

**Minutes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
The College of William and Mary  
February 5, 2008  
Millington 150**

*Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.*

**I. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

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

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/minutes/20071211.pdf>

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

Provost Feiss offered an update on the budget situation: the budget submitted by the Governor (including a \$1.6 million cut for W&M) is believed to be too optimistic (deeper cuts needed?); the imposition of a hiring freeze on state-funded positions beginning before July 1 (academic positions not affected); the discussion of significant tuition increases to be taken up by the BOV in April. Feiss then previewed upcoming Charter Day festivities by noting that all three recipients of the Jefferson Awards—David Holmes (Religious Studies), Alexander Prokhorov (Modern Languages and Literatures), and student Ashwin Rastogi (Math and Physics)—were from Arts & Sciences. He also said that the Faculty Assembly would present the results from the latest Faculty Survey to the BOV at its February meeting. In response to a question from Terry Meyers (English), Feiss said that the Athletic Department had been included in the budget cuts required at the beginning of the year.

**III. Brief Reports from the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Faculty Assembly**

FAC Chair Margaret Saha (Biology) reported on a letter of support for President Nichol that the members of FAC had sent to the Board of Visitors, a meeting with the Dean to discuss regularizing existing departmental pre-tenure leave programs, a meeting with the President to discuss faculty involvement in strategic planning; and the FAC's upcoming annual call for volunteers for committee service—to include a sheet summarizing the duties and workload of the various committees. Saha fielded a question about a proposal from David Aday (Sociology) for value-added assessment of the writing program, submitted to SCHEV without having come before the faculty. Saha said that the issue would be added to the FAC agenda and Dean Kim Phillips said that she would look into the matter.

Faculty Assembly liaison David Tracy (Physics) reported that work on the revisions to the Faculty Handbook had been completed and thanked Colleen Kennedy (English) for her work on the revisions; he also thanked Katherine Kulick (Modern Languages and Literatures) for her work on the Faculty Survey. He then reported on the FA Executive Committee's meeting with the President to discuss the concept of a liberal arts research university and on the FA Academic Affairs Committee's nearly completed work on a draft of a report concerning the curricular impact of the signing of the Climate Statement: he said that the gist was that it would probably suffice that the President urge the faculty to take sustainability into consideration in curriculum and course design. Tracy also said that the FA would try to get more information about a provision, buried in another piece of legislation in Richmond, which would require public universities to submit an annual report detailing how they insured academic freedom; he added that such a provision may not apply to W&M under the terms of restructuring.

**IV. Nominations and Elections Committee Report**

Elizabeth Wiley (Theatre, Speech, and Dance) presented the slate of candidates for the February elections:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/faculty/documents/nominationelection/20080205.pdf>

A. Election to the Faculty Assembly:

Area I, 3-year term, 2008-11, vote for one:

Laurie Wolf (Theatre, Speech, and Dance)

Bruce Campbell (Modern Languages and Literatures)

Area II, 3-year term, 2008-11, vote for one:

Sarah Stafford (Economics)

Leisa Meyer (History)

Area III, 3-year term, 2008-11, vote for one:

Lisa Landino (Chemistry)

John Swaddle (Biology)

B. Election to the Procedural Review Committee:

Area II, 4-year term, 2 years active, 2 years alternate, 2008-12, vote for one:

George Grayson (Government)

Chandos Brown (History)

Area III, 4-year term, 2 years active, 2 years alternate, 2008-12, vote for one:

Gregory Smith (Applied Science)

Rob Hinkle (Chemistry)

There were no nominations from the floor; nominations were closed.

V. **Dean's Forum: Faculty-Student Research at a Liberal Arts Research University, Dean Carl Strikwerda**

William & Mary's Unique Commitment to Research: The Dean began his remarks by observing that the "liberal arts research university" concept was not a plan or buzz word at W&M but a factual statement of who we are: a rarity, a small liberal arts university with a unique commitment to research, including student-faculty collaboration. He then offered several examples of W&M's uniqueness:  $\frac{1}{3}$  of our students are graduate students, including 12 programs in Arts & Sciences (a figure comparable to what one finds at large research universities); small class sizes and a low student-faculty ratio, which are conducive to student-faculty research collaboration; the importance of research in the freshman seminars; outside reviewers from leading research universities who regularly write that our faculty would receive tenure at their institutions on the strength of their achievements in the area of research, scholarship, and creative endeavors.

Recent Efforts to Foster Research: He then outlined past and present efforts to foster the research culture at W&M: the SACS Quality Enhancement Project goal of guaranteeing that all undergraduates would have an independent inquiry experience before graduation; significant increases in research start-up packages offered to new faculty (e.g. \$300,000 in molecular biology, \$500,000 in physics, some form of start-up package offered to all new faculty); the creation of the Scheduled Semester Research Leave program, which entailed a \$500,000 funding commitment from the President and the Provost; and additional funding used to pay the full salary and benefits of faculty on research fellowships.

Important Issues in Student Research: The Dean focused most of his attention on undergraduate student research. Pointing out that study abroad and opportunities to work closely with faculty on research projects were two of the highest ranking priorities in student interest polls and noting that competing institutions are now catching up in the area of student-faculty research collaboration (now a big buzz word in academia), Dean Strikwerda warned that W&M could no longer take our uniqueness and strengths in this critically important area of higher education for granted. He said that more reflection was needed on what student-faculty research collaboration should be taken as meaning but suggested that he favored a broad and ecumenical definition: the student's completion of a faculty-mentored independent project with a concrete outcome. Turning to the future, the Dean reviewed the ongoing data collection and tracking initiative, discussed the usefulness of looking into best practices in the field, encouraged the faculty to consider funding opportunities through the College's Mellon grant, underscored the importance of teamwork for the development of new projects (e.g. the Mercury Project and the rotating postdoctoral fellowships in Environmental Science), and called for making student-faculty research collaboration a development priority.

Questions and comments following the Dean's remarks ranged from suggestions about funding opportunities from the Teagle Foundation to the need not to forget the "abysmal" state of the College's graduate students.

There was also considerable discussion of the budget situation following the Dean's comments. Questions and comments centered on the likelihood of tuition increases of 10% or higher, the possibility of gaining more revenue by changing the current proportions of in-state (65%) and out-of-state (35%), the current budget crisis implications as a test case of the greater autonomy obtained under restructuring, and the new emphasis on large gifts and major donors under Vice President for Development Sean Pieri. Other remarks pertained to the impending results of the Board of Visitors review of President Nichol, the political fallout and free speech implications of the Sex Workers Art Show controversy, and the Department of University Relations performance in responding to attacks on the President and consequent bad publicity they generated.

*Dean Strikwerda adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.*

**Addendum: Election Results**

On February 13, 2008, Elizabeth Wiley, Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, formally notified the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the following election results:

Faculty Assembly, Area I

✓ Bruce Campbell

Faculty Assembly, Area II

✓ Leisa Meyer

Faculty Assembly, Area III

✓ Lisa Landino

Procedural Review, Area II

✓ Chandos Brown

Procedural Review, Area III

✓ Gregory Smith

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Michael Leruth**

**Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures**