

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
The College of William and Mary  
October 2, 2007  
Millington 150**

*Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.*

**I. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the September 2007 meeting were adopted as posted:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/minutes/20070904.pdf>

**II. Report of Administrative Officer: Provost Geoff Feiss**

Provost Feiss began his remarks by offering an update on the budget situation. He noted that the mandated cuts in the current College budget had been adjusted downward to 6.25%, representing a sum of \$ 3 million. He said that 2/3 of the cuts had already been identified and that the Faculty Committee on University Priorities would soon meet to determine the targets of the remaining 1/3. He said the current hiring freeze would be kept in place and added that he was not terribly optimistic about what these cuts meant for the next budget biennium, noting that the Governor had already announced his plans to use the Commonwealth's "rainy day" fund to make up for current shortfalls and would most likely not be allowed to do so again.

Answering a question from Bob Archibald (Economics), Feiss said that the Administration could not simply decide to draw on the College's endowment because it is managed the College Foundation, which is a separate entity. He added the option of a mid-year tuition increase had been considered but that the BOV was not enthusiastic about the idea given that the Governor had suggested that the cuts should not hurt the students and that such an increase would leave unaddressed the recurring budget problems likely to be encountered in the next biennium. In answer to a question from David Lutzer (Mathematics), Feiss confirmed that the Schools of Law and Business would both have to absorb cuts of \$ 300,000. He explained that both of these entities have been given the freedom to raise graduate tuition at will in exchange for their willingness to accept the kind of budget cuts just imposed by the Administration. Feiss then noted that Arts & Sciences would be affected to a much lesser degree: i.e., cuts in the range of 1-2%. In answer to a follow-up question about the use of endowment money, Feiss explained that 80% of the half billion \$ endowment is restricted and could not be used to alleviate the current situation even if one wanted to. He said that our ability to weather such budget problems in the future relied on increasing unrestricted annual giving.

Provost Feiss concluded his remarks by urging the faculty to sign up for the Emergency Notification System via Banner self-service. He added that the most recent siren test had been successful.

**III. Dean Carl Strikwerda.** Dean Strikwerda began his remarks by reporting on the final approval of 2008-09 SSRL replacements, including full-time non-TE visiting faculty. He said that the procedures for implementing the leaves, largely devolved to the departments, were in the process of being systematized and that proposals for 2009-10 leaves were due in March of 2008. He then announced the November 1 application deadline for the Chancellor (Professor) and Hamilton (Associate Professor or within 5 years of promotion to full) professorships. He also reported that Arts & Sciences was working with Emergency Management on a number of important building safety issues involving such things as hazardous chemicals, live animals, and leaking roofs.

**IV. Faculty Affairs Committee Report, Margaret Saha**

Saha (Biology) reported that the FAC had been working closely with Dean Sue Peterson on amending the Study Abroad Committee's by-laws. She said it was also taking up the issue of faculty service overloads and considering measures aimed at more accurately representing committee workloads to prospective members and reducing the number of committees through consolidation. She said that FAC had advised the Dean on Arts & Science's specific needs in the area of emergency management. She then noted that there had been lots of concerns expressed about the student research survey, which many saw as cumbersome, and that FAC was working with Dean Kim Phillips to fix the problems. Finally, Saha explained that the print edition of the *William & Mary News* had ceased publication due to limited financial resources and environmental concerns raised by the stacks of leftover copies. Saha then introduced the proposed amendments to the Study Abroad Committee bylaws:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/dean/faculty/documents/iscapdocuments/20070501.pdf>

The proposed amendments were adopted unanimously by voice vote.

**V. Discussion and vote on the Educational Policy Committee Recommendation to increase elective credits awarded for Military Science courses**

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/epcreports/20070509.pdf>

EPC Chair J.C. Poutsma (Chemistry) presented the proposal and explained its background. He said that cadets currently take 8 courses for 8 credits, out of which 6 credits count for graduation. He said that the Department of Military Science originally proposed increasing the number of credits to 20 with 12 counting toward graduation. Although EPC rejected that proposal, it worked out a compromise plan that would both increase and systematize the number of credits awarded and counting toward graduation for Military Science courses. This new proposal, which is being submitted to the faculty for approval, would award 1 credit for 100 and 200-level MS courses and 2 credits for 300 and 400-level MS courses; it would also allow for a maximum of 12 credits to be recorded on the transcript, with a maximum of 8 credits counting toward graduation.

Summary of the ensuing discussion: Marc Sher (Physics) asked if there was a screening for any of the courses. Lt. Col. Richard Monahan (Chair, Military Science) said that although the Army would like to reserve upper-division courses for cadets, the Department of Military Science would, in fact, allow any student to take these courses. A number of questions concerned the correlation between contact hours and credits in the MS courses. Dean Phillips observed that there was probably more work involved than is usually the case for the same number of credit hours awarded. Lt. Col. Monahan added that while the balance between the academic and activity aspects of the courses was perhaps unique (as was the program's outside oversight and the way in which its faculty are hired), there was a lot more academic work in the 300 and 400-level courses. Bill Fisher (Anthropology) asked if the changes were designed to make life easier for Military Science students by making it possible for them to take fewer regular academic credits. Lt. Col. Monahan replied that the proposed changes were not conceived as a means to alleviate academic burnout but added that taking MS courses does affect a student's GPA and that no student adds to his or her workload lightly; he also said that the new credit hour structure was unlikely to change anything other than the number of general electives the students take—electives to which the Military Science courses are seen as equivalent in the eyes of the Department of MS. Dean Phillips commented that increasing the credits was a question of fairness and Heather Macdonald (Geology) said that EPC had thought about the matter carefully and had decided that the MS students deserved greater recognition for their work. David Holmes (Religious Studies) said that he was impressed with EPC's unanimity on the revised proposal in spite of the fact that the cadets are also compensated for their work both monetarily and through the awarding of a commission. J.C. Poutsma said that the discussion in EPC had centered on curriculum and content, as well as the current lack of hour control in the program. In answer to a question from Terry Meyers (English/Philosophy), Poutsma said that EPC had felt no outside pressure and had stayed focused on the academics. In answer to a question from Bill Fisher, Lt. Col. Monahan stated that no non-ROTC students were currently enrolled in the courses.

The EPC proposal was put to a voice vote and was approved unanimously.

**VI. Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee Report, Carl Carlson**

Carlson (Physics), the RPT Chair for 2006-07, offered highlights of the Committee's annual report:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/rpt/20071002.pdf>

He noted that RPT had reviewed 12 departmental recommendations for tenure and appointment to the rank of Associate Professor and had forwarded 11 positive assessments and 1 negative assessment to the Dean, who concurred in all cases. He said that it had also reviewed 11 departmental recommendations for promotion to the rank of Full Professor and had forwarded 9 positive and 2 negative assessments to the Dean, who again concurred in all cases. The Committee also recommended the hiring of a new faculty member at the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.

## **VII. Faculty Assembly Report, Gene Tracy**

Tracy (Physics) reported on discussions concerning the working relationship between the Faculty University Priorities Committee and the Assembly's own committee on budgetary matters. He also offered updates on both the data gathering project that would allow the faculty to track College trends and the ongoing revision of the Faculty Handbook. He said that the FA had worked on the wording of a resolution on divestment of funds that could be seen as aiding the genocide in Darfur; the resolution passed and would next be taken up by the BOV.

*Dean Strikwerda adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Leruth**  
**Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures**