

Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
The College of William and Mary
November 1, 2005
Millington 150

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m. by Dean Ed Pratt.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the October 4, 2005 meeting were approved with the correction of two errors: an erroneous reference to Alan Fuchs as FA president and a misspelling of the name of RPT chair Carl Carlson.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/minutes/20051004.pdf>

II. Reports of Administrative Officers

- A. Provost Geoff Feiss. The Provost reported on the management agreements now being negotiated with the state as required for Level III status under the Higher Education Restructuring Act. The agreements concern important practical matters such as capital outlay, personnel, information technology, and finance. He stated that the BOV would be approving those management documents that are already completed and that President Nichol would be going to Richmond in November along with the presidents of the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech for a final round of negotiations with state officials. He explained that the agreements were quite advantageous for the College in such areas as capital outlay and finance, but remarked that the state did not want to give up purchasing authority.

The Provost reported on his recent address on faculty priorities before the College Endowment Association. One immediate outcome was a \$1 million commitment to an endowed professorship on the part of one of the members. He will make an abbreviated version of this presentation to the Development Committee of the BOV. He also reported that a final version of the report on the College's self-study of its use of the "Tribe" nickname had been completed and sent to the NCAA with a cover letter by President Nichol. He then noted that a special committee of the Faculty Assembly was considering his proposal for reforming the faculty research assignment program and that he expected a report on the results of their deliberations in December. He also reported on the progress being made on the SACS re-accreditation process and remarked that he would be asking for input from the faculty on items to be completed for the next stage of the process.

Response to a question from Terry Meyers (English) on whether there would be a new draft of the Provost's FRA plan following input from the Faculty Assembly subcommittee: the Provost said that there would be a new draft only if there were no common ground between his proposal and the subcommittee's recommendations. If there were common ground, he would like to move quickly to implement the plan with certain modifications based on the subcommittee's input.

Response to a question from George Greenia (Modern Languages) on whether the three Level III candidate institutions were mounting a common front on the restructuring process: the Provost indicated that the three institutions were working closely and that there were common templates for the major management agreements. He also indicated that the state had placed common restrictions on what the three institutions could do.

- B. Dean of Undergraduate Studies Ed Pratt filling in for Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda. Dean Pratt noted that Dean Strikwerda was out of town for a meeting of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences. He reported on the ongoing work in the following areas: the naming of 7 new chairs, buildings and renovations, contacts with alumni donors, the College's application for a grant from Jack Kemp Cook foundation (the College is a finalist for a grant worth \$1 million over four years), the meetings of the Arts & Sciences Space Planning Committee, the launching of a Washington, D.C. semester next year, and the search for an A&S media specialist.

III. Faculty Assembly Report by Alan Fuchs

Fuchs (Philosophy) reported that a special subcommittee of the FA, co-chaired by David Armstrong (Physics) and Alan Meese (Law School), had already met once to consider the Provost's FRA proposal and that it would soon be issuing a report.

IV. Faculty Affairs Committee Report by Terry Meyers

Meyers (English) reported that one of the issues taken up during the FAC's weekly meetings with the Dean was the approval of minor changes in the by-laws of the International Studies Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee (ISCAP) designating the Dean of Educational Policy as the committee's contact. He also reported on an extensive discussion with Dean Strikwerda on revisions to the FRA program. Also in attendance were Virginia Torczon, Chair of the Faculty Research Committee, and Ron Rappaport and Kim Phillips, Co-Chairs of the Dean's Advisory Council. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to wait on developments from the Faculty Assembly subcommittee currently considering the Provost's proposed revisions before considering a formal motion on the issue from Arts & Sciences. The FAC also took up several matters relating to the Committee on Nominations and Elections. It found that it would be too difficult from a logistical point of view to formally enter all emeriti faculty on the electronic rolls for online elections; however, it decided that any emeritus faculty member who attended a faculty meeting to vote in an election could be given a paper ballot or assistance in obtaining the user ID and password required to vote online. Nominations and Elections pointed out an anomaly in the expiration of the terms of the current members of the FAC: instead of two terms expiring per year, there will be one expiring at the end of the current academic year (2005-06) and three at the end of next year (2006-07). It decided that it would welcome a formal recommendation from the Dean and the FAC to limit one of the terms for the replacements of the three outgoing members to one year in order bring the rotation back into balance.

V. Committee on Degrees Report by Ed Pratt

Dean Pratt reported on new procedures adopted by the Committee to handle petitions to waive the residency requirement for students studying abroad: the Dean of Undergraduate Studies will decide on petitions from students who will be away for one semester, whereas the Committee will handle petitions from students who will be away for two. He also reported on a policy of stricter enforcement of College rules including the completion of the freshman seminar requirement during the first year (with the threat of a hold on registration for those who do not comply). He summarized the Committee's business by reporting that the full Committee had considered 74 requests from students in the previous academic year and that he had considered 27 requests on the Committee's behalf. The full report is available online:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/committeondegrees/COD%20Academic%20Year%20Report%202004-2005.pdf>

VI. Assessment Steering Committee: A Motion on Assessing GER Compliance, David Aday

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/epc/reports/GER-Motion%20on%20Assessing%20GER%20Compliance%20pdf>

Prior to presenting the motion, Aday (Sociology) observed that the first phase of the GER assessment had been completed and that the curriculum appeared to be working. The motion presented by Aday on behalf of the Committee stipulates that information at the course section level will be provided to entities involved in assessing and implementing GER courses including the home departments/programs of specific GER courses. He explained that closer monitoring of GER compliance was necessary and stressed that a finding of non-compliance in specific sections of courses should not be construed as a negative judgment concerning the overall quality of the course section or its instructor. The motion passed.

VII. Presentation on the College Scholars Program by Tamara Sonn and Talbot Taylor.

Taylor (Linguistics/English) reported that the program was in its 3rd year of existence and 2nd full year of operation and currently involved eight students on campus following the addition of four new students this year. He explained that the scholarship provided \$6,000 of tuition assistance for in-state residents and \$12,000 for out-of-state residents as well as \$5,000 for summer research. He noted that there were 600 applicants for the scholarship this year and that nine offers were made to recruit four scholars.

Sonn (Religion) reported that the first cohort of scholars had been very successful in academics, research, and internships, and stated that the credentials of the new cohort were very impressive. She also noted that the new cohort reflected a somewhat broader range of interests (especially in the humanities) compared to the first. She also commented on measures designed to address two weaknesses in the program: attaching the donors' names to the scholarship in order to make the program more identifiable and increasing the amount of the awards (e.g. a full ride for in-state students) in order to compete for the brightest students and not lose top choices who are offered more money elsewhere.

Response to a question from Ismail Abdalla (History) on the recruitment of scholars from under-represented groups: Sonn and Taylor stated that there were no structural elements designed to attract candidates from under-represented groups but noted that three African-American students among the first choices for the scholarship had declined the awards for better offers elsewhere.

Response to a question from Bob Orwoll (Chemistry) on the percentages of in-state and out-of-state recipients: Sonn and Taylor reported that there were currently five in-state and three out-of-state scholars. Taylor added that the program strived for a certain balance among those interviewed for the awards.

Dean Pratt adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Leruth
Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures