

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, September 2, 2008, 3:30 p.m.
Millington 150

Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm

I. Minutes of the last meeting, May 6, 2008

The minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting were approved as posted:

<http://web.wm.edu/as/dean/fas/minutes/20080506.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Geoff Feiss noted that the incoming Class of 2012 was the most diverse class in the college's history, and that the college's ranking in US News and World Report had risen. He then reported on the strategic planning process: following a "planning to plan" committee that was active this summer, a steering committee will be formed with the goal of establishing a regular process for the reevaluation of the strategic plan. Next, he called the faculty's attention to the upcoming restructuring of Human Resources in line with the Restructuring Act of 2005; this will not affect faculty directly, but employees in classified and professional administrative positions will face a choice of joining the new program or staying with the old one. Then he warned that grim budget news from the state is expected. The governor has not released an official figure yet but a biennial deficit of \$.8 - 1.2 billion is a possibility. The University Priorities Committee will work to protect the College's core missions in the face of expected budget cuts. Finally he advised faculty that the SCHEV will be conducting its periodic review of low-productivity programs, but he anticipates that while the review may attract the attention of the press, no W&M programs identified in the report will face any serious risk.

In questions Kate Slevin (Sociology) asked whether there should be a co-chair from the faculty on the strategic planning steering committee. The provost replied that it was the opinion of the Faculty Assembly that having an additional faculty member as one of the (non-voting) chairs was not necessary, and that the majority of the committee would be composed of faculty. David Lutzer (Math) inquired whether the college's status as a group 3 institution gives it the authority to pursue its own assessment procedures independently of SCHEV. Provost Feiss responded that not all the intricacies of the college's relationship with SCHEV under restructuring had been worked out as yet.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported that 22 new tenure-eligible positions had been filled this year, two at the level of full professor, and that the rate of faculty resignations was holding steady at 9 or 10 per year. He said that the governor has been responsive to our request for the appointment of more academics to the Board of Visitors with the appointments of Robert Scott, Colin Campbell and Timothy Dunn. Building programs are progressing: ISC I is now occupied, ISC II under construction and ISC III planned. A feasibility study is underway for the proposed arts center. The college has received a grant from the Freeman Foundation of \$300,000 for East Asian Studies and combined grants for \$1.9 million from the Gates Foundation and Hewlett Foundation for PLAID (Project Level Aid).

In conclusion the Dean noted that strategic planning will proceed at the faculty level as well.

III. Faculty Affairs Committee Report

FAC chair Margaret Saha (Biology) introduced the current membership of the committee. From Area I: Anne Rasmussen (Music) and Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies), and from Area III: Saha herself and Gene Tracy (Physics). Representatives from Area II are to be elected. She encouraged the faculty to use the committee's e-mail listserv: askfac@wm.edu for questions to the committee and for proposals of additions to the FAS meeting agenda. Finally, she noted that the committee will be continuing the discussion of assessment issues and will be seeking solutions to the ongoing problem of filling open committee slots.

Prof. Saha then presented the slate of nominees for positions on the Nominations and Elections Committee:

<http://web.wm.edu/as/committees/facultyaffairs/reports/20080902.pdf>

A call for nominations from the floor produced no additional nominees.

IV. Nominations and Elections Committee Report

Committee chair Julie Galambush (Religious Studies) presented the slate of nominees for open positions on the Faculty Affairs Committee from Area II:

<http://web.wm.edu/as/committees/nominations/reports/20080902.pdf>

No further nominations were received from the floor. Prof. Galambush announced that on-line voting would begin soon after the end of today's meeting.

V. Discussion of Meeting with BOV Members Rector Michael Powell and Kathy Hornsby

At 4:03 pm Paul Heideman, DAC Co-Chair and Margaret Saha, FAC Chair, came forward to join Dean Strikwerda in leading a discussion of the meeting between BOV representatives (Rector Michael Powell and Kathy Hornsby) with DAC and FAC. Prof. Saha reported that the BOV is proposing to appoint Interim President Taylor Reveley to a three-year term as president (removing the designation "interim" from his title), and is seeking input from various W&M constituencies on the proposal.

Before discussion began Terry Meyers (English) raised a point of order and moved that the discussion proceed with the faculty meeting as a committee of the whole. This motion was passed without dissent. A further motion was made that the committee of the whole be limited to full voting members of the faculty. This motion was passed with one dissenting vote.

No minutes were taken of the ensuing discussion.

At 5:00 pm the meeting as committee of the whole was adjourned and the open meeting reconvened. After some further discussion, Profs. Saha, Heideman and Tracy agreed to relay the sense of the faculty to the BOV.

VI. Discussion of proposed change in deadline for fall grades

Dean Strikwerda moved that this discussion be postponed to the October meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

VII. Faculty Assembly Report

Dean Strikwerda moved that this report be postponed to the October meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

VIII. Introduction of new faculty by Department Chairs:

The following department/program chairs and representatives introduced the new faculty in their respective departments/programs:

Applied Science: Eric Bradley introduced Hannes Schniepp

Art and Art History: Brian Kreydatus introduced Susan Webster

Biology: Paul Heideman introduced Kurt Williamson

Classical Studies: Barbette Spaeth introduced Maria Swetnam-Burland

Computer Science: Phil Kearns introduced Denys Poshyvanyk

Economics: Will Hausmann introduced Melissa McInerney

English: Jack Martin introduced Sean Keilen

Geology: Christopher Bailey introduced Jim Kaste

History: Phil Daileader introduced Betsy Schroeder, Brett Rushforth and Eric Han

Mathematics: David Lutzer introduced Tanujit Dey, David Hasler, Ryan Vinroot and Gexin Yu

Modern Languages: Ron St. Onge introduced Elena Prokhorova

Music: Thomas Payne introduced Greg Bowers and David Kaminsky

Physics: Keith Griffioen introduced Will Detmold

Psychology: Connie Pilkington introduced Cheryl Dickter and Paul Kieffaber

Religious Studies: Marc Raphael introduced Ravi Gupta

Women's Studies: Christy Burns introduced Elizabeth Currans

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

ADDENDUM: Election Results

On September 9, 2008 Julie Galambush, chair of the Nominations and Elections committee, announced the following election results

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Area II, 3-year term with FA membership:
Kathleen Slevin (Sociology)

Area II, 2-year term:

Berhanu Abegaz (Economics)

Nominations and Elections Committee:

Area I (3-year term):

Francis Tanglao-Aguas (Theatre, Speech, Dance)

Area II (3-year term):

Constance Pilkington (Psychology)

Area III (3-year term):

Christopher Del Negro (Applied Science)

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton, Secretary
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