other faculty voiced concerns about whether students will be willing to participate in on-line evaluations outside class time. Some faculty said that their students resented being asked to do electronic evaluations. The English Department and the School of Education have been using electronic course evaluations. In their experience, fewer students participate, they give faculty lower numerical scores, and they give shorter answers to questions. Some faculty argued that since course evaluations carry weight in evaluating faculty, a change in the evaluation process which reduces the number of students who evaluate their professors and lowers the evaluation scores, would have important consequences. At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that a task force would be formed to further study the pedagogical issues as well as the technical issues involved in the proposed changes to the course evaluation process.

#### **V. Introduction of New Faculty in Arts and Sciences**

Department chairs introduced the following new faculty members:

Assistant Professor of Applied Science Christopher Del Negro

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Haining Wang

Assistant Professor of Government Paul Manna

Assistant Professor of Lyon Gardiner Tyler Department of History Frederick Corney

Associate Professor of American Studies and the Lyon Gardiner Tyler Department of History Charles McGovern

Assistant Professor of Lyon Gardiner Tyler Department of History Paul Mapp

Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures Regina Root

Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures Timothy Van Compernole

Assistant Professor of Physics Marc Vanderhaeghen.

In the absence of Old Business and New Business, Dean Watkinson adjourned the meeting at 5:20. A wine-and-cheese reception followed, to welcome the new faculty members.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morreall

Professor of Religion