

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

**October 5, 2004
Millington 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Carl Strikwerda.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the September 7, 2004 meeting were approved as posted.

II. Nominations and Elections Committee

A. Elections to the Faculty Committee on University Priorities

Area I (3-year term: 2004-2007)

X Christy Burns (English)

Maryse Fauvel (Modern Languages and Literatures)

Area II (2-year term: 2004-2006)

X Kathleen Slevin (Sociology)

Chitralkha Zutshi (History)

Area III (1-year term: 2004-2005)

Carey Bagdassarian (Chemistry)

X Eric Bradley (Biology)

B. Replacement Election for the Faculty Compensation Board

Area III (one 1-year replacement term for Dennis Manos)

Robert Noonan (Computer Science)

X Eugene Tracy (Physics)

III. Report of Administrative Officers

A. Provost Geoffrey Feiss and Vice President Samuel Jones described the Charter University Plan and the stages of its implementation. Provost Feiss emphasized that this is not an initiative to privatize the College, which will remain a public institution accountable to the commonwealth. He also emphasized that throughout the planning and implementation of the Charter plan, nothing will be done to jeopardize any current benefits of current employees of the university. The purposes of the Charter plan are to redefine the relation of the university to the Commonwealth, return authority to the Board of Visitors, improve our long-term planning and ability to execute such plans, establish a more stable funding model, provide flexibility in operations, and focus on post-audit oversight and accountability.

The first stage of the plan is the introduction of legislation to authorize the College of William & Mary, along with the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, to seek charter status. With that status, these universities would cease to be state agencies and would become a new kind of public body. For details, see www.wm.edu/charter. Assuming that the legislation is passed, charters will be created for the three universities. There is a template for these charters, but each charter will be tailored to that university. Drafts of the three charters have been sent to the SJR90 Committee, and will be available next week. Then legislation to create the charter universities will be introduced in the next session of the legislature. The administration of W&M will create policies and procedures for operating the university under the charter. The final version of the charter will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for approval.

Vice President Jones presented financial statistics to show the need for the Charter plan, including information about faculty salaries, the cost of a W&M education, enrollment, and tuition and fee policies. W&M plans to meet its current enrollment projections through 2008, maintaining the ratio of 65%/35% for in-state and out-of-state students. According to the current Charter plan, we will increase the annual number of in-state transfer students by 50, and enrollment in graduate and professional programs by 150. Tuition will still be set by the Board of Visitors, and will be controlled by the cost of education and the level of state funding. While we currently meet 85% of need for in-state students, we will meet 100% of need for these students in the new plan.

Provost Feiss and Vice President Jones then took questions. Asked about the 150 additional graduate students, the Provost said that 100 will be in the Business School. Asked what is the state's motive to approving the Charter plan, he said that the plan will help preserve the quality of public education in Virginia. Mr. Jones said that we will take less of our funding from the state, allowing it to put money elsewhere in public education.

IV. Part II of the Faculty Survey

Katherine Kulick and David Lutzer gave a 20-minute presentation on the results of Part II of the Survey. The results will be available on the website of the Faculty Assembly: <http://www.wm.edu/facultyassembly>. Mr. Lutzer also noted that the Faculty Assembly had ratified a new policy for Post-tenure Review which is now going to the Board of Visitors. Under the proposed policy, only faculty members whose performance is rated unsatisfactory by their chair or dean in the annual merit review process will undergo the post-tenure review.

V. Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee Report

Mary Voigt summarized the work of the committee last year. Available at: <http://www.wm.edu/fas/faculty/documents/rpt/Annual%20Report%20-%20September%202004.pdf>

VI. The Notebook Initiative (née the Laptop Initiative)

Eugene Roche, Director of Academic Information Services, explained the plan to have all freshmen purchase notebook computers from a standard source chosen by the university. The pilot program will be in AY 2005-2006 and the program will be implemented in 2006-2010.

Currently, 99% of freshman arrive with computers, the vast majority of which are notebooks recently purchased. The Notebook Initiative will offer students a standard package with good equipment and software, a warranty, and insurance, at a good price. Four companies have been asked what they could offer in such a package—Dell, Hewlett Packard, IBM, and Toshiba. When the purchase of a computer becomes a standard part of attending W&M, it will be part of the calculations for student aid, thus benefiting low-income students. Provost Feiss said that anyone interested in more information should see the “Notebook Requirement White Paper” on the Provost’s website, <http://www.wm.edu/provost/index.php> .

In the absence of Old Business and New Business, Dean Strikwerda adjourned the meeting at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted,

John Morreall
Professor of Religious Studies